



DUNBAR  
COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL

## **Dunbar Community Council Open Meeting**

Dunbar Town House

18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### **GUEST SLOT**

Allison Cosgrove and Alasdair Swan, Chair and Vice Chair of Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership (DELAP), were invited to meet with DCC members to introduce themselves and their plans for the Partnership under their leadership.

Allison Cosgrove was unable to attend the meeting for personal reasons and she sent her apologies. DCC members offered their support and understanding to her. AS took the floor, as follows:

*Each Area Partnership in East Lothian oversees the development and delivery of an Area Plan that contributes to the delivery of the East Lothian Plan 2017-2027.*

*Contributions are coming in from the different members of the Area Partnership, all of whom represent community groups of one sort or another, to develop an Area Plan that is capable of being delivered. The ideas come from the community and will be prioritised by the members of the Area Partnership. There is a small fund of £45,000 which can be directed towards the delivery of these plans. The greater prize will be in the Area Partnership members working together as a team to make sure that progress is made towards agreed goals.*

*When each of the Community Councils in the Area were asked to produce Local Place Plans to feed into the East Lothian Local Development Plan, the Community spoke to us recently about what it regards as important. An extensive consultation process took place in Dunbar and West Barns with over 800 respondents. Later, during this meeting, there will be an opportunity to comment on the draft Local Place Plan which is still an evolving document. More particularly we will decide which of the Local Place Plan actions we want to take responsibility for as a Community Council and take to the Area Partnership. The role of the Area Partnership will be to bring together the missing human and financial resources to deliver the goals, wherever any of the community groups feel that they will benefit from this help, and to then monitor progress.*

*Other Community Groups will be tabling their own ideas from their areas of primary interest – the educational needs from the School Parent Councils; economic development plans from the Trades Association; upgrading degraded parts of our community from the TRAs; active travel and biodiversity from Sustaining Dunbar; better use of community buildings. We will make sure that these collective actions line up with the Area Plan and with the East Lothian Plan.*

*We will have a chance to hear your views during this meeting. We are most fortunate to be represented by Rena and Pam on the Area Partnership as community council members and Gill who, as well as representing Bleachingfield, is helping to meet the challenges facing us on Health.*

*We hope that by the summer we will be able to publish the DELAP Area Plan and associated actions for 2024/25 and 2025/26. Your help today in moving the programme forward will be invaluable, and our greatest gift to Allison at this time will be to get behind the programme to show what the community can do if it works in partnership with the Council.*

JB asked how other community groups who are not DELAP members will have their voice heard in the Local Area Plan process and how the wider community, who may not be aware of DELAP, would have a say in the process. JB asked how the Local Place Plan will be translated into the Local Area Plan and marry with the East Lothian Plan.

AS explained that those community groups that had volunteered to be part of the Area Partnership had done so on the understanding that they would look after the interests of the whole community, not just their own parochial interests. In addition, the Area Partnership will reach out the other community groups to understand their current projects and needs. The Area Plan must be aligned to the East Lothian Plan. Later on, in the meeting, the Community Council will be invited to identify those aspects of the Local Place Plan that can be included immediately into the Area Plan. Once actions have been completed in the Area Plan they will be replaced by new actions that have been developed in the interim. It is an evolutionary and positive process.

## MINUTES

Ref	Item	Action
<b>1.00</b>	<b>SEDERUNT</b>	
1.01	<p><u>Present</u></p> <p>Pippa Swan            Chair            PS            Alasdair Swan        Treasurer       AS            Stephen Bunyan      DCC Member   SB            Gill Wilson            DCC Member   GW</p> <p>Norman                ELC Councillor   NH            Hampshire            Lyn Jardine            ELC Councillor   LJ</p> <p><u>Observers</u></p> <p>Gavin Wilson            Douglas Urquhart            Jean Urquhart</p> <p>Jo Waddell            Dunbar Trades            Kath O'Brien        WBCC            K O'B</p> <p><u>Press</u></p> <p>Cameron Ritchie      EL Courier</p> <p>Pam Shields          DCC Member   PSh            Mark James          DCC Member   MJ            Jacquie Bell          DCC Member   JB            Stuart                DCC Member   SC            Cameron</p> <p>Donna Collins        ELC Councillor   DC            Anouska              Be Green/CW    AW            Woods</p> <p>Sheila Craig            P McDonagh            Keith Mills            Dunbar                                          Baptist                                          Church</p> <p>Jo McNamara        Sustaining        JMcN                                          Dunbar</p> <p>Duncan            Dunlop</p>	
1.02	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Sanchita Patjoshi      SP                    Rena Keller    RK</p>	
1.03	<p><u>Councillors' Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Nil</p>	
<b>2.00</b>	<b>MINUTES OF MEETING – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>	
2.01	<p><b>Amendments</b></p> <p>Nil</p>	

Ref	Item	Action
2.02	<b>Adoption</b> – Proposed:SC Seconded:GW The minutes were adopted	
2.03	<b>DCC Action Review</b> With the exception of the undernoted, all action items have been attended to or overtaken by events: <i>Nil</i>	
2.04	<b>Matters arising</b> - not dealt with under full agenda items. <i>Nil</i>	
<b>3.00</b>	<b>ELC COUNCILLORS' REPORTS</b>	
3.01	<p><b>Cllr Norman Hampshire</b></p> <p>a. <u>Action Update</u> No action items to attend to</p> <p>b. <u>Report</u></p> <p>1. <u>ELC Budget and impact on services</u> NH again noted that extreme pressures placed on ELC budgets this year meant that savings had impacted services. He was particularly aware of public disquiet in respect of bin collections.</p> <p>Household waste will now be collected on a 3 weekly cycle. ELC are pushing for increased uptake in recycling which will continue to be collected weekly. 35% of household waste still goes to landfill at a cost of £3.5m. whereas ELC is paid for its high quality recyclable waste, with companies bidding to take it. Increased uptake in recycling will represent a significant boost to ELC funds which can then be used elsewhere.</p> <p>In response to a question from a member of the public, NH confirmed that households and institutions with a particular need for more frequent waste collections, due, for example, to good health management, will be able to request this from ELC.</p> <p>If waste collections are missed, individuals can phone or email ELC to arrange collections outwith the timetables.</p> <p>2. <u>Coastal Erosion</u> NH noted the issues around coastal erosion, particularly at Bayswell and East Beach. ELC has no funds ringfenced for repair or stabilisation works and money has to come from the general budget.</p> <p>The plan at Bayswell is to allow the sea to erode back to a natural profile and to plan a new coastal pathway to accommodate this, probably with a tidal path at the shore. It will remain possible to walk on the Glebe and Bayswell Road to follow the John Muir Trail.</p> <p>LJ shared NH concerns and acknowledged the necessary approach.</p>	
3.02	<b>Cllr Lyn Jardine</b> <i>See Belhaven Hospital discussion, below.</i>	

Ref	Item	Action
3.03	<p><b>Cllr Donna Collins</b></p> <p>a. <u>Action Update</u></p> <p>1. <u>Yosemite Park/Taylor Wimpey HGV</u>  It was noted that heavy vehicles have continued to use Yosemite Park to access the Taylor Wimpey site and that the U194 was not being used.</p> <p>DC has remained in touch with ELC officers and Taylor Wimpey, who have been reminded, yet again, that heavy vehicles cannot use Yosemite Park routinely. Exceptional loads such as cranes and timber kit wagons will continue to use Yosemite Park on an essential basis due to axle weight and/or load size and residents have been advised. This is consistent with the undertaking that TW made last year.</p> <p>DC will continue to monitor.</p> <p>2. <u>Valencia</u>  DC has arranged to visit the Valencia site on 17<sup>th</sup> April to familiarise herself with site operations and to better understand the issues around the recurrent issues with noxious smells coming from the site. She will report to members thereafter.</p>	<p>DC</p> <p>DC</p>
	<p><b>Questions to Councillors</b></p> <p>1. <u>Closure of Belhaven Hospital</u>  All councillors expressed concern over the closure of Belhaven Hospital. LJ is on the integrated joint board (IJB) and was able to speak to the issues around the closure, principally driven by a need to make cost savings across the care provisioning platforms in East Lothian. The Belhaven site was not economically viable and the most recent closure of the unit to address fire safety issues, added to pressure to close the site.</p> <p>NHS Lothian owns the site and there is a managed process underway now to wind up operations there, supporting staff and former residents in the process. The garden will be maintained as long as possible.</p> <p>NH said that it was recognised that the west side of the county was not well provided for in respect of care beds. Whilst the county used to be the worst 'bed-blockers' the Hospital to Home and Hospital at Home programmes had made a huge difference and ELC is now seen as the best in Scotland at getting patients home. Notwithstanding this, NHS Lothian accepts that additional care beds are needed in Dunbar.</p> <p>All three councillors felt that there was reason to be optimistic that a good care site model could emerge. LJ referred to the success of a Community Development Trust established after the closure of the Astley Ainslie Hospital in Edinburgh. This Trust had successfully engaged in the re-provisioning of care on the site.</p> <p>NH referred to successful developments in England. In Wiltshire, extra care housing had been provided in 60 flats with half sold to private individuals and half retained as social rented housing. The new development at Herdmanflats will follow a similar model.</p> <p>DC spoke to the importance of having a facility in the town, recognising that there were huge advantages in having local people cared for locally. This was supported by members and observers who acknowledged that people thrive better in their own community.</p>	

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	<p>GW reminded the meeting that Dunbar had been promised replacement facilities in advance of any site closure. This has not happened. She also reminded members of the difficulty of accessing Haddington by public transport. Accessing Edinburgh by public transport is even worse.</p> <p>JB spoke to the long history of the site and the importance that it held for residents, staff and the community. The Community Garden was seen as a special asset.</p> <p>After discussion it was agreed that all three members would do all that they can to push for a full options appraisal for the site. It was essential that this work included input from Dunbar residents and healthcare professionals.</p> <p><b>2. <u>ASB at Belhaven Garden</u></b>  This issue was to have been raised at the most recent CAPP which was postponed. Elected councillors had been sent images and a report of extensive vandalism and fire raising at the site.</p> <p>Elected members reported that the damage was being caused by a group of school age people, some of whom had been indentified.</p> <p>Members expressed frustration that youth ASB has been on the CAPP agenda for many months and there is no sense that there is any improvement at all. The police do not seem to have the capacity to impose any sanctions at all on the perpetrators and there was a sense that bravado was now fuelling and escalation in ASB.</p> <p>Elected members and DCC will discuss this again at the next CAPP. In the interim, the public are to be encouraged to report bad behaviour to the police immediately.</p> <p><b>3. <u>Timing for public consultation on Shore Road/Back Road/Belhaven Road traffic proposals</u></b>  There is still no timetable for the public presentation of proposals for this work. DCC again offered to support ELC to facilitate public engagement. LJ will push for a date from ELC.</p> <p><b>4. <u>Wind blown litter at Newtonlees Housing</u></b>  The recent high winds had resulted in extensive wind blown littering from the Newtonlees site. It was confirmed that ELC have been in touch with the developers and a major clean up had taken place.</p> <p><b>5. <u>Deerpark Housing</u></b>  Works had started at Deerpark. It was confirmed that full screens are to be erected between the works and the cemetery and that all works are to stop during funerals, respecting the needs of mourners.</p> <p>JB expressed concern over the removal of trees and disruption to nesting skylarks. NH asked that the public contact ELC Environment with any concern over the way in which the development was being progressed.</p>	<p>NH/LJ/DC</p> <p>NH/LJ/DC DCC</p> <p>LJ</p>
4.00	<b>POLICE REPORT</b>	
4.01	<b>Police Report to DCC</b>	

Ref	Item	Action														
	<p><i>The report is circulated confidentially to DCC members in advance of meetings. Prepared by our Community Policing Officer, PC Laura Jackson, it summarises police activity in the past month and identifies policing priorities, agreed at the monthly Community and Police Partnership (CAPP) meetings, which are attended by Chairs of the four CCs in the Ward.</i></p> <p><b>Report items of note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Youth ASB has continued to dominate local policing time, with groups of young people running amok around Spott Road particularly around Asda, McDonalds and Dunbar garden Centre. Regular patrols will be carried out to tackle this behaviour</li> <li>○ Speeding has been an issue again this month and Community Police Officers will carry out more speed checks over the coming months</li> </ul> <p><b>Member comments/questions for next CAPP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Belhaven ASB and sanctions/reparations options</li> <li>○ Community Speed Check initiative</li> </ul> <p>The next CAPP meeting is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024. LJ will organise.</p>															
<b>5.00</b>	<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b> – <i>circulated to members in advance of meeting</i>															
5.01	<p><b>General Account:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bank statement balance at the month end was <b>£110,485.28</b></li> <li>• The restricted funds held within the General account at the end of the month were -</li> </ul> <table style="margin-left: 40px; width: 60%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Windpower Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£107,216.94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Access for All Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£759.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local Priorities Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£1,240.94</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u><b>£109,216.88</b></u></td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The unrestricted funds held within the General account were, at the month end–</li> </ul> <table style="margin-left: 40px; width: 60%;"> <tr> <td>Balance in the General Fund</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u><b>£1,268.40</b></u></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><b>TOTAL FUNDS</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>£110,485.28</b></span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The General Fund has been depleted because of the payment for legal fees on behalf of the Association of East Lothian Community Councils (£1,500 plus VAT). The cost will be recovered in full through a CARES grant.</li> <li>• Grants were paid out of the Community Fund in March for - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ an EPOS system for Dunbar Community Bakery;</li> <li>○ the 2024 stone-stacking festival for European Land Arts;</li> <li>○ Surfing therapy for the Wave project;</li> <li>○ the 2024 Intergenerational Group;</li> <li>○ a Youth Research Project</li> <li>○ restoration of the school war memorial.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Grants were paid from the Local Priorities fund in March for – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lauderdale House Notice Board</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		£	Community Windpower Fund	£107,216.94	Access for All Fund	£759.00	Local Priorities Fund	<u>£1,240.94</u>	<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u><b>£109,216.88</b></u>	Balance in the General Fund		<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u><b>£1,268.40</b></u>	
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5.03	<p><b>Questions/Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Nil</p>																																																																																																																													

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5.04	<p><b>Local Priorities Grants</b></p> <p>The following Local Priority Grants were approved.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Book Barn - £224 with JB abstaining, commenting that the money would have better been given to the library at Bleachingfield.</li> <li>2. Lauderdale Sensory Trail - £486</li> <li>3. The Ridge Cycling Project - £495</li> </ol> <p>Dunbar History Society has requested that the lighting in the Exhibition Room to the right of the ground floor lobby be made fit for purpose. The Museum Service currently have no funds to do this work and attempts to make short term repairs have failed and have been condemned. The light fitting needs to be replaced.</p> <p>Final consultations are under way between the History Society, the Museum Service and the contractor but the cost of the project is likely to be £1320 (£1,100 plus VAT). The contractor is the ELC approved contractor, chosen by the History Society to avoid any insurance issue in connection with the Town House.</p> <p>The proposal was considered as to whether, in principle, the Community Council would contribute to the project by awarding a £500 Local Priority grant to the History Society, leaving the History Society to contribute the balance of £600. This proposal met with approval, subject to the completion of the necessary grant application once the final costs were established.</p>	
5.05	<p><b>Project Update</b></p> <p><u>The Lauderdale History Panel</u> is now back in place, suitably restored and updated. This is the result of great work by Kenny Maule and Andre Coner, both of whom gave of their time on an entirely voluntary basis. The final cost of the project came in well below the budget at £196.07, including VAT. The Community Council expressed its appreciation of the work of both Kenny and Andre.</p> <p><u>Lauderdale Book Barn + Sensory Trail</u></p> <p>PS expressed sincere thanks to RK for all of her hard work on these two projects in the few short weeks since she joined DCC.</p> <p><u>Distribution of Grants</u></p> <p>AS was delighted to be able to report that DCC had made 17 grants from the Local Priorities Fund and 37 grants from the Community Benefit Fund in the past financial year to support a wide range of local community groups and projects.</p> <p>The total value of the Community Benefit and Local Priorities grants distributed in the financial year 2023/24 was £95,943.91</p>	
<b>6.00</b>	<b>PLANNING + ROADS MATTERS</b>	
6.01	All planning applications are reviewed prior to meetings. Discussed this month: Nil to note	
<b>7.00</b>	<b>LICENSING MATTERS</b>	
7.01	<u>Broxmouth Park</u> _ Paper circulated with agenda No DCC comment to proposals to extend licensing hours.	
<b>8.00</b>	<b>DCC PROJECT UPDATE</b>	
8.01	<b>Local Place Plan</b> – Draft reports had been distributed with agenda	



Ref	Item	Action
	<p>These have been prepared by Dunbar Trades Assoc, Sustaining Dunbar and West Barns CC, with AS representing DCC.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been a special meeting convened earlier in the year, devoted to the local place plan review by the Community Council and other participating groups (apart for the Dunbar Trades Association who were unable to attend that night).</p> <p>Since then, the redrafting of the reports has been undertaken principally by Jo Waddell, supported by Jo McNamara, and recognition was given to the time that had been devoted to this task.</p> <p>It was noted that JB had submitted some suggestions for minor changes to the drafts, but there were no further comments at the meeting.</p> <p>The pressing points that had emerged in the Local Place Plan have been communicated to Keith Dingwall on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024, re -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Housing</li> <li>2. Active transport</li> <li>3. Health &amp; Well-being</li> <li>4. Community facilities</li> </ol> <p>These were –</p> <p><b>Housing:</b></p> <p>There should be no new housing in Dunbar or West Barns, apart from what has already been approved, without the necessary school and drainage infrastructure being in place first. Once the infrastructure is in place there should be no more four or five bedroom executive houses</p> <p>As a last resort, ELC land might be used in the town for starter homes and homes for the elderly, but there should be no more family homes.</p> <p><b>Active transport:</b></p> <p>Do nothing to compromise a footpath to the West of Spott Road. (Map 1) Provide a safe route to school between West Barns and the Dunbar Schools. (Map 2)</p> <p><b>Health and Well-being:</b></p> <p>Reclassify all the NHS land at Belhaven as Class 8 residential institution, to allow for future development of medical facilities for the town, which would include a community garden for mental health welfare. (Map 3)</p> <p><b>Community facilities, Sports and Leisure:</b></p> <p>Reclassify the agricultural land to enable it to be used by theSpace Scotland CIC for theSpace Dunbar as Class 11 Assembly and Leisure. (Map 4)</p> <p>The maps referred to above are not included in these minutes but were attached to the communication to Keith Dingwall.</p>	
8.02	<p><b>DCC Awards Night</b> PS will circulate nominations in due course</p>	PS
8.03	<p><b>High Street Bike Racks</b></p>	

Ref	Item	Action
	The paper prepared by MJ and PS had been circulated but it was felt that there was insufficient time to discuss this properly. The matter will be brought to the next DCC meeting.	<b>MJ</b>
<b>9.00</b>	<b>DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS - UPDATE</b>	
9.01	<p><b>Renewables Meeting</b></p> <p>An intercommunity meeting was held with developers to discuss the impacts of upcoming renewables contracts on East Lothian. KS attended for DCC and will update in due course.</p> <p><i>Post Meeting Note: KS advised that all the most recent information, including documents and an interactive map showing all renewables developments affecting the Lammermuirs, can be found on this link:</i></p> <p><a href="https://eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk">https://eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk</a></p>	
9.02	<p><b>Valencia Landfill Liaison</b></p> <p>With ongoing issues of smells emanating from the landfill site at Valencia, AS has been in contact with group management. There have been more incidents affecting East Lammermuir District Council and Innerwick Parish Council in particular. Slow progress is being made to gather hard data on these incidents, but a process has now been agreed and is being communicated out to local residents by East Lammermuir Community Council.</p> <p>Valencia's commitment to SEPA (15.3.2) is that "If at any time an action that is likely to cause temporary odour is being considered then before such action is taken the Regional Operations Manager is informed. Neighbours who may be affected are contacted in advance to advise them of the operation being undertaken, and that any odour is of a temporary nature."</p> <p>Andrew Turner has explained that the obligation for Valencia to notify neighbours is discharged by communicating to the Community Liaison Group. I am unaware of having ever received such communication, which would lead to the possible conclusion that odours are being emitted from <b>unplanned</b> events.</p> <p>On vehicle movements - Valencia continues to remind customers that it is not appropriate for vehicles delivering waste to the landfill site to park up overnight in Dunbar and the surrounding area.</p> <p>Valencia has notified customers of suitable truck stops on the approach to the site and encourages residents to record registration plates of vehicles causing offense. This can then be used to investigate and lead to bans for repeat offenders.</p> <p>Valencia is not responsible for its customers until they enter the site, and if vehicles are parked legally there is limited action that can be taken.</p> <p>On odour - Following an investigation on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Valencia's team have identified that a section of pipework failed during the day. This resulted in a loss of suction in a portion of the site for c. 3 hours, and a localized odour that may have been detected offsite.</p> <p>During the afternoon Valencia undertook engineering work and the pipework has now been repaired with gas collection fully operational.</p>	

Ref	Item	Action
	It was noted that the lack of a full-time site manager may be impacting the proper operation of the site and JB cited other instances, nationwide where similar problems have arisen following transfer of sites from Viridor to Valencia.	
9.03	<p><b>Viridor Liaison</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viridor is having discussions on a Heat Plan and record that other Viridor sites are having similar discussions.</li> <li>• Viridor is actively involved with educational engagement.</li> <li>• The Viridor We Share Initiatives awarded £14,263 to Dunbar Foodshare, Insulate Innerwick, The Ridge and the Pledgehog project.</li> <li>• Viridor re-emphasised what Valencia has said. When anyone is reporting odours in the area to SEPA it is important to be as accurate and descriptive as possible.</li> </ul> <p>There were no comment or questions from members.</p>	
<b>10.00</b>	<b>OPEN CONSULTATIONS</b> – to note	
10.01	<p><a href="#">ELC CONSULTATION HUB</a> lists all currently open consultations in East Lothian. No new consultations to report</p>	
<b>11.00</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
11.01	<p><b>Social Brew proposal for Turnbull's shop</b> Papers were distributed prior to the meeting for information. DCC supported any initiative that saw new business come to High Street.</p>	
<b>12.00</b>	<b>NEXT MEETINGS</b>	
12.01	<p><b>DCC Informal Meeting</b> <i>None in May unless members wish to organise same. PS/AS will be absent</i></p>	
12.02	<p><b>DCC Open Meeting</b> – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 7pm Town House</p>	

PS/AS/