



Dunbar Community Council Open Meeting

Dunbar Town House

17th February 2025

Presentation by Belhaven Community Garden (BCG): Asset Transfer Team

Bob Fleet, Brian Hilsley, Naomi Barnes

BCG has made representation to DCC previously and is grateful for the support received to date. A community petition in support of a Community Asset Transfer of the land currently used for the community garden now has 1565 signatures. Stage 1 funding has been received from Scottish Land Fund and this will cover the costs of preparing the documents needed to support a full application for a Community Asset Transfer. This work has included a survey and valuation of the site and the development of a business plan. More than 255 submissions have been made in response to a data gathering request to support this.

NHS, which owns the site, have now finalised their internal processes for considering an asset transfer and can accept an application.

There is a major problem in respect of 'value'. The land is currently zoned for housing development in the Local Development Plan and the new Local Development Plan is not due for publication until at least 2026. DCC made formal request in May 2024 that the ground should be reassigned to green space in the new LDP with the specific use as a Community Garden. The Local Place Plan, currently managed by Sustaining Dunbar is almost due for publication and will also call for this.

As a housing site, the garden has a very significantly greater value than if it were considered to be agricultural or garden ground. The current Scottish Land Fund will cease in 2026 with applications required on/before May 2025. There are insufficient funds to cover the purchase as housing land.

BCG have organised a petition calling for the land to be re-assigned by ELC now, to reflect its current use.

NB made 2 requests:

1. That DCC should support the petition
2. That our elected councillors will bring the petition to the attention of ELC officers and councillors, with a request that it be urgently considered. They asked for information on timescales etc.

DCC felt that they could support the petition as it was in line with their current position.

NH gave advice on the process for presenting a petition. He explained that it would first be reviewed by ELC legal team for competency i.e. Would it be legal to re-assign privately owned land at a mid-point in a development plan period? Only if it passed that test, would it be presented to the Petition Committee.

BCG thanked NH for his assistance.

BCG confirmed that they had no strong views on the future use of the existing 'built-on' site but hoped that it would be used for something that was seen as a 'good neighbour' to the garden.

BCG were thanked for their commitment to the project and for giving their time to speak to DCC.

MINUTES

Ref	Item	Action																																																																														
1.00	SEDERUNT																																																																															
1.01	<p>Present</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Pippa Swan</td> <td>DCC Chair</td> <td>PS</td> <td>Alasdair Swan</td> <td>DCC Treasurer</td> <td>AS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Graham Adams</td> <td>DCC Vice Chair</td> <td>GA</td> <td>Mark James</td> <td>DCC Member</td> <td>MJ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stuart Cameron</td> <td>DCC Member</td> <td>SC</td> <td>Jacquie Bell</td> <td>DCC Member</td> <td>JB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neil Houston</td> <td>DCC Member</td> <td>NHo</td> <td>Pam Shields</td> <td>DCC Member</td> <td>PSH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ree Rolph</td> <td>Member</td> <td>RR</td> <td>George Robertson</td> <td>Member</td> <td>GR</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Norman Hampshire</td> <td>DCC Councillor</td> <td>NH</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Observers</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Jean Urquhart</td> <td>Public</td> <td></td> <td>Douglas Urquhart</td> <td>Public</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gavin Wilson</td> <td>Public</td> <td></td> <td>Anouska Woods</td> <td>CWP Energy</td> <td>AW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mike Shaw</td> <td>DSHNG</td> <td></td> <td>Rev Keith Mills</td> <td>Dunbar Baptist Ch</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grant McCauley</td> <td>Public</td> <td></td> <td>Nicky Webster</td> <td>Public</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jo Waddell</td> <td>DTA</td> <td>JW</td> <td>Peter McDonagh</td> <td>Public</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Mayer</td> <td>Newtonlees TRA</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Press</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Cameron Ritchie</td> <td>EL Courier</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Pippa Swan	DCC Chair	PS	Alasdair Swan	DCC Treasurer	AS	Graham Adams	DCC Vice Chair	GA	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	RR	George Robertson	Member	GR				Norman Hampshire	DCC Councillor	NH	Jean Urquhart	Public		Douglas Urquhart	Public		Gavin Wilson	Public		Anouska Woods	CWP Energy	AW	Mike Shaw	DSHNG		Rev Keith Mills	Dunbar Baptist Ch		Grant McCauley	Public		Nicky Webster	Public		Jo Waddell	DTA	JW	Peter McDonagh	Public		Mary Mayer	Newtonlees TRA					Cameron Ritchie	EL Courier					
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1.03	<p>Councillors' Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Nil</p>																																																																															
2.00	MINUTES OF MEETING – 20th January 2025																																																																															
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2.02	<p>Adoption – Proposed: MJ Seconded: GR</p>																																																																															
2.03	<p>DCC Action Review</p> <p>With the exception of the undernoted, all DCC action items have been attended to:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>2.03/5.05</td> <td><u>DCC Vision Review</u> – No feedback to date – ALL to action within 7 days.</td> <td>All</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.03/6.03</td> <td><u>One Way System at Station</u> – GA to pursue proposals with ELC (Alan Stubbs + Peter Forsyth)</td> <td>GA</td> </tr> </table>	2.03/5.05	<u>DCC Vision Review</u> – No feedback to date – ALL to action within 7 days.	All	2.03/6.03	<u>One Way System at Station</u> – GA to pursue proposals with ELC (Alan Stubbs + Peter Forsyth)	GA																																																																									
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2.04	<p>Matters arising - not dealt with under full agenda items.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>3.04.4</td> <td><u>Cash Access</u> – Public Meeting at Town House Community Room on Tuesday 18th February.</td> <td>All</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.03</td> <td><u>Councillors' Biographies for website</u> – RK, PSH and SC to provide photo and biography to GR. All other members to review their biogs/photos to ensure that they are correct.</td> <td>All</td> </tr> </table>	3.04.4	<u>Cash Access</u> – Public Meeting at Town House Community Room on Tuesday 18 th February.	All	1.03	<u>Councillors' Biographies for website</u> – RK, PSH and SC to provide photo and biography to GR. All other members to review their biogs/photos to ensure that they are correct.	All																																																																									
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3.01	<p>Cllr Norman Hampshire</p> <p>i. Action Update</p> <p>a. <u>Motorhome Parking – Shore Road</u> NH clarified the position which remains unchanged since last autumn. A TRO will be published in due course. Local residents and DCC members will be urged to respond, after which ELC Officer Tom Reid will arrange to meet with local residents and DCC to discuss the issues before any final decision is taken on the proposal to make motorhome parking a permanent feature at Shore Road.</p> <p>b. <u>Signage at Coastal Path</u> Additional signage will be added to the coastal path site. DCC requested that this be explanatory and informative not just 'keep out' signs. NH confirmed that there were now plans to try to create a track down to the path/shore to enable reinstatement works to take place. DCC welcomed this.</p> <p>c. <u>Dunbar Train Services</u> NH explained that ELC have made representations in respect of the loss of the 17.30/34 train services and have aligned themselves with work being carried out by other groups including Rail Action Group East of Scotland (RAGES). Train operators do now seem to have registered the need for trains between 1700 and 1800 and the signs are promising that changes will be made to the new timetables to accommodate this. NH will continue to urge ELC officers to press for this.</p> <p>ii. Report</p> <p>a. <u>ELC Budget</u> NH reported that the ELC budget is currently being prepared. Despite an increased grant from Holyrood of £7.5m, staff costs have also increased by £6.5m, putting the provision of services under continuous strain. Adult Social Care and Children's Services required critical additional investment (£3.6m and £2.7m respectively) and will be supported with funds from reserves in the coming year, but this was not seen as sustainable.</p> <p>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 meet the ongoing running costs and significant borrowing will be required. Again, this was not seen as sustainable.</p> <p>Overall, ELC are looking at a budget deficit of £17m and cuts to services are therefore inevitable and are still to be identified.</p> <p>The Housing Revenue Account is fully funded from rents, with a recent 6.5% rent increase, but all property costs have rocketed and it remains extremely difficult to meet demand and keep rents at an affordable level.</p> <p><i>SC asked why Council Tax bands had not been reviewed in years?</i> NH explained that Council Tax banding was a matter for Scottish Government. He acknowledged that a review of house values would probably generate significant income.</p> <p><i>SC asked if all ELC accounts were made public?</i> NH explained that all accounts were visible and could be found on line. (https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/12764/statement_of_accounts)</p>	NH




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3.02	<p>Cllr Lyn Jardine – update by email. Apologies received.</p> <p>i. Action Update</p> <p>a. <u>A Vision for Belhaven – FINAL REPORT – Lyn Jardine</u></p> <p>Background</p> <p>After the decision was taken to close Belhaven Hospital, I was asked by Dunbar Community Council to look to establish a community vision for what could replace it. It was clear there was a lot of concern about future service provision as well as what the site itself might be used for.</p> <p>In order to understand what the community views were, I reached out to the community councils in the ward and to Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership as formally constituted representative groups. Representatives from 3 of the community councils and the Vice Chair of DELAP joined me over the last year in a journey to discover what options there were and to engaged directly with NHS and ELC to understand next steps across various strategic planning projects and consider if and how the community could influence the future of the site.</p> <p>Evidence</p> <p>Much of the time over the last year has been spent exploring the landscape of opportunities to influence strategic planning and presenting arguments to both NHS and ELC, based on information that has been made available to these representative groups through their local surveying and place plans.</p> <p>Communities, through their representative community councils, have submitted Local Place Plans to ELC as part of developing the next iteration of the Local Development Plan – a strategic document that informs future land use and priorities for future development over the next 10 years or so. These consultations have been extensive and give ELC a very clear steer on what the priorities and wishes of communities are.</p> <p>DELAP has also made use of these local area plans to shape their own priorities and categorise clearly where they can seek to influence and where they can take action as a community partnership.</p> <p>A little before I was asked to lead this process, Sustaining Dunbar’s Community Garden group launched a bid to obtain their part of the hospital grounds through Community Asset Transfer with NHS Lothian. While the Local Place Plans are predominantly about the space around us, a lot of service ideas and concerns were also picked up. These plans were also developing at the same time as East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership was undertaking a significant review of Provision of Older Peoples Services (POPS), which most closely links to the closure of Belhaven hospital itself.</p> <p>Engagement with Agencies</p> <p>All of this culminated in a meeting at the end of 2024 with community representatives, NHS Lothian, Health and Social Care Partnership and East Lothian Council. Community representatives set out their concerns and hopes that Belhaven site could be reprovisioned to meet some of the emerging requests.</p> <p>As previously reported to Community Councils, this meeting concluded there was no scope at all for either NHS Lothian or East Lothian Council, to redevelop the site for any purpose given the lack of capital resources and the pressure on revenue resources. Even if capital were available, the pressure on revenue budgets is such that it would not be feasible to staff any specific local facility in terms of health professionals.</p>	


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	<p>However, it was clear that NHS Lothian have a responsibility to the Scottish Government, through the disposal of the site, to balance the financial return for the site with consideration of wider community benefit. Also established during that meeting was that disposal of the part of the site with the buildings on it, is not being progressed until the Community Asset Transfer of the Community Garden site is resolved. This remains the case today.</p> <p>A further discussion was held in January with Health & Social Care to explore some of the priorities around identified service needs and how the POPS review is proceeding. These discussions need to continue through the consultation processes and planning H&SCP has in place and will enable the Community Councils and DELAP, as well as wider community groups to take part further. It was clear during discussion, that the priorities coming through community councils and DELAP are aligned with views expressed through the POPS review.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>It is reassuring to know the community engagement and coproduction approach is not picking up different issues for Dunbar area and furthermore that officers within the H&SCP are looking to ensure the community needs are being met across the county as effectively as possible.</p> <p>While the future of the site is up in the air, hopefully there will be a positive outcome for the Community Garden which will in turn influence the extent to which the rest of the site can be developed. The community's continued promotion of their priorities through Local Place Plans and the further engagement on the Local Development Plan are crucial to seeking to ensure the site is reprovisioned for a need that the community would welcome.</p> <p>I acknowledge this work hasn't engaged the wider community at large, broadly focused on researching opportunities and gathering existing evidence from community engagement. It was the intention, should we have any meaningful opportunities going forward, to hold discussions with residents to shape the ask of a potential replacement facility. Given there is clearly no scope for public sector development, I feel it would be inappropriate to raise expectations by hosting a public consultation, especially as the ongoing POPS, Local Development Plan and Place Plans are designed to engage meaningfully with communities.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>Going forward I believe there are some actions we can each undertake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a ward councillor, I will continue to engage with community groups and any individual who has any particular views, in order to shape my own perspective on any future strategic plans that impact the Belhaven hospital site. • As the announcement to close Belhaven occurred after the community councils had engaged the community at large to shape their Local Place Plan, each Community Council may wish to consider if they have sufficient evidence of what the community would like to see as the priorities for redevelopment of the site. • As individual community residents, we can all make sure to participate in as much of the local development plan process as remains. If you want to follow that process, please visit https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210547/planning_and_building_standards/12726/ldp2_and_local_place_plans <p><i>Councillor Lyn Jardine</i></p>	

Ref	Item	Action
	<p>ljardine1@eastlothian.gov.uk</p> <p>b. <u>ASB Working Group - update per P Sh</u> The group met again on 4th February and will meet with John Johnstone, Head of DGS on 26th February. The aim of that meeting would be to determine opportunities for young people to play a greater part in community projects including Civic Week and the Book Barn. (PS to liaise with PSh over Book Barn proposals).</p> <p>ii. Report – per PS</p> <p>a. <u>Winterfield Effluent Leak</u> LJ has continued to pursue this matter and has been in direct contact both with ELC officers and local residents who are monitoring the situation. ELC have screened off an area of path but this seems to be a different site from that where effluent was seen to be emerging. LJ will continue to press for a resolution of this matter.</p>	PS
3.03	<p>ClIr Donna Collins</p> <p>i. Action Update - per JB</p> <p>a. <u>HGV at Yosemite Park</u> TW continue to breach the intent of the planning consent for the use of HGV in established residential areas and are now using 3 different access points to the site. In addition, the roads have been left unswept, creating a hazard.</p> <p><i>From Jan meeting + outstanding: 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.</i></p>	DC
3.04	<p>Issues for Councillors</p> <p>1. Deer Park Cemetary DCC has received a number of complaints/expressions of concern over the impact of the CALA homes development on families at funerals or visiting the cemetary. This relates to mud on roads, contractor car/van parking, noise during burials and concerns around privacy/overlooking from the new homes.</p> <p>NH will raise all contractor issues with CALA. NH will consult with ELC Grounds Teams and CALA to ascertain what planting is planned and the timescales for this. He was asked to note that timber fencing does not properly screen the view from the new houses and gardens and was asked for both ELC/CALA to ensure that moves are taken to address this.</p> <p>2. ELC New Chief Executive <i>NH was asked how he felt about the newly appointed Chief Executive for ELC, Laurence Rockey.</i> NH expressed delight at the appointment and believed that Mr Rockey will be an excellent CE. Laurence started as Director, Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland on 2 November 2020. Prior to that he was the Head of Strategy and Communications at the City of Edinburgh Council where he was responsible for</p>	NH NH NH

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	<p>corporate strategy, council wide change and performance, and communications. Laurence joined the City of Edinburgh Council from the UK Government where he was a Senior Civil Servant across a number of different roles.</p>  <p>Most significantly, Laurence played a key role in the creation of City Deals and the wider devolution agenda. Laurence was the Head of the Cities Policy Unit in the Cabinet Office from 2013-15 and the Head of Devolution Strategy at the Cities and Local Growth Unit from 2015-16. He is married with a young family.</p>	
4.00	POLICE REPORT	
4.01	<p>Police Report to DCC <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, or their nominated representatives. Members Stuart Cameron and/or Pam Shields attend for DCC.</i></p> <p>The report was not available for circulation with the agenda but was tabled at the meeting.</p> <p>Report items of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a reduction in <u>youth ASB</u> but this may have been attributable to a deterioration in the weather. Members of the public should use the 101 number to report ASB or make use of the Police Scotland on line reporting form - https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/ • The police held a <u>community engagement</u> session in their police van at ASDA on Tuesday 11th February but nobody came to visit at all. The officers asked DCC to consider whether this initiative was a good use of their time. <p>DCC reflected that the advertising had been in a very limited ‘space’, principally on police platforms that are not routinely viewed by the public. They considered that a lack of advertising as well as selecting a date/time in the school holidays may have contributed to a lack of awareness/engagement. DCC considered that greater visibility and understanding of the police was really important. SC/PSH will report back to the CAPP and suggest that the van might be present at civic events as well as being better advertised for ‘surgery’ slots. In every case, advertising would be key.</p>	SC/ PSH
4.02	<p>CAPP (Community and Police Partnership) The next CAPP meeting will be held on 10th April. SC/PSH to attend for DCC. Members with issues to raise to contact SC/PSH in advance.</p>	
5.00	TREASURER’S REPORT – <i>circulated to members in advance of meeting</i>	
5.01	<p>Dunbar Community Council Finance Report – January 2025</p> <p>General Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bank statement balance at the month end was £149,081.61 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The restricted funds held within the General account at the end of the month were - <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Community Windpower Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 139,558.53</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>£ 5,955.78</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£146,273.31</u></td> </tr> </table> The unrestricted funds held within the General account were, at the month end– <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£ 2,808.30</u></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">TOTAL FUNDS £149,081.61</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VAT repayment due of £4,216.81 was received during the month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sensory Path grant in Lauderdale Park (£2,872) was paid in the month The Dunbar Youth Project received a grant of £500 in the month for clothing from the Dunbar T-Shirt Shop <p>Christmas Lights Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bank balance at the month end stood at £ 17,539.23 Expenditure in the month was £512 Donations amounted to £50 in January <p>Civic Week Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bank balance at the month end was £ 7,679.22 There was no change in the month. The composition of the Civic Week Committee is still under discussion. <p>Dunbar against Litter Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bank balance at the month end was £ 3,905.36 The Amenities Team is organising the introduction of two new litter bins after discussion with Romie Blair. 	Community Windpower Fund	£ 139,558.53	Access for All Fund	£759.00	Local Priorities Fund	<u>£ 5,955.78</u>	TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>£146,273.31</u>	TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>£ 2,808.30</u>																																																																											
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5.03	Questions/Matters Arising Nil																												
5.04	Local Priorities Grants The following grant applications were considered: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Ridge – Purchase of Evacuation Chair: Funding Approved Dunbar High Street Residents’ Association - Launch Meeting 2: Funding Approved ELC Museum Service - Repair to John Muir Statue: Funding Approved Common Good Fund - Repairs to Corn Exchange stonework: Funding Approved 																												
6.00	PLANNING + ROADS MATTERS The following applications were considered:																												
6.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Alterations and change of use of former Veterinary Surgery (Class 1A) to Cafe (Class 3) and hot food takeaway (Sui Generis) and associated works</u>  <p>17 West Port Dunbar East Lothian EH42 1BT Ref. No: 24/01311/P Received: Thu 28 Nov 2024 Validated: Mon 09 Dec 2024 Status: Awaiting decision</p> <p><i>This application has been amended to include for takeaway provision at the shop. After discussion it was agreed that DCC will write to ELC to re-iterate concerns expressed in January about noise, extraction issues and bins and also, now, to add comment about disruption to traffic through additional parking on West Port.</i></p>	DCC																											
6.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Installation of solar panels (Retrospective)</u>  <p>The Royal Mackintosh Hotel Station Road Dunbar EH42 1JY Ref. No: 25/00120/P Received: Thu 06 Feb 2025 Validated: Wed 12 Feb 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p> <p><i>DCC actively supports the inclusion of renewable energy initiatives in Dunbar and will write to ELC to confirm this.</i></p>	DCC																											
6.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Formation of hardstanding area, steps, erection of gate, railings and handrails</u>  <p>Land To The Rear Of 44 High Street Dunbar Ref. No: 25/00115/P Received: Wed 05 Feb 2025 Validated: Fri 07 Feb 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p>																												

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	<p><i>DCC members were generally supportive of this initiative but will write to ELC planners with the request that consideration be given to this being a public 'through route'.</i></p>	DCC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewal of planning permission 21/00471/P for tourism development comprising the erection of 25 holiday letting units, conversion of existing potting sheds to form 7 storage units and formation of parking and turning areas and tennis court (the subject of planning permission 08/00369/FUL) and including use of South Lodge access  <p>Broxmouth House Broxburn Dunbar East Lothian EH42 1QW Ref. No: 25/00046/P Received: Thu 16 Jan 2025 Validated: Mon 20 Jan 2025 Status: Awaiting decision <i>This is a renewal of a previously granted consent. DCC will not submit comment.</i></p>	
7.00	LICENSING MATTERS	
7.01	Nil to note	
8.00	DCC PROJECT UPDATE	
	<p>Civic Week – 14th June 2025 RK and GR have now had a further planning meeting. RK has written to all committee members from last year but not one has felt able to support this year's event, which is hugely disappointing. RK will now make an approach to Dunbar Primary School to seek support from these parents, in particular. We are looking for project leads on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Court Quiz Night Fundraiser Parade Fun Day – Set up and content Fun Day - Volunteers <p>RK has written out to all participants (vendors, event providers etc) to ascertain interest and will report back before the end of Feb.</p> <p>The Civic Week website has been updated on a new platform by GR and he thanked Philip Immirzi for all of his help and input.</p> <p>A further planning meeting will be held on 26th February.</p>	GR
8.02	<p>Book Barn The Book Barn has been closed for the duration of the reconstruction of Lauderdale Park but will relaunch in March. PS/RK will liaise with PSh over ways in which DGS pupils might play a part in the relaunch.</p>	PS/RK
9.00	DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS - UPDATE	
9.01	<p><u>Green Link Launch - 13th Feb</u> – update to DCC – SC and JB attended and JB had sent a briefing paper to members.</p> <p><i>Eastern Green Link 1. Stuart and I attended the Groundbreaking ceremony for the Converter Station at Oxwellmains on February 13th. There will also be a substation at Branxton. The multi billion pound/international project is one of the largest energy</i></p>	

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	<p><i>projects in the UK as part of upgrading the National Grid as the UK moves to Net Zero targets. It is a joint project of SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Transmission. The Link will transport energy from renewable sources in the Lammermuirs via 196 kilometres of underground and undersea cables to Hawthorn Pit in County Durham.</i></p> <p><i>Prior to the ceremony, there had been presentations including from the Chair of Offgem, the UK Energy regulator, the CEO of Scottish Power Energy Network and Paul McLennan MSP. There had been opportunity at a display of Project partners to talk to some of the companies partnering in the Project e.g. the Italian Company building the specialist ship, Alessandro Volta which will be used to lay the cable.</i></p> <p><i>Linked to the Project, an £8 million Community Benefit Fund was announced to benefit those communities hosting the Project infrastructure in East Lothian and County Durham. Stuart and I had discussed possible uses for funding with Mark McAllister, Chair of Offgem. There had been discussion of some of the impacts on the community e.g. need for accommodation, impact on small rural communities and road safety at A1 junctions where construction vehicles will be accessing the sites.</i></p>	
9.02	<p><u>Valencia Site – JB submitted briefing notes to members</u></p> <p><i>A Community Meeting was held on February 13th at Dunbar Town House. The meeting was Chaired by Andrew Turner, PR manager for Valencia based at Camarco in London. He apologised for a site visit, as requested in 2024, not happening. One will be arranged. He noted that waste flows are monitored. At present 80% is from East Lothian/Borders/ Midlothian, around 12% from England. Most waste comes from skip companies e.g. building waste.</i></p> <p><i>Concerns were noted about continued issues of odour, litter including on the coastal cycle path and A1, leachate entering the Tarmac lake which discharges into the sea and lorries parking on the Tarmac access road. He said these would be followed up. It was noted that Valencia can have issues in recruiting and retaining Litter pickers for the site. The company are happy to fund equipment etc for community litter picking groups. He said that air quality monitoring was the responsibility of ELC who should report to the Scottish Government. It was noted by attendees that ELC do not routinely monitor the air quality. Valencia have to report any issues with dust and odour under its SEPA permit. He had spoken to Scott Kennedy of ELC Emergency Planning.</i></p> <p><i>It was confirmed that the site will close to waste deliveries in September 2025. Topographical surveys will need to be completed and submitted. Plans for restoration e.g. tree planting will need to be submitted. The site will not be suitable for building development but solar panels may be a future consideration. The site will need to be monitored by Valencia e.g. for gas and leachate for 40-60 years.</i></p> <p><i>A further meeting will be held in April/May once the submissions have been made to ELC Planning and SEPA.</i></p>	
9.03	<p><u>Dunbar Clean Up Weekend</u></p> <p>This will take place over the weekend of 26/27th April and will concentrate on High Street, West Port and the closes although all community areas will be encouraged to take part. JW for DTA is leading on this, supported by the newly formed High Street Residents' Group. Further details to follow.</p>	
9.04	<p><u>Crystal Rigg Wind Farm – Repowering</u></p> <p>Members met with developers informally on 3rd February to learn more about the plans at the windfarm. Following the DCC meeting, GR provided the following observations on the information received:</p> <p><i>Crystal Rig 1 was the first of the many wind power sites in the Lammermuirs and is now reaching the end of its useful life. The “Repowering” project by Fred Olsen aims to</i></p>	

Ref	Item	Action
	<p><i>decommission the original 25 wind turbines and replace them with 10 much larger more modern turbines. These will be 250 m high from base to the top of the blades. For comparison the Eiffel tower is 320 m high, so these are really huge, and each turbine can produce 7.2 MW. There will be a solar farm and possible storage facility co-located. Crystal Rig 1 is just 11 KM south of Dunbar.</i></p> <p><i>Decommissioning the original 25 wind turbines will start in 2027 and installation of the new turbines will start in 2030.</i></p> <p><i>There will be a significant local impact on roads and infrastructure. Local roads will have to be widened and straightened to allow the larger blades to be transported. The hedges and marginal trees that get in the way of the larger blades will be removed.</i></p> <p><i>The administrative burden of processing these applications is likely to overwhelm a small community like East Lammermuir and I understand that a local administrator will be appointed to assist.</i></p> <p><i>There were two public events last October in Innerwick and Longformacus.</i></p> <p><i>It is understood that there will be a further public meeting in March.</i></p>	
10.00	OPEN CONSULTATIONS – to note	
10.01	ELC CONSULTATION HUB – lists all currently open consultations in East Lothian.	
10.02	<p><u>Bus Use Survey</u></p> <p>Craig Hoy is running a Bus Use survey to which all residents are invited to contribute. The results will be used to influence the provision of bus services in East Lothian - https://www.craighoy.co.uk/campaigns/craig-hoy-msp-bus-survey</p>	
11.00	AOB	
11.01	<p>Green Futures Event</p> <p>East Lothian Climate hub is hosting a family friendly day on 22nd March with themes inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food - Biodiversity - Energy - Circular Economy • General workshops & Interactive Sessions • Political Landscape, Campaigns & Collective wellbeing • Music & Kids Activities <p>https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=636870862355313&set=a.280175208024882</p>	
11.02	<p>First Responders – update and equipment location request.</p> <p>To be invited to informal meeting on <u>17th March 2025.</u></p>	GA
11.03	<p>Changeworks</p> <p>This group that assists with moves to greener energies has offered to come to Dunbar. AW confirmed that they already work with Changeworks and have a referral service to them. Sustaining Dunbar is equally pro-active in supporting renewable uptake. The offer is to be politely declined.</p>	
12.00	NEXT MEETINGS	
12.01	<p>DCC Informal Meeting</p> <p>Members will meet informally in closed session on 3rd March in Dunbar Town House.</p>	
12.02	<p>DCC Open Meeting – Monday 17th March 2025</p> <p>7pm Town House</p>	

PS/AS/