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Minutes of Elgin South Area Forum 21 July 2009

Present:	Councillor Graham Leadbitter
Rebecca Kail	Moira Sutherland
Aileen Marshall	Councillor John Sharp
Steven Christie	Christine Clerk
Elizabeth Scott	Elizabeth Miller
Daniel Scott	Raymond Wood

Also Present:

John Ferguson (The Moray Council)
Susan Leonard (Community Support Unit)
Jamie Macmillan (Grampian Police)

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

Rebecca welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Councillor John Divers, Michael Mulloy, Colin Mowat and Murray Ross. Colin Mowat added apologies for being unable to give the planned update on the Joint Family Service at this meeting.

2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting held 9/06/2009**

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed as a true record by Elizabeth Miller and seconded by Steven Christie

3 **Matters Arising**

Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) - Rebecca contacted Jacqui Taylor to advise her of two issues that have been raised at the forum and might be relevant to the fund: the Loose Ends group and active travel projects. Jacqui Taylor will investigate. The meeting was asked to suggest any other ideas that the fund could assist with.

Pharmacy - It could not be confirmed but it would appear that October is the expected opening. The move to the health centre will take place 7th - 14th of September. There was a question on whether a dentist had been identified. Cllr Leadbitter pointed out that although three dentist chairs were to be located at the centre it was up to dentists to apply. The NHS is trying to attract dentists but they are having some difficulty.

4. **Group Updates**

Active Travel Group - This group has not met. However information provided by the group has helped Elgin to be successful in its bid for the Sustainable

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Travel Town Project (European Regional Development Fund). Chris Thomson at the Moray Council is leading this initiative and will be establishing a steering group.

Allotments - At a Moray wide level good progress is being made. John Ferguson is the council's lead officer. John explained that the first phase will be identifying demand across Moray and mapping available sites to see where the gaps, if any, might be.

However, in Elgin, the Westfield Residents' Association strongly opposed the ideas of allotments being located at the Fairy Park. They had concerns about increased traffic and antisocial behaviour. There followed a discussion on how this could be resolved and how we could involve the residents in the forum. Cllr Leadbitter felt that there could be scope for developing a better relationship as having an allotment site might assist them in resolving other planning issues that they have.

Young Dookiteers - Amy Cheer from CLD continues to support the club and is currently working with the 3 volunteers from Elgin High School to complete their bronze youth achievement awards. There will be a meeting over the holidays to discuss training for the adult volunteers.

Debbie previously mentioned the lack of support for the club. She would like to make it clear that she is happy with the support from CLD. Her concerns are primarily with the school (New Elgin). CLD will continue to support the club committee and the volunteers.

Elgin High Litter Group - Has not met due to the school holidays. When school returns they will identify those areas that are affected by rubbish.

Elgin Beautification - Murray was unable to attend the meeting but asked that anyone interested in volunteering to assist the group contact him.

Library - Susan and Aileen reported back on the survey that was distributed after the last forum meeting. Three volunteers were also involved in the process. Susan distributed copies of the summary of results. 409 replies were a good sample of the population and there are still some to be received. The highest interest is in borrowing books. Susan will feed back the findings of the survey to the library. It was decided that a small project group be established, including Laurie and Natalie (the volunteers).

Linkwood Residents

Residents are concerned about the speed of traffic (including construction vehicles) and feel there is a need for a controlled crossing on Reikit Lane.

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The bridge is reopening on Friday and residents are pleased that this has been done well.

There was a discussion about the Waulkmill development and the possible road layout.

Footpath access has been blocked at the disused railway bridge near the Cottar House and the area is attracting antisocial behaviour and fly tipping. Susan described the summer activities arranged by CLD in the Linkwood area and pointed out that it had helped raise issues in the area. This was an opportunity to develop people's interest in the residents' group.

5. **Moray Forum News**

Community Support Unit (CSU) - Rebecca reported on a meeting involving the forum, the Joint Community Council, MVSO and others. This was the start of an exercise to get a clear idea of the needs of communities and groups, and to ensure that the new unit does not duplicate work of existing groups and organisations. CSU staff will continue to be involved in a mapping of need and activity over a transition period.

Young carers - services to young carers have been reduced from 120 hours to 19 in the new contract. The forum will ask the council for a meeting to discuss this.

Document confidentiality - the forum decided that more thoughtful labelling was needed so that the purpose and level of confidentiality of documents from community planning partners was clearer. This will be the subject of a paper from the forum to the Community Engagement Group.

6. **Area Forum Staffing**

It was confirmed that Lee Barton would be based with Susan Leonard as part of the new CSU with a responsibility for New Elgin. She would be returning on the 28th of August.

Rebecca raised her intention to resign as chair. She felt that she needs to step back. She will remain as chair for the next meeting or two to help identify a new chair and to work with staff in the new unit. It was pointed out that this creates two vacancies for office bearers: chair and secretary.

7. **Treasurers Report**

Aileen said that there was nothing apart from 12p interest to report and asked if people could give her their expense claims.

8. **Correspondence**

- Consultation on revision of the community council boundaries - closing date 6th of August. Cllr Leadbitter explained that the election in October would

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be the first following the introduction of multi-member wards and that there were a number of important issues contained in the boundary changes.

- An invitation for young people 18 to 25 to participate in the Butterfly Effect Youth Exchange at Findhorn for a 12-day experience in creative sustainability.
- Quarrelwood Association is looking for volunteers to get involved with the work of the association.

9. Community Issues

Doocot Park - Elizabeth Murray raised the terrible condition of the youth shelter. She showed photographs highlighting the damage. It would appear that the bin has also gone. There was a discussion on the proximity of CCTV. Jamie Macmillan reported that they had tried fingerprinting the windows but that there were too many to pinpoint the culprit. Susan agreed to contact Amy Cheer and asked her to report back at the next meeting.

Sawmill Site - This continues to eyesore for residents and people arriving by train into Elgin. Could it be tidied up? Councillor Leadbitter said there may be some difficulty as this is private land and, unless there is a hazard being created, the council is unlikely to get involved. He suggested that the owner may respond more positively to an approach from the community, but said that he would contact the council first and report back.

Seagulls - Elizabeth Scott raised the issue of noise from seagulls coming from a house under construction in New Elgin Road. Can the council make the developer or owner remove the nest from the building? The forum has written letters about this in the past and has not received replies. It was suggested that this issue be taken up with the greener theme group.

Tenants' Conference - Steven and Elizabeth informed the forum of the annual tenants' conference on the 17th of September. A table will be made available for the forum and Rebecca and Aileen agreed to attend with Susan's support.

Date of Next Meeting: 8 September 2009 New Elgin Primary School Annexe