

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th May 2016 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*, Andrew GRAY, Catriona GRAY, Aileen MARSHALL, Steven MILNE, Pat PATERSON, Eddie WALLACE, Jim WISEMAN (Minutes).</p> <p><u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u></p> <p>Cllr John DIVERS, Cllr Graham LEADBITTER, Hazel Lawson (Northern Scot), David MacKAY (P&J), Inspector Graeme ALLAN (Police Scotland), Willie FINDLAY (Community Safety Officer),</p> <p><u>APPOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Bryan WATSON(Vice Chair), Maureen MANSON, Mary WALL, 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>	
c.	<p><u>SPEAKER - Willie Findlay Community Safety Officer</u></p> <p>Willie Findlay explained the structure and purpose of the Community Safety Unit (CSU) and its relationship to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). He went on to outline the explain CSU strategy and how it links to the Moray 2023 objectives and gave an overview of the CSU priorities for 2017-2023. After explaining the role of the Community Safety Hub meetings held every weekday to address more complex public safety issues requiring multiagency input he introduced the CSU team and outlined the work they do.</p> <p>There are 4 Community Wardens serving Moray each allocated to an area but all 4 include Elgin. This potentially leads to a lack of continuity but Willie Findlay explained why the resources were distributed that way and confirmed that he would be a single point of contact and will issue the contact numbers for all Community Wardens. A monthly visit from a Community Warden was requested by Pat Paterson.</p> <p>Various issues were explored in questions. Abandoned vehicles are a problem probably due to the low scrap value of cars.</p>	WF
2.	<p><u>PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Aileen Marshall and seconded by Eddie Wallace with no objections.</p>	
3.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING.</u></p> <p>Page 1 item 3a – Heritage centre re minutes – Ongoing Alastair Kennedy/Iain Catto</p> <p>Page 1 item 3b - Splitting the Fair Trade and Environment Committee from the Leisure and Recreation Committee. – All</p> <p>Page 1 item 3g –Invite Ken Kennedy, Lands and Parks, Moray Council to speak about the Elgin environment maintenance – Alastair Kennedy</p> <p>Page 1 item 3h – Rep on licensing forum, Iain Catto has taken up the offer.</p> <p>Page 2 item 5d – Illinois gift. Eddie Wallace to send photo of the gifts to Alastair Kennedy for discussion with Councillor Cree</p> <p>Page 4 item 8 – Alastair Kennedy to speak to the community warden re Sandy Road. Steve Christie to look into using the SPICE signs at this location. Ongoing - Alastair Kennedy and Steve Christie</p> <p>Page 4 item 9 – Steve Milne to send account to to the CCLO – Ongoing - Steve Milne</p> <p>Page 4 item 10e – Alastair Kennedy to arrange a suitable date for the meeting with Innes CC. ongoing – Alastair Kennedy</p> <p>Page 5 item 12 – Aileen Marshall to report on Old People Reference Group – Aileen Marshall advised that the group did not meet as planned.</p>	<p>AK/IC</p> <p>PP</p> <p>AK</p> <p>EW/AK</p> <p>AK/SC</p> <p>SM</p> <p>AK</p> <p>AM</p>

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.00pm

4.	<p><u>AGENCY UPDATES</u></p>	
a.	<p><u>POLICE SCOTLAND</u></p> <p>See Report.</p> <p>Inspector Allan read the report highlighting road safety and antisocial behaviour with some emphasis on recent work with the CSU on youth gang culture and explained some of the measures that were being adopted and how successful they had been to date.</p> <p>James Wiseman asked about best practice to provide your location to emergency services. Recommendations included GPS coordinates, 6 figure grid ref (100m resolution), visible landmarks rather than local names, or post code. Catriona Gray suggested a compass app that gives coordinates.</p>	
b.	<p><u>STAGECOACH</u></p> <p>No Report</p>	
c.	<p><u>COMMUNITY WARDEN</u></p> <p>See 1c above.</p>	
d.	<p><u>CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>Draft Supplementary Guidance developer obligations – Alastair Kennedy thanked Iain Catto, James Wiseman and others for their input to this piece of work.</p> <p>Waulkmill Grove consultation – Alastair Kennedy advised that he had not responded to the consultation.</p>	
5.	<p><u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u> (See reports previously circulated)</p>	
a.	<p><u>PLANNING</u></p> <p>See 4d above.</p>	
b.	<p><u>RECREATION, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT</u></p> <p>No Report</p>	
c.	<p><u>FAIR TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT</u></p> <p>Pat Paterson reported that the Fair Trade group had sent off a cheque to the Fair Trade Foundation proceeds of the Fair Trade fortnight. She also advised that the Group were planning their activities for the Elgin Food & Drink Festival in August.</p>	
d.	<p><u>ROADS & TRANSPORTATION</u></p> <p>1. Progress report from Bear Scotland and the re-surfacing of the A96 through Elgin</p> <p>The resurfacing between Reiket Lane Roundabout and Ashgrove Road Junction is planned to be done whilst the Gas Works are undertaken. They are starting on the A96 section on the 12th July after the Scottish Open Golf at Castle Stuart Golf Club. We are going to have a meeting with Scottish Gas Networks (SGN) Moray Council and Breedon Aggregates to discuss exact dates etc. Part of our resurfacing works goes over the tracks SGN will be undertaking and we will resurface these as part of our works hopefully directly after they have completed their work (or within a few days hopefully) but the meeting will determine this.</p> <p>The Tesco Roundabout – We are looking to do some machine patching whilst we are in Elgin doing the above works, but I need to get Transport Scotland sign it off beforehand. I will let you know when this happens.</p> <p><u>Also this contribution from Iain</u></p> <p>As discussed, here is some text to add to the R & T report for the community council meeting next week:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Bus stop at Elgin railway station – the Moray Council transportation section had indicated that this work would be started in mid April, but it does not appear to have been started yet. Investigations are underway as to the delay: scratch that; 2) Urban Freedom maps of bus routes in Elgin – we had previously offered to assist Moray Council with publicity for the launch of these maps and to assist with their distribution, once the fresh printing of the maps had been completed. We have not had word yet advising if the printing has been completed, and there were changes required to the map, due to bus route changes; 	

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.00pm

	<p>3) Moray Transport Forum Steering Group – Iain has been a member of this group since last October representing the Community Council, and has attended meetings in October, December, January and March to date. Topics discussed have included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the experience of people with disabilities using public transport; b. preparing an application for funding to engage a development worker for community transport in Moray; c. organisation of the annual transport seminar, which took place in November last year; d. car clubs in Moray; e. bus services, including the change to service number 34 by Stagecoach. <p>Steve Walker of Stagecoach attended the December meeting and answered questions, especially on the experience of users with disabilities using the buses.</p> <p>Minutes of the meetings will eventually be placed on the website of Moray Community Planning Partnership, under the section for the Moray Forum. In the meantime, if anyone wishes to see the minutes, please let Iain Catto know.</p> <p><u>Pavements in Elgin</u></p> <p>We pay a lot of attention on the road conditions and I believe we neglect our pavements. We walk and tend to ignore the state of our pavements.</p> <p>A few months back at one of our meetings I raised the issue of pavements and how poor they are in places and the need to highlight those of a particularly unsafe condition.</p> <p>Can we make an attempt to map out these bad spots and we will inform the appropriate department.</p> <p><u>Please Email Eddie Wallace, David Chapman or Iain Catto with location details.</u></p> <p>Iain Catto added a report that the bus stop at the railway station east bound is to be installed.</p> <p>Aileen Marshall tabled a report (See below) on various road issues and recent experiences. Eddie Wallace said he was familiarising himself with the details.</p>	
e.	<p><u>ELGIN ILLINOIS SUBGROUP</u></p> <p>See 3 above</p>	
f.	<p><u>YOUTH.</u></p> <p>No report</p>	
g.	<p><u>LICENSING</u></p> <p>No items to discuss</p>	
h.	<p><u>GRANT LODGE</u></p> <p>No update</p>	
i.	<p><u>SOCIAL MEDIA</u></p> <p>No update</p>	
j.	<p><u>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</u></p> <p>To be circulated.</p>	
k.	<p><u>SECRETARY'S REPORT</u></p> <p>Gordon Methven questioned the value of a Secretary's Report. James Wiseman suggested it should include any activity specifically undertaken by the Secretary on behalf of the Community Council and need not include participation in items reported elsewhere on the agenda.</p>	
6.	<p><u>COMMUNITY PLANNING.</u></p>	
a.	<p><u>ELGIN SOUTH GROUP</u></p> <p>Elgin South Group Meeting 4/5/16</p> <p>Main points from the meeting</p>	

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.00pm

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lengthy discussion of the Traffic Management issue. No ready solutions but there are a few 'quick fixes' eg better crossing places that would help. Reminded that there had been talk of a Street Audit for some of the area. Recollections are a bit vague but we wonder if it took place and if so what the outcome was. 2. Updated the group on Elgin High progress, later sharing the site plan with them. 3. Dog bin on Sandy Road has not been replaced. Question whether general waste bins can be used for dog waste. Are they all dual purpose now? YES, the black bins can also be used for dog waste, some of the larger bins have a circle depicting general waste and dog waste but with a misleading line through it so some people think that they can't put dog waste in them. 4. Post Boxes. Is there any post box provision (or any planned) within the Springfield development? 5. What is the situation with the main post office in Batchen Street? It is becoming emptier but there seems to be no news regarding a move. I was asking the Postmaster about this just recently and he is also in the dark regarding the plans. He is not part of the planned move but his staff are (he plans to retire) but nothing has been said to any of them. As far as I know there has been no applications submitted for a change of use nor anything else at the Comet site despite the consultation stating that the move would happen by late March. <p>Reported by Aileen Marshall 4/4/16 with comments from Steve Christie</p>	
b.	<p><u>SPICE</u></p> <p>Steve Christie reported good uptake on adopting planters in the High Street.</p> <p>Safety issues are being addressed for litter picks in light of recent incidents. Particular concerns are single person working and needles.</p>	
c.	<p><u>JCC & COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION IN COMMUNITY PLANNING</u></p> <p>Next meeting Thursday 13/5/2016 where Mark Palmer will be attending to discuss the Engagement Activities Calendar. The Community Council's complaints procedure will also be discussed.</p>	
d.	<p><u>EMERGENCY AND RESILIENCE PLANNING</u></p> <p>Volunteers are being sought to resource this plan. What we are able to do will depend on numbers and be assured no one will be asked to do anything beyond their capabilities.</p>	ALL
7.	<p><u>EDUCATION</u></p> <p><u>New Elgin High School</u></p> <p>On 14th April Aileen Marshall and Steve Christie met Shona Leese and Jim McLusky for the first of which we hope will be regular meetings to discuss progress with the Elgin High School new build.</p> <p>At this point the contractors are about 3 weeks into an 18-month contract, and are currently stripping the earth from the site and developing a temporary car park/ works office area. In order to reduce vehicle movements and costs most of the stripped earth will be kept on site and used to landscape the field to the north end of the development.</p> <p>Piling works are expected to begin in May and as part of a programme to reassure local residents their homes will be surveyed pre & post piling to eliminate any possibility of structural damage. As much effort as possible will be done by the contractors to reduce noise from the site but with such a large development noise is inevitable. At its peak it is anticipated that there may be about 150 people working on the site at any one time.</p> <p>The car parking for the new school will be approximately the same as the existing arrangement.</p> <p>Measures are in place to contain all building materials on site and to protect them in the event of high winds etc.</p> <p>The completion date for the new school is expected to be 20th October 2017, and once all pupils, staff etc. have transferred over work to demolish the old school and construct the 3G pitches will take approximately a further 8 months.</p> <p>An open event was held at the school on Tuesday 19th April 2016 between 4-7pm where the plans etc. were on display.</p> <p>If there are any questions regarding the new school or parts of the development, please forward them to either Aileen or Steve and we will pass them on to the contractors.</p> <p>There was a discussion on what type of piling is to be used and how the noise nearby residents will be engaged to reduce the risk of complaints.</p>	AM/SC
8.	<p><u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p>	

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.00pm

	Steve Milne reported the Nr 1 account at £3,122 and the Nr 2 account at £1,328. Steve Milne to send accounts to CCLO	SM
9.	<u>ONGOING TOPICS</u>	
a.	<u>REFUGEE PLANS</u> Remove from agenda	
b.	<u>FLEECES</u> Gordon Methven had brought along two fleeces to try for size.	
c.	<u>PAIN CLINIC</u> Catriona Gray gave an update on the pain clinic at Dr Grays. Whilst it was in place treatment would be in Aberdeen which is not satisfactory. Also the access to the clinic was difficult and didn't take account of the needs of a chronic pain sufferer. The Afa'Sair Group are taking this forward and Elgin Community Council's ongoing support and approval for their work was noted.	
d.	<u>ELGIN FUND COOPER PARK</u> Remove from agenda	
e.	<u>COMMUNITY BENEFIT</u> Awaiting invitation from Innes Community Council.	
f.	<u>SANDY ROAD LITTER</u> SPICE are looking into deploying signs and Alastair Kennedy is to ask Willie Findlay about community Warden support.	AK
10.	<u>EVENTS</u>	
	<u>COMMUNITY AWARDS</u> Gordon Methven reported that all activities were going to plan. Next meeting is 13 th June 2016.	
	<u>TRAINING</u> The recent Community Councillor training was seen to be a success.	
11.	<u>A.O.C.B.</u> Steve Christie advised that he was no longer Chair of the Tenants Forum but had moved to be treasurer. Andrew Gray asked why weekend lets for the Community Centre were so expensive. Cllr Graeme Leadbitter advised that weekend lets were directed towards schools as they had shift cover for other purposes allowing less costly lets. James Wiseman asked for information on toilet provision Lossie and Elgin acknowledging the difficulties of vandalism and funding. Cllr Graeme Leadbitter advised that the BID Comfort Scheme would be applicable in Elgin. Cllr John Divers advised that provision of toilet facilities in Lossie are dependent on community key holders. Cllr John Divers expressed surprise at proposals for a piece of land at Birnie Crescent. Andrew Gray said that he would circulate the information since it had been raised. Alastair Kennedy reported that there had been a good response to the participatory budgeting proposal. 16 people are on the steering group and many applications had been received such that two allocation events were to be held to distribute £60k each. The first event is in Grant Hall Rothes on Saturday 28 th May 2016 at 9am. The date for the second event is to be confirmed.	AG
12.	<u>RURAL PARLIAMENT</u>	
	It was agreed to pass the following issues to the Scottish Rural Action: 1. Public toilet provision	GM

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.00pm

	2. Moray Pain Clinic	
13.	<u>NEXT MEETING</u> 7:00pm Tuesday 14 th June 2016 Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin.	
	<u>CLOSE</u> There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone and closed the meeting.	

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

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

Chair: _____ Mr Alastair Kennedy

Date: _____

A Meeting of

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.00pm



COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

ELGIN

10 May 2016

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.00pm

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

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

3. DETAILS OF ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO LOCAL PRIORITIES

Community Focus

Elgin based officers can be alerted to issues in your neighbourhoods by means of email. Messages should be sent to

ElginNorthCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk
ElginSouthCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Road Safety and Road Crime

Since the last Community Council meeting there have been two reports of drink driving in Elgin:

1. On 19 April a 52 year old female was found to be unfit to drive through drink or drugs on Alexandra Road, Elgin.
2. On 1 May, a 24 year old male was found to be drunk driving on Linkwood Way, Elgin.

Antisocial Behaviour

Several anti-social behaviour fix penalty notices have been issued over the past month, mainly for minor offences committed in the centre of Elgin.

Drugs

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.00pm

Operation Witton - During the end of April, Police Scotland engaged in a coordinated proactive operation mainly targeting drugs possession in the Moray area. The Elgin branch of this operation was very successful and on 22 April 10 drug search warrants were executed resulting in 4 persons charged with being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs, including a principal priority criminal.

45g of Heroin, 22.2g of Crack Cocaine and 2060 Diazepam tablets were recovered and 5 persons were also charged with possession of controlled drugs, namely Heroin and Cannabis.

The operation albeit designed to concentrate on drugs, also had a remit to action several specific outstanding enquiries. As a result of this 3 males were also charged and arrested for assault and 1x Apprehension Warrant and 1 x Means Warrant were also cleared.

Acquisitive Crime

Over the past month there continues to be a number of commercial and private properties which were broken into.

Since the last meeting there have been a further 8 crimes reported of this nature with break ins/attempted break ins to both commercial and private property. One person has been reported for one of these crimes, but a recent development has led to a positive line of enquiry for the some of the outstanding crimes and this is currently being actioned.

Regardless of the above Police patrols continue to be targeted to the affected areas and assistance provided regarding security of premises and crime prevention.

Violence/Domestic Abuse

There were 19 assaults in total reported in Elgin over the past month, a drop from 39 the previous month.

5 of these were domestic in nature and all are detected.

2 of these were classed as serious assaults due to injury sustained or method used, both of these are also detected.

Of the remaining common assaults 7 are currently detected and enquiry continues with the others.

Work continues with licensed premises in order to try and prevent the number of assaults occurring and in comparison to last community council measuring period they have reduced dramatically. There are however many variables connected to this type of crime which can adversely affect the figures. Much of this work is contained within the local weekend policing plan which is a more directed approach to tackling problem areas, this process is currently also under review.

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.00pm

4. ONGOING LOCAL/FORCEWIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Elgin Inspectors:

The Inspectors at Elgin have recently changed with Graeme Allan and Paul McCrudden both taking up posts.

Your team is based at Elgin Police Office

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

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 10th May 2016 at 7.00pm

Elgin South Traffic Management – Present Situation

Background

Before the existence of the Bilbohall Housing Scheme some forty or so years ago The Wards was little more than a rough track and Edgar Road didn't exist. Since then they have been developed in a piecemeal fashion with no strategic plan either for the roads themselves or how they fit into wider Elgin picture. The result is that we have roads with multiple functions which struggle for compatibility. New Elgin Road/Main Street suffers from increasing traffic in an unsuitable environment.

Future plans for Elgin South can only add to the problems. The Edgar Road area is a major economic driver for Moray (10,000 people a day was the last estimate of users I heard). If working in or visiting the area becomes (more) problematic, it can only be to the detriment of economic development.

There is little or no resilience in the area. You may be aware of recent essential sewage work which closed one of the access lanes on to New Elgin Road from Edgar Road. At one point shoppers were marooned in Asda car park for 90 minutes, unable to exit on to Edgar Road.

In my opinion it is a matter of urgency that traffic management and community safety is seriously examined with a view to making using the area a safer and more satisfactory experience. I realise there are many stakeholders involved, including private businesses, often with competing priorities.

Edgar Road

Through Route for Traffic. This inevitably means that at quiet times traffic speeds are fairly high, making crossing the road away from designated crossings difficult, especially for people with mobility issues or pushing buggies etc. At busy times traffic can be either crawling or at a standstill, especially west-east (east-west traffic may be moving smartly at the same time, compounding the problem of crossing). It is also a bus route.

Access Route for Traffic. This includes access to businesses of all sorts including Elgin Station back entrance. As well as providing access for users and workers in the various businesses, it is the delivery access for most of them as well. This involves a substantial number of large commercials including car transporters (I have seen up to three at one time). These often unload their cars directly on the street either within Edgar Road or very close by. At busier times managing access to and from businesses and car parks is extremely challenging. This is particularly the case when right turns are involved. Cars waiting to turn left are impeded by cars waiting to turn right.

Pedestrians (includes cycles and mobility scooters as well as and wheelchairs, buggies etc) All of the above traffic movement makes it an extremely challenging environment for pedestrians which include Elgin High School pupils. On the north side there are 5-6 traffic entrances to negotiate, on the south side 11-12. All of these points have commercial traffic as well as private cars. The commercial traffic is any size from small vans to large lorries which often need to cross lanes when turning onto/off Edgar Road because of their size. Particularly on the south side there are businesses which have open access on to Edgar Road and traffic often bumps directly over the kerb rather than using the official exit. At A&I a car did this within 10 feet of me. I'm convinced that the driver was so busy appraising the traffic he was totally unaware of my existence. The official crossing places are largely not where people want/need to cross the road and don't tie in with official pedestrian walkways through the shop car parks eg Asda and the retail park opposite.

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.00pm

The Wards

Although this is largely a through route on to Edgar Road, Glen Moray Drive and beyond, there are also businesses and a few private houses. There is a pavement on one side for half its length for pedestrians/cyclists. This suggests that the route is safe for pedestrians but in places there is little or no pavement at all, forcing walkers on to the road which is only just wide enough for two lanes of traffic. Crossing the road at any point on the whole length of the road is difficult. There are no crossings at all even to allow access to the 'Scout Path'. Although the 'Scout Path' seems a logical route for pedestrians, it involves two crossings of The Wards to get back to where many folk are going (ie the shops). It is also isolated and daunting, even in daylight, for folk on their own. There have been a few 'incidents' there recently too which causes concern. All the above is complicated by trains which are due to become more frequent and automating of the crossing which means that the gates will be shut for longer.

New Elgin Road/Main Street

Again this is a multi-purpose road. It carries A941 traffic, including heavy commercials. There is a corner with very poor visibility, houses right on the pavement which is largely narrow or virtually non-existent. Certainly in places the pavement isn't wide enough to take a buggy. The post office is at this corner as well as a school crossing patrol. The road is narrow. As an illustration a tractor pulling a wide agricultural implement had to pull out to overtake parked cars and consequently almost completely covered the pavement. My husband and I had to move very quickly to avoid being knocked over.

Conclusion

It seems to me that all these roads are under strain. They are critical roads within Elgin and Moray and the time is past, well past, that these roads are re-appraised, both in what they are trying to do and in their safety for all users. Surely we can do better than this.

Aileen Marshall 2/5/16