

# Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership

## MINUTES

**Meeting of the Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership,**

**13<sup>th</sup> August 2014, 7-9pm**

**in Bridge Centre, Haddington**

**Meeting Chaired by :** Douglas Proudfoot, (Interim Chair) Head of Development, East Lothian Council (DP)

### **Members (and substitute members) present**

Alastair Beck, Humbie E&W Saltoun and Bolton Community Council (AB)

Ann McCarthy, East Lothian Health Network (AM)

Brian Baillie, Nungate Tenants and Residents Association (BB)

Cllr. John McMillan (JM)

Cllr. Tom Trotter (TT)

Emily Armatage, Haddington Community Council (EA)

Gill Colston, East Lothian Health Network (GC)

Nick Morgan, Gifford Community Council (NM)

Paul Darling, Haddington Community Council (PD)

Phillip White, Garvald & Morham Community Council (PW)

Rosemary Greenhill, Humbie E&W Saltoun and Bolton Community Council (RG)

Ross Prentice, Haddington Business Association (RP)

### **Others in attendance**

Kaela Scott, Local Community Planning Officer, East Lothian Council (KS)

Doug Haig, Community Development Officer, East Lothian Council (DH)

### **Apologies received**

Abbi Robertson, Knox High School Pupil Representative (AR)

Craig McLachlan, Gifford Community Council (CM)

Cllr Ludovic Broun-Lindsay (LBL)

Emma de Costa, Knox High School Pupil Representative (EdC)

Hamish Hastie, Knox Academy Pupil Representative (HH)

Lois Finnie, Knox Academy Pupil Representative (LF)

Penny Short, Garvald & Morham Community Council (PS)

Rena Polson, Riverside Tenants and Residents Association (RP)

Agenda Item	Key discussion points	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome</b></p>	<p>DP introduced himself as the new Chairperson of the H&amp;L Area Partnership and explained that staff absence had meant that there had not been a consistent chair for this Partnership until this point.</p> <p>Everyone present introduced themselves, and the group they represented.</p>	
<p><b>2. Approval of the minutes</b></p>	<p>The draft minutes were approved with no amendments</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters Arising</b></p>	<p><b>a) Rural Sector Membership</b>  It was acknowledged that we had not made any progress regarding securing representation on the Partnership from the rural business sector.  JM noted that there was involvement from the rural / agricultural sector in the partnerships at a strategic level and that this may cover the need at present, unless there was a specific local issue that emerged.</p> <p><b>b) Are the priorities being directed by East Lothian Council?</b>  KS confirmed that while the framework for discussion at the last meeting and the overall Area Plan will be shaped around the priorities for East Lothian identified in the East Lothian Plan: SOA this was not an attempt by the Council to be prescriptive about the content of the plans. It was rather intended to open up a wide range of discussions, highlighting the scope of what could be explored, and a way of ensuring that there was a 'golden thread' between the strategic and local level which would support implementation. She asked members to also note that the key themes that were distributed following the last meeting (to be discussed later in the agenda) were not directly tied to the SOA themes but rather were responding directly to the local conversations.</p> <p><b>c) Area Partnership budgets</b>  DP confirmed that a final allocation of budgets to each of the partnerships was still being determined. He noted that these budgets were not coming from 'new money' but had been secured by top-slicing some of the existing Council budgets. There was therefore a possibility that some portion of the budgets allocated may be ring-fenced around some service areas but that there was also a commitment from the council to retaining enough flexibility in the devolved budgets to allow individual Area Partnerships to be able to implement priorities identified in their Area Plans.</p>	
<p><b>4. Feedback</b></p>	<p>KS distributed a revised version of the Key Themes paper – revised</p>	

<p><b>regarding the key themes</b></p>	<p>on the basis of feedback received by members prior to the meeting. She drew people’s attention to the major change made to the paper – the addition of an 8<sup>th</sup> theme - <b>Community Facilities and Resources</b> .</p> <p>In the discussion that followed a number of key points were raised which will be integrated into the description for each key theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need to explicitly acknowledge the growing population of older people in the area in relation to health services, transport and community facilities and volunteering</li> <li>• To acknowledge the growing population across the ward and the need to make best use of our resources</li> <li>• To include reference to the need for more ongoing and sustainable support for local businesses</li> <li>• To include further reference to rural economies</li> <li>• To include access to accident and emergency service in the descriptions relating to health services</li> <li>• To include reference to Enjoy leisure and churches / church facilities in the Community facilities and Resources themes</li> </ul>	<p>Staff to update the key theme description based on the discussion.</p>
<p><b>Prioritising the themes</b></p>	<p>A simple voting exercise was used to priorities the themes to help shape the agenda for future meetings: The resulting order of priority is listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to health services</li> <li>2. Community Facilities and Resources</li> <li>3. Opportunities for children and young people</li> <li>4. Community cohesion</li> <li>5. Broadband</li> <li>6. Transport</li> <li>7. Local Economy</li> <li>8. Volunteering</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Updates</b></p>	<p><b>East Lothian Broadband Strategy</b></p> <p>JM gave an update on the East Lothian Broadband Strategy, - an overarching 5 year internet connectivity strategy for East Lothian. He highlighted that there are large areas of this ward (and other parts of East Lothian), that will not significantly benefit from the Scottish Government’s Step Change programme that aims to achieve Next Generation Access coverage to 95% of East Lothian premises by 2017.</p> <p>He reported that there was a meeting organised by East Lothian Council with Community Councils to outline the strategy due to take place the day after this meeting.</p> <p><b>Decision: Given this timing it was agreed to defer discussions of the implications of this strategy till a future meeting.</b></p> <p><b>East Lothian Community Hospital and consultation on the Health</b></p>	<p>Staff to provide a link to the Strategy with the minutes</p>

	<p><b>and Social Care Integration Strategic Needs Assessment</b></p> <p>KS reported that the process of developing the East Lothian Community Hospital had reached a significant milestone with the Initial Agreement now approved. Timetables are also being set for public consultation on Health and Social Care Integration and are expected to begin in the next few months.</p> <p><b>Decision: Given this, and with access to health services being the top priority identified above, it was agreed to defer discussions of this priority to the next meeting and make it the main item on the agenda.</b></p>	Staff to organise for an input on the East Lothian Community Hospital or the next meeting
<p><b>5. Building a greater understanding of the issues</b></p>	<p>Based on the priorities identified above members divided into 3 groups to explore 3 of the identified priority areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Community Cohesion</li> <li>• Community Facilities and Resources</li> </ul> <p>Notes from these discussions are attached as an appendix to this minute.</p>	Members to review that the discussions were accurately recorded and provide clarification on <b>highlighted sections</b>
<p><b>5. Next steps</b></p>	<p>The notes from the discussions this evening will be written up and distributed for comment and addition.</p> <p>These will be used to shape the agenda for the next few meetings of the partnership as we move towards identifying actions for the Area Plan.</p> <p>A proposed way forward will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>6. Any other Business</b></p>	<p>RG raised the Boundary Commission consultation and suggested that, since this Area Partnership was meeting during the consultation time that we should send a response on behalf of the Partnership as well as encouraging individual groups to respond.</p> <p><b>DECISION – to send a response to the Boundary Commission on behalf of the Partnership objecting to the proposed change to Councillor numbers on the basis that it was short-sighted given the growing population, seemed to run counter to the policy position of further localising participation and was potentially disruptive to local area community planning arrangements</b></p> <p>KS reminded Community Councils and TRA’s of their invite the Resilient Communities Workshop’ on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October, distributing a copy of the invitation from Sandy Baptie. She asked for Community Councils and TRA’s intending to participate to confirm their attendance to Sandy and encouraged other partnership members with an interest to attending to contact Sandy directly at : <a href="mailto:sbaptie@eastlothain.gov.uk">sbaptie@eastlothain.gov.uk</a></p>	KS to draft a response, circulate it for comment and submit on behalf of the Partnership (response attached)

<b>Date of Next Meetings</b>	<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b> 7-9pm, - Star Room, John Gray Centre (venue tbc)  <b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b> , 7-9pm (venue tbc)	Please send any apologies to: <a href="mailto:h&amp;l-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk">h&amp;l-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>
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**Contact:** Kaela Scott, Local Community Planning Officer: [h&l-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:h&l-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk) 01620 827822

## Transport –

The general consensus was that there is a lack of affordable and reliable transport within the Haddington and Lammermuir area and also for linking Haddington to Edinburgh and beyond.

What is the specific issue?	What (if anything) is already being done to address this?	Who is involved?	What else (if anything) do we need to know to be able to work on this issue effectively?	Ideas for action
<p>Standard: - reliability, frequency, condition.</p> <p>Fares (costly) Edinburgh and others.</p> <p>Coverage</p> <p>Inequality – Tranent → train £1.50.</p> <p>Crowding</p>	<p>New operators? Haddington-Edinburgh half hourly (all day). Lower fare (signif.) 6am – midnight.</p> <p>Other route changes/frequency proposed.</p>		<p>Legal constraints (connection).</p>	<p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How it works</li> <li>- Legal constraints.</li> </ul> <p><b>Public meeting.</b></p> <p>Advertise.</p> <p>Timetables? In bus stops.</p>
<p>Dual purpose – (school and public) but recognise constraints</p>				
<p>Re-contracting of supported bus routes.</p>			<p>Knowledge of break-even point for service viability.</p>	
<p>Public attitude change → use or lose.</p>				

Danger on roads.	Improved path network.	ELC communities.		Better cycle links. Garvald/Gifford/Haddington.
Few cycle routes (off road).			Build more paths	Incentives for landowners to give strip of land.
Poor condition of rural paths.	Volunteer maintenance help.	ELC path wardens.	.	
Garvald – Summer holiday service for children.		Transport, Council.	ELC transportation service managers?	Invite expertise. Link to Enjoy – but may require subsidy.
Day Centre Transport.  ELC green buses.		Council.  Operators. Schools		Demand unresponsive?  Bus maps.  Social media (bus apps linked to coverage).  Passes – electronic.

## Community cohesion

Is the Haddington and Lammermuir ward a community... or is it a case of Haddington being surrounded by a range of separate and distinct rural communities? More importantly should it be?

Are there specific issues in part of the ward?

What is the specific issue?	What (if anything) is already being done to address this?	Who is involved?	What else (if anything) do we need to know to be able to work on this issue effectively?	Ideas for action
School catchment to reflect ward boundary.	Council refuses to consider review.	Education Dept.	What are the specific constraints on reviewing catchment boundaries.	*Point raised several times over.
Older people.			What is being done to support older people to live at home within their local community.	
Social Housing.	?	ELC/ELHA. Private developers.	Demographic demand for social housing/What is the decision making process?/ Waiting list information related to specific towns/villages etc.	Plans for social housing must reflect need/ demand/ community resources
How communities support themselves given lack of Government/Council resources.			Identify champions within the community to take/move identified issues forward. Assist with community development.	



## Community Facilities and Resources

Are community facilities and resources across the ward all being used effectively?

Are they assets or burdens to communities? Are they fit for purpose?

What is the specific issue?	What (if anything) is already being done to address this?	Who is involved?	What else (if anything) do we need to know to be able to work on this issue effectively?	Ideas for action
Needs of community groups are not clear.	Community Development Trust did audit of Corn Exchange usage but not asked what organisations need. Boxing club is good example of “sharing and growing”.	Lots of clubs, volunteers.	How can we use schools, playgrounds – particularly – summer?	Get people together to define needs, wants, ideas and opinions re space and facilities. FEED IN → FILTER → FOCUS ON PRIORITIES.
Corn Exchange under used.	Trust takeover.	Haddington Community Development Trust.	Future plans. How do people get involved! Opportunities on how to use (hire). Who/when are groups using the facilities. Prices and costs of hourly hire -	Resource plan ie (friendly architects/surveyors).  Funding assistance ie form filling.
Use of Nielson Park.		Friends of Nielson Park makeover plans (tennis courts).		

<p>Booking/lots.</p> <p>Different cost of hiring similar facilities</p>				<p>Centralised booking centre. Single booking system for Town House instead of upstairs/ downstairs as it is. If centralised costs could be levelled and use of facilities across the board could be increased.</p>

# Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership

c/o John Muir House, Haddington East Lothian, EH41 3HA  
H&L-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk

We are writing on behalf of the Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership to respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements.

We feel that the proposal to reduce the number of East Lothian Councillors from 23 to 21 is not only short sighted but will have a disruptive and ultimately negative impact on the work underway in this county, through Area Partnerships and other structures, to involve local people in a meaningful and practical way in influencing the decisions that affect the future of their communities.

Area Partnerships are the main element of local community planning arrangements in East Lothian, established to be the 'local voice' in the community planning process. In each ward Area Partnerships brings together Community Councils, Tenants and Residents Groups, Parent Councils, Pupil Councils, ELC Councillors and representatives from key local networks and voluntary sector organisations to work with service providers to establish a strategic vision for their area and a 10 year action plan that will ensure that policy, physical and service developments contribute towards achieving these goals.

One of the reasons these Area Partnerships work, enabling the communities to identify clear needs and aspirations for their particular area, is that the ward boundaries across East Lothian are based on natural communities, a key consideration identified by the Commission in the 2004 Boundary Review. Beginning with the existing community council boundaries, themselves based on historic parish boundaries, and combining these around the county's main towns has meant that East Lothian's multi-member wards already have a well established sense of community and feel like natural aggregations to the people that live within them.

We recognise that one impact of the proposed reduction to the number of Councillors in East Lothian would most likely be a significant redrawing of ward boundaries in the county to ensure electoral parity. This would be likely to not only break these natural ward boundaries but have a significant and damaging impact on work of the Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership, disrupting (if not completely undermining) the actions, strategies and approaches being negotiated and developed to provide services that meet the specific identified needs of our community.

We are also concerned that the proposal to reduce the number of elected members in East Lothian seems to run counter to the key principle underpinning community planning - to put engagement with communities at the centre of improving the way services are planned, coordinated and carried out and increase the involvement and influence of people in determining the future of their communities.

## Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership

In Scotland we already have the lowest number of elected officials per head of population across Europe and moves to reduce this even further seem contrary to the Scottish Government's commitment to increasing community participation.

Further, given that the population in East Lothian has been growing at a faster rate than that across Scotland as a whole, any moves to reduce the number of elected members in this county seem decidedly short sighted. With these rate of growth projected to continue, if not rise, in coming years surely the number of councillors in East Lothian would have to be increased again in the foreseeable future to retain proportionate levels of democratic representation with other parts of Scotland, potentially triggering another boundary revision. Not only does this seem to contradict the Commissions intention from the 2004 review to deliver more stable ward boundaries for the longer term but makes it increasingly difficult for partnerships like ourselves to confidently engage in long term planning for the future of our communities.

Finally, while the 5 other Area Partnerships in East Lothian have not had the opportunity to discuss this proposal at a meeting, given that your consultation period has coincided with their summer break, we are confident that they would share our concerns and endorse this response as well.

Submitted by members of the Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership, representing:

- Gifford Community Council
- Garvald and Morham Community Council
- Humbie, Saltoun and Bolton Community Council
- Haddington and District Community Council
- Knox Academy Parent Council
- Knox Academy Pupil Council
- Nungate Tenants and Residents Association
- Riverside Tenants and Residents Association
- Haddington Business Association
- Haddington Community Development Trust
- Haddington District Community Sports Hub
- East Lothian Health Network
- Elected members for the Haddington and Lammermuir Ward

John Muir House,  
Haddington,  
East Lothian.  
EH41 3HA

15<sup>th</sup> April 2014



Dear

### **East Lothian Council, Resilient Communities Workshop 2014**

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 at the Brunton, Musselburgh 9am to 1pm (lunch provided)**

As you will be aware, from the e-mails I have previously circulated, East Lothian Council are organising the above workshop for the benefit of the East Lothian public.

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss best practice, share information and highlight/promote Resilient Communities. The workshop will be hosted by East Lothian Council and involve local community representatives, responder agency personnel and East Lothian Council staff.

#### **Objectives**

- Assist communities to become more resilient in the event of any emergency or other unexpected event.
- Promote and highlight Resilient Communities, including creating community emergency plans.
- To provide communities with advice, information and reassurance on ways they can be better prepared for emergencies and unexpected events.
- To highlight responder agencies, including the voluntary sector, and the challenges they face.
- To gather 'lessons learned' for future planning.

#### **Attendees**

- Representatives from each of the 20 ELC Community Councils. **(names required!)**
- Representatives from Tenants and Residents Associations.
- Voluntary sector including Lothian 4x4, British Red Cross and Scottish Flood Forum..
- Partner agencies including the Police, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, SEPA, Met Office, Coastguard, Scottish Power and NHS Lothian
- East Lothian Council staff.
- School pupils representing the 6 East Lothian secondary schools.
- Elected Members
- Media.

#### **Programme**

Planning is ongoing and the final programme will be confirmed at a later date.

The workshop will commence at 9.30am (9 for 9.30) and be completed by 1pm. Refreshments, including lunch will be provided.

The workshop will be scenario based (looking at risks for East Lothian) with several incidents featured. This will include severe weather, Torness Power Station and Oil Pollution. Community Council, Tenant and Residents Association representatives, elected members and school pupils will be seated at tables, each with a facilitator. Feedback will be encouraged on how best communities can act to enhance resilience and take action to resolve many issues, including the safety and health of vulnerable people.

Several Community Councils have already started to create their own Resilient Communities emergency response plans and this work will be featured during the workshop.

East Lothian Council and responder agency staff will provide short, sharp inputs on what they can achieve in certain emergency situations, including highlighting their agencies limitations.

During the registration period between 9 and 9.30am, the morning refreshment break and over lunch, all present will have the opportunity to 'network' and view several products, such as flood prevention equipment that can be purchased on the open market.

I look forward to receiving details of who will be representing your Community Council/Tenants Association, if you have not done so previously.

Should you require further details please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone.

Yours faithfully,

Alec Baptie

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