

**Minutes of the Moray Forum meeting
Held on 20th April 2009
New Elgin Primary School Annexe**

Present:

Alan Beresford	Buckie Area Forum
Rebecca Kail	Elgin South Area Forum
Aileen Marshall	Elgin South Area Forum
John Bremner	Forres Area Forum
Anita Milne	Milnes Area Forum
Kieron Green	Elgin North Area Forum

Also present:

John Ferguson	The Moray Council
Ian Todd	The Moray Council

Apologies;

Barry Taylor	Buckie Area Forum
Jennifer Walker	Laich Forum
Sandy Henderson	Speyside Forum
Michelle Gillibrand	The Moray Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

Alan Beresford welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any apologies.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 16/3/09

There was one correction noted and the minute should read 2.9 acres not 29 acres. The minutes were proposed by John Bremner and seconded by Anita Milne.

3. Matters Arising

Vandalism & Litter – Harry contacted the Forum and he will be taking this issue forward through the Elgin North Forum.

Area Forum e-mail addresses – Roy Anderson has dealt with this and has sent out a step by step guide to the forums. It was suggested, any queries, should be dealt with by calling Roy Anderson.

Area Forum presentation kits – Roy has developed a presentation, but the group felt that it would be useful to have training on how to use the presentation, and to find out how this can be adapted for local use. This should be arranged through individual forums.

4. Better Community Engagement Pilot Project Update

Ian has sent in the proposal to the Government and is aware that the Government has a contractor appraising the various expressions of interest in early May.

5. Moray Young carers

Anita raised concerns that she had picked up from young carers about the lack of information and contact being given to these vulnerable young volunteer carers with the changes in the contract. Anita is very concerned about the effect on young carers a Anita is aware of particular young carers in Lhanbryde and Buckie and she is also concerned that there is a reduction in service to young carers and she sited an example where young carers where taken to Gordonstoun to access facilities there. This appears to have ceased. Martin Macrae from Richard Lochhead's office has begun a review of the carer's contract. Anita wanted other forums to comment if they were aware of similar difficulties in their areas. It was suggested raising this with HMle's who will be undertaking a report on Gordonstoun. The issue is about uncertainty and keeping people informed. It was agreed that people would let Alan know if there had been any problems and he would send a letter.

6. Hi VIS Armbands

Alan had received a call from Councillor Anita Macdonald reporting that the scheme now had the financial backing of ASDA, TESCO, Stagecoach and Moray Firth Radio to £1500. They should be distributed by September. There will be a competition for children to help put designs on the armbands.

7. Allotments Update

Forres have received their lease for the site and have paid £40,000 for the 11-year lease. Now they have the land, they will push on with developing the ground. Carin wanted to stress the positive effect of having people working together.

There are now groups in Cullen, Elgin, Forress, Buckie and Keith. In Elgin 2 sites have been identified. Both Cullen and Keith have also identified sites. The next issue in Forres will be the Farmers market. There are several groups now looking at this. The system in Moray restricts the establishments of farmers markets with a lead in time of 6 weeks, whereas in Highland they have a system more supportive and liberal.

8. Community Engagement Strategic Group

Carin reported back that the task group had been developing a Community Engagement Action Plan. The group had approved that the implementation group would carry out work and identify a lead partner to take the lead on the various milestones. They have tried to spread the load. There are a number

of key actions that include mapping the structures of community engagement in Moray. It was agreed that a copy of the action plan would be distributed with the minutes of this meeting. The group also discussed the future of the citizen's panel and decisions will be taken on this at the next strategic group.

9. Consultation

John outlined the position to date, in that there are proposals for financial support, essentially for the funding of Forums and Community councils, and for staffing support. John had previously outlined the financial proposals but went over the different options presented to the Council's Policy and Resources committee. There were three options, but these were being put out to consultation and that at the meeting, no decisions were taken. Alan got agreement that he should contact the Joint Community Councils to discuss this. It was hoped that the proposals would be put out for consultation as soon as possible after the meeting of the Engagement group.

John gave an outline of the staffing proposals which are intended to increase the capacity of support to community engagement. By transferring the CLD adult team to the Chief Executives office this will shift the focus more on to capacity building work. This rearrangement of staff will increase support for community engagement. The plan is to effectively create a fourth support worker. The new Community Support Unit would give support to Community Councils, Forums and other community organisations and initiatives. There will be some redundancies in adult learning posts, but the consultation needed to be carried out with staff. Rebecca asked that in the consultation we try to outline the pros and cons, and also simplified the process for Community groups.

10 Community issues

Barry raised an issue over the arrangement of staff holidays with both Linda and Michelle being off at the same time. This had created a problem for the group in Buckie. Ian responded that there was a rolling programme of staff holidays normally, but the recent staffing changes meant that this was disrupted. However this would be avoided in future.

Alan raised the issue of Keith and Strathisla Regeneration Partnership who had written to the Chair outlining how they saw their role with the forum. Basically they saw the establishment of the forum as a sub group of the regeneration partnership. It was agreed that work would continue to independently develop a forum and Alan would respond to Jane Cotton thanking them for their interest, but not accepting their offer.

Harry Torry had sent a letter thanking Michelle for her support to Elgin North Forum highlighting her dedication and professionalism. It was agreed that the forum should acknowledge the work of Ann Griffin.

Jennifer from the Laich had raised her concerns over the meetings of the forum and the current arrangement means that she cannot send a deputy to the next meeting.

Anita raised her concerns that young carers were not being fully informed over the changes to the care service contract. She related that in Lhanbryde she had been in contact with a very distressed young person and is aware of others in a similar position. Anita asked if other Forum Chairs were aware of this issue in their areas

Alan tried to get a meeting together to discuss Community Agreements, but for a variety of reasons this was not possible. He proposed that 30minutes be given over to the discussion of these at the next meeting.

Rebecca raised the issue of Data protection for Forums and groups and suggested that training in Data protection would be important.

Alan pointed out that the Best value 2 document was worth a look as there is an increased focus in the community engagement processes of Local Authorities. It was suggested that Forums should access the Audit Scotland Website <http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/BV2/>

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be the 1st of June at 7pm in New Elgin Primary School Annexe.