

Elgin Community Council

Minute of a meeting held on 12th March 2024

Police Scotland

- No Police present
- Neil Morrison is moving to take the position of Forres, Lossiemouth and Speyside Inspector, meanwhile Andrew Meikleham will be replacing him as Elgin Inspector

Stagecoach

- Funeral talked about
 - There will be a postponement of services
 - Services will be suspended between 1230–1430
- Antisocial behaviour is still very bad with the weekends still being worse
 - Cross agency meeting to set ground work
 - Security present on Friday and Saturday nights
 - Just a small group (7%) causing issue with a fraction of that being dangerous
 - Issue has been raised with police and council respectively
 - There was confusion on whether the police actually have the ability to remove free bus passes
 - Wouldn't want to target bus passes
 - Talked about how parents seem to be absent in the matter
 - No longer a notice board in the waiting room
- Still trying to recruit
 - Short of over 10 drivers with 9 currently in training
 - Drivers have been leaving after the incident
- Talked about CCTV coverage
 - Police monitor the camera at the bottom of North Street

There was no guest speaker, should be coming to the next meeting instead

Matters Arising

- Douglas wrote to the Manager of the St Giles Centre regarding the lift : the response received states that the lift will be operational in a couple of weeks.
- Seagulls are an issue again,
- Increased number of sonic sounds
 - One to go on Elgin Town Hall
 - High school also getting one
 - Increased the time it is being used for by 2 weeks
- Will be using lasers in the early morning and hawking to help quell the issue
- Possible nest/egg removal
- Kids keep feeding the seagulls, aggravating the problem
- Seagulls already nesting in St Guildry street
- The college is using strung up black and yellow tape as a deterrent, the vibrations keeping them away. It has been effective so far

- Less littering around the college has led to less seagulls feeding on the ground
- The seagulls are protected under Nature Scot as there is a shortage nationally
 - The report to try and separate seagulls from urban gulls has no results yet

Finance

- No bills
- Taken on funds for the creation of a hub which was paid last week, waiting for details

Planning

- Local place plan
 - Emma Gordon to hopefully appear at the next meeting

Parking

- No updates
- Batchen Street still causing issues
- Money was given to the police to try and deal with parking on the pavements
- South Street will be closed on 1st March for work meaning deliveries will have to go through pedestrianised areas
- Poundland being opened will probably lessen the issue. It's supposedly supposed to open next month

Transport Forum

- M Connect
 - Meetings about moray are taking place
 - There is currently a bit of confusion as to how M Connect works
 - It is something you have to register for
 - Phase two to start very soon
- Still aiming to properly route out all pockets of transport

Planning

- Quarry, Elgin Community Council on contact list

Education

- The fact that there is no contact and constant days changing means it is being left for the time being
- Will be coming back to this in the near future to see if it is still worth while
- Elgin Academy currently has no head teacher

Media and Communication

- Hoping to get caught up within the next couple of weeks
- Brian has plans to talk to Richard to get logged on to the website

Resilience

- Need to set a date to get it kickstarted, has to happen within the next couple of weeks, date to be determined

Elgin Cathedral 800th Anniversary

- Email has been passed on by Allison
- The program is still to be finalised
- Wants to encourage community use, possible to be used as a venue
- Lighting is to be a part of the cultural quarter development next year
 - Talked about the possibility of crowdfunding for it once we know the price
 - Allison to ask the price of lighting the cathedral

Elgin Museum

- They have been contacted and are willing to come talk about the changes, Brian to chase it up
- Email sent to Alistar outlining events coming up
 - Saturday 16th March: Fundraiser in Museum Side Hall, 1000–1600
 - Funds raised will be going towards the redevelopment project
 - Saturday 30th March: The museum is reopening for visitors at 1300
 - Will be open every week Wednesday to Sundays from 1300-1600 until the end of October

Community Councils in Moray

- Funding is an ongoing issue for many councils and is an issue that has not been raised for years
- The subgroup that has formed will be meeting within the next few weeks
- There was an email sent to all community councils regarding what they have bought for resilience
- Would like to find out how much is actually costs to run a community council against the grant
- Email to be circulated for Elgin community council members to log their expenses with the purpose of checking costs
- There are 17 community councils in Moray at the moment
- Crossing funds was talked about however it was deemed a temporary solution that needs a more permanent fix

Royal Mail

- Parking seems to be a bit better
 - The lines will be repainted within the next 2 weeks
- Deliveries have improved for some
- New Elgin is the main post office due to Batchen Street's odd opening hours

Elgin Town Board

- It is still being decided who exactly is sitting on the board but there will be 15 members
 - Originally, @ there were no Elgin members sitting on the board
 - There will be 2 councillors and 2 substitutes for them as well as the Council Leader and the Deputy as their substitute
- Aiming for political balance on the board
- The board will be in charge of the £20 million that will be used to spend within Elgin

NHS Emails

- Lots of emails coming from engagement group in Aberdeen
- Will continue to receive them for the time being
- Elgin will not be getting an MRI scanner, a decision made by the Scottish Government
 - Talked about the possibility of crowdfunding for one
- Dr Gray's update to be chased up

Elected Members Update

- Cross party budget achieved
- Addressing antisocial behaviour
 - There will be 2 full time posts for Community Wardens
- Freeze on council tax
- Education committee discussed attainment and behaviour
 - Covid had a big impact on attainment and achievement

AOCB

- July meeting is to be moved from the 9th to the 16th
- Dredger is being used in both Burghead and Buckie
- The Elgin to Aviemore bus service is reopening on the 29th March

Date of next meeting: 9th April 2024