

MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

42nd MEETING

Tuesday June 13th 2016 at 4:00pm

The Gallery – Elgin Library

MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Gillibrand, (Chair), Jean Oliver, Pat Carroll, Ian Cowe, Wilson Metcalfe, Mary Stelmach, Fiona Murdoch, Rebecca Russell, Ed Dunbar, Alistair Sutherland, Terry Ballard, Angus Dixon, Gilbert Bain

Present: Ian Douglas; Moray Council Outdoor Access Manager, Leon Stelmach: minute secretary

Non Attendees: Fay Gonzalez, Ian Green

Guests: Springfield Elgin South Masterplan Team

Item		Action
1	Welcome All present were welcomed by Michelle Gillibrand, including the members of the public. She advised the meeting that part of Item 14 would be taken immediately after the South Elgin Masterplan session.	
2	Apologies S Reid, Janet Trythall, C Roberts, T Anderson, T Gervaise(NHS Grampian)	
3	South Elgin Masterplan (SEM)	
	<p>Three reps from Springfield Properties presented and displayed a series of exhibits showing the three proposed phases, East, Central and West, of this major project which is seeking planning approval; a large scale housing development at the southern edge of Elgin incorporating a range of services.</p> <p>East is Phase 1 and a full application will be submitted in July 2016. Much was made of the provision of green space, walking and cycling paths and general interconnectivity throughout the three phases. The emphasis is on modal shift i.e. alternative transport modes to the car.</p> <p>The Moray Council will shortly publish its Elgin Transport Strategy and the Scottish Government has responsibility for the dualling of the A96 all of which will need to be integrated with the SEM proposals.</p> <p>Once the SEM team had left there was a general discussion. There was particular interest in improving path links towards the centre of Elgin. Sub Group to convene (JO, AD and MG) to formulate the Forum consultation response. Draft SEM consultation response deadline is 8th July. Individual members also able to respond on their own behalf.</p> <p>Further details on The Moray Council website and http://www.springfield.co.uk/about/upcoming_developments/elgin_south</p>	SEM Sub Group
4	Accuracy of previous minutes	
	Item 12, Line 3 from bottom, delete Elgin and replace with Forres	
5	Matter Arising	
	<p>Item 4 –NHS rep. FM update <i>Tracey Gervais has asked to be kept in touch as an absentee member but cannot at present attend meetings.</i></p> <p>Item 4 – MG to update on Faye Gonzalez <i>So far MG has been unable to contact Faye Gonzalez but will continue to seek to do so.</i></p>	MG

<p>Item 5 – GB to supply Murray White contact details as possible NFU Forum member <i>Carried Forward. ID to thereafter approach MW.</i></p>	<p>GB/ID</p>
<p>Item 5 – Pat Douglass in Moray roads has agreed to work with Forum on working up design of signs for River Lossie Cycle path. <i>Pat Douglas to be asked to attend next meeting</i></p>	<p>ID</p>
<p>Item 5 - MG to invite Council Legal Services to attend future Forum meeting <i>Invitation sent and response awaited</i></p>	<p>MG</p>
<p>Item 5 – MG to arrange Forum Chairs joint meeting re Deveron Way. <i>Proposed for July</i></p>	<p>MG</p>
<p>Item 5 – MG still to send letters to Diageo and Moray Roads Section to seek tree management works and path repairs to be carried out. <i>Carried forward</i></p>	<p>MG</p>
<p>Item 5 – Fishwives path. Locked gate still there but gap now in fence. <i>ID reported path now fully accessible but will continue to monitor</i></p>	<p>ID</p>
<p>Item 5 – No response yet from horse riders re alternative to Gedloch track. IMD was to pursue <i>Continual no response, remove from agenda</i></p>	
<p>Item 5 – FM to confirm if info on dog user management has been sent to Glenrinnies Estate. <i>Existing material and new campaign with Jess the Dog to be sourced online and sent to Estate</i></p>	<p>MG, FM</p>
<p>Item 7 – MG to send letter to Council re budget cutbacks and need to reinstate. <i>Covered in AOCB</i></p>	
<p>Item 11 - MG was to update on ED approach to D Anderson Re Core Path signs. <i>ED had meeting with landowner's son who was not very receptive to additional signs. MG, Ed and ID to meet and formulate a way forward.</i></p>	<p>ED, ID, MG</p>
<p>Item12 – MG was to approach Springfield re the need to improve Dava Way as an integral part of the housing development. at Mannachie Road to the south of Forres</p>	<p>MG</p>

	<i>Carried forward</i>	
6	Review of Constitution /Policy Documents	
	Amended documents, (Procedures for Conduct of Meetings and Appointment of New Members; Procedures for the resolution of Outdoor Access Disputes), proposed by the sub-group were distributed at the meeting and member responses are requested by the end of July to MG. MG will thereafter prepare finalised documents for ratification at the next forum meeting.	ALL MG
7	Fochabers Highland Games 15th May	
	As a joint venture with Moray Walking Festival this event was a success and FM was thanked for all her work. All agreed to have a stand next year but FM noted that more volunteers would be needed. Individual member who wish to promote the Forum at other events are welcome to do so.	ALL
8	Business Plan	
	Item 1 –maps of candidate core paths still being compiled. Leaflet in abeyance due to budget cuts. <i>Maps due by November but candidate Core Path proposals welcome from members. MG and ID to produce simple version of leaflet on the computer as cost cutting measure.</i> Item 2 - Rothes Forum feedback <i>Rothes Council has now finalised a consultation questionnaire to be issued round the local community. Responses will determine the level of interest in upgrading the Craigellachie railway path to a cycle route. Responses due by end August.MG to report results to next Forum meeting.</i> Item 7 – OSS. Planners now starting work on this over summer. <i>ID to ensure Forum input and to contact planners to organise</i>	ID/MG MG ID
9	Communications Plan	
	Copies of the revised Communication Plan proposed by the Sub group were made available at the meeting. Comments invited from members by end July to MG. MG will thereafter prepare finalised document for ratification at the next forum meeting.	ALL MG
10	Joint Forum Event 27th June	
	Latest info on horse riders' access issues event hosted by Aberdeenshire LOAF. To be held at Knock Farm with Rodger and Beth Poulson at 5.30pm. Refreshments and sandwiches will be provided. Members to make their own way there. Further event details to follow. Event will involve walking the farm and discussing horse related access issues. Attendees will report back at the next Forum meeting.	Attending MG, IMD, IC, JO,FM,WM, MS, Leon S, ED,AD
11	Moray Active Travel Strategy	
	Pat Douglass in Roads Dept. now working on this. She has agreed to come to 13th Sept Forum meeting to discuss further on how the Forum can feed into the process.	Pat Douglass
12	Moray Woodland Strategy	
	Invite to stakeholders event at Horizon, Forres Enterprise Park,	

	6.00 to 8.00pm on 21 st June. Any Forum member can attend. Important as woodlands provide the lion's share of access opportunities in Moray. All members invited to respond to online 'call for ideas' consultation. Attendees to report back to next Forum meeting.	All
13	Dorenell Access Management Strategy	
	Consultants now progressing work on Strategy. To discuss draft with sub group at meeting on 16 th June - Sub group to recommend the Forum's response to strategy. All members to be given the opportunity to comment on the recommendation which will be forwarded to the consultants before the next meeting Forum meeting on 13 th Sept.	Dorenell Sub Group ALL
14	Access Issues	
	<p>Fence at Ballindalloch March Pool. Written representations by the owner, Mr Guy Macpherson-Grant and Mr David Craig (in attendance as Scottish Canoe Association rep.) were discussed at length. The general consensus from the sub group site visit on 30th May was that although the denial of access to the March Pool was technically a barrier to public access, this was mitigated by the additional facilities provided at the Ayeon pool nearby by the Estate..</p> <p>Notwithstanding this MG has agreed to discuss the matter further at a meeting with Ballindalloch Estate with a report to the next meeting with a view to formulating the formal Forum position to be reported to the Council.</p> <p>ID confirmed that so far 20 objections have been received but no further action would be taken by the Council until the Forum view was reported.</p> <p>ID to seek view from Moray Roads Dept. re road safety issues.</p> <p>Blervie House Estate All measures requested by the Council have now been completed satisfactorily and to a high standard. Forum agrees with recommendations of Sub Group supporting Council position that a reasonable compromise has been reached and not to proceed with enforcement despite objectors remaining dissatisfied. Also agree that pond and environs are part of sufficient adjacent land where access rights do not apply. Confirmed in letter of 16th May from MG sent on behalf of the Forum to objector Mr James McKay.</p> <p>Threat to Core Path EG39 Elgin Railway station – MG sent letter dated 9th May to Network Rail on behalf of Forum. Network rail response is that project design is at an early stage and Forum and Council concerns will be discussed at the appropriate time.</p>	MG ID
15	AOCB	
	<p>Moray Walking Festival Thursday 16th June to Sunday 26th June 2016 www.moraywalkingfestival.co.uk</p> <p>Scotland's Great Trails funding opportunities – ID issued handout on special 'one off' SNH funding for gates</p> <p>Volunteering – MG issued letter dated 26th March to Fabio Villani clarifying it is not the role of the Forum to lead volunteering activity but it is happy to support volunteers. The Forestry Commission has a Community Fund which can host events,</p>	

	<p>promote access or provide volunteer training. Contact IC for details.</p> <p>Budget reduction - There are indications of extensive Council cuts to reduce the outdoor access service and diminish Forum support from the Council. All members are encouraged to respond to the current Council budget consultation stressing the importance of retaining the current level of the outdoor access service and its importance to the Forum.</p> <p>MG to issue a letter to the Council on behalf of the Forum in this regard and also stating the need to re instate the access budget back to the former £15k level.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>MG</p>
	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	
	<p>Tues 13th September 4.00 p.m. Elgin Town Hall, Lounge Room. Tues 29th November 4.00 p.m. Elgin Town Hall, Lounge Room</p>	