

A Meeting of the City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council was held in the
COUNCIL CHAMBERS on Tuesday 11th March 2014 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'), Steven MILNE(Treasurer), Bob ANDERSON, David CHAPMAN*, Anne GLOVER, Eric MARRIOTT, Daniel PICKINGS**, Donnie McLEAN, Laura MILLER**, Pat PATERSON, Mary WALL, Eddie WALLACE, Jim WISEMAN(Minutes).</p> <p><u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u></p> <p>Cllr John DIVERS, Cllr Patsy GOWANS Cllr Barry JARVIS, Cllr Mike SHAND, Kathy GRANT (Community Warden) Hazel Lawson (Northern Scot), Laura MITCHELL Ewen STRACHAN (Police Scotland)</p> <p><u>APPOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Gordie WELLS Bryan WATSON(Vice Chair) Cheryl ROBB Steven CHRISTIE, Cllr Graeme LEADBITTER, Cllr James ALLAN.</p> <p><u>WELCOME</u></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy welcomed everyone to the meeting</p>	
b.	<p>SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT – CARE•FAIR•SHARE CAMPAIGN – JOHN THAIN</p> <p>John Thain, a member of the Scottish youth Parliament (SYP), gave a presentation on the CARE•FAIR•SHARE campaign. He explained that one in ten young people are also carers, by doing so they save the country £1.6bn per year but often have to make compromises with their education, career, and social life more specifically: young carers lose the Care Allowance when in full time education, they often lose the Educational Maintenance Allowance because they miss school, and there is no standardised funding for young carers in further education.</p> <p>The following links were advised for further information about the campaign http://www.youtube.com/watch?V=pspTUs6fkWm http://www.syp.org.uk/care-fair-share-W21page-476-</p> <p>The SYP is campaigning to ensure that young carers are treated fairly by society and government policies, and that their caring situations do not prevent them from further education and engaging in social activities. Several avenues are being pursued to alleviate financial strain on young carers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addressing anomalies in the administration of the Educational Maintenance Allowance; that result in many young carers losing their EMA entitlement; • additional funding and bursary opportunities for young carers struggling to afford further education due to their caring responsibilities; and, • avenues to alleviate the cost of travel for young carers between school, work and home to fulfil their caring and education duties. <p>A pledge board was passed round for those present to sign if they wished. Gordon Methven added that young carers suffer bullying and have a fear of prejudice. Cllr Patsy Gowans added that it can be difficult to get respite.</p>	
c.	<p>BROWN MUIR WIND FARM – VENTO LUDENS & DOCHERTY CONSULTING</p> <p>Tom Healy of Vento Ludens with Peter Docherty and Meg Deasley of Docherty Consulting gave a presentation on the new proposal for Brown Muir Wind Farm (BMWF). Benefits of the new proposal which was for 12 turbines were less visual impact, reduced bird collision rate, increased protection for water supplies, reduced impact on gliding. Tom Healy outlined the scheme in detail and the timeline for having BMWF operational by 2018. The forthcoming schedule of exhibitions was advised.</p> <p>The following points were noted in response to questions from the floor.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational use of access roads may be possible. • Future expansion of BMWF can't be ruled out. • The developer will actively contact all residents within 1km of the site and offer to meet all residents within 2km of the site. • Provisions will be made to ensure decommissioning is done appropriately. • All power produced will be exported to the national grid. <p><u>Public Exhibition Schedule</u></p> <p>Wednesday 12/03/14 Lhanbryde Community Centre, Robertson Rd, Lhanbryde, IV30 8QQ 2 – 7pm Thursday 13/03/14 New Elgin & Ashgrove Public Hall, Land St, Elgin, IV30 6BN 12 – 5:30pm Friday 14/03/14 Fogwatt Village Hall, Fogwatt, IV30 8SL 2 - 7pm Friday 21/03/14 Rothes Grant Hall, New St, Rothes, AB38 7BJ 2 - 7pm Saturday 22/03/14 Inchberry Village Hall, Orton, IV32 7QB 10am – 2pm</p>	
2.	<p>PREVIOUS MINUTES 11th FEBRUARY 2014</p> <p>The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Eddie Wallace, seconded by Steven Milne and there were no objections.</p>	
3.	<p>MATTERS ARISING.</p> <p>Page 2 item 3d – Poppy wreaths – Alastair Kennedy</p> <p>Page 2 item 3e – Pupils Crossing roads near schools – Eddie Wallace</p> <p>Page 2 item 3f – Name badges – Eddie Wallace</p> <p>Page 2 item 5a – Bishopmill Post Office – James Wiseman</p> <p>Page 2 item 5b – Brownmuir Windfarm – James Wiseman</p>	<p>AK</p> <p>EW</p> <p>EW</p> <p>JW</p> <p>JW</p>
4.	<p>AGENCY UPDATES</p>	
a.	<p>POLICE SCOTLAND – EWAN STRACHAN</p> <p>Inspector Ewan Strachan gave his report nearing the end of the first year of Police Scotland. In the last 30 days 180 crimes had been detected including road traffic offences. This comprised 27 minor assaults, half of which were domestic assaults, 23 vandalisms, no house break-ins, 3 business break-ins a sneak-in theft to a vehicle in the west end of Elgin. There were 3 thefts of tools etc from building sites in the Longmorn Area.</p> <p>Road Traffic policing plans have been developed to better target areas of interest. Parking in the High Street is to be targeted soon.</p> <p>Multimember ward plans are now being agreed and Elgin South has as its priorities: Sneak-in thefts speeding, parking, dog fouling. Elgin North is likely to be similar.</p> <p>Anne Glover asked if there were any rules covering hours of operation for the fair ground in relation to noise and was advised that there were no rules as such but noise complaints should be referred to the Moray Council Environmental Health.</p>	
b.	<p>STAGECOACH – NO REPORT</p> <p>In the absence of Stagecoach, Alastair Kennedy regaled the audience with a tale of being caught short on the bus from Aberdeen and the driver who took pity on him.</p>	
c.	<p>COMMUNITY WARDEN – KATHY GRANT</p> <p>Community Warden Kathy Grant outlined a new scheme to tackle dog fouling which is to include leaflets clarifying what information is required when reporting dog fouling and cards to record the information. The scheme will involve schools, requires funding of £2,150 and Kathy Grant asked for a donation from the Community Council. There was general agreement that some funding should be available as ECC will do some partnership working on this and a subgroup is to be set up to</p>	<p>AK</p>

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	<p>establish how much and what for – see Treasurer’s Report.</p> <p>Dog fouling fines are to be handled by Moray Council bad debt team which avoids the difficulties of going to court. Naming and shaming is still an option.</p>	
5.	COMMITTEE REPORTS:	
a.	<p>PLANNING.</p> <p>Brown Muir Wind Farm – see ITEM 1C above.</p> <p>A letter to the Post Office complaining about the Bishopmill Post Office consultation is being finalised.</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>JW</p>
b.	<p>RECREATION, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>See report attached.</p>	
c.	<p>ROADS & TRANSPORTATION.</p> <p>See report attached.</p>	
d.	<p>YOUTH.</p> <p>Laura Miller advised she will be moving and will seek to engage a replacement Community Council representative from Elgin Academy before she goes. Alastair Kennedy thanked Laura for her involvement in Elgin Community Council and wished her well.</p>	
6.	COMMUNITY PLANNING.	
a.	<p>ELGIN SOUTH AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUM</p> <p>See ESAF Minutes circulated 10 March 2014 and available on www.yourmoray.org.uk</p> <p>ESAF Facebook page now available.</p>	
b.	<p>SPICE</p> <p>Next Litter pick 26 & 27 April 2014.</p> <p>ACE training 13 March 2014</p>	
c.	<p>JCC</p> <p>Minutes will be published in due course.</p>	
d.	<p>TOWN CENTRE DESIGN CHARRETTES</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy reported that the Town Centre Charrette was a successful event. He also noted there was now a better understanding on the reluctance to support a 3G pitch at Lossie Green.</p> <p>David Duncan offered to run a mini charrette for the Community Council but it was thought the proposed public sessions would be adequate.</p>	
e.	<p>COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION IN COMMUNITY PLANNING</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy advised that this was still ongoing via the JCC.</p>	
7.	EDUCATION	
a.	<p>ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p>Councillor John Divers gave an update on progress just to record the design selected is now for 1,000 pupils and that as a result of the ongoing ground investigation the layout was being amended and may result in Sports facilities being elsewhere. It was understood that this sports arrangement is not ideal and a solution is being sought.</p>	
b.	<p>ELGIN ACADEMY – NO REPORT</p> <p>Daniel Pickings reported that Elgin Academy was promoting reading.</p>	

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c.	PRIMARY SCHOOLS No report	
8.	TREASURER'S REPORT. Account #1 £3,583.97 Account #2 £1,328.38 A subgroup of Steven Milne, Eric Marriott, James Wiseman and Alastair Kennedy was appointed to look into the Elgin Community Council budget and spending forecast.	
9.	ONGOING TOPICS	
a.	DEANSHAUGH PLAYING FIELDS No Update	
b.	OLDMILLS No Update	
c.	LESSER BOROUGHBRIGGS See Town Centre Charrettes Item 6D above.	
d.	ELGIN FUND The amphitheatre proposed for the Cooper Park is still proposed by the Elgin Fund subject to sufficient surplus material becoming available from the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme.	
10.	EVENTS	
a.	COMMUNITY AWARDS Next meeting Monday 17 th March 2014. Anne Glover reminded Gordon Methven that a shield was available which could be refurbished at minimal cost.	AG/GM
b.	TRAINING There was general agreement among those who attended that the Planning and Licencing training event was very useful and well presented. Alastair Kennedy asked for this to be minuted. Alastair Kennedy to write and thank the organisers.	AK
11.	CHAIR'S REPORT The Chair's report attached was taken as read.	
12.	SECRETARY'S REPORT The Secretary's report attached was taken as read.	
13.	A.O.C.B. Eric Marriott asked how much thought had gone in to specifying the Town Hall sound system prior to placing a contract. Cllr John Divers confirmed that council officials had developed the specification. Pat Paterson expressed disappointment shared by many at the proposed closing of the Elgin Library Café in the Cooper Park. James Wiseman advised that NEON was no longer to be available for New Elgin Community	JD/JW

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	<p>Groups including the Elgin South Area Forum (ESAF) and asked if there were any alternative venues available. Cllr John Divers said his understanding was that there would be provision in NEON for Community Groups bookable via the school and he undertook to clarify this for ESAF.</p> <p>Donnie McLean asked about plans for WW1 celebrations. Cllr Patsy Gowans advised that Elgin Museum have an event planned involving the Lord Lieutenant of Moray.</p>	
14.	NEXT MEETING 7:00pm Tuesday 8th April 2014 Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin.	
15.	CLOSE: There being no further business the Chair thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 9:06pm.	

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

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

Chair: _____ Mr Alastair Kennedy

Date: _____

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Report for Environmental Group Feb/March 2014-03-06

This has been an extremely busy time for us as we have been celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight which ends tomorrow, 7 March.

Farmers Market Saturday 15 February

We took a stall placed near to Starbucks as they provided us with a large flask of coffee for complementary drinks for members of the public calling past to chat and take a raffle. Knowledge of the existence of Fairtrade and what it stands for is much wider amongst the general public than when we first started having a stall at the Farmer's Market.

Nicaraguan coffee farmer Thursday evening 27 February

Unfortunately this event was not well attended by the public. Fortunately a group of about 25 schoolchildren came through with their teachers from St Thomas's in Keith. You might say, they saved the day! The children made Fatima, the coffee farmer and her translator Marianna very happy.

Tea in Council Chambers Wednesday morning 5 March

Pat organised this event. She liaised with a home economics teacher who brought a group of 10 3rd year students to the Council Chambers. They had baked a variety of interesting cakes using Fairtrade ingredients, to serve along with the tea and coffee. They had also made posters which they placed along the front of the trolley from which the cakes were served. We will be keeping in touch with Elgin Academy for future events.

Quiz

This quiz was drawn up to involve a number of commercial outlets in the town centre. The idea was to stimulate an interest in the town centre while promoting Fairtrade in a fun way. Pat made up an attractive hamper for the winner of the prize draw and.

Pat Paterson, Gordon Wells, Mary Wall

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Progress report for ECC meeting 11th March 2014 of Roads and Transportation Committee

1. Report prepared on Elgin Academy Pupils safety issues with Haugh Road bridge access to rear of school. See attached document.
2. Car dealerships misuse of grass verge areas, awaiting feedback.
3. Arranged meeting with Gordon Holland, Transportation Manager of Moray Council, rescheduled for 12th March
4. Also been in contact with Bear Scotland, area supervisor, Ralph Newlands and organising a meeting time and place.

Regards Eddie Wallace

Report: Pupil access to Elgin Academy over Haugh Road Bridge

Prepared by Eddie Wallace and David Chapman - Roads and Transportation Committee

Date: 10th March 2014

The subject has been raised by a former member of the Community Council and involves the pupils of Elgin Academy arriving and leaving the school. He starts by comparing the two access points to the school, one from Morrision Road and the other from Haugh Road.

The Morrision Road school (north)entrance has the standard flashing lights and 20mph warning adopted for most schools, while the other entrance (south) via Haugh Road has nothing.

The problem with the Haugh Road entrance however is accentuated with there being a narrow bridge over the River Lossie where Haugh Road ends. The width of the bridge cannot cope with cars and pedestrians passing on the bridge together, it is unsafe. It is therefore essential that while there are pupils or any pedestrian on the bridge, all vehicles must wait until it is clear before crossing.

David and I attended the spot at 8 o'clock one morning and stayed until the school had started at 8:40. During this period six cars went over the bridge and three returned which would suggest it was to drop off pupils while others parked for some other reason, dog walking probably.

There was a small number of pupils heading for school during this time and tended to come in groups of two's or more. The numbers will vary considerably with the different times of the day, for example the midday break has many pupils leaving the school premises for their break to visit the Leisure Centre Cafe or Tesco and probably bringing the bridge to a standstill thereby preventing the flow of traffic for a short period of time.

We did observe some questionable driving, particularly the speed at which they approached the bridge even when the pupils were on the road (not every pupil uses the pavement at this point). The drivers can see there are schoolchildren in the vicinity and still accelerate towards the bridge, braking at the last moment.

It's obvious this situation hasn't changed in a long time and a mutual understanding seems to be the rule.

The reporting of incidents is not new, there have been times in the past when "near misses" have been reported to the school by pupils, and members of the public have also raised it with the school. According to Ms Patricia Dempsey the Deputy Head teacher it was also raised in the Pupils Council, so it seems we have a situation in waiting for something to happen. Ms Dempsey told me of an occasion when a motorist wanting to get over to park his car so that he could walk his dog became irate with the pupils and used his horn to hurry them along their way.

This bridge is also access to the Morrision Playing Field car park.

Now that the circumstances have been highlighted and looking at it from a risk assessment viewpoint, there is indeed a hazard with various possible outcomes and probably in the event of an incident there will be the usual war cry "there was no sign warning of possible dangers!" You expect perhaps common sense would prevail in many of these cases and "driving with due care and attention" would be sufficient, but let's face it, sense isn't that common when it comes to driving standards.

So with that in mind what can we do? We have some options to ponder

1. School warning sign and flashing lights similar to Morrision Road
2. Street sign warning of school children in vicinity (Children having priority over bridge)
3. Street signs with max speed limit of 5 mph over bridge from both ends.
4. Bridge close to traffic during movement of pupils, i.e. start time; dinnertime; finishing time.
5. Build separate pedestrian bridge alongside the present one.

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As you can see there are a few options, some simple and others less so, some cheap others costly.

We need a solution which will ensure, were possible, the safety of all pedestrians wanting to use the bridge. Whatever solution is chosen, it will work only if all roads users abide by the directives given and let's face it the only cast iron guarantee is a separate bridge and we all know that won't happen, so which one is both practicable and affordable.

Priority must be given to 'give way to the walkers' and signage to this effect including a 5mph speed limit on the bridge will be the cheapest format and easy to justify.

It is our opinion there is a definite need to have something in place at both ends of the bridge giving clear indication that **all pedestrians have the right of way at all times**, vehicles must wait until the bridge is clear before proceeding.

We await your comments,

Eddie Wallace and David Chapman of Elgin Community Council R&T Committee

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ESAF reports

Moray Forum 24th February 2014

Moray Council CEO Roddy Burns gave a presentation on Community Engagement as a process for mobilising a Community contribution to realising the MCPP 10 year plan. He outlined the size of Moray and compared it with some proactive Islands communities then he went on to say how the changing demographics of population, age, income, etc and the economy present significant challenges in service delivery as does the current political climate which can lead the Council to be directed to make big changes in short timescales. He went on to explain that the Community Planning partners use an evidence lead statistical and experience driven process to develop their local actions plans to deliver their contribution to national objectives. These action plans are then tested by consultation through the MCPP community engagement group. Whilst they are termed 10 year plans, progress is to be reviewed and adjustments made annually. Roddy also mentioned that the Council has a four year plan which goes with the Councillors term of office. John Ferguson then outlined the structure of MCPP explaining that the Forums were represented by the Moray Forum and Community Councils were represented by the JCC. The message was we all have to work together.

Public Entertainment Licences were discussed and a response is to be put in asking for the threshold for these to be raised so they did not cover gatherings less than 500. The proposal of charging £189 for gatherings of >100 was thought to be prohibitive.

The Moray Forum Insurance is good till end of this financial year.

Anyone interested in carrying out Street Audits to identify problems can apply for training and help carryout the audits.

Upcoming events include Join the Dots and the Moray Forum AGM and next meeting is 28 April 2014.

James Wiseman

Joint Outcomes Group 20/2/14

Main Points from the Meeting

- This group is dealing with one aspect of the Scotland-wide integration of Health and Social Care. It is chaired jointly by Robin Paterson, Integration Project Officer and Dr Tim Shallcross, Consultant Physician and has representatives from across the Health and Social Care services along with Third Sector and OPRG and includes a Moray Councillor.
- It is looking at the shift in emphasis from outputs (services offered) to personal outcomes (for individuals who use the services). This is a cultural shift in thinking and practice.
- The work has been ongoing for a short time. Robin Paterson met with me prior to the meeting to update me with previous work.
- This meeting looked at the findings of a survey which had been carried out to ascertain present use of personal outcomes data in the different areas concerned. It is a mixed picture.
- We then considered the difficulties in bringing the various practices into a coherent whole that would capture the information about personal outcomes in a way that would be satisfactory both for the person concerned and meet the needs of the professions involved. Some thought was also given as to how eventual evaluation might work.
- A short time was devoted to exploring how training could best be delivered.
- The next meeting will look at a vision and principles and will be based on anonymised case studies.

Aileen Marshall

Older People's Reference Group 24/2/14

Main Points from the Meeting

- The main body of the meeting consisted of a presentation by Robin Paterson on the Health and Social Care merger.
- He explained the Scottish Government background to the merger and listed the 7 high level outcomes against which the merged partnership will be measured. The headings of these outcomes are Healthier living (individuals and communities), Independent living, Positive experiences and outcomes, Carers are supported, Services are safe, Engaged workforce and Effective resource use.
- The approach Moray is taking was outlined and the planned governance of the project was indicated. A Chief Officer for Moray will be appointed very soon. Both Moray Council and NHS Grampian will eventually pay in to a dedicated budget for the merged body.
- OPRG members posed several important questions on aspects of the plans and will be updated regularly on progress. We have reps on the Joint Outcomes and Developing Joint Systems groups.
- There will be full public consultation and the integration strategy must be ready for implementation by April 2015.

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Aileen Marshall

Chair`s Report for March meeting

Because I was away for over a week there is not a lot to report.

12/02/14

I was part of the group working with Swedish visitors to Elgin over four days through the LEADER transnational project. A tour of Pluscarden Abbey where we were shown round by Father Michael was particularly memorable. I was able to discuss Community Councils and their role with the visitors. Sweden has a similar localised set-up but the members are paid politicians.

13/03/14

This was the JCC meeting which was also attended by Gordon and Eric as representing ECC. Minutes have been circulated. One important item is focussed on how Community Councils are represented within Community Planning and a sub-group was agreed to look at this problem. I`m delighted to say that Gordon and I are both part of the group.

17/03/14

Steven Christie and myself had a meeting with the Elgin Street Pastors which was extremely interesting and which we hope to build on and form a good link between the Pastors, SPICE and ECC.

18/03/14

I met with George Littlejohn (retired recently from ECC). George had done a great deal of work and research about taxi conditions in Moray, Aberdeen and Highland and he and I had presented a paper/report to the Moray Council solicitor responsible for licensing. The solicitor stated that he would use the paper as a baseline for the current Taxi Conditions Review. We went over that paper, agreed a few changes, and, along with a taxi sign that was a preferred design, this was presented as ECC`s response to the review.

20/02/14

Attended a "Lesmurdie" meeting at which a new couple attended and are keen to be involved.

03/03/14

Attended a LEADER steering group meeting. This is about progressing a Local Development Strategy (LDS) for ALL future European funding in Moray and it`s hoped that Community Councils will be part of the process.

04/03/14

Attended the all day Charrette session/workshop. It was an interesting day with many ideas being offered regarding the future of Lossie Green, Cooper Park and how to tie these in with the city centre. Because this was coming up as a follow-up of the Elgin – City for the Future was the reason for having reservations about supporting a 3G pitch in that area. I would suggest that the others who attended over the two days will agree that a pitch in the area would compromise the future plans and, in fact, would not be best value for the Common Good in years to come.

05/03/14

Met once again with George Littlejohn to discuss the future franchise for rail travel in Scotland. During the initial consultation on rail travel (passenger and freight) George presented a response on behalf of ECC which was highlighted by Scottish Government as being of particularly good value.

Because the franchise is now open for bidding I wanted ECC to be able to offer thoughts on what future rail travel in this area should look like. For example, the current rolling stock is of particularly poor quality between the North East of Scotland and Edinburgh/Glasgow, timetables do not tie in with other transport requirements and travel times to these cities is poor with it often being impossible to attend events/functions/meetings without an overnight stay the previous evening.

George agreed to submit, with some agreed amendments, a paper to the companies who are about to bid. That has now been done and his work is greatly appreciated.

05/03/14

Attended the final "mop-up" session of the Charrette along with Bob and Gordon. The consultants will now go away and pull all the information and ideas together and draw up a report. We are assured to receive a copy when it is ready.

06/03/14

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I have been invited to attend a meeting with Kathy Grant (Community Warden) and her team. We are always grateful for Kathy`s updates at our meetings and this will form a closer link which could be beneficial for the future as we may have opportunities to do some partnership work. I`ll update members on the night.

I should also make the point that if anyone wishes further information on any part of my report I am happy to do so.

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Secretary's report March 2014

13th February – I attended the JCC meeting (chaired by Alastair Kennedy) meeting along with Eric Marriot. It was well attended which is encouraging since Alastair and I were part of the sub group that looked into increasing community council membership across Moray prior to the elections last year. We discussed how Community Councils are represented within Community Planning and Alastair and I have agreed to be part of a sub group formed to look into this matter.

Another matter that came up was regarding the JCC having a rep on the advisory forum looking at setting up a rural parliament for Scotland. I have volunteered to be the rep and will attend the inaugural meeting on 18th March in Birnam, Dunkeld.

24th February – Steven Christie and I attended a meeting looking into community awards across Moray. This is progressing well and another meeting has been arranged for 17th March. We advised the group of Anne's suggestion of using the shield we have for youth awards. That is something we would definitely be keen on.

4th – 5th March – I attended the mini charrettes held at St Giles Church regarding future development of Elgin town centre, Lossie Green and the Cooper Park including the castle to cathedral trail. Funding is obviously the main factor involved in carrying out any improvements, however a lot of good ideas were passed to the consultants who will prepare a report. There was talk of holding a public charrette once the report is finalised. In line with that, David Duncan advised that they would be willing to give Elgin Community Council our own presentation.

6th March – I attended the Licensing and planning training at Elgin Academy along with several other members. They gave us a basic presentation on how things operate that was helpful. They clearly didn't have enough time to do such matters justice but provided hand-outs to supplement the presentation.

Correspondence

I received a reply from Richard Lochhead MSP regarding the letter I sent him about the Traffic Warden Review. He appreciates our concerns and is going to look at how other areas are dealing with it and write back to us. His understanding of the situation is that Police Scotland withdrew the service as it doesn't fall under their statutory responsibilities. However, hiding behind statute is something I would expect from dodgy criminal defence lawyers and not the police service. I do believe they had a moral responsibility to ensure an adequate alternative was in place before withdrawing the service despite their statutory responsibilities. How would they react if the public refused to give them help in certain circumstances because nothing in statute required them to do so? Anyway, I'll get down off my soap box. See you on Tuesday.

Gordon Methven
Secretary