

**Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on
Tuesday 16th April 2013 at 7.00pm in the NEON Building**

Present:

Aileen Marshall (Chair)
Linda McKenzie
Daniel Scott
James Wiseman

Christine Clerk (Treasurer)
Marilyn Kelly
Elizabeth Scott
Catherine Sinclair (Minutes)

In Attendance:

Cllr John Divers
Alastair Kennedy (C&RBoECC)
PC Ewan Knight (Police Scotland)

Cllr Graham Leadbitter
Kathy Grant (Community Warden)
Ian Todd (Community Support Unit)

Apologies:

Steven Christie (Vice Chair)
Cllr James Allan

Rebecca Kail

ITEM NO	ITEM DISCUSSED	ACTION
1.	<p>Welcome Aileen Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies Apologies were noted.</p>	
	<p>Police Report Operation Moravia on antisocial behaviour: 29th March, 2 drug search warrants were actioned and arrests made. 30th March City centre patrols with 5 alcohol related arrests made and 2 ABSO spot fines of £40 issued.</p> <p>Traffic department and wardens have restarted monitoring parking issues around schools.</p> <p>Patrols, including plain clothes, have taken place in city centre following house break-ins. There have been no further but enquiries are continuing.</p> <p>There were no further updates on ATM issues</p> <p>The transition to Police Scotland was reported to be good, barring a few IT glitches. The service should be as before with no change in staff or office closures.</p> <p>Community Warden Wardens are examining their roles in the groups they attend and assessing what kind of information they bring, how it's disseminated and how they can work with groups. It was agreed Kathy was welcome to attend the whole meeting and her contributions on all issues would be welcome, particularly as she is a resident.</p> <p>The Forum would welcome hearing about all aspects of Community Warden work. Dog fouling issues have dominated the news to the detriment of other work such as antisocial behaviour and neighbour disputes. The forum is happy to be of service or support.</p> <p>Moray Forum and the Joint Community Councils can be a good way to disseminate strategic information.</p> <p>ACTION: Community Warden slot on Agenda.</p>	AM
3.	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting Page 2 Amendment Moray Council was between <i>Sustainable Transport Officers</i> – not HiTrans.</p>	

	<p>Subject to this amendments, the minutes were accepted. Proposed: Alastair Kennedy Seconded: James Wiseman</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>4.1 Budget response Cllr Wright had thanked the Forum for the considered way in which they responded. This response was appreciated.</p> <p>4.2 Welfare reform There has been an urgent appeal for donations for food banks in the last few days. Moves are underway to try and establish a Trussell Trust food bank in Moray – this provides 3 days of food for those in crisis. There is not a duplication of the work carried out by Community Foods Moray.</p> <p>Please make the Forum aware of anyone struggling or whose needs are not being met.</p>	
5.	<p>Community Issues/action group updates</p> <p>5.1 Western Link Road - Update WLR will go to Planning approx. November. It will be a single application, independent from Elgin High School. There is contingency to reapply in connection with the new school if Planning is refused. Access to Elgin High School may proceed if the timescale on a decision on WLR is too long.</p> <p>Some members had watched the meeting online and there was discussion on this. A discussion was held on procedural principle on standing orders.</p> <p>James Wiseman felt there has not been a strong argument about the benefits the WLR is proposed to deliver or how they could be delivered by other means.</p> <p>Daniel Scott advised objections via the Planning process could only be made on quite narrow grounds.</p> <p>Edgar Road area Residents' Meeting Aileen Marshall suggested a residents' meeting might be a useful way to help disseminate information and early community engagement with changes to be made to Edgar Road. Janice Gray, Living Streets could be invited to speak and links made with Martine Scott and Elgin High School Steering Group (3 Cllrs and Mary Dow attend). Andy Simpson, Principal Teacher, and Martine Scott, project manager will attend the May Forum meeting and the potential for a meeting and its format could be discussed after this.</p> <p>5.2 Elgin High School - update The visit to Elgin Academy was thought to be worthwhile. There was a discussion on specifications for the Academy and the new Elgin High School. Due to a cooperative hub being used across several local authorities, savings on design should be made, allowing for a good spec. at the High School including imaginative and flexible use of space.</p> <p>5.3 SPICE Update</p> <p>5.3.1 Litter Pick – 20th & 21st April. Volunteers required. Please contact Steven. The plan for a town centre hub is ongoing, subject to having the agreement of all partners and carrying out some public consultation, then creating a business plan.</p> <p>5.3.2 Litter There was a discussion about litter generally and the broken fence panels</p>	

	<p>at B&Q where people dump rubbish. It would be helpful to have a bin halfway up the path at the side of B&Q for wrappers from food bought at Asda. Elizabeth Scott suggested she would be happy to undertake an occasional litter pick in problem areas but could not then dispose of mixed waste in her bin.</p> <p>ACTION: Kathy Grant to enquire about branded bags for litter pickers</p>	KG
5.3.4	<p>Antisocial Behaviour</p> <p>On discussion of visiting football supporters urinating in Tesco car park, PC Knight advised calling the police. Police had a presence in Tesco on both Rangers match days.</p>	
5.4	<p>Gypsy Traveller Sites Consultation</p> <p>There was lengthy, thoughtful discussion of this complex issue. It was agreed the Chair would respond on the Forum's behalf, accepting this as an interim measure, asking siting be looked at on an individual basis, and stating that we look forward to a full policy in due course.</p> <p>Kathy Grant offered to speak to the Encampment Officer to pass on feedback about keeping sites tidy.</p> <p>ACTIONS: Aileen Marshall to respond to consultation Kathy Grant to speak to encampment officer</p>	AM KG
5.5	<p>Any Other Community Issues and Updates</p> <p>There are no updates as there had been no other meetings during Easter break.</p>	
5.5.1	<p>Cycle Parking</p> <p>After a prompt reply from The Moray Council, we look forward to the parking being relocated at the front of the Council Offices.</p>	
5.5.2	<p>Allotments</p> <p>Consultation from Scottish Government</p> <p>Rebecca Kail will respond in her role with Elgin Allotments Association and advise us if a Forum response is required. We can then respond with her guidance.</p> <p>Meeting with Richard Hartland</p> <p>Rebecca, Aileen and 1 other are to meet with Richard Hartland next week to discuss a way forward. Aileen will inform of any updates.</p> <p>Elgin High School</p> <p>There may be the possibility of an opportunity for allotment space at the new High School, although this will be on a longer time scale. We would welcome this and hope it would act as a catalyst for other schools.</p>	
5.5.3	<p>Po-Teak Planning application</p> <p>A response was sent and circulated. It is not known why this application is temporary. James Wiseman advised that due to a website glitch, submissions on the last day of a consult should be emailed.</p>	
5.5.4	<p>Older People's Information Fair</p> <p>1st May, Elgin Town Hall – aspects of commissioning strategy, care of older people etc. Aileen Marshall will be attending.</p>	
5.5.5	<p>Glen Moray Drive Path</p> <p>There is no funding for lighting but the path presents a safety hazard for pedestrians and cyclists. The problem has worsened since surrounding lighting was replaced and there is less leakage onto the path. A directional light on the pole at the junction of the path would help light a small part of the path.</p> <p>ACTION: Alastair Kennedy will take that matter up again.</p>	AK
5.5.6	<p>Sainsburys</p> <p>Continuing delay involving talks between Sainsburys and Scottish Water</p>	

5.5.7	<p>Moray Council Arts Budget A FOI request has resulted in receipt of the Arts Development budget. It does not show outcomes, productions etc, partly because of the way it is broken down and partly because other parts of the budget may come from other departments.</p>	
6.	<p>Treasurer's Report £40 for last minutes. Balance is £5633.57</p>	
7.	<p>Forum Issues Catherine will do May minutes. Christine will do June minutes.</p>	
8.	<p>Correspondence VAM e-Bulletin Circ 20/3 Budget Consultation Response Allan Wright Circ 20/3 JW Letter re Po-Teak site Planning App Circ 22/3 SPICE Papers Circ 22/3 Celebration Chinese Banquet Info Circ 25/3 SPICE Info Circ 25/3 Po-Teak Planning App Response Acknowledgement Circ 27/3 Licensing Policy Consultation Circ 27/3 VAM Fundraising Info Circ 27/3 SPICE Litter pick Info Circ 29/3, 2/4, 10/4 VAM Volunteering Support Fund Circ 2/4 VAM ASIST Course Circ 2/4 Basic Advocacy Training Circ 3/4 BA Community Development Circ 3/4 RH Allotments Response Circ 3/4 Older People's Info Fair Circ 3/4 Correspondence with Jill Stewart re Cycle Parking at HQ Circ 6/4 ECC Papers Circ 6/4 SPICE Constitution Circ 6/4 Social Enterprise Training Circ 8/4 Community Asset Ownership Circ 8/4 tsiMoray Newsletter Circ 12/4 SG Allotments Consultation Circ 15/4</p>	
9.	<p>Any Other Competent Business</p> <p>Wetlands A discussion was held on the poor state of the ponds, which are stagnating as well as full of litter. Has the change in drainage affected the ponds? SPICE may be able to clear litter. ACTION: Cllr Divers to inform Ranger</p>	JD
11.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Date of next meeting 21st May 2013, NEON, 7pm The meeting closed at 9.20pm.</p>	