

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 7.00pm

1.	<u>Sederunt and Apologies.</u> (* Associate, ** Youth)	<u>ACTION</u>
a.	<p><u>MEMBERS</u></p> <p>Alastair KENNEDY(Chair), Gordon METHVEN(Sec'), Iain CATTO*, Steven CHRISTIE, David CHAPMAN*, Catriona GRAY Aileen MARSHALL Steven MILNE, Pat PATERSON, Mary WALL, Eddie WALLACE, Jim WISEMAN (Minutes).</p> <p><u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u></p> <p>Cllr John DIVERS, Cllr Mike SHAND, Sgt Alan Milton (Police Scotland), Hazel LAWSON (Northern Scot) Rowena MACDOUGALL (Moray Council) Keith HENDERSON (Moray Council)</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Cllr James ALLAN, Bryan WATSON (Vice Chair), Douglas CLARK, Gordie WELLS, Cllr Patsy GOWANS, Cllr Graham LEADBITTER, Cllr Kirsty REID, Craig WOODALL (Stagecoach)</p>	
b.	<p><u>WELCOME</u></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
c.	<p><u>SPEAKER</u></p> <p>Rowena MacDougal (Planning Officer) outlined the Open Space draft strategy explaining the types of open spaces and their distribution across Elgin. She highlighted how well off Moray was for open spaces and the aspiration for everyone to have access to open spaces within 5 minutes walk or 400m of their home.</p> <p>In response to questions, Rowena explained that once the strategy is adopted the standards would be enforceable in that they could be used as reasons for recommending refusal of a planning application although many other factors could affect that.</p> <p>Further information will be available at Elgin Library on 21st March 2017 between 4pm and 7pm. Rowena offered a paper copy of the document which was appreciated but declined to save paper.</p> <p>Mary Wall asked if the green corridors included provision for wildlife movement too?</p> <p>Iain Catto asked if each of Elgin North and Elgin South met the proposed standards separately as well as together, as well as if the proposed developments at Findrassie and the Long 2 site. If adopted the strategy would apply to all developments equally and proposals would be assessed against the strategy as part of an overall assessment. There was no data on how well the existing parts of Elgin North and South comply with the draft strategy. The need for maintenance of open spaces in perpetuity was also discussed.</p>	
2.	<p><u>PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Aileen Marshall and seconded by Steven Christie as a true record of the meeting with no objections.</p>	
3.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING.</u></p> <p>Pg1 Item 3b: A community Benefit meeting organised by Innes Community Council is likely to be offered in the near future. Iain Catto advised there was to be a meeting in Elgin Community Centre on 20th March 2017 12:00 to 15:00 about community benefit from a wind farm south of Forres.</p> <p>Pg2 Item 3j: Lighting up the Cathedral: Alastair Kennedy had received a letter from Historic Scotland in support of this move and he will take it forward by forming a subgroup.</p> <p>Pg 2 Item 3k Lesmurdie Garages were discussed. They are to be demolished once the last remaining objection is overcome.</p> <p>Pg2 Item 4d Closing the level crossing. There was a discussion on the impact of closing the level crossing. The Elgin South group had discussed it and the R&T group are to take it up with Stacey MacDonald nee Lynch.</p> <p>Consultation on R13 Hamilton Drive was responded to by James Wiseman.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>AK</p> <p>R&T</p> <p>AK</p>

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	Hustings: A date for the hustings was set at 12 th April 2017 in the Seaforth Club with the possibility of hosting a second meeting if there were too many candidates.	
4.	<u>RESIGNATION OF ANDREW GRAY</u>	
	Alastair Kennedy said that Andrew Gray had tendered his resignation due to the direction his work was taking and the potential for conflict of interest. Gordon Methven asked for our thanks to Andrew Gray for his work on the Community Council to be minuted.	
5.	<u>AGENCY UPDATES</u>	
a.	<u>POLICE SCOTLAND</u> Sgt Alan Milton read the Elgin list of incidents from the community safety report which highlighted a number of break-ins, thefts and vehicle related incidents. In response to questions Sgt Milton said there was no underlying link to all the Kingsmills incidents and the police attend to more community safety than crime. Iain Catto requested statistics on domestic abuse which are not covered by the report. Alastair Kennedy said that the Community Safety report and the Police attendance at our Community Council meeting was helpful and asked when the Ward Plans were due to be refreshed.	SgtA.M. SgtA.M.
b.	<u>STAGECOACH</u> No report from Stagecoach but Iain Catto to circulate notes of the meeting with Stagecoach and the R&T section.	IC
c.	<u>COMMUNITY WARDEN</u> No report.	
d.	<u>CONSULTATIONS</u> Parking Strategy – ongoing and will be taken to the new Moray Council for action. A-1 Railway works in Moray. Various members attended the drop in session on 9th February 2017 at Elgin Sports and Community Centre. There was a discussion about the impact of closing the level crossing. Further engagement on this is to be sought by the R&T Committee. The Moray Council scheme for the establishment of Community Councils – Consultation has closed Public Consultation on Draft Development Brief for Site R13 Hamilton Drive, Elgin - Submitted Scottish Government consultation paper on the future of the planning system. Consultation is open till 4th April 2017. A survey by a researcher at Napier University was recirculated and anyone interested in helping this work should complete the survey.	R&T
	<u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u> (See reports previously circulated)	
e.	<u>PLANNING</u> R13 comments submitted. Open Spaces strategy consultation now open.	
f.	<u>FAIR TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT</u> The Fair Trade group read the following statement: As you know Mary and Pat have been working tirelessly on the Fairtrade Foundation and getting Elgin appointed as a Fairtrade City. It doesn't stop there it is constantly needing to be reinvested to maintain the standards and collect funds for the organisation. Every Year they must go through the same process of contacting those who use Fairtrade goods either in retail or in the cafe business. They have a stall at preferred street markets and the support is always welcome. It's certainly a fact that the Public haven't a clue about Fairtrade and what it represents. The work with schools therefore is imperative and on the whole successful and will provide us with a future community understanding the need for Fairtrade. The future of Brexit will be a disaster if it is not managed properly, at present. As the government prepares to trigger Article 50 and begin negotiating the terms on which we leave the EU, they will want to secure the best trade agreements for the UK. But if we're going to be, in the words of Prime Minister Theresa May, a 'great global trading nation', our deals have to work for everyone.	

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	<p>There is a massive risk that in the rush to negotiate Brexit, vulnerable and voiceless farmers and workers from the poorest countries could be forgotten.</p> <p>EU rules currently mean many farmers from the poorest countries do not have to pay tax to import their produce into the UK. If equivalent rules aren't put in place by our government, the moment we leave these farmers could face a £1 billion import tax bill.</p> <p>Trade decisions taken by our government now could be catastrophic or catalytic. That's why it's crucial we educate our MPs as they have the power to scrutinise proposals, protect producers and ensure we secure the best deal for everyone through negotiations that are transparent and accountable.</p> <p>They urge our MP to get involved by suggesting we Email them and educate them on what's at stake.</p> <p>A petition from Fairtrade supporters was handed in to 10 Downing Street last year asking for a commitment to trade deals and to deliver a fair deal to farmers and workers in developing countries.</p> <p>The Fair Trade Group outlined recent events during Fairtrade Fortnight 2017 in particular events supported by schools, Moray Council, and local traders. The group are working on applying to retain Fairtrade status for Elgin which has to be done every three years.</p>	
g.	<p><u>ROADS & TRANSPORTATION</u></p> <p>See also Stagecoach and Parking Strategy above.</p> <p>Gordon Methven had circulated a report from Brian Higgs, Chair on Finnerne Community Council on the dualling of the A96.</p> <p>The R&T committee also attended a site visit at the rail works in Forres.</p>	
h.	<p><u>HEALTH AND WELLBEING</u></p> <p>Aileen Marshall asked if anyone could attend a Health and Social Care meeting in the Elgin Library on Monday 20th March 2017, 2-4pm.</p> <p>Aileen reported on the Old Peoples Reference Group as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the first meeting I have attended for some time, mostly due to meeting cancellations. • The IJB (Integrated Joint Board – merger of aspects of adult health and social care) has been established now for 11 months. Its Strategic Plan is being implemented, complemented by an Implementation Plan. Responsibility for putting this into action lies with the individual service managers. • The plan for older people, which in many ways led the way, now forms part of the strategic plan. OPRG reps sit on the Strategic Planning Group. It is fair to say that these structures are in their infancy and are just beginning to be set up on a proper footing. • The Dementia strategy is being updated following the publication of the Scottish Government strategy and will go out to 'light consultation' soon. • Alzheimers Scotland are hosting a local Positive Dementia Working Group. Its membership will come from those actually with the condition. • Probably due to better diagnosis, there is a rise in those with the condition from younger age groups. They may have age-specific issues such as employment or children to consider. They don't necessarily want to be considered along with older sufferers when it comes to services. • At long last a geriatrician for Moray is being recruited. For a long time there has been a serious imbalance of provision compared to Aberdeen. This goes only a small way to redress this imbalance. • There are plans for a mental health wellbeing centre (hopefully in Elgin High Street somewhere). There is also a wellbeing hub and provision for several peer support workers. • The Jubilee Cottages in Victoria Road have been renovated and will be used as a re-ablement centre run by occupational therapists. It is hoped that hospital admission can be avoided in most cases but there is also the possibility of admission to the centre on hospital discharge. • There have been developments in Hanover sheltered housing provision in Forres, with plans underway in Elgin. • There is no progress yet on Localities planning. It is a required part of the integration scheme and allows for community involvement. • The Spynie Hospital site has been sold for housing and the staff will be re-located. Some will go to a new building at Glassgreen and are due to move very soon. <p>Alastair Kennedy reported that there are significant changes proposed to the Ambulance Service which he advised anyone to find out about.</p>	

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i.	<p><u>LICENSING</u></p> <p>No licensing consultations.</p>	
j.	<p><u>EDUCATION</u></p> <p>No updates.</p>	
k.	<p><u>ELGIN SOUTH GROUP</u></p>	
	<p>Aileen reported on the Elgin South Group Meeting 8/3/17 as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Attendance: Christine Clerk, Linda McKenzie, Aileen Marshall. Apologies Marilyn Kelly 2. Discussion on problems with Stagecoach. These problems are well rehearsed elsewhere but the members have particular issues with Bilbohall service buses (33?) missing runs, and with unreliability of Forres-Elgin buses. The recent Stagecoach drop-in was particularly well attended with a sizeable number of demonstrators protesting about service changes. 3. Pathway alongside the railway. There was concern on whether the short section of pathway from the level crossing to the Scout Hut path and the Wetlands might be closed during the upcoming rail works. This is a critical section of pathway for pedestrians and cyclists who would otherwise have to use The Wards to get to Edgar Road. 4. New pedestrian bridge and lift at Elgin Station. A lift user had be told fairly abruptly by a member of staff that the lift was for passenger only use although there is no signage to that effect. Again a concern as it is proposed to use the bridge/lift as a diversion for pedestrians whilst the level crossing is closed. A further issue was loose surface grit on the bridge steps. 5. I have emailed Network Rail for clarification. 6. State of Litter Bins at the Retail Park in Edgar Road (Boots, Sports Direct). These do not seem to be emptied often enough, meaning overflowing litter around the bins. At this point we are not aware who the relevant contact is. 7. Next Meeting Wednesday 5th April <p>There was a discussion on the closure of the level crossing, in particular the failure to provide a reasonable alternative pedestrian crossing of the railway whilst engineering works are ongoing. James Wiseman said that it is up to the body undertaking the work to provide a reasonable alternative and that he saw no reason why the engineering work could incorporate pedestrian crossing arrangement.</p> <p>A further discussion took place on the usage of the bridge at the station and whether it was intended for general public use. It was agreed to discuss this further with Network Rail.</p>	<p>R&T</p> <p>R&T</p>
l.	<p><u>YOUTH</u></p> <p>No updates</p>	
m.	<p><u>GRANT LODGE</u></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy said that a leaflet is now available describing the murals on Grant Lodge.</p>	
n.	<p><u>SOCIAL MEDIA</u></p> <p>No Update</p>	
o.	<p><u>CHAIR'S REPORT</u></p> <p>No Report</p>	
p.	<p><u>SECRETARY'S REPORT</u></p> <p>No Report</p>	
6.	<p><u>ECC CONSTITUTION</u></p> <p>Remove from Agenda</p>	
7.	<p><u>COMMUNITY PLANNING.</u></p>	
a.	<p>SPICE and Keep Moray Beautiful</p>	

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	<p>Steven Christie mentioned a litter pick scheduled for 25/3/2017 in Central Elgin.</p> <p>Keep Moray Beautiful met last week.</p> <p>Keep Scotland Beautiful are designing the logo for KMB</p>	All
b.	<p><u>JCC & COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION IN COMMUNITY PLANNING</u></p> <p>Next meeting is in May.</p> <p>There will be a participatory budgeting event in Rothes on 25/3/2017.</p>	All
c.	<p><u>EMERGENCY AND RESILLIENCE PLANNING</u></p> <p>James Wiseman reported his conclusion that Elgin is too big for the Community Council to mount a community response in an emergency with no resources. In the event of an emergency the authorities know how to contact halls and community groups. We would not want to be another step in the process. Community groups may also want to help under their own banner not ours.</p> <p>Mounting any response to an emergency is easier in a small community. To achieve similar in a town the size of Elgin would require resources and some way of knowing they were going to be used.</p> <p>Realistically however, we can start by promoting individual household resilience through a campaign to be developed, and we can encourage people to think about helping neighbours.</p> <p>James Wiseman to update Emergency and Resilience Plan and advise Donna MacLean at Moray Council. Then obtain household resilience planning information and consider whether we need our own leaflet.</p>	JW
8.	<p><u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>Steven Milne advised that the #1 A/C was sitting at £3,304.42 with some cheques to clear.</p>	
9.	<p><u>ONGOING TOPICS</u></p>	
a.	<p><u>PAIN CLINIC</u></p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	
10.	<p><u>EVENTS</u></p>	
a.	<p><u>COMMUNITY AWARDS</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the awards committee is to be held on 15/3/217 and Gordon Methven encouraged people to make nominations.</p>	All
b.	<p><u>TRAINING</u></p> <p>Not discussed</p>	
11.	<p><u>A.O.C.B.</u></p> <p>There was a discussion about the football ground and potential use of common good land. There was general unease about letting the land go. Councillor John Divers and Councillor Mike Shand explained that there were restrictions on the use of common good land but it was not impossible to make changes. Councillor Shand cited the recent example of the tennis courts and the benefit of a longer lease while Councillor Divers demonstrated the potential common good benefit coming from the current use of such land such as the circus. Although the Community Council had not been formally asked for an opinion there were no objection to the idea of the land being let at market value but not sold in order to maximise the benefit to the community in perpetuity. Clearly, more information would be required before giving an opinion on any proposed arrangement.</p>	Councillors
12.	<p><u>RURAL PARLIAMENT</u></p> <p>There were no items to take to the rural parliament.</p>	
13.	<p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>7:00pm Tuesday 11 April 2017 Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin.</p>	
14.	<p><u>CLOSE</u></p>	

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	There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone and closed the meeting.	
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