



DUNBAR
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

Dunbar Community Council Open Meeting

Dunbar Town House

21st April 2025

East Berwickshire and Dunbar Area Community First Responders – John Montgomery

John Montgomery was welcomed to the meeting to bring Community Council members up to date with their work and to explain the background behind a current funding application to Dunbar's Community Benefit Fund.

First responders are all volunteers, fully trained to respond to non-trauma 999 emergency ambulance calls for the Scottish Ambulance Service. It is a critical service in the rural areas in which we live – Dunbar and East Berwickshire, where the closest ambulance dispatch point will be many miles away from an incident.

In the past 13 years there have been 14 cardiac arrests in the area. The success rate for defib interventions has only been 6.8%. Although this is a very low percentage, it reflects the national average.

There are currently 42 defibs open to public access in EH42 areas but not all are within the critical time distance, which is 200m/4 minutes – 2 minutes to run to a unit to collect same and 2 minutes to return to a casualty.

Several of the defibs (FR2 models) have batteries that are no longer replaceable and, unless a suitable compatible battery can be found, these will all have to be replaced in due course.

The funding application has been submitted in response to a need to significantly improve defibrillator coverage in Dunbar by purchasing 5 new defibrillators.

First responders will look to large businesses to buy and maintain their own and will look for other sites to locate new cabinets in 'response gap' areas. There is need for all cabinets to be heated to protect the life of the battery and all will be unlocked. It is possible that private home owners may be approached to volunteer their walls as location sites.

At the same time as improving defib coverage, First Responders hope to work with Dunbar Grammar School and other institutions and groups to improve understanding of the units to overcome the fear of using them.

John was thanked for the incredible service that First Responders provide to us all and assured that the Community Council would do anything it could to support initiatives to improve the understanding of how to use a defibrillator. If there was an ambition to use redundant BT phone boxes, John may liaise with DCC.

OPEN MEETING

Ref	Item						Action	
1.00	SEDERUNT							
1.01	Present Pippa Swan DCC Chair PS George Member GR Robertson Stuart Cameron DCC Member SC Neil Houston DCC Member NHo Rena Keller DCC Member RK Lyn Jardine ELC Councillor LJ Donna Collins ELC Councillor DC <u>Observers</u> Rev Keith Mills Dunbar Baptist KM Mike Shaw DSHNG MS Esther Hughes Marine Road EH <u>Press</u> Cameron Ritchie EL Courier			Alasdair Swan DCC Treasurer AS Mark James DCC Member MJ Jacquie Bell DCC Member JB Pam Shields DCC Member PSh Ree Rolph DCC Member RR Norman Hampshire DCC Councillor NH Douglas Urquhart Public Anouska Woods CWP Energy AW John Robertson Broxburn JR Kirsten Harper Broxburn KH				
1.02	Apologies			Gill Wilson DCC Member GW				
1.03	Councillors’ Declarations of Interest Nil							
2.00	MINUTES OF MEETING – 17 th March 2025							
2.01	Amendments <u>Minute Item 3.01/iii - Request for Councillor privacy</u> <i>The matter relates to a request by Cllr Hampshire at the last meeting that personal details should not be divulged to the public by CC members.</i> SC expressed the view that the structure and the wording of the minute was far too strong for the topic, did not properly reflect the sentiments expressed at the meeting and amounted to a personal attack on a fellow community councillor. Of the 10 Community Councillors present, 8 fully endorsed the minute as drawn and considered it to be a very fair representation of the sentiments expressed at the time. SC requested a change and JB spoke to members. JB told the meeting that it was she who had posted the address details on social media but had done so as a private individual, responding to a specific issue of dangerous driving and had meant no harm by her actions. She had told PS of her actions immediately following last month’s meeting and had sent a letter of apology, by email, to Norman Hampshire. PS confirmed this and read out a prepared statement that was to have been tendered at Agenda Item 2.04 <i>At our last meeting, Councillor Hampshire reported that his home address had been published on social media by one of our members.</i>							

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	<p><i>Immediately following the meeting, Jacquie let me (PS) know that it was she who had done this. She wrote a letter of apology to Norman who, I (PS) believe, has accepted this apology.</i></p> <p>NH reported that he had not received the apology and JB immediately resent the email.</p> <p>DC reminded the meeting that anyone in public office should assume that anything they publish will be seen as coming from someone in public office, whatever the intention of the person publishing the article. They should therefore take the greatest care in what they say.</p> <p>JB assured the meeting that nothing like this would happen again.</p> <p>The minute was accepted by a majority 8/10 as a true record and remained unchanged.</p> <p><u>Item 6.02</u> MJ asked for his name to be removed from the 'Action' column, where it had been inserted in error. PS apologised for this.</p>	
2.02	Adoption – Proposed: MJ Seconded: NHO	
2.03	<p>DCC Action Review With the exception of the undernoted, all DCC action items have been attended to: 2.04/1.03 – <u>Councillor Biographies</u> – SC(Photo)/NHO</p>	SC/NHO
2.04	<p>Matters arising - not dealt with under full agenda items.</p> <p>3.01/iii <u>Privacy of Elected Members</u> – DCC update – <i>dealt with under item 2.01, above</i></p> <p>9.05 <u>Bayswell Road Phone Box</u>. A local resident has approached DCC expressing interest in using the phone box as a 'history story' box. PS will continue to engage with the project to support next steps with BT.</p> <p>11.02 <u>Painting of Dunbar Town House</u> - DCC has completed paperwork confirming the indefinite loan of the painting to ELC Museums Service.</p> <p>3.01 <u>Shore Road Motorhome Parking</u> – DCC has written to object to the proposal to form 3 permanent motorhome bays at Shore Road and has supported Belhaven residents to make submissions as they see fit. Consultation link: https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/infrastructure/elc-off-street-coa-parking-pl/</p>	
3.00	ELC COUNCILLORS' REPORTS	
3.01	<p>CLlr Norman Hampshire</p> <p>i. Action Update – No update required this month</p> <p>ii. Report – No report this month</p>	
3.02	<p>CLlr Lyn Jardine</p> <p>i. Action Update</p> <p>a. <u>John Muir Way/Winterfield Effluent Leak</u> Still not resolved. MJ confirmed that effluent was still visible along the edge of the footpath. LJ to pursue with ELC officers.</p>	LJ
3.03	<p>CLlr Donna Collins -</p> <p>i. Action Update -</p> <p>a. <u>HGV at Yosemite Park</u> TW have not submitted their revised Traffic Management Plan to ELC. Planning officers are pressing for this. DC to continue to pursue.</p>	DC

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3.04	<p>Issues for Councillors</p> <p>a. <u>Winterfield Golf Club</u> – Update on new tenancy agreement NH reported that Winterfield Golf Club have been granted a 25 year lease on the Common Good property, St Margaret's. The club will take on the building and all repair costs and will also now run the golf course using revenue from same to support the maintenance and repair of the buildings.</p> <p>b. <u>Operation Ford</u> – Update for DCC members LJ explained that Operation Ford is a nationwide initiative that will offer elected members immediate police response in the event of any personal attack on them, their property or family. The need for this special protection has been brought about by an increase in attacks on elected public servants. DCC welcomed the initiative and thanked LJ for sharing the information with the meeting.</p>	
4.00	POLICE REPORT	
4.01	<p>Police Report to DCC</p> <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, or their nominated representatives. Members Stuart Cameron and/or Pam Shields attend for DCC.</i></p> <p>Report items of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASB has been set as the three priorities at the last CAPP with Belhaven Hospital being one of them. Several sources had reported that youths had been attending at Belhaven Hospital and causing damage to the buildings and garden area as well as climbing on the roof of the buildings. Some local youths have been identified as having climbed the roofs, they and their parents have been spoken to and have been given suitable advice. Local school children are causing damage and littering around the Summerfield Road area during school lunchtimes. The school has been made aware and extra patrols will be carried out to deter this behaviour. Speed checks around the schools will be carried out over the next few months following reports of concern for speeding around school drop off/collection times. 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/ 	
4.02	<p>CAPP (Community and Police Partnership)</p> <p>PSh and SC reported that there had been a lengthy discussion at the CAPP on 10th April regarding community engagement. Police presence at Bleachingfield on a Tuesday afternoon between 1pm and 3pm had not proved a success and PSh was of the view that this was essentially because anybody who wanted to engage with the police had to do so by getting into a police van.</p> <p>PSh/SC will continue the discussion with the CAPP group over how best to engage with the public.</p>	

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	<p>The next CAPP meeting will be held on 12th June SC/PSh to attend for DCC. Members with issues to raise to contact SC/PSh in advance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">PS reported that she had been advised that Dunbar CAPP seemed to be the only one in East Lothian restricted to CCs only. PSh/SC will raise this.																															
4.03	<p>Police Visit</p> <p>PC Laura Jackson will attend May’s DCC meeting.</p>																															
5.00	<p>TREASURER’S REPORT – <i>circulated to members in advance of meeting</i></p>																															
5.01	<p>Dunbar Community Council Finance Report – March 2025</p> <p>General Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The bank statement balance at the month end was £153,724.65The restricted funds held within the General account at the end of the month were <table><tr><td>Community Windpower Fund</td><td>£ 146,226.36</td></tr><tr><td>Access for All Fund</td><td>£759.00</td></tr><tr><td>Local Priorities Fund</td><td>£ 4,371.07</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</td><td>£151,356.43</td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The unrestricted funds held within the General account were, at the month end– <table><tr><td>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</td><td>£2368.22</td></tr></table> <p>TOTAL FUNDS £2368.22</p> <p>Grants were paid in the month for:</p> <table><tr><td>○ Empire Close professional fees</td><td>£2,500</td></tr><tr><td>○ Tools for the Ridge</td><td>£4,300</td></tr><tr><td>○ Halo Heater for St Anne’s</td><td>£8,000</td></tr><tr><td>○ ELAF 20205 Festival</td><td>£2,000</td></tr><tr><td>○ Dunbar Army Cadets’ equipment</td><td>£3,527</td></tr><tr><td>○ Dunbar United Girls’ Kit</td><td>£1,500</td></tr><tr><td>○ Skips for high Street Clean-up</td><td>£1,787</td></tr><tr><td>○ Evacuation chair for Black Bull Close</td><td>£ 474</td></tr><tr><td>○ High Street TRA start-up</td><td>£ 100</td></tr><tr><td>○ Countess After School Club Cottage</td><td>£ 710</td></tr></table> <p>Christmas Lights Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The bank balance at the month end stood at £ 16,622.66Expenditure in the month was £1,707 <p>Civic Week Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The bank balance at the month end was £ 7,629.22One small deposit payment for £50 was made in the month.The Civic Week Committee meets regularly. <p>Dunbar against Litter Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The bank balance at the month end was £ 2,835.13All of the bank accounts are now paying monthly bank charges.	Community Windpower Fund	£ 146,226.36	Access for All Fund	£759.00	Local Priorities Fund	£ 4,371.07	TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	£151,356.43	TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	£2368.22	○ Empire Close professional fees	£2,500	○ Tools for the Ridge	£4,300	○ Halo Heater for St Anne’s	£8,000	○ ELAF 20205 Festival	£2,000	○ Dunbar Army Cadets’ equipment	£3,527	○ Dunbar United Girls’ Kit	£1,500	○ Skips for high Street Clean-up	£1,787	○ Evacuation chair for Black Bull Close	£ 474	○ High Street TRA start-up	£ 100	○ Countess After School Club Cottage	£ 710	
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5.02	<div><div>Local Priority Fund Update</div><table><thead><tr><th>Local Priority Grant applications</th><th>Amount</th><th>Review</th><th>Decision</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Dunbar Harbour Trust</td><td>500</td><td>May</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Dunbar History Society</td><td>500</td><td>June</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Community Carrot</td><td>1644</td><td>June</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Tuesday Coffee Club</td><td>280</td><td>August</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Ridge - Portraits</td><td>325</td><td>Sep</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Health & Wellbeing</td><td>300</td><td>Oct</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Writers' Group</td><td>286</td><td>Nov</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>DGA Xmas Fair</td><td>500</td><td>Nov</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>1st Dunbar Rangers</td><td>450</td><td>Nov</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Countess After School Club</td><td>710</td><td>Jan</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Launch of High Street TRA</td><td>290</td><td>Jan</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>East Beach signage</td><td>75</td><td>Jan</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Ridge evacuation chair</td><td>474</td><td>Feb</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>High Street TRA AGM</td><td>156</td><td>Feb</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>Corn Exchange</td><td>1480</td><td>Feb</td><td>Awarded</td></tr><tr><td>John Muir Statue</td><td>1800</td><td>Feb</td><td>Awarded</td></tr></tbody></table><div><div>Committed or under review</div><div>£9,770</div></div><div><div>Local Priorities Fund available</div><div>£961</div></div><div><div>Maximum Budget Total</div><div>£10,731</div></div><div><div>Current year fund</div><div>£10,200</div></div><div><div>Brought forward fund</div><div>£531</div></div><div><div>£10,731</div></div><div><div>Not yet paid</div><div><div>East Beach sign</div><div>£75</div></div><div><div>High St TRA</div><div>£56</div></div><div><div>Corn Exchange</div><div>£1,480</div></div><div><div>John Muir Statue</div><div>£1,800</div></div></div><div><div>Local Priorities Fund available</div><div>£961</div></div><div><div>Not yet paid</div><div>£3,410</div></div><div><div>Per March 25 Finance Report</div><div>£4,371</div></div></div>	Local Priority Grant applications	Amount	Review	Decision	Dunbar Harbour Trust	500	May	Awarded	Dunbar History Society	500	June	Awarded	Community Carrot	1644	June	Awarded	Tuesday Coffee Club	280	August	Awarded	Ridge - Portraits	325	Sep	Awarded	Health & Wellbeing	300	Oct	Awarded	Writers' Group	286	Nov	Awarded	DGA Xmas Fair	500	Nov	Awarded	1st Dunbar Rangers	450	Nov	Awarded	Countess After School Club	710	Jan	Awarded	Launch of High Street TRA	290	Jan	Awarded	East Beach signage	75	Jan	Awarded	Ridge evacuation chair	474	Feb	Awarded	High Street TRA AGM	156	Feb	Awarded	Corn Exchange	1480	Feb	Awarded	John Muir Statue	1800	Feb	Awarded	
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5.03	<div><div>Questions/Matters Arising</div><div>Annual Accounts</div><div>AS reported that the accounts to the end of March will now be finalised and submitted for independent examination by Spratt and Co, accountants, in accordance with ELC requirements for Community Councils.</div><div>Corn Exchange</div><div>RR confirmed that the grant assisted repair works were planned and should be executed in the coming fortnight or so.</div></div>																																																																					

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5.04	<p>Local Priorities Grants</p> <p><u>Dunbar and East Linton Local Magazine</u></p> <p>Members agreed to fund the distribution costs for this new magazine compiled by Jo Waddell for Dunbar Trades and to be distributed to every household in the area. MJ had proofread the magazine and commended the phenomenal work that had gone into its production.</p>	
6.00	<p>PLANNING + ROADS MATTERS</p> <p>The following applications were considered:</p>	
6.01	<p>Installation of surface water pipe (<i>discussed following First Responders presentation</i>)</p> <p>Land East Of Dunbar Garden Centre Spott Road Dunbar East Lothian</p> <p>Ref. No: 24/01004/P Received: Thu 19 Sep 2024 Validated: Wed 23 Oct 2024 Status: Awaiting decision</p> <hr/> <p>Residents of Ancroft, part of the hamlet of Broxburn, had asked to speak to the Community Council in anticipation of the forthcoming determination of this application.</p> <p>They, and DCC, had written to ELC Planning in November 2024 to object to the proposed development and their concerns regarding the potential negative impact of a new, 450mm diameter drainage pipe from the Spott Road site discharging into the Broxburn at their homes, have not abated. The pipe has the capacity to deliver nine times the volume of water of an existing 150mm diameter pipe.</p> <p>John Robertson and Kirsten Harper, speaking for the residents, reported that there were fundamental flaws in the application.</p> <p>The application states that Scottish Water and SEPA have no adverse comment to make in respect of the application. ELC officers had refused to allow residents to inspect paperwork submitted by either of these bodies as part of the planning process. Under a Freedom of Information Request to Scottish Water, they were told that no approach at all has been made to Scottish Water in regarding this planning application.</p> <p>The application relates to land that is owned outright by Kirsten Harper. It relates also, to land that has been managed and used by Ancroft residents for their 3 septic tanks for 22 years. The residents are currently endeavouring to secure title to this land.</p> <p>The residents' interrogation of the Building Standards determine that no work may take place within 5m of a septic tank and there is no space to allow for this.</p> <p>The residents have been advised by ELC Planning that they may raise a civil action against the developer if there is any damage to their septic tanks or homes. They understandably find this suggestion preposterous.</p> <p>The planning application has been 'called in' by Cllr Donna Collins. Residents are aware of their right to be represented and will ensure that they know of the process. Cllr Collins will assist as needs be.</p> <p>NH agreed to ensure that ELC officers release all relevant information to residents and to DCC in advance of the Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday 6th May. These will include Scottish Water and SEPA reports.</p> <p>JB, who had visited the site with residents, agreed to share photos of same.</p>	<p>NH</p> <p>JB</p>

Ref	Item	Action
7.00	LICENSING MATTERS	
7.01	<p>The Rocks – Licence – Major Change Application</p> <p>Esther Hughes, neighbour to The Rocks spoke to this matter, and DCC members were in receipt of submissions from other neighbours.</p> <p>DCC members shared the concerns expressed by neighbours that the proposed, very significant, extension to licensing hours would fundamentally change the character of the business at The Rocks. The proposed changes had the potential to cause significant nuisance and disruption to an essentially residential street, transforming The Rocks from a hotel with a restaurant and bar to a ‘destination bar’ with hotel rooms. DCC will write to object to this major change of licence.</p>	DCC
8.00	DCC PROJECT UPDATE	
8.01	<p>Civic week – 14th June 2025</p> <p>RK reported that local groups had been slow to commit to events during Civic Week but Nho will pursue this, focussing on groups that had received DCC funding. The CW Committee is confident that there will be a full week of fun this year.</p> <p><u>Awards Night</u> will be on Monday 16th June. Voting on nominations will take place following the DCC meeting on 21st April.</p>	
9.00	DCC + COMMUNITY PROJECTS/GROUPS - UPDATE	
9.01	<p>Dunbar and West Barns Local Place Plan</p> <p>A final draft has been circulated widely during 28 day consultation period. DCC priorities to be included in ELC’s Local Development Plan were specifically identified and included a request that land adjacent to Dunbar Station be retained for the development of a travel hub in the future.</p>	
9.02	<p>Dunbar Town Centre Clean Up Weekend</p> <p>This event over the weekend of 5th/6th April was led by the newly formed High Street Residents’ Group and supported by Dunbar Against Litter(DAL). It was a great success with four full skips removed after the weekend.</p>	
9.03	<p>Dunbar Town Centre Heritage Celebration</p> <p>This heritage weekend, promoted by DTA, will take place on 26th/27th April. Promotional material is in the public domain.</p>	
10.00	OPEN CONSULTATIONS – to note	
10.01	<p>ELC CONSULTATION HUB – lists all currently open consultations in East Lothian.</p> <p>Motorhome Parking – Shore Road (see item 2.04/3.01) https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/infrastructure/elc-off-street-coa-parking-pl/</p>	
11.00	AOB	
11.01	<p>Community Places</p> <p>DCC reps joined with DELAP reps and a small group of others for a workshop to discuss the future use of Bleachingfield, Town House and East Linton Library. The aim of the work was to determine what opportunities there were for creating revenue or capital receipts from same.</p> <p>Given the legal complexities of tenure on all three buildings and their central importance to groups in Dunbar and East Linton respectively, it was agreed that there were no</p>	

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	opportunities for capital receipts through sale and only modest potential for increased revenue receipts.	
12.00	NEXT MEETINGS	
12.01	DCC Informal Meeting Members may meet informally in closed session on 5 th May. Location TBC.	
12.02	DCC Open Meeting – Monday 19 th May 2025 7pm Town House Guest Speaker - PC Laura Jackson	

PS/PSh/