

Fa'side Area Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Fa'side Area Partnership

22nd April 2014, 7-9pm, Fraser Centre, 3a Winton Place Tranent

Members present

Charlotte Noon, Ross High Pupil Council

Councillor Jim Gillies

Councillor Kenny McLeod

Councillor Shamin Akhtar

Elizabeth Hutchison, Muirpark and Steading Tenants and Residents Association

Helen Spencer, Elphinstone Primary School Parent Council

Jennifer McNeil, Ormiston Community Council

Maureen Allan, Tranent & Elphinstone Community Council

Maureen Cuthill, Macmerry and Gladsmuir Community Council

Phil Summerfield, Pencaitland Community Council

Robert McNeill, Tranent & Elphinstone Community Council

Roger Powell, Ross High School Parent Council

Scott Russell, Tranent & District Community Sports Club

Margaret Scott, Tranent West Tenants and Residents Association

Substitute members present

Brodie Thomson, Ross High Pupil Council

Mark Ormiston, Ormiston West Tenants and Residents Association

Others in attendance

Alan Bell, Recharge

Kaela Scott, Local Community Planning Officer, East Lothian Council

Lena Hutton, Community Development Officer, East Lothian Council

Paolo Vestri, Service Manager Corporate Policy and Improvement, East Lothian Council

Tom Shearer, Interim Chair of Fa'side Area Partnership, Head of Communities and Partnership, East Lothian Council

Veronica Campanile, Policy Officer, East Lothian Council

Members Apologies

Councillor Donald Grant

Samara Bell, Recharge Youth Committee

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	Key discussion points	Action
<p>1. Welcome</p>	<p>T Shearer welcomed members to the second meeting of the Fa'side Area Partnership and he said he was very encouraged at the high turnout for this meeting. He explained that this meeting would be the real work to develop the Area Plan and would be organised in workshop format.</p>	
<p>2. Approval of minutes and actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes were approved with one correction to be made. Alan Bell of Recharge attended the meeting. • Apologies received from Councillor Donald Grant and Samara Bell from Recharge Youth Committee. <p>a) Draft Code of Conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments on the Code of Conduct were received; therefore, the Code of Conduct was approved. <p>b) Research from community groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions were received. However, the Partnership should be aware of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - -The Tranent and Elphinstone Action Plan, which is about to be launched. - -Several pieces of research by Community Learning and Development carried out over recent years - The draft Police Plan for Fa'side Ward • Members were asked to send any other information/ research they become aware of <p>c) Update on Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom noted that the Area Partnership work is just starting with this one and the Musselburgh AP with the others to be set up by the summer. • Therefore the Council does not anticipate that funding will be needed for the financial year 2014/15, however, £600,000 has been allocated to support the delivery of Area Plans for the year 2015/16. • Funding will become more important as the work progresses and the Chair will keep members up to date with developments regarding funding. • R. McNeil reminded the Partnership of the point made at the first meeting that the Area Partnership is not all about getting money and relying on any one source and that this group can raise funds from a range of sources. <p>d) Meeting feedback forms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting feedback form was circulated to the meeting. 	<p>All members to send information/ research</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • V Campanile explained that the form can be used by members for any Area Partnership meeting or event. The form is designed to enable members to feed back their views on a meeting to the groups and networks they represent, focusing on key points and actions of interest to them. The form also includes a section for the recipients to be able to feed back on actions requested to the representative. • The meeting feedback form in word (to enable anyone to use it) will be emailed to members. • Please send any comments on the feedback form to faside-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk • In relation to being able to feed back to groups and networks it was noted that the meeting of the Association of Parent Councils where communication mechanisms were to be discussed had been cancelled and this would be picked up at the next Association meeting. 	<p>KS to email the feedback from to members</p> <p>Members to send comments on the feedback form</p>
<p>3. Presentation on key points from the Fa'side Area Profile</p>	<p>K Scott introduced a presentation on the key points arising from the Fa'side Area Profile as a framework for the group work to follow. She said that copies of the presentation and the Area Profiles were on the tables for reference.</p> <p>The presentation is available at http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/5477/east_lothian_partnership-faside_area_partnership</p> <p>The discussion following collected points from the presentation which particularly stuck out or surprised people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The big changes in demographics of the area over the past few decades • That the population has dropped in some areas • That the age profile of Fa'side puts the area as younger than average – particularly in Tranent and Pencaitland • 632 children living in poverty in the ward • The £300 per week difference in average household income between the most and least affluent datazones • Access inequalities – not something you immediately think of in this area • Health inequalities between communities - i.e. The difference in life expectancy of 6 years for women between the north and south areas of Tranent • Big differences in rates of breastfeeding between communities • High levels of hospital admissions for chronic / lifestyle illnesses across the area • High attainment standards in S4 BUT what happens to pupils in S5 – is it to do with expectations • Perceptions of increasing crime in the area when police figures 	

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<p>4. Next steps</p>	<p>Members were asked in their discussion groups to identify key pieces of additional information they needed to add to these discussions before moving onto exploring actions. The following were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community mapping – to give better knowledge of what is going on with businesses, community groups, facilities/venues, opportunities – would also help with signposting • Living Streets Report – what happened following this event? • Planning for Real initiative (2012?) – what happened following this? • More information on child poverty / free school meal uptake – what are the trends over time? • NHS plans for future provision in the area • Police Scotland ward plans • The early years priorities for the area identified by the Support from the Start network • The Tranent and Elphinstone Action Plan • Awareness of what people are already working towards re community facilities in the Tranent area • Re foodbanks - we need information or where people using these services are from in this and other areas <p>T Shearer asked if anyone had something in particular they wanted to suggest/ add as the next steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R McNeill had asked to speak to this item. Tranent and Elphinstone Community Council had discussed action needed at a recent meeting. They were very concerned about regeneration and felt that this was a high priority and that this needed to move forward now. They propose that a small group from within the Area Partnership is formed now. <p>The chair asked for members views on this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J Gillies noted that a vision would be needed and that there was now someone in the community recently retired who would be happy to help develop the vision • K Scott added that the proposal for regeneration work had been on the agenda for some time and was likely to be a priority. • T Shearer agreed that this group's work would help in 	<p>Members involved to forward the Living Streets, Planning for Real and T&E Community Action Plan reports to be forwarded to faside-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk for distribution and reference</p> <p>Staff to attempt to source specific data requested for next meeting and identify appropriate people to input on wider plans etc at future meetings as appropriate.</p>
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	<p>developing the Area Plan.</p> <p>It was agreed to call a sub-group meeting to begin bringing together the work already done locally on this issue and to propose a way forward that could be presented at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Allan noted that that community mapping was needed and that STRiVE had recently made a proposal for funding which hadn't been successful but the document was ready. • A Bell said that there was also a small group working on developing community facilities in the area making use of existing buildings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S Akhtar noted that with the Area Partnership now in place we need to start integrating the work of these different groups together 	<p>Date for this meeting set – 14th May and invitations sent to the distribution list.</p>
<p>5. Date of Next Meeting,</p>	<p>Tuesday 3rd June, 7-9pm. Elphinstone Community Centre, Main St Elphinstone.</p>	<p>apologies to: faside-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</p>

Contact

Email: faside-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk

Phone: Kaela Scott, 01620 827822

Summaries from table discussions – Fa’side Area Partnership 22nd April 2014

Objective 1) To reduce inequalities across and within our communities

Fewer people across our community are living in poverty.

What has been getting worse?

- Are the new, wealthier communities in Windygoul etc hiding real poverty statistics in the area

- Growth of foodbanks – need information or where people using these services are from in this and other areas

- Housing benefit cuts – and housing association taking the hit at the moment

- School and Recharge have set up a breakfast club at the Rugby Club

What has been getting better?

- Children are doing better in P1, but we need to understand why – is it the new housing or has there been a change?

We live healthy lives and the gaps in health inequalities are closing

What has been getting worse?

- Choice of food in Macmerry and Gladsmuir is poor
- Can’t get an NHS dentist in Tranent / Fa’side

- Ormiston Grows – prices are high and not a great selection, bread only sometimes available and expensive.
- Health visitors etc are struggling with too heavy workloads to be able to provide the support needed

- Health facilities expanding in Ormiston and Tranent so improving access to GPs
- Lots of nice walks – Gladsmuir, Pencaitland, Ormiston

What has been getting better?

- Standards of play parks improving
- Quality of school meals
- New WRVS transport service bringing patients to GP and hospital appointments and reducing ambulance needs

We can move easily between and beyond our communities to access services and opportunities

What has been getting worse?

- Buses to Elphinstone
- There is a lack of information / advertisements about bus routes and new timetables

- Cost of busses from Macmerry are too high
- No footpaths between Pencaitland and Ormiston other than the Railway walk

- It is easy to access Edinburgh but harder/ more expensive to go to Haddington and other parts of East Lothian
- Lack of cycle lanes / safe footpaths between villages and towns

What has been getting better?

- Changed bus routes and lowering prices – 113 Pencaitland to the Western General

Overall priorities for this theme

1. **cycle paths and footpaths to provide safe links between towns and villages**
2. **access to affordable / useful public transport in the villages**
3. **costs of living a healthy life even for people not ‘in poverty’ – eg food, accessing leisure facilities**
4. **access to dental services**

Objective 2) To develop a sustainable economy across the area

Our town and village centres are thriving and well maintained places where people want to be.

What has been getting worse?

- Decreasing value of houses
- Windygoul has become its own community and is not part of Tranent
- Tranent High St looks shabby
- Macmerry shops
- Bus fares past Tranent
- Decline in service since Enjoy Leisure took over the Loch Centre

- There are the same kinds of shops in the small areas which limits the different types of families using them
- No quality shops in Tranent
- No choice of supermarket, no competition
- Traffic in Tranent – people can't find parking spaces

- Living Streets event took place but nothing ever happened

- New community centre in Ormiston is encouraging different groups to use it
- More people for the churches

What has been getting better?

To make a difference we need to:

- Improve public transport / access routes between villages and Tranent
- Get a community centre for Tranent (or at least make the Loch Centre become more of a Community Centre)
- Develop a Town Centre Regeneration plan for Tranent – make it both more attractive and more economically viable

We are changing our patterns of consumption to reduce our use of finite natural resources

What has been getting worse?

What has been getting better?

This topic was not explicitly discussed although many of the points highlighted in other discussion touch on achieving this outcome.

Our business sectors are growing and a higher proportion of our residents are working in, and therefore contributing to, East Lothian's economy.

What has been getting worse?

What has been getting better?

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- Tranent becoming a commuter town
 - Transport between different parts of the ward and also to local areas of employment. (eg Haddington and Macmerry)
 - Home working lower than average in this area

To make a difference we need to:

- Develop a traders association in the area
- Demand the roll out of fast broadband across the area
- Support the development of small business / office units
- Support local businesses and private/independent contractors– so that East Lothian £s stay in East Lothian

Overall priorities for this theme

1. **Town Regeneration – Tranent**
2. **Public Transport across the ward**
3. **Community Centre for Tranent (and in the short term rationalise / better co-ordinate use of existing facilities and buildings)**

Objective 3) To support people to develop the resilience they need to lead a fulfilling life

Children in our area get the best start in life and are ready to succeed

What has been getting worse?

- With the increased population it is difficult for all nursery/pre-school children to get a place in the local school

- There is a need for transitional support for people through life to help with the ups and downs in transition from Childhood to adulthood

What has been getting better?

- New school buildings
- Increased nursery provision
- New libraries

Our young people have the opportunities needed to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens

What has been getting worse?

- Perceptions of young people and their behaviour

- Fewer opportunities for those with higher intelligence

- There is a perception that 'normal' or 'good' young people miss out on opportunities

- S5/S6 results improving, if slowly
- High positive outcome rates for school leavers, despite perception of poor attainment at senior school level
- Range of different opportunities available linked to Ross High eg. Hospitality and Tourism Academy, Columba 1400, Tots and Teens,

What has been getting better?

- Community facilities improved
- Active schools
- Sporting facilities have improved

**People in this community have the skills, confidence and capacity to make positive changes
in their lives and their communities**

What has been getting worse?

- Broadband access especially in the villages
- Loch Centre is not a nice facility
- Lack of community facilities in Tranent to deliver courses etc
- Access to the local centre for young people

- Awareness of all the activities in the community at all ages

- There are a lot of different groups that there is not the capacity for in community buildings

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What has been getting better?

- Access to the Loch Centre by older people
- George Johnston Centre
- The number of clubs and societies around – from arts and drama to sports – although there is not enough information about them in the public domain

We need:

- Shared community facilities with age specific areas but integrated
- More activities for teenagers – sports and social – and more outside of / away from school.
- To create an intergenerational community for Fa’side – not a case of them and us!
- A mapping exercise – who what where – connecting the community and gap analysis – ‘you don’t know what you don’t know’
- Dementia friendly towns
- A community website / hub which links all the events and activities in the area

Overall priorities for this theme

1. **Ensure a ‘wraparound’ community – with support for people at both ends of the age spectrum (and everyone in between)**
2. **A community hub for all (although it might need to be virtual in the short-term)**

Objective 4) To ensure safe and vibrant communities

<i>What has been getting worse?</i>	Our area is a safe place			<i>What has been getting better?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people from other areas coming to Tranent and causing ASB • Litter and road safety on Tranent High St during Ross High lunchbreaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter, vandalism, anti-social behaviour keeps some children away from parks and greenspaces • Youth specific facilities are running at capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people don't know who the community police officer is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year on year drop in ASB and offending involving youth people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People generally feel safe in their communities

<i>What has been getting worse?</i>	People in this area have access to high quality sustainable housing that meets their needs	<i>What has been getting better?</i>
	<i>This topic was not explicitly discussed at this meeting.</i>	

<i>What has been getting worse?</i>	We have high quality natural environments and greenspace in our area that enhances the wellbeing of our communities	<i>What has been getting better?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lack of greenspace associated with new developments – not just from an environmental point of view but landscape and recreational too 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of anti-social behaviour in parks • Lack of access to greenspace • The High St is really dull • The school is dull on the inside and the outside – no one likes it 	

Overall priorities for this theme

1. **Working together in partnership – not just the job of the police to make communities safer – eg we need to be encouraging young people to report ASB themselves**
2. **Improve community information and access to facilities**
3. **The Pupil council can play a greater role in promoting issues**