

**Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on
Tuesday 15th March 2011 at 7.00pm in the NEON Building**

Present

Aileen Marshall (Chair)
Steven Christie (Vicechair)
Marilyn Kelly, Resident
Lyn Young, EHS Parent Council

Mary Dow (Secretary)
Christine Clerk, Resident
Linda McKenzie, Resident

In Attendance:

Cllr John Divers
Cllr John Sharp

Alastair Kennedy (C&RBoECC)

Mr Calum MacPherson, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Moray Task Force (Keep the RAF in Moray) for duration of Item 2 on Agenda.

Apologies:

Louise Ellerby (Treasurer)
Cllr Graham Leadbitter

Rebecca Kail
Linda Adam

ITEM NO	ITEM DISCUSSED	ACTION
1.	Aileen Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.	
2.	Guest Speakers – Aileen Marshall welcomed Calum MacPherson and thanked him for serving Moray well. Members were grateful for the work he has done.	
Q1.	Where do you see Highlands & Islands Enterprise in the future? A. Calum MacPherson advised that the Highlands & Islands Enterprise was separate from Scotland Enterprise, although they may merge at some point in the future. The Highlands and Islands Enterprise works well with the Council and the community.	
Q2.	What is the worse case scenario for Moray should RAF Lossie close and what opportunities can we capitalise on? A. Calum MacPherson advised that they have carried out planning and looked at the implications of shutting two camps. He also stated that there is a possibility that a number of families will remain living in the area (approx 25%). Mr MacPherson stated that the Moray Task Force have delivered the message to the government. Calum MacPherson reported that H&I Enterprise are investigating opportunities for Moray and a number of businesses have shown an interest in the skills base within Moray, in particular the oil and gas industry and engineering firms. Calum MacPherson spoke about the Life Science Centre and that a number of large companies have shown an interest in this.	
Q.3	What are the opportunities for off-shore renewables for Moray coast?	

	<p>A. Calum MacPherson advised that there is currently one turbine that is served by a boat from Buckie and he was confident that more off-shore turbines would be built and that for 13 wind turbines one service vessel would be needed and Buckie could help with servicing.</p> <p>Q. Is cash going to be made available to use, i.e. for a harbour? A. The UK Government does have money available (£17m) for renewable energy projects.</p> <p>Q4. Update on Task Force.</p> <p>A. Calum MacPherson stated that the Task Force is working to help Kinloss and stop the closure of Lossiemouth. Updates are available at www.moray.taskforce.com. A decision on Lossie's future is expected after the Elections in May 2011.</p> <p>Q. How do we keep diversifying the economy? A. Tourism, renewable energy etc. Certain sectors starting to kick-in but it is a long game and can take 10-15 years. Q. Will need commitment. A. Will continue to diversify even after the decision on Lossie.</p> <p>Q5. What is the difference between the Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Economic Development Section?</p> <p>H&I Enterprise deal with businesses that export and focus on bringing businesses to Scotland. They can also deal with businesses outwith Scotland. The Moray Council deals with local businesses, European funding i.e. BIDS. H&I Enterprise offers support and advice and deals with grants etc and also Social Enterprise initiatives.</p> <p>Q. How important is Social Enterprise to Moray in the future? A. H&I Enterprise works with Social Enterprises and could help with filling private contracts. Moray has several Social Enterprises.</p>	
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p>Community Issues</p> <p>Aileen Marshall advised that the Office Bearers had met and discussed the proposed Northern Scot article. She would be meeting Mike Collins from the Northern Scot on Monday 21st March 2011 and would keep members informed of outcome.</p> <p>Roadside Signing Policy Consultation – Aileen Marshall advised that she has received a consultation paper regarding Roadside Signing Policy advising that permission must be obtained from Moray Council. The Forum agreed that this seemed a sensible policy and Aileen Marshall agreed to respond accordingly.</p> <p>Aileen Marshall stated that updates from the Better Community Engagement and Community Engagement Groups had been received.</p>	
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Pedestrian/cycle access to the proposed new Springfield Housing development at Glassgreen. It was agreed for the Active Travel Group to take forward (Christine Clerk, Rebecca Kail and Linda McKenzie). Aileen Marshall to arrange site visit.</p>	

<p>4.2</p>	<p>It was agreed for the following people to come and speak briefly at the next meeting:-</p> <p>Alex Bottrill re. Street design in the Greenwards area.</p> <p>Iain MacDonald re. Users Group for NEON.</p>	
<p>4.3</p>	<p>Aileen Marshall stated that she has received correspondence from Carin Schwartz, Forres Forum regarding an application for funding from Zero Waste Scotland for composting workshops covering the whole of West Moray. The Forum agreed to offer support and Aileen Marshall agreed to arrange a response.</p>	
<p>4.4</p>	<p>Letter from Volunteer Centre Moray advising that they will not be merging with Voluntary Action Moray (VAM, previously MVSO) but they will continue to co-operate.</p>	
<p>4.5</p>	<p>Social Enterprise Workshop – Aileen Marshall agreed to pass correspondence to Rebecca Kail. Alastair Kennedy advised that he would be attending and agreed to report back at next meeting.</p>	
<p>4.6</p>	<p>Transfer of Public Assets Seminar 23/24 March 2011 between 10-4pm at Elgin City Football Club.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Any other Competent Business</p> <p>Cllr John Divers advised that James Smith, Moray Council was putting out to tender the construction of a fence to stop Arnold Clark from using the new cycle path.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy advised that the C&RBoECC were looking into the possibility of holding a Community Fair and that both forums would be informed.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 19th April 2011 at 7.00pm in NEON Building.</p>	