

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 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'), Bryan WATSON(Vice Chair), Iain CATTO, Steven CHRISTIE, David CHAPMAN*, Andrew GRAY, Ann GLOVER, Maureen MANSON, Pat PATERSON, Mary WALL, Eddie WALLACE, Jim WISEMAN (Minutes).</p> <p><u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u></p> <p>Cllr John DIVERS, Cllr Graham LEADBITTER, Krystian KACZALA (Stagecoach). Hazel Lawson (Northern Scot) Insp Ewan STRACHAN (Police Scotland),</p> <p><u>APPOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Oliver BAYLIS, Steven MILNE, Gordie WELLS, Cllr James ALLAN, Cllr Patsy GOWANS, Cllr Kirsty REID, Cllr Mike SHAND,</p> | |
| b. | <p><u>WELCOME</u></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> | |
| 2. | <p><u>PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Eddie Wallace and seconded by Anne Glover with no objections.</p> | |
| 3. | <p><u>MATTERS ARISING.</u></p> <p>Pansport – Matter Closed Elgin Cathedral – See agenda Agenda Items – Changes were made Elgin High School – Only service diversions progressing.</p> | |
| 4. | <p><u>AGENCY UPDATES</u></p> | |
| a. | <p><u>POLICE SCOTLAND</u></p> <p>See Report Appended</p> <p>Inspector Ewan Strachan reported that parking is still a local priority and the number of tickets issued this month were on par with the numbers issued by the traffic wardens. This activity does not carry the same profile as the traffic wardens had but demonstrates that Police Scotland were responding to complaints about parking. Anne Glover asked about parking at the post office which is often unavailable and which can make it difficult to pick up parcels.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy asked if feedback is ever given to people who report crimes citing his own reporting of a dangerous incident as an example.</p> | |
| b. | <p><u>STAGECOACH</u></p> <p>Krystian Kaczala reported that the new vehicle locator system is now being commissioned and will inform the electronic displays throughout the town by the start of October. The electronic displays will also advise of any cancelled services. Pat Paterson highlighted that the signs at the College, the Bus Station and Hay Street were not accurate. Krystian Kaczala explained the communication mechanism and the organisations responsible for various parts of the process. It is hoped that these will be rectified soon.</p> <p>Stagecoach are engaging with disabled people through the Moray Disability Forum regarding any issues they have boarding and alighting from their vehicles.</p> <p>The school holiday period is usually a time for maintenance tasks and those are ongoing at present.</p> <p>Roadworks in Aberlour and Inverness have caused delays to services and Stagecoach apologise for this</p> | |

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| | inconvenience. | |
| c. | <p><u>COMMUNITY WARDEN</u></p> <p>No Report</p> | |
| d. | <p><u>CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>Joint Integrtaion Board consultation is ongoing.</p> <p>Elgin South Development workshop planned for 14th August 2015. James Wiseman advised that he had emailed the organisers to request an opportunity to view the documents ourselves. As yet no reply has been received.</p> | JW |
| 5. | <p><u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u> (See reports previously circulated)</p> <p>It was decided to include all reports circulated with minutes prior to the meeting as an addendum to the saved minute. It was considered important to have these attached for accurate recording. The confusion caused by reports from the previous month and the current month going out together before meetings was deemed of secondary importance. Any difficulties caused by this will be dealt with as they arise.</p> | |
| a. | <p><u>PLANNING</u></p> <p>James Wiseman reported that the Moray Local Development Plan went live in June 2015. Recent JCC training was worthwhile in relation to this. James expressed and inters tint he Town Centre group being proposed by Moray Council officials at the event.</p> <p>Hanover Housing have lodged a planning application for a development in New Elgin.</p> <p>Western Link Road workshop output is not available yet. James Wiseman commented on the short timescale of the workshop event and the lack of timeous notes from the event having the potential to undermine the event.</p> | JW |
| b. | <p><u>RECREATION, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT</u></p> <p>The seasonal planting took place last month. The plants were provided by Cove Bay nurseries as usual. Following an article in the Northern Scot and one on Facebook we had 2 new ladies came along to help. We also had the offer of a trailer to collect the plants. This came about following a chance conversation with a shop assistant whose partner had one and would be happy to help. Altogether there were 8 people and we finished late afternoon. The area is looking better than ever thanks to everyone who helped. It is surprising how many people, locals and holiday makers visit the area.</p> <p>Unfortunately, neighbours have reported children jumping from the walls on to the grass under adult supervision. I feel there must be other places that could be used for this. The arched area at the foot of the hill still has a barrier round it with the coping and rubble behind it. This barrier is removed nightly and youths gather in the archway to drink. A neighbour goes round the area every day clearing up rubbish.</p> <p>See also the Fair Trade Report.</p> <p>Pat Patterson and Mary Wall gave a report on their visit to the Inverness Fair Trade Group including the lessons learned. They noted new interest in Fair Trade within Elgin. The Elgin Fair Trade Group intend to have taken a stall at the Food and Drink festival in Elgin on the 22nd August and are looking for volunteers to help with this activity.</p> | |
| c. | <p><u>ROADS & TRANSPORTATION</u></p> <p>See report appended.</p> <p>School Crossing Patrollers are proving difficult to recruit. Eddie Wallace advocated approaching individuals.</p> <p>Details of the proposed railway bridge are proving difficult to obtain. Cllr Graham Leadbitter suggested that the railway may have developer rights which do not require consultations to take place.</p> <p>Eddie Wallace attended the Moray Disability Forum.</p> <p>It was noted that the Taxi Driver's dress code seems to be taking effect.</p> <p>R&T Committee to raise the profile of the Access to Streets and organise a street audit.</p> | EW |
| d. | <p><u>YOUTH.</u></p> <p>No Report</p> | |
| e. | <p><u>LICENCING</u></p> | |
| | Lidl: - No comments | |

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

| | | |
|----|--|------|
| | Moray Council Gambling Consultation prior to updating policy. Iain Catto to progress response. | IC |
| f. | <u>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS</u> | |
| | See report appended. | |
| g. | <u>GRANT LODGE</u> | |
| | The next meeting is on 4/8/2015 where TSI Moray will deliver a presentation on Social enterprise. Maureen Manson will be joining the Grant Lodge group. | |
| h. | <u>SOCIAL MEDIA</u> Bryan Watson reported that he was holding off on a promotion till after the holidays as promotions are often lost in holiday posts. A photo of the Ladyhill Flowerbeds was requested. Bryan Watson offered to help the Fair Trade group to get on Facebook. | |
| i. | <u>CHAIR'S REPORT</u> See Report | |
| j. | <u>SECRETARY'S REPORT</u> No report due to holidays. | |
| 6. | <u>COMMUNITY PLANNING.</u> | |
| a. | <u>ELGIN SOUTH AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUM</u> See ESAF Minutes circulated and available on www.yourmoray.org.uk James Wiseman reported that in June the Elgin South Forum hosted a discussion on the Western Link Road attended by Frank Knight of Moray Council and the Elgin Community Council subgroup. | |
| b. | <u>SPICE</u> See Minutes circulated and report appended. Steven Christie also mentioned the work on cleaning up laybys and that picking up litter with good intent may contravene legislation. It was suggested that we get clarification of this by asking Richard Lochhead via the JCC in August. | |
| c. | <u>JCC & COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION IN COMMUNITY PLANNING</u> Next meeting is on 14 th August 2015 and will be attended by Richard Lochhead. All questions to be submitted to Alastair Kennedy for submission to Richard Lochhead in advance. The JCC has a group looking at the Scottish Rural Parliament Action Plan. | |
| d. | <u>TOWN CENTRE DESIGN CHARRETTEs</u> No update but keep it on the agenda. | |
| e. | <u>EMERGENCY and RESILIENCE PLANNING</u> Andrew Gray offered to get Donna MacLean of Moray Council to speak about emergency and resilience planning with a view to proposing a Community Council Emergency And Resilience Plan. | A.Gr |
| 7. | <u>EDUCATION</u> | |
| a. | <u>New Elgin High School</u> Cllr John Divers gave a brief update. | |
| b. | <u>Elgin Academy</u> No Report | |

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

| | | |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| c. | <u>Primary Schools</u> No Report | |
| 8. | <u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u> No report | |
| 9. | <u>ONGOING TOPICS</u> | |
| a. | <u>DEANSHAUGH PLAYING FIELDS</u> Alastair Kennedy noted the progress towards completion. | |
| b. | <u>ELGIN FUND COOPER PARK</u> Alastair Kennedy reported that the amphitheatre was being turfed. | |
| c. | <u>LIGHTING UP ELGIN CATHEDRAL</u> Alastair Kennedy explained he had difficulty contacting the relevant people however, a response is expected soon. | |
| 10. | <u>EVENTS</u> | |
| a. | <u>COMMUNITY AWARDS</u> Gordon Methven reported that the locations for the Ballot boxes have been decided and they are to be kept to a minimum. It is hoped that social media will be used this year to engage better with a wider audience. Nominations are now required. | GM |
| b. | <u>TRAINING</u> The recent JCC training on Planning, Role of the Community Councillor and Conflict Resolution was well attended and well received. More is planned. | AK |
| c. | <u>ELGIN FESTIVAL</u> Gordon Methven explained that he had seen a stamp with a depiction of an annual wedding celebration festival in Elgin's twin town, Landshut. He proposed organising a festival in Elgin based on the Wolf of Badenoch and the burning of the Cathedral with a view to enhancing Elgin's tourist appeal. The idea was well received and a subgroup of Gordon Methven, Eddie Wallace, Iain Catto, Steven Christie, and Alastair Kennedy was formed. Others are welcome to join should they wish. Gordon Methven to set up an initial meeting. | GM et al. |
| 11. | <u>A.O.C.B.</u> Steven Christie raised a concern that the 7:25am train to Inverness is frequently cancelled. Alastair Kennedy to get George Littlejohn to look into this. Alastair Kennedy requested assistance putting up the Banners to welcome the Orienteers. Alastair Kennedy said that a Community Resuscitation Conference is being held on 18 th October 2015 and asked Bryan Watson to advise on this. Steven Christie reported that Cllr Reid has discussed the Eight Acres Flower Bed with Glen Moray Distillery. Pat Paterson raised the question of the seagulls which opened into a wide discussion about what can be done about them. | AK ALL BW |
| 12. | <u>NEXT MEETING</u> 7:00pm Tuesday 11 th August 2015 at Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin. | |
| 13. | <u>CLOSE</u> There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone and closed the meeting. | |

A Meeting of

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

A Meeting of

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

CITATION: These Minutes were adopted as a True Record of Proceedings:

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

Chair: _____ Mr Alastair Kennedy

Date: _____

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm



COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

ELGIN

July 2015

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

- Ongoing Investigations in Elgin

Over the past 6 - 8 weeks persons unknown have been scattering tacks onto the roadway on Anderson Drive, New Elgin. Several vehicles have had their tyres damaged over the period. A number of initiatives have been carried out including increased patrols, leaflet drops, CCTV cameras and house to house enquiry. These crimes remain undetected.

There have been no break in's to domestic properties over the period.

There has been one reported break in to a farm at Glassgreen, where a trailer and hand tools were stolen between 22-23 June.

Overnight on 6/7 June a window was smashed at Cathedral Lodge.

On 27 June several vehicles at a garage premises at the Edgar Road roundabout were daubed in paint. A positive line of enquiry is being pursued.

In all there were 10 reported Vandalism offences recorded in June

Anyone with any information on the crimes mentioned above and any other crimes in the Elgin Policing Area should contact the Police Scotland on 101, Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or call in person at the Elgin Police Office.

2. FEEDBACK ON POLICE ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Issues with illegal parking continue within the town centre. 43 parking tickets were issued in Elgin for the month of June. To put this into perspective, 69 were issued in total for the whole of Moray that period.

3. DETAILS OF ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR PRIORITIES

Our multi member ward plans are designed to address your priorities, which are:

Community Focus

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

We have deployed 2 officers with a specific community focus. One of them has an adjusted shift pattern which allows him to be available to deal with community issues at times which most people find helpful.

The officers are Constable George Ogg and Constable Roddy McLeod

Road Safety and Road Crime

5 persons were reported for careless driving and 2 persons were reported for dangerous driving offences during June.

Antisocial Behaviour

Since the beginning of June, we have recorded 1 person refusing to leave a licensed premises, 1 instance of disorderly behaviour in a licensed premises, and no instances of consuming alcohol in public places in contravention of local bye-laws. We responded to 33 reports of noise disturbance.

Drugs

Other Crime of Interest

Violence

20 incidents of a domestic nature were recorded during the month.

24 incidents of minor assault were recorded. There is no specific pattern to this type of offending which also includes domestic assault.

4. ONGOING LOCAL/FORCEWIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Operation Cedar continues which is a Divisional wide operation targeting offending motorists in an effort to reduce road traffic casualties. The use of mobile phones whilst driving and the failure to use seat belts have found to be contributing factors in a number of fatal and serious road collisions and these offences will continue to be targeted. The ultimate aim is to educate the motoring public whilst taking enforcement action all with a view to reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads.

Elgin Inspectors:

Inspector Ewan Strachan
Inspector Grant McCutcheon

Your team is based at Elgin Police Office

Contact us: In a non-emergency – **101**

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

Once an incident has been recorded a decision will then be made, dependent on the circumstances as to which officer is best placed to address the problem.

POLICE SCOTLAND

Police Scotland are keen to highlight their use of social media and advise the public that our latest news can be found at www.scotland.police.uk and using the Twitter feeds @policescotland and @ShireMorayPol or on Facebook at facebook.com/policescotland

CRIMESTOPPERS

If anyone has any information relating to controlled drugs or drug dealing, please call the Police Scotland on 101. Alternatively, contact can be made with Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers allow information to be passed in relation to any crime or criminal activity anonymously. They can be contacted via the website at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

PARENTLINE SCOTLAND

ParentLine Scotland is a free helpline (0800 28 22 33) and email service parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk for anyone with concern about a child. www.parentlinescotland.org.uk

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

**Progress report for Elgin Community Council meeting on 14th July 2015 of
Roads and Transportation Committee**

Meetings

16th June morning - Stagecoach premises. Mainly to update and discuss some issues.

16th June evening – at NEON. Frank Knight of MC to go over the ECC sub-group revised report on the WLR.

17th June - Moray Disability Forum went well introduced new members and debated a few issues and the survey on users of the on-street Blue Badge bays, will report later.

2nd July - course at Elgin Academy “Handling Conflict” by Moray Council

13th July- R&T update committee meeting.

Departmental Requests

No report back from planning department on the Grass Verge Parking. Will ask for progress report.

The Blue Badge Issue, the R&T committee wrote to the Police Scotland Divisional Commander at Elgin the letter is shown below.

“Chief Inspector Willie Findlay

Area Commander

Police Scotland

23rd June 2015

Dear Chief Inspector Findlay

The letter below was prepared before the latest police involvement in the control of parking in the centre of Elgin as updated by your officer at the meeting of the Elgin Community Council on Tuesday 9th June 2015.

We still believe it is our responsibility, considering the comments and complaint received, that cognisance of their concerns must be recorded.

“I am sure you have received many letters on the subject of car parking throughout your jurisdiction, which came from a cost cutting exercise by your force. We as members of the Roads and Transportation Committee of Elgin Community Council are constantly made aware of the problems created by this decision.

The condition of parking in Elgin in particular is in a pretty dismal state as one would expect under the circumstances, especially the all day parking in what used to be the short term parking areas.

I am but one of the many drivers who wants to park in Elgin at some time or another and finding it more difficult to do so, and, as I have already stated the short term parking bays are seldom empty. I expect you will have umpteen examples so I will not add any more.

I do however need to raise a topic which in my mind is more important than any of those you may have already heard. I want to raise the issue of the Blue Badge Parking system in Elgin and in the town centre in particular, a good example is North St.

After having discussed it with the legitimate users at the Moray Disability Forum and studied

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

the area over a period of time, there is in my opinion a good reason for concern, the system is being abused in many ways, from drivers blatantly not displaying the badge, to others not adhering to the regulations set out in the registration documents sent to all applicants.

The whole parking facility as it stands at the moment is arguably in a state of chaos and for the able bodied community it can be tiresome trying to find a parking space and as long as you are willing to walk part of your journey you will probably find somewhere to park.

Let's therefore discuss the blue badge users, the system was put in place for a purpose and rightly so. Drivers are using the BB parking bays with the belief that there is no way they can be detected because of the complete breakdown of the services management, so unobstructed and undetected parking is attractive.

The inevitable consequence of this behaviour is the rightful users are finding it increasing more difficult to find a parking space. The system is being abused at the expense of those who need it the most.

I have seen your officer walk down the line and check if there is a badge being displayed and I commend you for doing so, but alas the culprit who is misusing the badge is not detected. Inspection of the badge along with the occupants is the only way of rooting out the bad ones, and because there is no check in place at the moment the chances are they feel safe to do what they want without a care or concern of the consequences caused to others. It seems to be a fact of life that the vulnerable of a community whether it is the young, the old or the disabled suffer the most when local services have a gripe with the their funding authority.

You've probably been given many reasons why Police Scotland's decision to stop the traffic warden service is affecting their lives and there are those who are jumping for joy with free parking all day, I suppose it isn't all bad news.

There is a great deal of frustrations on all sides, I think I can include you in that, you must feel it with your hands being tied and unable to offer a service which the community needs, we do understand. Its unfortunate the average driver discards all signs of respect for all the moment they strap themselves into the driver's seat.

They need a constant reminder of their duties in a society, respect for your fellow citizen cannot be guaranteed or even expected, they have to be reminded."

Chief Inspector Findlay as you can imagine your officer's input at our meeting sort of took the wind out of our sails in regard to our letter, but on the other hand we believe it enhances the need for action and therefore needs to be put down on record. As for the work you are doing, may we thank you for those efforts despite the obvious manning level problems that all the services are suffering from during the present time.

We in the Roads and Transport Committee have a suggestion, what if you were to do a spread with the Northern Scot explaining what you are doing, it might well add to an effective deterrent and enhance the image in the community. We will be delighted to help in any way possible, not that there is much we can do.

In addition to the above I would like to update you on our involvement with new legislation on the Blue Badge Parking, designed to give more power to the local authorities in the aftermath of the changes made by Police Scotland.

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

I asked the appropriate Moray Council department for their reaction to the new legislation. In short, it was explained that the present situation in Moray Council cannot fully implement this legislation; the Council has to apply to “Decriminalise the Parking Offence” thereby allowing the local authority to take over the jurisdiction of the on-street parking and the Blue Badge System in particular. The MC are not planning to apply any time soon, I believe it requires an monetary investment, which you guessed it, isn't available at the present time and the economic implication thereafter isn't so inviting either.

There is no indication, that I am aware of, which shows the timetable for any application being initiated or progressed.

It is therefore more important and thankful that you are willing to provide some police participation.

In the end we are playing the waiting game with Moray Council or perhaps the Scottish Government to come up with a solution for the citizens of Moray and Scotland.

Yours Sincerely,

On behalf of the Roads and Transport Committee of Elgin Community Council”

Further discussion will take place within the R&T committee along with those affected.

That concludes the report for the R&T committee of the Elgin Community Council
Eddie Wallace, David Chapman and Iain Catto.

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

**Fairtrade Report for Community Council meeting on Tues 14
July 2014**

- Smallholder Farmer's Roadshow - This was held in Inverness at the Crown Church Hall, Kingsmills Road on Sat 20 June and organised by Scottish Fairtrade Forum, Christian Aid and Just Trading. Pat and I attended. The morning focused on how important it was for smallholders to maintain their independence. A smallholder from Malawi shared his story with us. It was good to meet up with the Fairtrade Group from Inverness. We were the furthest travelled. Inverness has produced an excellent pamphlet promoting the Fairtrade outlets in their city.
- Follow up from Fairtrade Fortnight's talk in February by Pamela L'Intelligent, the textile worker from Mauritius who along with Andy Ashcroft from UK's Kool Skools who make school uniforms from Fairtrade cotton – Gordon Barron, Head teacher of Elgin West End Primary School, who attended the meeting, sent a circular to parents asking them what the thought of having Fairtrade cotton school uniforms for their children.
- Elgin Baptist Church has now gained Fairtrade status. It is the third church in Elgin to do so, the other two being Holy Trinity and St Giles and St Columbas.
- TK Max – Pat and I had a very interesting conversation with the manageress of TK Max yesterday. She is dedicated to Fairtrade and intends promoting it in a visible way in the store as well as training her staff on its importance. Apparently TK Max which is an American store has very good ethics and do a lot of philanthropic work.
- Food and Drink Festival – This is taking place on the earlier date of Sat 22 August. If anyone could spare an hour or two to lend a hand at the Fairtrade stall it would be much appreciated.

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

SPICE Report 14/7/2015

Hi All,

I was intending to circulate the SPICE minutes prior to the Community Council meeting but I haven't got round to doing them yet. However I do have a couple of points to raise not all SPICE related but I feel that by circulating now you will have time to think about them before the meeting.

SPICE members carried out a litter pick on 27th June concentrating on the area around Deanshaugh and up to the woods behind the Chinese Church, I should be pleased to say that we **only** collected 6 bags of rubbish which is a huge improvement on a previous pick. Sadly though this was let down by the other arch nemesis -dog poop which continues to be a major problem on our footpaths and green spaces.

It has recently been reported that according to SEPA, people who collect litter from the shoreline and on private land could be in breach of the law. This could potentially have serious implications for groups and individuals who like SPICE members have a notion to see our country clean and litter free. I feel this matter requires explanation and perhaps we could ask Richard Lochhead if he can enlighten us on this?

You may recall that a couple of years ago following some consultation that George Littlejohn told us that there were to be additional trains running from Inverness -Elgin (return) at peak times. I believe this was to be 2 in the morning and one in the early evening. I listen to MFR in the morning and quite often I hear that the 07.25 train to Inverness has been cancelled 'Due to staff shortages' I was told today that this happened **14 times** last year and has occurred a few times this year including 3 in the past couple of weeks (2 this week past) Is this something that should be looked at? it is unacceptable that staff shortages occur so often and nearly always on the same service.

Regards

Steve Christie

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

CHAIRS Report 14/7/2015

Thursday 11/06/15 Along with a number of other members I attended a training session organised by the Joint Community Councils of Moray (JCC) on the following subjects

- Wide scope for action allowed by the legislation
 - Brief revisit of the Moray Scheme
 - Office bearers' and members' roles
 - Role boundaries and role clarity
 - Work sharing and delegation
 - Decision Making
- Efficiency & Effectiveness (and barriers to these)

Monday 15/06/15 I attended a Grant Lodge Trust meeting. An update will be given at our meeting

Tuesday 16/06/15 I attended a meeting of Elgin South Area Forum. James is chair and will update us.

Wednesday 17/06/15 Again, along with other members I attended a training session on how to respond to planning applications under the new Local Development Plan.

Thursday 18/06/15 I had a meeting with the Community Council Liaison Officer (CCLO) to discuss further training and discuss how we re-visit the Community Council Scheme to update it and ensure it's appropriate to Moray's Community Councils.

Monday 22/06/15 I attended a meeting called by Springfield Properties to discuss a future sports centre. There was a particularly good attendance and much work has already been done behind the scenes by Sandy Adam and his PA.

Tuesday 23/06/15 I attended the Community Engagement Group (CEG) meeting. In attendance were four volunteers so I asked that the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), through the board, be asked to ensure that partners are represented at these meetings. A report is to go to the CP board.

Thursday 25/06/15 I attended a workshop on the Western Link Road to look at how to overcome the reasons for the previous Planning Application being refused.

Monday 29/06/15 I attended a meeting of a sub-group of the JCC. This was to discuss a response to the Advisory Forum to the Scottish Rural Parliament. This response will come from Gordon who is Elgin and JCC representative on the Advisory Forum. Two further meetings have been set up to consider other themes relevant to Moray.

Thursday 02/07/15 I, and a good number of ECC members attended a training session on Conflict Resolution and Mediation. However, because it is such a large subject we never got to finish the training and a further session on Mediation will take place.

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

Wednesday 08/07/15 I attended a meeting of the LEADER focus group which is working towards enabling the next LEADER programme to happen.

As usual if any member wishes further information on any of these meetings I`m happy to oblige.

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

Elgin Town Centre Christmas Lights Report 14/07/2015

The Elgin City Centre Christmas Lights are owned by the Elgin Town Centre Benevolent Trust which is a registered charity, it works in partnership with Elgin Business Improvement District (Elgin BID) in the annual erection dismantling, repair and maintenance and running costs of the Christmas Lights. The Moray Council is contracted to erect, dismantle and repair the Lights each year.

The Benevolent Trust and BID decided to replace all of the Lights in Elgin City Centre to achieve a modern, attractive, energy efficient and more evenly distributed Christmas Lights scheme, this will also reduce annual running costs. The aim is to have all the new Lights ready for the switch on in November 2015. The Trust and BID have been joined by the Moray Council, Elgin Rotary Club, Northern Scot, and Elgin Community Council in a Christmas Lights Fund Raising Group which has achieved several fund raising events and has supported applications for grants.

The Elgin Common Good Fund has given a grant of £16,100 towards the costs of renewing switches and cables for the new Lights, many of the existing switches and cables are out of date, new ones will make the job of erecting and dismantling the Lights in future much easier, quicker and potentially cheaper.

The Christmas Lights project has to raise all of the money to buy new Christmas Lights for the whole City Centre. At the start of the fund raising campaign The Benevolent Trust agreed to contribute up to £8,000 of its own funds, Elgin BID has agreed to contribute £4,000. The fund raising was boosted by a donation of £3,000 from the Elgin Rotary Club which paid for new Lights which were in place for Christmas 2014. At the beginning of 2015 the remaining target sum to be raised was £20,000 which would pay for new wall and pole mounted Lights, cross street Garlands, tree Lights and other Lighting features. The new Lights will be mainly in the same locations as most of the existing Lights but with some new locations where there are currently no Lights. The figure of £20,000 will pay for all the new Lights and provide a reserve sum for future costs, when the Lights are in place for 2015 there will be a review of the scheme to see if any additional Lights might be required.

Applications were made to national bodies for grants, some local businesses were approached for support and there has been fund raising with collections, bag packing and events such as a Quiz Night in the Drouthy Cobbler (raising £300), a Pamper Evening in St Giles Church at which members of the Christmas Lights Group assisted gave the campaign £394 as well as funds for other local groups, a stall at the Marafun and a dance in Elgin Town Hall with the band Sold on Soul.

The Christmas Lights Fund Raising Group is delighted with the response of local businesses and groups with support in donating raffle prizes and helping with events. Staff of the Moray Council Building Services DLO and the Street Lighting team have been very helpful with technical advice about replacing the Lights, switches and infrastructure.

The Group is particularly grateful to donations from:-

The Rotary Club of Elgin which donated £3,000 which bought new Lights for the Large Christmas tree, Fountain and Muckle Cross in 2014;

Johnstons of Elgin which donated £2,000 towards new Lights for the 14 small trees on the Plainstones at either side of St Giles Church;

The Robertson Group, Elgin which donated £3,329 which could go towards cross street garlands at the Plainstones and replacing lights on the columns of St Giles Church;

Elgin Community Council which donated £500;

The Royal Bank of Scotland Community Investment Programme which gave a conditional grant of £1,500;

The Big Lottery Fund Scotland, Awards for All Scotland which gave a grant of £10,000 for replacement of Christmas Lights;

Gaia Earth Sciences, Burghead which donated £5,000.

The donation from Gaia Earth Sciences has meant that the funding target has been reached, the project can now move on to its next phase, which is to finalise the plans for style and location of the new Lights. An order will be placed to buy the Lights and have them ready for the switch on in late November 2015.

A Meeting of

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm

Stewart Halkett, Chairman of Elgin Town Centre Benevolent Trust.