



Minutes of Elgin South Area Forum Tuesday 19th January 2010

Present

Denise Gormley	Community Support Officer
Daniel Scott	Resident
Elizabeth Scott	Resident
Aileen Marshall	Treasurer
Alex Macmillan	Elgin Community Council
Linda McKenzie	Resident
Marilyn Kelly	Resident
Murray Ross	Elgin Community Council
Steven Christie	Resident
Christine Clerk	Resident
Louise Ellerby	Chairperson

In Attendance

Cllr Leadbitter
Cllr Sharp
Cllr Divers

1. Welcome and Apologies

Louise welcomed everyone to the first ESAF meeting of 2010 and thanked everyone for attending. Louise introduced Alex Macmillan and explained that he is a member of the Elgin Community Council and has a proposal he wishes to put forward to the Forum for discussion and possible involvement.

Debbie McGee, Rebecca Kail and Moira Sutherland all sent their apologies for the meeting.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Alison explained the date was incorrect and this has not been amended.

Proposed: Steven Christie
Seconded: Aileen Marshall

Louise asked if there were any updates with regards to the running of NEON. No one was in attendance to provide an update.

Action

Denise is to ask Jodi Glowacki for an update for the next meeting.

Budget Consultation – the EGM that took place on the 18th November went well and the proposed points were taken forward to the budget meeting on the 24th November at Elgin Town Hall.

Action

Aileen is to forward the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th November to Alison – who will then forward this to all members with the next set of minutes.

3. Group Updates

Active Travel Group A Steering Group has been set up and a launch event is planned for the end of March 2010; the group is now called 'Urban Freedom'. Other community groups are to be encouraged to become involved in the launch and if anyone is interested they are to contact Rebecca Kail.

Allotments Group The group thanked The Moray Council, Community Council and Area Forums for their continual support they have provided. The demand of the allotments is continually growing. The negotiations for land are still slow and the Planning Dept are not willing to accept any of the previously suggested plots.

The Elgin Allotments Association has been running for 2 years and sadly they are no closer to allocating any land for said allotments. The Association has requested a more political backing with regards to enabling them to promote and challenge negative ideas with regards to the communities impression of allotment users. The present Elected Members explained that the Allotment Association has their backing 100% and explained that the problem with the previous suggested plots is the chance of contaminated ground. The elected members also indicated that there is no provision for allotments in the Local Plan for Elgin and this plan is strictly complied with. Restricting the proposed plots to central Elgin is therefore limiting the negotiations possibilities and the Allotment Association should consider looking outwith, for example the expansion of Edgar Road; the Planning Policy is due to take place on Thursday 28th January 2010.

Action

The Elected Members are to suggest to the Allotment Association how to access information that will enable them to consider locations near Edgar Road.

Denise is to clarify who is taking over John Ferguson's role as Allotment Officer if applicable.

Young Dookiteers The group has not met since Christmas 2009 due to the weather conditions. They had a successful Christmas party. They now have 59 children attending each week and a large waiting list.

They would like to separate the younger and older children and storage continues to be a problem.

Graham Jarvis is arranging First Aid training for all of the volunteer parents.

Debbie McGhie and another volunteer Angie Shaw have undergone the first part of some training, the second part of which is in March to train young people over age 10 to achieve a Dynamic Youth Award or Youth Achievement Award.

Elgin High School Litter Steven confirmed that no meeting has taken place recently.

Group

- Library Project* Denise confirmed that there is no update as it was agreed to wait until after the Budgets for 2010 have been announced.
- Linkwood Residents* Denise confirmed that the group would like to engage the community more and that Ben was taking a more prominent role.
- Bilbohall Tenants Forum* Steven confirmed they have not met officially recently but a meeting will take place on Wednesday 3rd February 2010, 7.15pm at Cedarwood.

<i>New Elgin & Ashgrove Hall</i>	Louise confirmed there were no updates at present.
<i>Westfields Residents Association</i>	No updates at present.
<i>Any other groups</i>	No further groups to discuss.
<i>Elgin North Area Forum</i>	Denise advised the Forum that ENAF's Joint Chair has recently resigned and Keiron is now the sole Chair of ENAF.
<i>Elgin Community Council</i>	<p>Murray Ross updated the Forum with the following:</p> <p>The manhole covers on the main routes to Elgin are a priority – to raise them to the same level as the roads.</p> <p>Beautification Scheme – 2 further planters have been planned. Springfield are interested in planting the roundabouts at Main Road possibly in March and they will maintain these at no cost.</p> <p>Alex Macmillan congratulated the ESAF for their engagement with the community.</p> <p>He explained that the Better Community Engagement Steering Group has been set up and that Elgin Community Council would like to put forward a Community Pilot Project which if agreed could be a partnership initiative with Elgin South and Elgin North area Forums. This project is loosely based on the 'Community Champions initiative' which was previously tried by Grampian Police.</p> <p>The proposal is that regular surgeries would take place throughout Elgin once a month, which would allow members of the community who are not comfortable attending structured meetings or talking to their local Elected Members. These surgeries would require a minimum of 2 workers per surgery (eg 1 representative from Elgin Community Council and at least one representative from Elgin South Area Forum and / or Elgin North Area forum).</p> <p>The project would also consider opening a website for comment eg Bebo. Suggestion boxes would be placed for example in Tesco and Asda which would include a particular form that could be completed.</p> <p>The Community Council and Area Forum's would then take the information and discuss, work on/try to help or pass on to the appropriate partnership agency and then feedback to the individual.</p> <p>The proposed name for this group is 'Elgin Ear'.</p>

	<p>The members in attendance agreed that this was a good idea. A vote was taken with it was agreed unanimously that Elgin South Area Forum would be a partner in this initiative.</p> <p>Alex thanked the Forum and confirmed he would feedback their comments and agreement back to Elgin Community Council and will keep Elgin South Area Forum up to date with what will happen next.</p> <p>Action</p> <p><i>Denise will discuss with Ian Todd the proposal and arrange for him to attend the next Elgin South Area Forum meeting to provide members with a background of the Better Community Engagement group.</i></p>
<i>Elgin Youth Team</i>	Amy Cheer was not present at the meeting and therefore there were no updates available.
<i>Moray Area Forum</i>	The recent meeting was cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions. The meeting has been rescheduled for 22.02.2010.

4. Elgin South Area Forum – ideas for the future

This will be placed on the next meetings Agenda. Louise requested that each member should take a copy of Elgin South Area Forum Action Plan and review page 7 for discussion and adoption at the next meeting.

A draft letter was handed to each member of the Forum and Louise explained this relates to the Action Plan. This letter would be sent out to partners to gain clarification of any consultation documents that the Forum receives.

Action

Members are to review page 7 of the Action Plan and to review the draft letter which will be sent to Planning Partners.

5. Moray Council Budget Savings Consultation updates

The budget setting meeting will take place on the 11th March 2010; this will be a public meeting and will be able to be viewed via the internet.

The Administration met on the 18th January 2010 and will be meeting the Labour representatives on the 22nd January and the SNP representatives on 19th January 2010.

Action

Alison is to forward a copy of the letter Alastair Kennedy (Elgin Community Council) sent to the Moray Council congratulating them for the Budget Consultation process.

6. Treasures Report

No great changes except for payment of the Minutes Taking.

7. Secretary Post

Louise explained that the post of Secretary is still vacant and this needs to be filled. It is an essential role within the Area Forum and Denise confirmed that the person who took on the role would have support and help as and when needed.

Action

This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

8. Correspondence

A meeting arranged by Moray Community Health and Social Care Partnership concerning services for old people was cancelled due to the weather conditions. It was requested that Sandra Gracie should attend a future forum meeting to provide feedback.

9. Community Issues

Cllr Divers confirmed that the Edgar Road Boots Chemist officially opened on the 25th November 2009. The Medical Centre/Pharmacy licence has been agreed and they have 6 months to move; possibly Feb or March 2010.

The expectation is that Edgar Road Boots Chemist will reapply for the Pharmacy licence.

Alex Macmillan explained that Elgin Community Council received an update concerning the Moray flood alleviation on Thursday 14th January 2010 and the website is now available – www.morayfloodalleviation.co.uk. The public enquiry report has come back requesting more answers which the Moray Council will carry out studies for. A public meeting will be held in the Town Hall on the 29th January 2010. This will mean a delay in the implementation of the scheme, possibly 4-6 months and work will begin in Spring 2011 rather than Sept 2010.

Date of Next Meeting

2nd March 2010, 7pm NEON (Room 1)