



*The City and Royal Burgh of  
Elgin  
Community Council*

***Minutes***

*Of a meeting to be held on Tuesday 9 April 2024 in the lounge,  
Elgin Town Hall at 7pm*

Police Scotland

- No police present

Stagecoach

- No representative present

Cultural Quarter

- This is one of eight projects under the Moray Growth Deal
- They have reviewed what was in the original case and updated it accordingly and are working towards a full business case
- This project will be delivered in phases, first being the renovation of the Elgin Town Hall
- Next will be the redevelopment of the Grant Lodge
- There are hopes to develop the spaces in between
- Aiming to make a better experience for people in the town centre and those who visit
- It will be a long process but it has the potential to make a very big difference
- Main focuses of the redevelopment of the Elgin Town Hall:
  - Enhancing the acoustics
  - They want to enhance the feeling of being in an auditorium
  - Better seating
  - Better separation between the areas within
  - The biggest proposal is an acoustically separated studio

○ Generating more income

● Want to build in the ability for more improvements just in case there could be future funding

● There is a design workshop on the 10th of April for a stage two report

● The auditorium is the most important aspect of this plan, supper rooms and such are functional as is

● Planning priorities include future fitting, due to climate change concerns, there would be too many carbon emissions to demolish the building and rebuild

● Investors are likely to be interested in the Elgin Town Hall

● £15 million in construction costs for the Elgin Town Hall

○ Fully fund phase one whilst phase two is in development

○ Phase two will take a lot of time

○ Will raise the shortfall for Grant Lodge if possible

■ Has the potential for heritage funding

● The second phase of the plan is to bring Grant Lodge back to use

○ They're currently working with business consultants to create an operation model

● The library is a part of a different growth project, Early Years STEM project, with a STEM space planned within it

Matters arising

● Nothing of note

Planning

● The quarry being build will have to potential to affect the Elgin community and it is within the Moray boundaries

● The quarry will be extracting 1.1 million tonnes of sand and gravel over the course of 18 years

○ 10 years assessment for sand and gravel was based on a supply and demand estimate although it is difficult to quantify.

● There is also a cement plant planned that will generate ready mix cement

○ This will create more footfall: 18 lorries for the quarry and then private parties who will be getting the cement

● The group were objecting to the noise, the lights, the dust dispersal, and the lorry movements

● Lots of concern placed on the lorry movements

○ Seems to be no upper limit on their movements

○ Using rural roads is a safety concern

○ Road traffic survey could be inaccurate at the present time, the Springfield houses are still being built so would not be taken into account

○ Road improvements is not enough to get rid of their complaints

● The councillors should be able to launch an objection at the final planning phase

● It was stated at one point the Elgin Community Council was one of the consultees

● They have been told that the dust that would be dispersed is negligible however it could be disruptive to the roads

● The quarry is in the pre-planning stage

○ Aims to be ready for next summer however no hard deadline has been set

#### Eight Acres Hotel

● The contact is being stopped to due the high costs

● Keep an eye on the hotel to make sure it's not being left vacant

● Watch this space

#### Finance

● No issues

#### Place Plans

- Engagement meeting planned for Saturday 20th April

- New Elgin and Bishopmill halls and some tents in Cooper Park are being used

#### Elgin Town Board

- Still don't know who is actually on the board yet however the chair has been decided

- Two Elgin councillors now sit on the board

- The next meeting they have will be in person

- There is a lot of press related to the money and what it will be used for but there is no information what what is really happening with it

- The community is not being involved at the moment

- Everything seems to be being kept behind closed doors for the moment

- The board is not only for councillors, other organisations such as the police, the NHS and the Elgin Bid are also being represented

- The Elgin Town Board need to circulate their minutes through their own channels and not through the Moray Council website

#### Parking

- The Elgin police issued 131 parking tickets last year and have issued 70 so far this year

- The Marks and Spencers employees are no longer parking in the Marks and Spencers parking lot

- Batchen street seems to have improved

#### Social Media

- No updates

#### Education

- No updates

#### Resilience

- There is a meeting on Wednesday 24th April at 1900 in the Elgin Town Hall

#### Community Councils in Moray

- Meeting still to be set about the funding
- There is an idea to raise the base and decrease the per head capita
- The amount paid to Community Councils hasn't changed since 2013
- Each community council should get an amount that allows them to interact with other community councils to contact core business
- A lot of village halls and town halls are now privately owned, forcing community councils to fork out more than they spare
- A big cost alongside travel
- Their rental costs are definitely something that needs to be examined to see the exact deficit some are experiencing.
  
- There are a lot of hidden costs when coming to run a community council

#### Elected Members

- Currently the easter recess so not too many meetings happening
- There is a difficulty in acquiring head teachers
- St. Sylvesters are currently sharing a headteacher with East End
- The head teacher is to become non class committed
  
- Issue surrounding Bishopmill bridge debated
- Agreed to be fixed for £2.7 million
- Hawking has started in the early mornings throughout the week
- Will last for six weeks
- Lasering has also started

#### AOCB

- Mobile library services/ pop up
- To be looked at again
- Could try and get someone in to give us a rundown of what services they could offer

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 14th May 2024