

**Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 7.00pm in the NEON Building**

**Present:**

Aileen Marshall (Chair)  
Steven Christie (Vice Chair)  
Christine Clerk (Treasurer)  
Elizabeth Scott  
Daniel Scott  
Marilyn Kelly  
Catherine Sinclair  
Linda McKenzie  
James Wiseman (Minute Secretary)

**In Attendance:**

Cllr John Divers  
Cllr Graham Leadbitter

**Apologies:**

Mary Dow  
PC Christopher Harris (Grampian Police)  
Rebecca Kail  
Alastair Kennedy (C&RBoECC)  
Cllr John Sharp

**MINUTES:**

ITEM	RECORD	ACTION
1.	<b>Welcome</b> Having established that a quorum (30% of the membership) was present, Aileen Marshall took the Chair at 7:00pm, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.	
2.	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were noted as above.	
3.1	<b>Previous Minutes - 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012</b> The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting with amendments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Correspondence circulation dates to be corrected.</li></ul> Proposed with Amendments: Stephen Christie, Seconded: Marilyn Kelly.	
3.2	<b>Previous Minutes - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012</b> The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting with no amendments. Proposed: Stephen Christie, Seconded: Linda MacKenzie.	
4.1	<b>Matters Arising - 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6.1 NHS Services update from Cllr Divers - See Item 6</li></ul>	Cllr JD.
4.2	<b>Matters Arising - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012</b> There were no Matters Arising	
	<b>(Cllr Leadbitter entered the meeting)</b>	

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5.	<p><b>Western Link Road (WLR)</b></p> <p>Rebecca Kail represented ESAF at the Community Engagement Steering Group (CESG) for the Western Link Road convened by the Council. The Moray Council Consultancy laid out their proposal for a Value Management Workshop to the CESG. Many organisations and expertise are to be represented at the workshop so places are limited to 1 attendee per group. A walkover of the route will be held the evening before the workshop where more people could attend and stations were proposed to explain each section of the proposal. The workshop will be independently facilitated to explore criteria for evaluating ideas, non-judgementally generate ideas, group and evaluate the ideas and provide output for the Council to consider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact with Cedarwood for their views</li> <li>• Rebecca Kail to continue representing ESAF at this CESG.</li> <li>• Dates for the workshop are 28/5/2012 or 1/6/2012. Aileen Marshall, Christine Clerk, Rebecca Kail, &amp; James Wiseman were identified as available to cover the dates offered. Aileen Marshall to respond affirmative to Moray Council.</li> <li>• Aileen Marshall to arrange a review after the walkover and prior to the workshop if possible.</li> </ul> <p>Aileen Marshall summed up that the ESAF area would be significantly affected by the WLR and made reference to the discussions in previous minutes. ESAF concerns include the following</p> <p>How will this scheme influence a future Elgin Bypass?</p> <p>How will this scheme influence the future dualling of the A96?</p> <p>Why is the WLR necessary and what tangible benefits will there be within Elgin?</p> <p>Could the project be stopped?</p> <p>Cllr Leadbitter said that Council officers are also divided on the project but the Council are quite far down the line with purchasing property for the project which gives the project considerable momentum. He explained that Councillors have difficulty refusing a Planning Applications which are recommend for approval because going against that advice removes support of Council Officers were a legal action to be raised. However, it is possible that the design may discover issues that increase the cost and upset the fragile financial viability of the scheme.</p> <p>Cllr Divers said he had questioned the traffic volume predictions in the past and remains interested in what effect other emerging socio-economic factors will have on those predictions.</p> <p>Both Councillors confirmed that the change of Council would not of itself result in a review of the project but might influence decisions going forward.</p> <p>It was agreed that ESAF's position is clear from the recent discussions, ESAF would remain engaged with the process but further discussion on the WLR would be curtailed.</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>RK.</p> <p>AM, RK, CC, JW.</p> <p>AM</p> <p>All</p>
6.	<p><b>Community Issues &amp; Updates</b></p>	
6.1	<p><b>Redesignation of Cycletracks</b></p> <p>Rebecca Kail submitted a written report as follows: Roads order/footpath redesignation. I've looked at these. Most are in the north. The south ones are all just to change suitable footpaths into shared cycle/footways. These make more coherent routes for the new cycle/footways (ie ensure that a cycle way doesn't just stop and become pedestrians only), and iron out some gaps. My view is that these changes are very welcome and TMC is to be congratulated for linking the new routes to existing networks wherever possible.</p>	

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	<p>There was discussion on the use of footpaths by cyclists. James Wiseman pointed out that the Highway Code has many rules on the subject covering segregated and unsegregated mixed traffic situations. It was thought that pedestrians still feel vulnerable when confronted by cyclists and perhaps some education or positive press coverage would help.</p> <p>Aileen Marshall to respond to the Consultation accordingly.</p>	AM
<b>6.2</b>	<p><b>Taxi Fare Review</b></p> <p>No issues were raised.</p> <p>Aileen Marshall to respond to the Consultation accordingly.</p>	AM
<b>6.3</b>	<p><b>Elgin High School</b></p> <p>Councillor Divers reported that the High School funding was approved by full Council and Mary Dow, as Secretary of EHS Parents Association, is following this up. In response to a question Councillor Divers confirmed that the existing school could not be refurbished, a question he had raised during the PPP process.</p> <p>Both Councillors remain committed to delivering the High School project and pursuing the Regional Sports Centre.</p> <p>Aileen Marshall to contact Mary Dow to express ESAF's willingness to support EHS in any appropriate way.</p>	AM
<b>6.4</b>	<p><b>Other Community Issues &amp; Updates</b></p> <p><b>Dr Gray's</b> – Councillor Divers had questioned the provision of clinics and had ascertained that the Children's Ward is not closing but allegedly they can't get a paediatrician. Aileen Marshall commented that this was most unsatisfactory and could not understand why such provision could not be written in to a paediatrician's contract.</p> <p>Councillor Divers also report his personal experience that Pain consultants are not available in Elgin due to admin and nursing shortages. He expressed a concern that this is the NHS centralising in Aberdeen again!</p> <p>Councillor Leadbitter responded to Aileen Marshall's question on the use of Inverness services saying that certain x-rays and scans are available from Inverness and whilst there are administrative issues associated with this it would seem worthwhile for the NHS to look for potential saving in this area.</p> <p>Councillor Leadbitter's said that ward care appeared to vary and he had observed a lack of communication from NHS on this subject which he thought suspicious.</p> <p>Aileen Marshall highlighted a concern that nursing costs may be affecting the quality of evening and weekend cover.</p> <p>There was general concern over the NHS actions and both Councillors recommended immediate action taking these concerns in writing to the highest offices ie. Nicola Sturgeon, MSP's and the Moray Council NHS Representative. It was also recommended to consider a joint Forum meeting on the subject.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office bearers to explore this issue and act accordingly</li> <li>• Aileen Marshall to write to Richard Carey requesting a meeting.</li> </ul>	AM AM AM
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Treasurers Report</b></p> <p>Christine Clerk reported the balance of ESAF account as £5,103.88 after spending £18.98 on printing and £120 on minute taking.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Forum Issues</b></p>	
<b>8.1</b>	<p><b>Future Meetings – Format Venue</b></p> <p>Aileen Marshall said we would use Room 4 and move to Room 5 if available and if</p>	

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	required.	AM
<b>8.2</b>	<p><b>Admin Assistance</b></p> <p>Aileen Marshall is still looking for Admin Support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christine Clerk agreed to write next month's minutes.</li> <li>• Minute Taker duties to rotate.</li> </ul>	CC AM
<b>8.3</b>	<p><b>Records Management / Data Protection</b></p> <p>No progress on this matter as it is complicated. Pursue detail through the Moray Forum.</p>	AM
<b>8.4</b>	<p><b>Membership Forms</b></p> <p>Aileen Marshall noted all membership forms were up to date.</p> <p>No potential new members attended the meeting.</p>	
<b>8.5</b>	<p><b>Time Spent on Forum Business</b></p> <p>Steven Christie spent 97 hours on forum business.</p> <p>Aileen Marshall spent 29 hours on forum business.</p> <p>Catherine Sinclair spent 9 hours on forum business.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>Single Point of Contact Adult Care Circ 21/3</p> <p>Voluntary Arts Group Circ 21/3</p> <p>WLR Correspondence with David Laing Circ 23/3</p> <p>Community Fair 22/9 Circ 22/3</p> <p>Env Imp Group Agenda Circ 23/3</p> <p>WLR Workshop Organisation Circ 23/3</p> <p>C&amp;RBoECC Minutes Circ 27/3, Agenda Circ 5/4</p> <p>VAM Bulletin Circ 2/4</p> <p>Elgin North Papers Circ 3/4</p> <p>Litter Pick Info from TMC Circ 10/4</p> <p>Olympic Celebration Packs Circ 11/4</p> <p>Moray Society AGM Circ 16/4</p> <p>Community Fair Minutes Circ 16/4</p> <p>Community Sports Open Day Circ 16/4</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Any Other Competent Business</b></p>	
<b>10.1</b>	<p><b>Litter Strategy</b></p> <p>Litter Strategy is nearly finished</p> <p>Litter pick is planned for 19/20 May 2012, registration forms available at A&amp;I and Asda and should be returned to Volunteer Action Moray.</p> <p>Police are to do a 3 week purge on litter</p> <p>Lack of bins and dog fouling were discussed. It was noted that the path beside B&amp;Q was frequently littered and Councillor Divers confirmed the path belonged to B&amp;Q and was technically their responsibility. The Council may address this issue but previous attempts by the Council to provide litter bin facilities in that area had resulted in vandalism.</p>	All

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<b>10.2</b>	<b>Welfare Reforms</b>  Steven Christie reported concerns that the introduction of universal credit is going to cause problems for some individuals and it will be introduced April 2013. There will be a 4 week delay between systems which will result in some people having no money during that time. Benefits will be paid in monthly lump sums for Clients to manage themselves and some may not be capable of doing this.  Graham Leadbitter said that due to these changes eviction of vulnerable adults was inevitable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SC to report developments on this to next meeting.</li><li>• Add to agenda for next meeting</li></ul>	SC AM
<b>10.3</b>	<b>Bus Timetables</b>  Linda MacKenzie asked if bus timetables could be put in the bus shelter as it was very inconvenient. Councillor Divers confirmed that Stagecoach will do this after updating their timetable.	
<b>11</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  Date of next meeting 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2012, NEON, 7pm  The meeting closed at 9:00pm.	All