

ROYAL BURGH OF DUNBAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BULLETIN DECEMBER 2018

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 17th

Held in the Town House , Dunbar

There was not a full meeting. However, reports and correspondence were received.

1) SECRETARY REPORT

Town Maintenance Issues

- 1) Queens Road wall. Still to be repaired. Building Control have instructed Four Seasons to repair it. The Ridge are willing to do the work.
- 2) Hospital Road – still needs repair. Getting worse. Dangerous for cyclists. Peter Forsyth at ELC advises that some pothole repairs will be done but the road will not be resurfaced until housing construction work is complete.
- 3) Overgrown trees in Beveridge Row – reported to ELC. Cut back.
- 4) Lack of street name signs at Gospatrick Grange – Taylor Wimpey still to provide and are to look at this. The area is to be adopted by ELC.
- 5) Bridge to Nowhere – steps badly eroded and crumbling. Passed to ELC.
- 6) Via member of public – dog fouling in Gospatrick Grange area – wishing warning signs – passed to ELC Still needed
- 7) Collapsing walls along Hospital Road – passed to ELC. Building Control will follow up.
- 8) Via member of public – damage to pavement, wall and road due to erosion by water/debris from Cala site. Passed to ELC, Scottish Water and Cala. There are problems with blocked drainage around the site. Building control will follow this up. Cala say the council made the hole in the kerb due to lack of a gully. Cala have put in a new gully drain on their side of the road.
- 9) Via Facebook -Flooding in wet weather near Lethendry, North Road. Seems to be due to blocked drains. Passed to ELC
- 10) Blocked drain at Castle Street near Dolphin Hotel – passed to ELC
- 11) Damaged wall in Edinburgh Road , Belhaven – passed to ELC. Repaired.
- 12) Via Facebook. Damaged fencing around the ruin of Lochend House. This is DCDC land. Passed to ELC.
- 13) Via Facebook. Lack of street lights/pavements at the Persimmon Development. Alan Stubbs at ELC says Persimmon must do this as the road is not adopted.. ELC to pursue Persimmon. Developers should also provide grit bins on new developments.
- 14) Various broken street lights. Reported to ELC. There are some lights that are not on the interactive map. ELC respond that they will repair when resources allow. Lights have been replaced by new LED lights in Summerfield Park.
- 15) Drainage (standing water not reaching drains) and pot hole issues in Boroughdales/Belhaven Road. Passed to ELC. Pot hole repaired in the speed cushion.

- 16) Grit Bins – responsibility seems to fall to residents to check them. ELC asked to fill bins in Belhaven High Street and Summerfield Park - replaced and filled. ELC asked to restore bins removed from Randolph Crescent and Wilson Place. ELC have now sent application forms for new bins to be sited at those streets. Forms sent to residents to complete them.
- 17) Dog fouling issues at new path between Newtonlees and ASDA. Passed to ELC.
- 18) Broken/ missing lighting bollards at Bleachingfield Centre. Passed to Centre Manager/ELC. In hand
- 19) Lack of lights at bus stops near ASDA. ELC Transport Officer had visited. There are street lights but it is difficult to see timetables etc in the dark. Officer had asked about illumination in the shelter but had been told this is not possible at present. Will be put on their wish list for when stops are upgraded.
- 20) Missing Toby top on Belhaven High Street. Reported to Scottish Water.
- 21) Via Facebook – Picnic tables at Lauderdale Park taking over green play space - Passed to ELC.

Meetings

Democracy Matters – November 20th

This interesting workshop was linked to a study being done by the Scottish Government. It was one of a number of sessions arranged across Scotland. It looked at ways to engage with local people. Many of those present were from Community Councils. They seem to function better in some areas than others. Most had problems in recruiting members. There was a general concern about the limits on power and influence of Scottish Community Councils in contrast to Town and Parish Councils in England. The size of some multi member Council wards was of concern. In other places wards are smaller which can make it easier for elected members to keep in touch with local residents and local issues. There was also a concern that all too often consultation exercises are just a tick box exercise rather than a real collaboration with the public. Concerns were also raised about the unequal planning system which is loaded in favour of developers. The Scottish Government are to deliberate further on ideas generated by the workshops. Visits are also to be made to see local government systems in other countries. There is no timescale for any proposals to be brought forward from the study.

East Lothian Community Rail Partnership ELCRP) – December 4th

The meeting considers rail related issues across East Lothian. There are CRPs around Scotland as well as in England and Wales. They are all affiliated to the Association of CRPs. It was noted that the English CRPs are better resourced. They get £26,000 per annum which can be rolled over if unspent so that larger projects can be financed. Their money comes direct from the Dept of Transport. In Scotland up to £10,000 per annum is available. It has to be claimed from a fund paid by Transport Scotland to Scotrail (Abellio) the operator. If money is not spent it is lost.

ELCRP hope to conduct a survey on “Barriers to Rail Travel” – reasons why people do not use rail. It is hoped to highlight issues and work on ways to resolve them. Funding will be needed from Scotrail who will want some match funding. Harry Barker (Chair of

ELCRP) is to request funds from the 6 Area Partnerships. If funding is provided the survey will be put out to tender. It is hoped to conduct the survey in Summer 2019. Iain Gray MSP and RAGES were hoping to meet with the Transport Minister to discuss the continued delay of the new East Linton station.

JB raised the problem of the idling traffic (mostly taxis) at Dunbar Station. Both a British Transport Police (BTP) Officer and the Chair of Borders CRP (who used to regulate taxis in Edinburgh) who were present were clear that there is both civil (fines by Environmental Health Officers) and criminal (fines by Police) legislation regarding this. Engines should not be run for more than 2 minutes when stationary. The BTP can enforce the legislation on Station Road which belongs to Scotrail. The Officer (Derek Jackson) agreed to follow up. He could put up signs at the station and conduct a check. JB sent information on peak times. The resident of Kings Court who raised the problem has agreed to help liaise with the BTP. Action is in hand through BTP.

It is hoped to hold an information day about CRPs at Waverley in May 2019. Posters about the work of ELCRP are up at local stations.

Wilson Place Playparks/Open spaces – December 8th

JB met with a number of residents and Cllr McLennan regarding the complex situation. The playpark next to 37 Wilson Place has now been locked. It is in poor order. The areas are in multiple ownership, having been sold on by Greenbelt the factor appointed by Taylor Wimpey. Residents have their own gardener for the open spaces but had not taken on the playparks as they have been in poor condition for some time. The meeting was largely information sharing – different people have different information from a range of sources. It's felt best to work together to try and find a way forward. The Home Owners Rights Network (Hornet) is a useful pressure group as factoring is a UK wide issue. There is currently a Private Members Bill going through Westminster (Helen Goodman MP) to help protect owners from poor factoring but this seems to be England only. More information is being sought from Greenbelt and Taylor Wimpey and Cllr McLennan is to seek ELC Legal advice on what residents can do. He was to draft a letter. As he has not done so JB will try to clarify ownership and responsibility with Greenbelt. Trading Standards are involved with attempts to sell open spaces as investment opportunities via Future Property Auctions, It is hoped to organise a Residents Association meeting in January.

Services

Lack of Post Boxes south of the railway line .Royal Mail still to install a new box on Brodie Road near Moray Avenue.

Car Charging Points – Most of the points have been out of order. ELC working on this.

Bus Services to New Housing – Still to be enacted (See Bus Forum).

East Coast Buses refusing to stop at Belhaven Road (near 30/32). This is an official stop with a flag but some drivers are refusing to stop as it is not announced on their voice system. Passed to East Coast Buses and ELC informed. ELC have advised East Coat buses that this is an official stop which should be added to the information system. Public advised.

Other

Cycle paths around housing south of the railway line. This is still being looked at. It is part of discussions with Sustrans on a number of safe routes. There have been meetings with the owner of Lochend Cottage.

Safe footway Beveridge Row to Brewery Lane – This will be a route between Cala and Belhaven/DGS. However, not part of the works done by Cala for safety. It was a condition of the Planning Permission in February 2017. Cala say they paid ELC for the work to be done. Ian McFarlane is asking for a timescale from Grant Talac.

Idling vehicle engines (particularly taxis) at Station – being chased by Environmental Health. It seems that the Officer involved in monitoring emissions etc is based in West Lothian and covers a number of authorities. Information from the CRP meeting has been passed to ELC staff.

Crossing at Middlemass Road near to Moray Avenue and playpark. A member of the public has suggested a crossing in this area. JB has passed to ELC

Safe crossing at Belhaven High Street – The central islands have been widened after a request from residents.

Holding Information Stall to advertise services near the Town House in the High Street – passed to Licensing/Legal Services. A Traders Licence is needed if bookings being taken at the stall. Traders must be over 17. ELC would want to see the content of any leaflets being distributed. Correspondent advised.

Resilience – There had been a major power cut on December 1st related to problems at the Dunbar substation. Over 9000 homes had been affected. JB had liaised with Sandy Baptye at ELC about this and provided information to DCC and other social media. Following a RTA on November 15th JB had advised the public of road closures/bus redirection.

Short Breaks – JB had sent information to the ELC group working on short breaks materials.

Rail Forum - Meeting will be held in January. JB will attend.

2) OTHER MEETINGS

Area Partnership - November 26th

a) ***Back Road Safe Road project*** – Following discussions it will only be possible to make a pavement between Knockenhair Road and Kirk Park at this stage. It is hoped further monies may become available from Sustrans

b) ***Cliff Top Trail*** - Wren had declined to fund. GR had updated on what has been possible to fund.

c) ***Disabled Access to Belhaven Bay Beach.*** PS had been leading on this project. She will continue to do so

d) ***Parish Churchyard*** (See below)

Next meeting – January 28th

Health and Social Care Provision

Belhaven JB and GW had attended the IJB Development meeting on November 22nd.

This had also been attended by reps from Musselburgh and North Berwick. JB and GW had given a presentation on local views on future provision. Concern was noted about the limited public consultation. Various people at the meeting had expressed concerns about Extra Care Housing being the only model of provision. IJB Chair and HSCP staff had said it was not the only model of care being considered. Project Boards are to be set up for each area. JB and GW had attended the IJB on 13/12. Concerns had been raised that extra care housing was being pushed as the preferred model despite concerns GR had sent a letter to the IJB to this effect. This was amended to Extra Care Housing or equivalent. Further developments are awaited,

Carers Strategy – This has been drawn up by ELC. Action Plan for implementation is from December 10th – January 7th. JB had publicised.

Wider issues JB and GW had met with Helen Harper on November 6th to discuss the development of a DELAP Health and Well being sub committee. At the Area Partnership Meeting it had been felt that concentration should be on the re-provision of Belhaven services. Another group will look at mental health issues for young people.

The Ridge/Community Justice Scotland (CJS) -Second Chancers – December 5th

JB and GR had attended. CJS had conducted a survey around Scotland regarding people's understanding of the justice system. Many people gained their knowledge of justice from US TV – a very different system. CJS wanted to promote good work across Scotland – schemes helping to support those picking up their lives after being in prison/offending or to prevent people from getting into trouble. They had produced a film, of examples and a display. The Ridge, giving training in stonemasonry, joinery etc was seen as an example of good practice. Worker, Mark, spoke of how being involved at Black Bull Close had helped him. The hope is that the Scottish Government will provide further funding for schemes. It is felt that joined up thinking is needed between the Government, statutory and voluntary sectors and business e.g. some firms like Timpsons recruit staff from prison. Community Schemes are felt more beneficial in tackling reoffending than prison as people are more likely to maintain links with family etc. The film can be found at secondchancers.tv.

Amenity Services - November 28th

JB, GR and WC had met with Stuart Pryde. He had noted the reduction in his services budget.

Parish Churchyard Gravestone Stabilisation

Options had been discussed for 2019. It was agreed that the use of weedkiller around the base of stones will cease. Missing soil will be replaced and grass resown on the bare patches to stabilise the soil. Grass will not be strimmed around gravestones. Wildflowers will be sown around stones in the old churchyard either side of the path to the church entrance as this is the area that most people see. Funding will need to come from the DELAP Amenities budget. Stuart Pryde will need to cost the project for funding for approval by DELAP.

Winterfield Park – JB had noted that there had not been a follow up to the public consultation. Stuart Pryde had agreed to ask Bruce Allison to arrange this. Meeting

arranged for January 17th, 1.30 pm at Bleachingfield.

Lauderdale Park – There had been a number of people expressing an interest in the café lease. It is hoped that this will enable more regular toilet opening hours.

Food Growing Strategy – As part of the Community Empowerment Act the Scottish Government have issued instructions for local authorities to develop local food growing strategies which should include allotments. These must be drawn up by 2020. Stuart has noted that these would be difficult to provide in East Lothian including Dunbar. Much land is designated for housing and landowners would prefer to sell for housing rather than allotments, It would be expected that an area of around 2 football pitches should be provided in the DELAP area for allotments.

Hanging Baskets – DTA have had their funding cut. Thus it will be harder to provide the baskets which are planted up by ELC. With around 50 baskets on the High Street the annual cost is about £1250. WC had suggested DELAP could fund the labour and DTA the materials. However Stuart Pryde had said it was not the policy of ELC to support hanging baskets and he was wary of creating a precedent. This area needs more thought.

Asset Transfer from ELC – JB and GR had attended on 17th December. There are limited options in the Dunbar area.

3)CORRESPONDENCE

Scottish Community Councils – Newsletter

Community Rail Partnership = Meeting on 4th Decembe4r -JB had attended

Local People Leading - Newsletters

Torness – Newsletters

Via Facebook - Lyndsey Moody - Concerns about yellow lines at Bridge to Nowhere. JB had noted the TRO.

Audit Scotland -Report on ELC

Jennifer Squires, ELC Planning – Seeking DCC Views on Seagreen Alpha, Bravo and Inchcape Windfarms

Alan Jones, ASDA – Store Expansion Plans

James Wall (Holder Planning) – Halhill North Development

Gill Last, The Ridge -Invitation to Second Chancers at Bleachingfield on December 5th

Scottish Community Development Centre - Update on Community Council Research

Terry Prior – Formation of a Gospatrick Grange Residents Association - JB had responded to initial issues

ELC -Closure of Wingate TRA

Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board - Update

Brake – Newsletters

Miss Mackenzie – Dunbar Primary School-n Requesting funds for i-pads. Advised to make local priorities application.

Via Facebook – Gavin Wilson – Concerns about dog fouling at the new path from Newtonlees to ASDA. Passed to Community Warden. Concerns about speeding in Queen Road – passed to Police.

Via Facebook – Andrea Johnstonova – concerns about playpark. Passed to ELC & MSP

Cllr Kempson – Thanks for the get well card

Area Partnerships – Public Consultation on ELC 2019-2020 budget

Area Partnership – Training opportunities

Sharon Saunders, ELC -Briefing on Community Asset Transfers

Bruce Allison, ELC – Meeting on Winterfield Park January 17th

Via Facebook – Rob McDougall broken light on Summerfield Park and need for grit bin to be filled – passed to ELC

Sandy Baptie, ELC – Weather Warnings

ELC Licensing – Consultation on Gaming