

**Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on
Tuesday 18th January 2011 at 7.00pm in the NEON Building**

Present

Aileen Marshall (Chair)
Steven Christie (Vicechair)
Rebecca Kail, Resident
Linda McKenzie, Resident
Lyn Young, EHS Parent Council

Mary Dow (Secretary)
Christine Clerk, Resident
Marilyn Kelly, Resident
Ben Sola (Linkwood Residents Assoc)

In Attendance:

Linda Adam, Community Support Officer
Cllr John Divers
Cllr Graham Leadbitter
Cllr John Sharp

Debbie Anderson (Elgin Comm Warden)
Alastair Kennedy (C&RBoECC)
PC Fiona Robertson

Donald Duncan, Director of Educational Services, George Sinclair, Head of Educational Development Services and Richard Donald, Head of Educational Support Services (Acting) for duration of item 2 on the Agenda.

Apologies:

Louise Ellerby (Treasurer)
Ray Wood

Sandra Dow

ITEM NO	ITEM DISCUSSED	ACTION
1.	Aileen Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.	
2.	<p>Guest Speakers – Aileen welcomed Donald Duncan, George Sinclair and Richard Donald. Questions were given to Donald Duncan prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Q1. Provide an outline of Educational Services management structure.</p> <p>Donald Duncan circulated a copy of the Officer Structure within Educational Services and gave brief details of the role of each department. Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions:-</p> <p>Q. Is Educational Services the largest Admin Department within Moray Council? A. Educational Services accounts for one third of Council's spend and half of all staff work within Educational Services, with there being 1000 FTE teachers.</p> <p>Q. Where do suggestions come from with regard to improvements required in schools? A. The National Government Agenda and local decisions being made by the Council. The key role of Quality Improvement Officers is to assess where schools are at, areas school needs to work on, focusing on improvements and support schools to work on the issues highlighted.</p> <p>Q.2 What are the future plans for Elgin High School?</p> <p>Donald Duncan explained Elgin High School has not had any significant investment in many years due to the PPP Process and the deferral of the</p>	

	<p>proposed Regional Sports Facilities. Reassessment of the needs of Elgin High School will be presented to the Capital Plan discussions due to take place next month.</p> <p>Q. What work needs to be carried out? Some areas of the school are not fit for purpose.</p> <p>A. Condition and Suitability surveys have been carried out and will be discussed as part of the Capital Plan, although this is a slow process. There is no dispute that investment is needed for Elgin High School.</p> <p>Q. With the new Academy opening in 2012, I fear for Elgin High School becoming a poor relation very soon. There may also be a knock-on effect from base closures with the possibility of migration from New Elgin to the Academy. If this happens what plans do you have in place?</p> <p>A. Not possible to have plans. If there are spaces available at the Academy we cannot refuse entry. The new Academy will have a maximum role of 1,050 and with projections being about 1,500 there will always be a need for two schools within Elgin.</p> <p>Cllr Sharp advised that teachers, staff etc. are doing a great job at the High School.</p> <p>Q. Does the projections for future role numbers take into account the possible closure of RAF Lossiemouth and what percentage of children come from bases?</p> <p>A. Approximately 10% on average, although caution should be given.</p> <p>Q. No positive planning when Academy opens to give people this side of town a lift?</p> <p>A. It is important for us to see some investment in Elgin High School in Capital Plan this year. Cllr Divers advised that reassurances have been given that this will be looked at on 10th February 2011 Capital Planning meeting.</p> <p>Q3. What potential exists for having a library/IT resource in New Elgin?</p> <p>Would be keen to support this initiative. We can continue to explore opportunities.</p> <p>Q4. What provision is made given New Elgin covers an area of multiple deprivation?</p> <p>Richard Donald advised that funding for extra support is given with New Elgin Primary School having a Nurture Group. Support for learning is based on needs. P1-P3 children at New Elgin Primary School have free school meals. P1-P3 class sizes are smaller.</p> <p>Q. Does extra funding go to Elgin High School?</p> <p>A. Additional support into this area has always been there. Additional support is available for individual pupils.</p> <p>Q. Level of support and number of pupils from out of area raises concerns and feeds into public perception and I fear that Elgin High School maybe sold short into this area.</p> <p>A. We have worked hard in terms of inclusion agenda. Now have a base for additional support in every school.</p> <p>George Sinclair advised that Elgin High School should be commended on the improving trend of attainment.</p> <p>Q5. What forward planning is being done in relation to the possible</p>	
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	<p>closures of RAF bases?</p> <p>This is a hugely sensitive issue, RAF personnel do not know what is ahead of them at this moment in time. It maybe that some people stay in the area but not sure how many will leave.</p> <p>Q6. Could in-service days not be held during school holiday periods?</p> <p>Teachers work 195 days and schools are open 190 days. This forms part of the teacher's contract.</p> <p>Q7. How is Curriculum for Excellence being implemented and what difference will Curriculum for Excellence make?</p> <p>George Sinclair gave details of Curriculum for Excellence and a factfile was distributed.</p> <p>Q. Are young children involved? A. Self evaluation is increasingly vital. Parents and Children are involved.</p> <p>Q8. Why do we need so many Quality Improvement Officers when there are three Heads of Service and one Director?</p> <p>George Sinclair distributed a structure of the Quality Improvement Officers (7) and explained their roles. He advised that there are 53 schools in Moray that the Quality Improvement Officers support.</p>	
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>Community Issues/Action Group Updates</p> <p>Marilyn Kelly and Linda McKenzie confirmed that they were happy to continue to represent the Elgin South Area Forum at the C&RBoE Community Council meetings.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy, Chair of the C&RBoECC gave a brief update as follows:-</p> <p>Discussion on Airgun Legislation. Letters had been written to various MSP's/MP's regarding rail services and the proposal to stop the Inverness/Aberdeen/London train. Funding applications had been sent for repair to the Mosaic. A letter has been sent regarding the Deanshaugh playing fields remediation work.</p> <p>Aileen Marshall advised that a meeting to discuss the Western Distributor Road has been arranged for Wednesday 26th January 2011 at 3.00pm in the NEON building. If members are unable to attend they are welcome to attend the Elgin North Area Forum's meeting on the 25th January 201 at 7.00pm to be held in the Community Centre. Details can be found at http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file69333.pdf.</p> <p>A display will be available to view at Elgin Library on 27/28th January 2011 between 2.00 –8.00pm. Mary Dow to include on the next Agenda.</p> <p>Aileen Marshall felt that Moray Council had done a great job during the recent bad weather. It was also noted that several grit bins were now in place throughout the New Elgin area.</p> <p>Rebecca Kail advised that work had commenced on the new cycle paths.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>MD</p>

3.6	Linda Adam informed members that a that a series of free hand books and funding guides were to be launched on Wednesday 2 nd February at the Elgin Community Centre between 2.00 – 5.00pm and 6.00 – 8.00pm for collection. Linda Adam also stated that a letter giving full details would be sent to core groups and this would also be advertised on Moray Firth Radio.	ALL
3.7	Graham Leadbitter advised that some changes had been made to the Urban Freedom Process consultation and a formal response should be submitted by 28 th January 2011. Aileen Marshall agreed to respond in favour of the amendments.	AM
4.	Correspondence	
4.1	Details of the proposed new Springfield development at Glassgreen. In view of this being at the pre-planning stage it was agreed to discuss at a later date. Aileen Marshall to respond accordingly.	AM
4.2	Review of Moray Local Plan. This was circulated to members. After a brief discussion, it was agreed for Rebecca Kail to draft a letter in response and this would be discussed further when the proper plan is received.	RK
4.3	Thinning of beech trees in Quarrelwood. Linda Adam agreed to e-mail to members.	LA
4.4	Community Payback Newsletter. Aileen Marshall advised that this was giving background information on Community Service and they were currently looking for new projects. It was agreed to possibly discuss at a future meeting, or if members had any ideas for next projects to let Aileen Marshall know.	AM
5.	Speaker for Themed Meeting	
	Mary Dow agreed to contact Calum Macpherson, Economic and Development (Wealthier, Fairer and Greener) with the possibility of arranging a speaker.	MD
	The following ideas for future speakers was put forward and would be discussed further at the next meeting:-	
	Housing, Floods, Social Work, Roads and Strategies for Care of Older People.	
6.	Any other Competent Business	
	Alastair Kennedy informed members of the STV local website which he has found very useful and advised that dates of meetings can be advertised on the website.	
7.	Date of Next Meeting	
	Tuesday 15 th February 2011 at 7.00pm in NEON Building.	