

Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum held in NEON on Tuesday 15 June 2010 at 7.00pm

### **Present**

Louise Ellerby Chairperson  
Aileen Marshall Treasurer  
Marilyn Kelly Resident  
Christine Clerk Resident  
Linda McKenzie Resident  
Steven Christie Bilbohall tenants Forum  
Moirra Sutherland Bibohall Estate Forum  
Mary Dow Elgin High School Parents Council  
Alan Bell, Elgin Community Council

### **In Attendance**

Linda Adam Community Support Officer  
Councillor John Divers, Moray council  
Councillor John Sharp, Moray council  
Elaine Brown, Service Planning Lead, NHS Grampian  
Sandy Thompson, Lead Pharmacist, NHS Grampian

### **Apologies**

Councillor Graham Leadbitter  
Rebecca Kail Resident  
Sandra Dow, Citizen's Advice Bureau

### **1) Welcome and Apologies**

Louise Ellerby welcomed everyone to the first themed Forum meeting. A list of questions had been sent to the invited speakers but if during the course of the meeting there were other questions from the meeting then they would be asked through the chair.

### **2) Guest Speakers**

**Question 1) In view of the NHS being one of the Community Planning Partners why was there no apparent consultation with the community regarding the relocation of the Main Street pharmacy to Thornhill Road, this causing much inconvenience to residents living west of Main Street?**

Elaine Brown responded that there was nothing in the legislation which says that the NHS has to consult with the community, regarding moving a pharmacy. The Pharmacy Practice committee has the responsibility for making a decision. The PPC has to consider the neighbourhood and demonstrate that there is a need for a second pharmacy. The Pharmacy Practice Committee heard the views expressed, looked at the neighbourhood and could not justify a second pharmacy. This was consequence of the rules which were applied. Boots the chemist knew that the possibility of a second pharmacy was unlikely as they were aware of the legislation. Ms Brown asked for clarification on the nature of

the inconvenience which residents were suffering due to the relocation of the pharmacy. The response from the meeting was about the distance needed to travel for prescriptions. Also it was highlighted that the Glassgreen pharmacy was constantly busy. Ms Brown responded that it was the responsibility of the business to provide adequate service cover to meet the demand. It was the opinion of the meeting that there was inadequate provision in the area at present, and due to the projected increase in population there was a need in the future. Ms Brown advised that the Scottish Government should be approached for a change in the legislation. Letters of support from Elgin Community Council and elected members have been sent to the Appeal Panel. Richard Lochhead MSP is aware of the situation.

**2) What are the priorities for NHS Grampian in Elgin south area?**

Ms Brown responded that the NHS considers the whole of Moray and that individual areas were not separated out from the overall strategy of helping keep people well and keeping people out of hospital. The long-term strategy for the ageing population was to stop people getting any worse and to help them manage their condition. This was to optimise the use of hospital beds and enable people to leave hospital as quickly as possible by providing improved support at home. The NHS Maxim is 'Care at the right time, in the right place, by the right person'.

**3) What is being done to improve the situation in the deprived areas of Elgin south e.g. Health Promotion?**

The emphasis by the health board now was to encourage people to take responsibility for their own health by tackling issues like smoking, alcohol abuse and obesity. Educating people to manage their own condition can help people recover quicker. The NHS wish to work with the forums to engage with the community to make them aware of the options available in specialist clinics and support services which will help them live healthier lives. Elaine Brown state that patients and the community need to change their role in terms of their own health. Linda indicated that a family fun activity day is being planned to introduce the services available at NEON and she hoped the Health Service would participate and be represented on the day. The Forum could respond to the NHS with their suggestions. **Action: Forum members**

**4) Why are there no facilities for parking and securing bicycles at the Glass green car park when people are being encouraged to be healthier and greener?**

The meeting was informed that there is an n 18-place cycle rack at the rear of the Glassgreen medical centre. As suggestion was made that these cycle spaces could be indicated by signage, but this was the responsibility of Springfield properties and not the NHS.

**5) What plans are there for convalescent facilities in Elgin?**

The NHS has no plans for further facilities in Elgin. There are sufficient beds available in Moray in the community hospitals. The NHS also works with the independent care sector in Moray to purchase extra care beds.

### **6) May we have an update on the proposed developments for Dr Grays Hospital?**

The meeting was told that the management of the NHS had to predict the needs of the population for the next 10 or fifteen years. The meeting was told that wards 9 and ten were to be relocated. There was also planned for more day care beds. Use of beds was minimised by taking patients in on the day of their operation and allowing them to return home after their procedure. The meeting was informed that the maternity provision was now felt to be the right level and deliveries were increasing. Ms Brown told the meeting that the capital review meant that there was less money available for new projects. The Life science centre project in conjunction with the Moray College was presently not proceeding. A maternity provision survey is being undertaken in Moray.

### **7) What is presently being done to improve the situation of lack of dentist provision?**

The meeting was informed that there are three full-time dentists in Spynie hospital, two community dentists and facilities for treating patients in wheelchairs. There is also now an NHS orthodontist in Dr Grays hospital. Glassgreen medical centre will have 2 ½ dentists in August 2010. Improved training at Spynie teaching centre has been put in place for dental nurses and dental therapists who will be able to take on the routine dental care of patients and free up dentist's time. The waiting list has been significantly reduced and the situation in Elgin has been improved.

Louise Ellerby thanked the speakers for their answers. Linda Adam requested some more information on the topics covered by the speakers which they agreed to provide.

**Action: Elaine Brown/Sandy Thompson**

### **3) Community Engagement Funding arrangements Consultation**

Louise Ellerby read out the funding options and stated that Option 2 had been selected as the best option. Elgin North Area Forum and Elgin community Council had also chosen Option 2.

### **4) Community Issues**

Elgin allotment Association has had a written response from the Planning Department which does not address the issues which were raised.

#### Urban Freedom

Chris Thompson will be in New Elgin Primary School on Wednesday 23 June and in Elgin High School at lunchtime.

#### Plans for Residents Parking

Concerns were expressed at the meeting about the restrictions on parking in Reidhaven Street which was to be a cycle way. The meeting was told that no one had a legal right to park outside their own house. The meeting was informed that this was a Community Council issue which Alan Bell would take this forward.

### **5) Elgin Ear listening training**

Louise Ellerby asked for one other person to volunteer for training, and to be available for the Elgin Ear surgeries.

## **6) AOCB**

Mary Dow advised that on Saturday 26 June there will be a fete at Elgin High School. There will be a showcase event about Greenwards Fete in the library on Elgin high School and Elgin Public Library.

Linda Adam will give information to the Parents council about the local Area forums.

Linda Adam informed the meeting that speakers for the next themed meeting of the forum would have to be approached. The forum is able to invite partner organizations along to address specific issues. Representatives of the Fire Department and Grampian police would be invited to discuss aspects of the **Safer** Theme.

John Sharp stated that Moray Council was at stage 3 of their consultation concerning traffic in Elgin, the proposed by-pass, and the new housing development. There would be a drop in session at Elgin Local Library on June 25 between 6.30 and 8.00pm

Concerns were expressed at the meeting on the amount of litter between Asda and the railway line and that this litter should be cleared up. It was generally noted that the corridor beside the railway line is unsightly due to the amount of litter. The meeting was informed that the land adjoining the railway is privately owned. Andy Jamieson of the community council was looking at this issue along with Network Rail.