

## **Dunbar Community Council Open Meeting**

Dunbar Town House 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024

# Stephen Bunyan - A tribute for a life of service

'It was with great sadness that we all learned of Stephen Bunyan's death on 17<sup>th</sup> December last year.

His funeral and burial took place in Melrose on 7<sup>th</sup> January and his very full life of public service was celebrated in Dunbar on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025. I think it is fitting that those who were unable to attend, should hear just a little of what was said then.

Stephen joined a newly formed Dunbar Community Council in 1976 when he was 43 years old and remained an active Community Councillor until his death. He chaired the Council for more than 30 years, finally handing on the baton in 2018, when he was 85 year old. Still sharp as a tack, he guided – and chided – and kept us straight, right to the end.

His achievements as a Community leader are too numerous to list today but you will all know what they are. He was so humble about his work, but close to his heart was his involvement with Dunbar Development and Heritage Trust (the body behind Hallhill Sports Centre), his establishment of Dunbar Twinning Association, his creation of Dunbar Civic Week and the importance of the annual awards to people, old and young, in the community, who had made a mark.

It was his suggestion that the Community Council should have an award for a community team and we were so happy to have been able to create an award in his name as he stepped down as our Chairman. We tracked down a Walker and Hall silver cup with Celtic handles, made in the year of his birth, and had an oak base made for it by an East Lothian craftsman. It gave Stephen great pleasure to be able to award his trophy, personally, each summer.

Stephen's own outstanding, impactful and sustained service to East Lothian was publicly recognised when he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of East Lothian in 1997 and, after nearly two further decades of service, when he was awarded the Member of the Order of the British Empire medal - the MBE – by Princess Anne in 2014. He recalled that it was 'arguably the most expensive day of his life', but seemed to enjoy the novelty of staying in a hotel with a Buckingham Palace Road address.

Stephen was a soldier, a teacher, an historian and a committed public servant. Interviewed a year ago, Stephen was asked what made him want to contribute so much to society, and to Dunbar in particular. He replied: The driving force is that other people won't let me go! But I do feel that I have, as is pointed out to me regularly, this wealth of experience and if they want to know, the easiest thing is simply to ask me, so they don't let me go.

But it was much, much more than Stephen's boundless knowledge and experience that kept him with us. He was inquisitive, serious, funny, sociable, disciplined, kind, and incredibly hard working, even as his body become increasingly frail. Those who came to know him respected him greatly – some of us even came to love him. I am sure you will all join with me in giving great thanks for all that Stephen was. We will miss him deeply.'

Pippa Swan – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

(A video recording of the Celebration of Stephen's life has been embedded on DCC's website and Facebook pages)

## Presentation by Dunbar Town Centre Action Group – per Pam Shields and Ree Rolph

DCC has been working with Dunbar Trades Association, Dunbar CARS, Dunbar in Bloom, Dunbar against Litter and other stakeholders since the middle of last year to consider ways in which Dunbar High Street, West Port and the associated closes ('area') might be enhanced for residents, traders and visitors.

Ree Rolph is leading an initiative to establish a **Tenants and Residents Group for High St/West Port** and associated closes. An inaugural evening meeting for people living and working in this area specifically will be held in the Harbour Chapel on 28<sup>th</sup> January. Every door in the area has been leafletted and it is hoped that there will be enough support to adopt a constitution and establish the group.

The High Street Group have identified three deliverable projects for the coming year:

## 1. Clearing gutters and downpipes from all area buildings.

When DCC initiated the High St repainting project in 2018, it was clear that attractive elevations can only be maintained by keeping water off the masonry, as far as possible. Too many gutters and downpipes are blocked and the cost of clearing same is expensive for individual property owners. Discussions are underway to determine how best to manage a gutter cleaning project. Work would be carried out by a fully insured contractor skilled in this type of maintenance.

DCC members agreed to lead on this project unless the Ridge find capacity to do this.

## 2. Streetscape improvements

Feeback from public consultations held last year indicated that there was an appetite for improved public realm infrastructure e.g seating, bike racks, planters etc. No final decisions have been made but the group hope to have proposals that can be put to the public before March 2025.

## 3. Celebration/Spring Clean Day

The group will lead on a celebration of the High St and a Spring Clean Day to be held before the end of April 2025.

Funding sources for works and projects will be identified once the full shopping list is known.

## **MINUTES**

Ref	Item						Action
1.00	SEDERUNT						
1.01	Present						
	Pippa Swan	DCC Chair	PS	Alasdair Swan	DCC Treasurer	AS	
	Rena Keller	DCC Member	RK	Mark James	DCC Member	MJ	
	Stuart Cameron	DCC Member	SC	Jacquie Bell	DCC Member	JB	
	Neil Houston	DCC Member	NHo	Pam Shields	DCC Member	PSh	
	Ree Rolph	Member Nominee	GR	George Robertson	Member Nominee	RR	
	Donna Collins	<b>ELC Councillor</b>	DC	Norman Hampshire	DCC Councillor	NH	
	Observers						
	Jean Urquhart	Public		Douglas Urquhart	Public		
	Gavin Wilson	Public		Mitch Stevenson	VCEL		
	Mike Shaw	DSHNG		Rev Keith Mills	Dunbar Baptist Ch		
	<u>Press</u>						
	Cameron Ritchie	EL Courier					
1.02	Apologies						
	Graham Adams	DCC Vice Chair	GA	Gill Wilson	DCC Member	GW	
	Lyn Jardine	<b>ELC Councillor</b>	LJ				

Ref	Item	Action
1.03	Nomination of Community Councillors – George Robertson and Ree Rolph	
	Both George Robertson and Ree Rolph spoke to their submitted nominations to take on the roles of Community Councillors until the election of a new CC in October 2025.	
	George retired from DCC in 2022 after serving as Vice Chair but was persuaded to consider a return to assist DCC with IT, Civic Week and other public events. George is a Dunbar resident through and through with a wealth of knowledge and experience which he has and will continue to utilise in support of the community.	
	Ree Rolph While has been a resident in Dunbar since 2023 and is keen to contribute to, and support, the community and its projects. He believes that he can bring a different perspective DCC, as a younger voice embedded in work around the High Street and town centre. He has taken a leading role in setting up a Dunbar High Street Residents Group and Town Centre action group, projects that are beginning to bear fruit, as well as interfacing with other local community groups on several projects and initiatives. As a community councillor, he would hope to continue that work, promoting the interests of Dunbar's residents, and making our town a more attractive and pleasant place to be.	
	There were no questions from members. Both George Robertson and Ree Rolph were unanimously elected to the Community Council and warmly welcomed.	
	Neil Houston was welcomed to this, his first CC meeting since his election in December.	
1.04	Councillors' Declarations of Interest Nil	
2.00	MINUTES OF MEETING – 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	
2.01	Amendments	
	3.04 <u>Winterfield Effluent</u> – typographical errors to be amended. 'Eastliegh' to read ELC.	
2.02	Adoption – Proposed:SC Seconded:MJ The Minutes adopted subject to the above amendments	
2.03	DCC Action Review With the exception of the undernoted, all DCC action items have been attended to: Nil	
2.04	Matters arising - not dealt with under full agenda items. Nil	
3.00	ELC COUNCILLORS' REPORTS	
3.01	Cllr Norman Hampshire	
	i. Action Update	
	a. <u>Motorhome Parking – Shore Road</u>	
	NH reported that ELC Officer Tom Reid would arrange to meet with local	
	residents and DCC to discuss the trial before any further action was taken by ELC	
	on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order that would see motorhome parking	
	made permanent at Shore Road. This is contrary to earlier report from NH and he was asked to confirm his understanding of the current position.	NH
	ii. Report	INFI
	a. <u>ELC Budget</u>	
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<u>.                                    </u>	Item	NH reported that the ELC budget is currently being prepared. Despite an	7.001
		increased grant from Holyrood, staff costs have also increased, putting the	
		provision of services under continuous strain. Adult Social Care and Children's	
		·	
		Services required critical investment and will be supported with funds from	
		reserves in the coming year, but this was not seen as sustainable.	
		The massive increase in housing has placed an untenable burden on ELC to	
		provide associated infrastructure e.g schools and roads. Whilst developers do	
		make some contribution through S75 funding, these do not mee the ongoing	
		running costs and significant borrowing will be required. Again, this was not seen	
		as sustainable.	
		Cuts to services are therefore inevitable and are still to be identified.	
		The Housing Revenue Account is fully funded from rents but all property costs	
		have rocketed and it remains extremely difficult to meet demand and keep rents	
		at an affordable level.	
		AS asked why it took so long to 'turn around' vacant tenancies. The timescales	
		would be seen as untenable in any private business.	
		NH explained that prospective tenants were allowed time to consider properties	
		and if they turned one down, it took time to work through the allocation process.	
		He accepted that the process was too slow and stated that ELC were trying to	
		speed this up.	
		JB asked why it remained ELC policy to grant an amnesty to people who rent	
		properties then sublet them.	
		NH said that it was very difficult to prove when somebody is not actually living in	
		a property and expensive to evict them. Evidence was essential.	
		SC asked why external contractors were being brought in from Glasgow to do	
		work on tenancies.	
		NH confirmed that whilst minor repairs and maintenance work was done 'in	
		house, all gas related work and refits were done by external contractors.	
		nouse, all gas related work and rents were done by external contractors.	
	b.	<del></del>	
		The LDP is currently being prepared. This will identify zones for development	
		throughout East Lothian but will not include sites for major renewables works as	
		these have not yet come forward from contractors. For developments generating	
		less than 50MW ELC can determine planning matters but for any larger sites, the	
		Scottish Government will grant consents, with ELC as consultees only. This has a	
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
		huge impact on East Lothian with many millions of pounds worth of work being carried out but little or no direct benefit to East Lothian residents.	
		Database 'villages' are also on the horizon with a need to accommodate massive	
		supercomputers to meet increasing IT demand. These produce considerable heat	
		and plans have to be evolved to make use of this.	
		ELC is being pressed to provide a further 9000 homes but are determined to fight	
		for an allocation of 6650 homes, an increase of 1650 homes over and above the	
		5000 allocation from the existing LDP.	
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Ref	Item	Action
	c. <u>Spott Road Business Park</u> A planning application is anticipated in February. The developers are quite keen to see the Dunbear relocated in Dunbar where it might have more meaning for the community.	
3.02	Cllr Lyn Jardine – update by email. Apologies received.  i. Action Update  a. Vision for Belhaven  Work with Community Council & Area Partnership leads on a vision for Belhaven has continued. The communities' own concerns are also mirrored in a breakdown of the issues coming from the Provision of Older Peoples Service Review being conducted by the Health and Social Care Partnership. A very frank and useful discussion was had with key officers at the H&SCP, including wider engagement with interested groups. There is still no further movement on the disposal of the site as the Community Asset Transfer concern for the community garden continues.  AS is on this working group as DELAP lead. He felt unable to add to LJ's notes as he had tried to get minutes from the meeting but had been told that it would take at	IJ
	least 3 weeks for these to be processed. The minutes were required to ensure that any message that he conveyed chimed with the detail of the meeting. He found this an unbelievable approach to business and felt that economies could really be made by adopting IT/transcribing systems and by being very much efficient. The delay in conveying information to the public had the potential to suggest that stakeholders were being secretive.  b. ASB Working Group The group will meet again on 4 <sup>th</sup> February and an update will follow.	
	ii. Report  a. Winterfield Golf Club/St Margarets – Common Good transfer proposal  The information is the same as we had after the last DCC meeting. (NH advised that the proposal was to transfer the property from the Common Good Fund to ELC who will then rent it to WGC with the first 10 years being rent-free to allow the club to invest in the building. The course income would then come to ELC). The proposals are currently with ELC legal team and consultation will take place as soon as possible, although no firm date (as of 7th Jan). Consultation period will be over 12 weeks and be widely communicated. As soon as LJ is aware of details they will be passed on to DCC.  b. Winterfield Effluent Leak  ELC thought that this had been traced and remedied although it appears not to be the case and it is being further investigated.	
3.03	Cllr Donna Collins  i. Action Update  a. HGV at Yosemite Park  TW continue to breach the intent of the planning consent for the use of HGV in established residential areas. Dozens of videos give evidence to same and residents remain rightly very angry and upset. TW have been capitalising on a legal loophole in respect of the traffic management plan associated with the planning consent hence the use of Yosemite Park. ELC intend to deal with this by extending the range of the TTRO to Beveridge Row to accommodate a revised TW Traffic Management plan, still to be signed off. DC will meet with TW management on site in yet another attempt to see this matter resolved. DCC to be invited to attend.	
		DC

Ref	Item		Action
3.04		or Councillors	
	1.	Coastal Path at the Glebe – Plans for reinstatement  The coastal path below the Glebe has been collapsed since the storms in 2023.  NH confirmed that the cost of reinstating the path in its present alignment is beyond the financial reach of ELC which has a total of £74k for all coastal repairs	
		so there are no plans to reinstate the path and there is no alternative plan at present. NH will see if it is possible for ELC to put up a notice that explains why the path is closed and the reason for its continued closure.	NH
	2.	Bleachingfield Booking System The booking system for Bleachingfield and Town House are archaic. The present system requires an individual to make contact with officers at East Lothian Council and the transaction is carried by form filling and email. There is no automatic booking system. People wishing to book Bleachingfield also have to confirm that they hold very significant insurances and that they hold food prep certificates if they intend to serve any kind of refreshment. Both of these obligations seem to be completely excessive. The existing system puts off potential users from making bookings and there are examples of people changing their minds and booking buildings other than ELC ones. This is plainly a missed opportunity for raising income for the Council. It was pointed out that there are many IT systems available that could make booking so much better. DCC wished to know whether or not there were plans to improve the booking system for Bleachingfield and any other bookable ELC buildings.  DC confirmed that plans are in place to install a new booking system, which should be operational by March 2025.	
	3.	Train services from Edinburgh to Dunbar  The schedules for train services from Edinburgh to Dunbar during the week are being reviewed and the current plans are to remove the services that run at 1730 and 1734. It was felt that the loss of these two services would impose very significant difficulties on people wishing to commute back to Dunbar, particularly true where travellers have an obligation to collect children from after school care and activities. DCC wondered what E Lothian Council planned to do in respect of representation to the train companies.  NH suggested that E Lothian Council had no plans to make representation but after discussion, NH did agree that E Lothian Council will approach the train companies to see whether or not the timetable could be influenced to at least secure the timing of one of the 1730 trains.	NH
	4.	Cash Access banking hub.  Cash Access will shortly be installing a temporary banking hub to be located at the Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar. The banking hub will be open five days a week from 9:00 till 5:00 and will be serviced every day with an officer from one of the major banks most commonly used by residents of the town. There are no plans for a formal launch event. The temporary banking hub is a precursor to a permanent banking hub which will come to Dunbar in 2026. Cash Access have offered a public meeting and after discussion it was agreed that this would be beneficial.  Cash Access is to be contacted to help to arrange a public meeting towards the end of February.	PS
	5.	Planning Application – Sweet and Smokey – West Port Dunbar This application was considered at our December meeting. Since that time is has become clear on social media that the owners intend that it should operate as a	

Ref	Item	Action					
	take-away which is in direct conflict with representation made in the planning application. It is understood that the applicants have now been required to resubmit an application to properly reflect the intended use of the site. All	NH,					
	councillors are requested to be alert to any new application.	DC, LJ					
4.00	POLICE REPORT						
4.01	Police Report to DCC  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, or their nominated representatives. Members Stuart Cameron and/or Pam Shields attend for DCC.						
	The report was not available for circulation with the agenda but was tabled at the meeting.						
	Report items of note:						
	<ul> <li>There were 9 traffic offences over the report period. Extra traffic patrols were carried out over the festive period which reflects on the number of traffic offences reported over this period.</li> </ul>						
	<ul> <li>Youth ASB remains the priority for Dunbar. Work is being carried out with youths and their parents to try and deter ASB and divert youths into other activities.</li> </ul>						
	Members of the public should use the 101 number to report ASB or make use of the Police Scotland on line reporting form - <a href="https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/">https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/</a>						
	There were no comments from members.						
4.02	<b>CAPP</b> (Community and Police Partnership) The next CAPP meeting will be held on 13 <sup>th</sup> February. SC/PSh to attend for DCC. Members with issues to raise to contact SC/PSh in advance.						
5.00	TREASURER'S REPORT – circulated to members in advance of meeting						
5.01	Finance Report – December 2024						
	<ul> <li>General Account:</li> <li>The bank statement balance at the month end was £148,948.20</li> </ul>						
	The restricted funds held within the General account at the end of the month were -						
	Community Windpower Fund £ 142,444.53						
	Access for All Fund £759.00						
	Local Priorities Fund £ 6,441.78						
	TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS £149,645.31						
	The unrestricted funds held within the General account were, at the month end—						
	TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS  £ (697.11)						

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	At the end of month, then	e was a	VAT rep	ayment c	lue of £4,21	.6.81 which	will		
	replenish the General Fun	d, after	the appi	opriate \	/AT elemen	t has been p	paid		
	across to the Christmas Lig	ghts Fun	d. This r	noney wi	Il be recove	ered in Janua	ary.		
	o No grants were pa	ayable o	r paid dı	iring the	month				
	Christmas Lights Account:								
	The bank balance at the m	nonth en	ıd stood	at <b>£ 18,0</b>	95.84				
	· ·	• Expenditure in the month included £315 for the First responders at Switch on,							
	and £593 for maintenance	e. The hi	gh wind	s caused	a fair amou	nt of damag	e this		
	year.								
	Income exceeded expendition			2 raised t	hrough gen	erous fundr	aising		
	and donations from the co	ommuni	ty.						
	Civic Week Account:								
	<ul> <li>The bank balance at the m</li> </ul>	nonth en	nd was <b>£</b>	7,679.22	2				
	There was no change in th	ne month	า.						
	The Civic Week Committe	e is unde	er way a	gain, unc	ler the new	leadership (	of Rena		
	Keller. The Fun Day will be	on 14 <sup>th</sup>	June 20	25.					
	Dunbar against Litter Account:								
	The bank balance at the m	nonth en	nd was <b>f</b>	3.875.36	;				
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Ref	Item	Action
5.03	Questions/Matters Arising	
	To note:	
	The Christmas Lights team are to be thanked for all their hard work on the lights,	
	including handling same in very windy conditions.	
	Civic Week Fun Day will be on 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	
	An application is expected from Dunbar Against Litter for new bins at DGS	
5.04	Local Priorities Grants	
	<ol> <li>The following grant applications were considered:</li> <li>Countess After School Care Club Play House purchase: Funding Approved</li> <li>Dunbar High Street Residents' Association - Launch Meeting: Funding</li> </ol>	
	Approved 3. Directional sign trial to replace finger post at East Beach Playpark: Funding Approved	
5.05	DCC Vision Review + Community Benefit Grants	
	When Dunbar Community Council first received funding from Community Windpower Energy for Community Benefit Grants in 2021, we wrote a vision paper which was intended to direct funding to projects that were close to the community's heart. All Community Councillors have now been asked to review this paper to ensure that ambitions expressed therein remain relevant.	DCC Memb
6.00	PLANNING + ROADS MATTERS	
6.01	Applications to note:	
	Sweet and Smokey Restaurant/Café – West Port, Dunbar.  This application was considered at our December meeting. Since that time is has become clear on social media that the owners intend that it should operate as a take-away which is in direct conflict with representation made in the planning application. It is understood that the applicants have now been required to re-submit an application to properly reflect the intended use of the site. All councillors are requested to be alert to any new application. Elected members were equally advised.	DCC Memb
6.02	Dunbar Retail Park  PAN Consultation Feedback was circulated to members. A full planning application for the site is expected to be tabled in February	
6.03		
0.03	There are continuing reports of traffic management failures at Station Road. GA has suggested several improvements and these are to be passed to ELC officers.	GA
7.00	LICENSING MATTERS	
7.01	Nil to note	
8.00	DCC PROJECT UPDATE	
8.01	Civic Week  RK has met with Sanchita Patjoshi and has had a chance to review the files, which are massive. Sadly not one of last year's committee seem willing or able to support Civic Week this year.	
	GR, AS and NHo have all volunteered to assist as has Rev Keith Mills. A further meeting will be held in February. Meanwhile, GR will post the event on social media as a 'Save the Date' for 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2025.	GR

Ref	Item	Action
8.02	Christmas Lights  Dunbar Christmas Lights Switch took place on Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November with a take-down over the second January weekend. The winter lights remain in place. Graham Adams and his volunteer team were warmly thanked for all their hard work throughout the year.	
9.00	DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS - UPDATE	
9.01	Nil	
10.00	OPEN CONSULTATIONS – to note	
10.01	ELC CONSULTATION HUB – lists all currently open consultations in East Lothian.  To note:  East Lothian Development Plan Scheme 2024	
	Planning legislation requires all Local Authorities to prepare a Development Plan Scheme (DPS). The DPS sets out the programme for preparing, reviewing and implementing the Local Development Plan and includes a Participation Statement. The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 2019	
	Closes 31 January 2025	
	Equality Outcome Setting 2025-2029	
	The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies, such as local authorities and health and social care partnerships (HSCPs) to develop, publish and report on equality outcomes every four years. Equality Outcomes help us to progress equality objectives and consider how we will meet the needs of	
	Closes 31 January 2025	
	Shaping our Future	
	Thank you to all of you who provided suggestions for what we could change or improve in how we design or deliver services earlier this year. We had 761 ideas - please see the 'You said, we did' section on the Shaping our Future page for further info. However, given the on-going financial	
	Closes 31 March 2025	
11.00	AOB	
11.01	Crystal Rigg Wind Farm  DCC update from developers offered. To be confirmed for informal meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2025.	
11.02	First Responders – update and equipment location request.  To be invited to informal meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025.	
11.03	Green Link Launch – 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025  JB and SC to attend	
12.00	NEXT MEETINGS	
12.01	<b>DCC Informal Meeting</b> Members will meet informally in closed session on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February and 3 <sup>rd</sup> March. Locations to be confirmed.	
12.02	DCC Open Meeting – Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 7pm Town House	