

# Embrace Elgin BID August 2017 Bulletin

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## We need your help - **Scotland's Most Beautiful High Street Award**

Scotland's Towns Partnership (STP), Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) and the Sunday Herald have come together to launch the first ever **Scotland's Most Beautiful High Street** competition.

The partners said "*Our high streets and town centres are the beating hearts of* communities and local economies. Now we want to celebrate the contribution of our High Streets and recognise the efforts made to make these spaces clean, attractive, *accessible, vibrant and inclusive for all to enjoy.*"

STP & KSB shortlisted the 10 strongest entries and we are thrilled that Elgin is among them.

It is now up to the general public to decide on the final winner. We need your help as members of the community to make that happen. Please click on the link below to cast your vote, it only takes a few seconds. Can we also ask you to tell your staff members, friends and families about it as well.

[www.scotlandstowns.org/scotlands\\_most\\_beautiful\\_high\\_street](http://www.scotlandstowns.org/scotlands_most_beautiful_high_street)

We will be preparing a promotional poster which will be E mailed out shortly. You can put that up in your business windows, reception desks and beside your cash registers to encourage people to vote. If you want us to drop a copy off instead just let us know.

The Sunday Herald will be hosting a feature as part of the competition which will offer Elgin amazing publicity and promotion, but obviously as winners we would get even more from it.

Where is Scotland's Most Beautiful High Street?

Contact: [own@scotlandstowns.org](mailto:own@scotlandstowns.org)



## Seagull Issues

Over the last 12 months we have been working with the Moray Council to try and gain support to address the problems associated with Gulls in the city centre. We have been advised that this is not something that the Council are in a position to help with, so, to address the increasing number of complaints we are receiving from our business members we will be taking the issue forward ourselves next year.

We know the gulls are damaging buildings, removing rubbish from bins, attacking and stealing food from people and causing a mess with their droppings.



In Spring 2018, we will be bringing in a specialist company to “disrupt” the birds. Our aim is not to physically harm them, but rather to discourage them from building nests and laying eggs on city centre roofs. The companies we have been speaking to are very experienced and knowledgeable using well tested methods of disruption, which we are sure will make the city and cleaner, safer and a quieter place next year.

We will keep you updated on progress with this as we move the plan forward.

## Transitional Relief

The Taxation Manager at the Moray Council has asked us to let you know that they have now processed the vast majority of the applications that were received for assistance under the Scottish Government's 2017 Transitional Relief scheme.

If you have not received it yet, reduced bills will be with you shortly. They will also refund any amount overpaid by a business which commenced paying the instalments printed on its initial 2017-18 bill, the amount of which, and the instalments payable, was calculated prior to the award of transitional relief.

He asked us to stress that the council will continue to accept applications for relief under the terms of the scheme. A full explanation of the scheme, and a downloadable application form, can be found at:

[http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_111956.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_111956.html)

**SPIRIT OF SPEYSIDE**  
**DISTILLED**

1-2 SEPTEMBER 2017  
ELGIN TOWN HALL

ONE REGION, UNDER ONE ROOF

Bringing together the best of Speyside's single malt whisky and gin distillers, craft brewers and food producers under one roof.  
Masterclasses, mini mixology sessions and more...

Sponsor:

WWW.DISTILLED.SCOT #distilled17

## Spirit of Speyside: Distilled

Distilled is back and set to be even bigger and better than before. With an audience of up to 400 people descending on the city it offers a wonderful opportunity for the businesses in Elgin to take advantage of the extra footfall. The sessions take place in Elgin Town Hall on:

<b>Friday 1st September</b>	13:00 – 17:00
<b>Friday 1st September</b>	18:00 – 22:00
<b>Saturday 2nd September</b>	13:00 – 17:00
<b>Saturday 2nd September</b>	18:00 – 22:00

So if you want to put on something special for those attending, please let us know and we will publicise and promote it for you.

## Update on Board Priorities & What's Been Achieved

In the last bulletin, I said I would give an update on the Board and business' priorities.

The priorities are guided by the Business Plan, which was established in 2014 for the Renewal Ballot and was designed to echo the views and opinions of the businesses who attended the networking meetings we set up.

In line with legislation a 5 year plan has to be presented, however, while it acts as a guide, we continue to seek out and take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

There are 7 key themes that drive the work we do:

- Building a reputation and marketing Elgin as a Vibrant Destination
- Tourism and Entertainment
- Shopping Offer
- Business Engagement
- Cleanliness, Safety and Appearance
- Traffic Management and Access
- Community Involvement

The themes are then underpinned by a series of projects, full details of the Themes and Projects can be found in the Business plan which is always available on line at:  
<http://www.embraceelgin.co.uk/the-business-plan/>

While the Plan is challenging, positive steps have been made against the projects. Each year we complete an Annual Report which highlights everything that has been achieved. All of the reports are again always available online for our business members to view, they can be found at:  
<http://www.embraceelgin.co.uk/annual-reports/>

As we said in the last bulletin, we are always keen to get additional input from our business members. If you have an interest in getting more involved please let us know. You are more than welcome to come along to a meeting to find out more about what is going on before committing yourself if you prefer.

We have put the “Your Thoughts” form up on the web site that you complete online, to help give us your thoughts. This can be completed anonymously should you wish. The form can be found, below the Business Plan and image at: <http://www.embraceelgin.co.uk/the-business-plan/>

We really hope that you will take the time to put forward suggestions and ideas, helping to shape the work we are doing on your behalf.

## Mid Term Review

As we are approximately half way through Phase 2, we will be doing a Mid Term Review in the next couple of months. This will go through the projects and themes highlighted above to show you what has been achieved so far and highlight some of the key activities that are planned for the second half of term 2.

## Update on Grampian Furnishers Planning Objection

You may have seen some of the stories recently about our objection to the proposed development by Grampian Furnishers, for an Out Of Town Retail Development. Given the amount of interest generated by the story we wanted to explain the reason behind the objections.

One of the primary purposes behind the establishment of Elgin BID was to find a strategy that would allow the city centre to deal with the financial impact caused by the development and expansion of out of town retail parks. The work carried out by us has focused on delivering a strong Town Centre First Business Plan which was agreed by our business members and ratified by the Moray Council and Scottish Government.

The application for this retail development directly contradicts a number of the Moray Economic Development Plan policies and recommendations, within the Economic

Development and Employment Land and Retail and Commercial Development documents. Policies which were endorsed by Councillors in the Autumn of 2016.

Our objection, is as result of our concerns that if granted, a retail development in this area would directly oppose the Moray Council and the Scottish Governments Town Centre First Policies. This would undoubtedly add pressure to the High Street and City Centre and more importantly set a precedent for further retail expansion.

It is for those reasons that we have grave concerns about the dangers of opening a third area of "out of town shopping" in Elgin.

### BID Business Awards 2017

We are delighted to announce that the Elgin BID Business Awards will be running again, in association with the Northern Scot. We know a lot of businesses have been asking about it and are keen to get involved.

Nominations will go out to the general public in the Northern Scot in the middle of September, BUT we want to roll the ball by inviting you to submit nominations for the

David Urquhart New Business Award and this years new award

The Long Established Business Award.

The David Urquhart New Business Award is open to any business who opened their doors to the public/began trading from August 2014. You must nominate yourself for this award. The application form for the David Urquhart New Business Award is enclosed.

The newly launched Long Established Business Award is open to any business that opened to the public/began trading over 25 years ago (from January 1992). As with the New Business Award, you must nominate yourself for the award to be considered. The application for the Long Established Business Award is enclosed.

We would ask that you encourage your business neighbours to apply for these awards.

Applications for both awards close on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September. The applications will be judged by an independent panel, who will shortlist to the top three, based on the information provided. The general public will then be invited to make the final decision.

These 2 awards, along with all the other awards will then be promoted to the general public in the middle of September and will run until the middle of October. The key dates will be published in the September Business Bulletin.

In line with normal Awards practice, the Winners of 2017 will not participate in any of the award categories, though we hope they will encourage others to get involved.

A starter pack of 40 nomination forms will be provided to any business who wishes one, the forms can be handed out to customers and supporters. An electronic link will also be sent out prior to voting opening, this will enable you to print off as many copies as you need.

Nomination forms will also be available throughout the voting period in the Northern Scot.

### Annual General Meeting & BID Business Awards

This years AGM & Business Awards will take place on Wednesday 25th October 2017 at the Beechtree Restaurant at Moray College.

Please save the date in your diary. The AGM and awards will let you meet the Board of Directors and find out what the priorities are for 2017/18.

More details will follow, closer to the time.

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Just a note...

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Many Thanks  
Gill and Tina



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You are receiving this email because you are a City of Elgin BID Ltd member.

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