

# **Minutes of the meeting of the Musselburgh Area Partnership**

**8<sup>th</sup> September 2014, 7-9pm**

**Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre, Haddington Road, Musselburgh**

**Meeting Chaired by :** Sharon Saunders, Interim Co-Chair of Musselburgh Area Partnership, Head of Children's Wellbeing, East Lothian Council (SS)

## **Members present**

Irene Tait, Musselburgh & Inveresk Community Council (IT)  
Tanya Morrison, Whitecraig Community Council (TM)  
Chris Knights, Musselburgh Parish Grouping, Church of Scotland (CK)  
Fiona Langskaill, Bridges Project (FL)  
Scott Allan, Wallyford Community Council (SA)  
Barry Turner, Musselburgh Conservation Society (BT)  
Cathy McArthur, Windsor Park TRA (CM)  
Gaynor Allen, Musselburgh Grammar School Parent Council (GA)  
Iain Clark, Pinkie St Peter's Parent Council (IC)  
Nadine Lowrey, Campie Primary School Parent Council (NL)  
Sharlene Miller, Stoneyhill Parent Council (SM)  
Lisa Finlayson, Musselburgh Grammar School (LF)  
Councillor John Williamson (JW)  
Councillor John McNeil (JM)

## **Substitutes Present**

Jeanette Boyd, Windsor Park TRA (JB)  
Margaret Stewart, M&I Community Council (MS)  
Scott Robertson, Musselburgh Sports Hub (SR)

## **Others in attendance**

Kaela Scott, Local Community Planning Officer, East Lothian Council (KS)  
Darrin Nightingale, Interim Co-chair of Musselburgh Area Partnership, Head of Education, East Lothian Council (DN)  
Rurighd McMeddes, Assistant Local Community Planning Officer, East Lothian Council (RM)  
Richard Semple, Depute, Musselburgh Grammar School (RS)

## **Apologies**

Bernard Harkins, Musselburgh & Inveresk Community Council (BH)  
Callum Maguire, Queen Margaret University (CM)  
Chris Turnbull, Musselburgh Sports Hub (CT)  
Councillor Andrew Forest  
Councillor Fraser McAllister (FM)  
Councillor John Caldwell (JC)  
Councillor Stuart Currie (SC)  
Emma Stuart, Council of Churches (Musselburgh) (ES)

	<b>Key discussion points</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. Welcome</b></p>	<p>SS welcomed members to the meeting of the Musselburgh Area Partnership, and attendees introduced themselves in turn.</p>	
<p><b>2. Approval of minutes</b></p>	<p>SS asked if there were any corrections to the minutes.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July were approved without amendment.</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters arising</b></p>	<p><b>a) Update from the Attendance/ Achievement Sub-Group</b></p> <p>FL provided an update based on the minutes of the AA Sub-group's most recent meeting.</p> <p>FL stated the key themes the group had discussed, the ideas they had developed as potential solutions, and questions they had conceived of for further exploration. These are detailed in full below:</p> <p><i>Themes Discussed by Sub-Group:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Term time absences due to holidays</li> <li>- Term time absences for p1 / P2 particularly – as often parents see this as less of an issue than later at exam levels etc although it is the time where the building blocks of education are provided</li> <li>- End of term absences – often accepted by parents as not an issue because of a misguided belief that they are 'not actually doing real work' at this time</li> <li>- Repeated short absence due to chaotic family lives – particularly in early primary</li> <li>- Voting with their feet' absences in High School – is it too late for the community to assist addressing this if pattern have been established in earlier years</li> </ul> <p><i>Ideas for Action Considered by Sub Group:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Campaign focussing on what children are missing by non attendance – simple clear statements that are meaningful to parents/carers – posters in schools and other places and leaflet distributed as part of school induction</li> <li>- Adding an attendance contract to the behaviour agreements and other things parents and children sign at some schools at the beginning of the year / term</li> <li>- Find out whether attendance itself is emphasised in the community based family/parenting work going on across the area – and if not look to change that</li> <li>- Pilot an 'Attendance Challenge Term' across local primaries – not as a competition between primaries but as internal challenge – make this very public               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Challenge for all primaries to improve attendance over the term by x% - with some sort of reward for those that do</li> <li>o Promote competition internally between classes/</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>houses/year groups – with small rewards for best weekly attendance – eg additional play or golden time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support this with materials for parents</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School or parent council newsletters to publish attendance rates</li> <li>- Investigating an approved volunteer list who can collect younger children and take them to school if a family is struggling – not intended as a long term solution but could help address crisis issues eg illness of another child in the family</li> <li>- Speak to local doctor’s surgeries re the messages they are giving to parents when a child is sick - getting a consistent message given about whether they require time off school (like they would for signing someone off work)</li> <li>- Equipping community members and retail operators to be confident in challenging young people not at school during term time</li> <li>- Rewards for young people with 100% attendance (excluding authorised absences)</li> <li>- Musselburgh Achieves campaign – still to be discussed</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that a number of highly creative solutions had been developed, some of which were likely to meet full agreement, while others might be more contentious. SR suggested that all potential solutions might be circulated within the wider AP, who might select the most appropriate ones to feedback into the sub-group for more focused development in advance of the next sub-group meeting. (notes are attached as Appendix A)</p> <p>SS agreed, stating that the date of the next sub-group meeting would need to be shared, as this would provide a deadline for selecting solutions.</p> <p><b>Decision: AP to consider all potential solutions suggested by sub-group in advance of next Sub-Group meeting.</b></p> <p>CM indicated that Windsor Park TRA would be happy to include an article about Attendance and Attainment in their Newsletter and suggested other TRAs in the area may be able to do likewise. She also noted that the Windsor park TRA was to be providing a sports trophy for Pinkie St Peters School and something similar for attendance may be able to be looked at by groups in other areas.</p> <p>DN indicated that he was very impressed with the work already accomplished by the Sub-Group, before asking LF if, as a pupil at Musselburgh Grammar, she had anything to add that may have been missed – highlighting that input on this matter would be welcome at future meetings also.</p> <p>LF stated that she liked the idea of awards for attendance, and stated that she would think about other potential issues or solutions.</p>	<p><b>Action Sub-group:</b> set date for next meeting</p> <p><b>Action Members</b> Consider all potential solutions presented by S-G for feedback in advance of next S-G meeting</p>
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	<p>Attendees highlighted a number of issues worth noting including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the issue of attainment did not stop at attendance; pupils also had to be committed to learn.</li> <li>• That nonetheless it was vital to get across to parents how important attendance is. With suggestions that using statistics regarding the correlation between achievement and attendance might be one tool for achieving this.</li> <li>• That early intervention is extremely important, highlighting the need to embed attendance as a positive habit as early as possible.</li> <li>• Caution against ignoring other secondary school drawing pupils from the area - St Davids</li> </ul> <p>DN concluded agreeing with previous points and adding that early schooling is vital with the example the most of a child's knowledge of phonics is learned within a two week period. He continued highlighting the importance of attendance saying that it is widely accepted that if attendance drops below 80% 'you've lost the child'.</p> <p><b>b) Any other matters arising?</b> No other matters were raised.</p>	
<p><b>4. Exploring Prioritised Key Themes in More Depth</b></p>	<p>It was explained that for the purposes of this meeting discussion will be focus on four of the eight main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Travel and Transport</b></li> <li>- <b>Inclusive Communities</b></li> <li>- <b>Community Safety</b></li> <li>- <b>Health Inequalities</b></li> </ul> <p>This is because the three remaining themes (excluding Attendance and Attainment) are to be deferred to the next meeting (Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct) – giving it a focus on infrastructure, regeneration and investment in the area.</p> <p>It was further highlighted that efforts are being made to ensure that at that meeting members from ELC Departments involved in key areas including planning, transport, housing and development are in attendance, to help inform discussion. This will be particularly useful as it will help stimulate debate surrounding elements that may be in the forthcoming Main Issues Report (MIR), which will be available for consultation in November.</p> <p>JM at this point provided a brief explanation of what the MIR is and how it functions, explaining that no input would be able to be made on the MIR itself until after the draft was approved for consultation by the Council in October. After this time there will be a twelve week period of public consultation during which the AP will have ample opportunity to express their opinions on its content.</p> <p>SS confirmed that this was the case, before clarifying that the purpose of the next meeting was not to discuss the MIR, but rather to utilise the availability of individuals from ELC to stimulate discussion that would</p>	<p><i>A full explanation of the MIR can be found on the council's website at the link below for those interested:</i>  <a href="http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/204/statutory_development_plans/1470/east_lothian_local_development_plan/3">http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/204/statutory_development_plans/1470/east_lothian_local_development_plan/3</a></p>

	<p>likely improve and inform meetings throughout the twelve week consultation period for the MIR. KS explained the four themes to be discussed and attendees split into groups to focus on each of these in more detail, noting down key issues and areas for action. Attendees had the opportunity to join discussion on two themes throughout the exercise, and ‘blue sky thinking’ was encouraged.</p> <p>Full records of the discussions noted under each theme are attached as Appendix B.</p>	<p><b>Action – members</b> to review the record of discussion for accuracy and provide clarification of highlighted points.</p>
<p><b>5. Next Steps</b></p>	<p>SS stated that the aim was to have the Musselburgh Area Plan drafted by Christmas, and that this would be based in part on what had been discussed today.</p> <p>SS continued stating that at the next meeting discussions would centre on the three main themes omitted from today’s exercise in advance of the MIR consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Town Centre/ High St Regeneration</b></li> <li>- <b>Affordable Housing</b></li> <li>- <b>Tourism/ Destination offer to the wider World</b></li> </ul> <p>Furthermore there will also be another update from the AA Sub-Group following the selection of appropriate ideas for development.</p> <p>Looking forward: By November there should be a skeleton draft of the Area Plan, and by December there will be the Health and Care Service Consultation, which will inform future work.</p>	
<p><b>6. Any Other Business</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) KS highlighted the ‘<b>Resilient Communities Workshop</b>’ 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.</li> <li>b) CM presented a petition regarding the potential energy park development at the site of the closed Cockenzie coal power station for attendees to sign, if they should wish.</li> <li>c) CM then invited attendees to a Tea Dance, hosted by the Windsor Park TRA and distributed flyers.</li> <li>d) DN stated that the date for the next meeting was highly appropriate as it falls three days ahead of a major teaching conference, which will be attended by all of the head teachers in the county. As such any progress from the AA Sub-Group might helpfully inform discussion here.</li> </ol>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Members to confirm attendance to the Resilient Communities workshop: <a href="mailto:sbaptie@eastlothian.gov.uk">sbaptie@eastlothian.gov.uk</a></p>

<p><b>7. Next Meetings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The meeting closed at 21:00, DN and SS thanked people for their participation.</li></ul> <p><u>Date of the Next Meeting:</u> <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b> – 7-9pm, Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre (MECLC) <i>Suggested Dates:</i> <b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November</b> – 7-9, Venue tbc <b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b> – 7-9, Venue tbc</p>	<p>apologies to be sent to: <a href="mailto:musselburgh-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk">musselburgh-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</a></p>
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**Notes of the meeting  
of the Attendance / Achievement Sub-group of the Musselburgh Area Partnership**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014, 7-9pm  
Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre, Haddington Road, Musselburgh**

**Meeting Chaired by :** Kaela Scott, Local Community Planning Officer, East Lothian Council (KS)

**Members present**

Sharlene Miller, Stoneyhill Parent Council (SM)  
Chris Knights, Musselburgh Parish Grouping, Church of Scotland (CK)  
Fiona Langskaill, Bridges Project (FL)  
Jeanette Boyd, Windsor Park TRA (JB)  
Emma Stuart, Council of Churches (Musselburgh) (ES)  
Scott Robertson, Musselburgh Sports Hub (SR)

The purpose of this meeting was to begin to identify specific actions /campaigns through which the wider community can help support the idea that 'Attendance Matters' and how we advance the Musselburgh Area as an 'Achieving Community'

**Key themes discussed**

- Term time absences due to holidays
- Term time absences for p1 / P2 particularly – as often parents see this as less of an issue than later at exam levels etc although it is the time where the building blocks of education are provided
- End of term absences – often accepted by parents as not an issue because of a misguided belief that they are 'not actually doing real work' at this time
- Repeated short absence due to chaotic family lives – particularly in early primary
- 'Voting with their feet' absences in High School – is it too late for the community to assist addressing this if pattern have been established in earlier years
- Young people who are attending school (particularly High School) 'in body only' – not actually causing bother or not attending but....

**Ideas**

- Campaign focussing on what children are missing by non attendance – simple clear statements that are meaningful to parents/carers – posters in schools and other places and leaflet distributed as part of school induction
  - o Emphasising the idea that Attendance = Attainment
- Adding an attendance contract to the behaviour agreements and other things parents and children sign at some schools at the beginning of the year / term
- Find out whether attendance itself is emphasised in the community based family/parenting work going on across the area – and if not look to change that

## APPENDIX A

- Pilot an 'Attendance Challenge Term' across local primaries – not as a competition between primaries but as internal challenge – make this very public
  - o Challenge for all primaries to improve attendance over the term by x% - with some sort of reward for those that do
  - o Promote competition internally between classes/ houses/year groups – with small rewards for best weekly attendance – eg additional play or golden time
  - o Support this with materials for parents
- School or parent council newsletters to publish attendance rates
- Investigating an approved volunteer list who can collect younger children and take them to school if a family is struggling – not intended as a long term solution but could help address crisis issues eg illness of another child in the family
- Speak to local doctor's surgeries re the messages they are giving to parents when a child is sick - getting a consistent message given about whether they require time off school (like they would for signing someone off work)
- Equipping community members and retail operators to be confident in challenging young people not at school during term time
- Rewards for young people with 100% attendance (excluding authorised absences)
- Musselburgh Achieves campaign – still to be discussed

### **Questions we will need to follow up further**

Is anywhere in Scotland fining people for taking term time holidays – as it seems is being trialled in parts of England?

When high school pupils are off with longer term illnesses etc there is support / outreach teaching available. Is this the case with Infants / primary?

Our assumption is that there are probably few primary school pupils with unauthorised absences without their parent / carer's knowledge. Is this true?

Is there a way of finding out what percentage of eligible children are not taking up nursery places? – could this be contributing to early absences as there is not a pattern established within the family early?



<b>Key theme: Travel and Transport</b>				
<b>What is the specific issue?</b>	<b>What (if anything) is already being done to address this?</b>	<b>Who is involved?</b>	<b>What else (if anything) do we need to know to be able to work on this issue effectively?</b>	<b>Ideas for action</b>
Congestion in Town Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Congested with commuters</li> <li>- Emissions</li> <li>- No traffic wardens so too much parking on High St.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The electric bridge could be an alternative route for commuters but it is only sometimes open.</li> <li>- Edinburgh Bypass is a nightmare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open E-Bridge</li> <li>- Congestion Charge</li> <li>- Minimum Car Occupancy</li> <li>- High Occupancy Lane</li> <li>- Bus Lanes</li> <li>- Change School Start Time</li> <li>- Walking Buses</li> <li>- Car Ban (by the school at certain times)</li> <li>- Bring back traffic wardens</li> </ul>
Poor Public Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to doctors</li> <li>- Lack of School buses for Wallyford</li> <li>- No bus service for Old Craighall</li> <li>- Poor bus service for Whitecraig</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lothian buses have been asked to investigate extra buses for Wallyford (MGS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LRT</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include Dr's Surgery, Whitecraig and Old Craighall in bus route (perhaps the 30 could be extended for some of this)</li> <li>- More trains for Edinburgh, NB and Dunbar from Wallyford and Musselburgh</li> </ul>
Lack of Safe Walking/Cycle Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Especially from Whitecraig, dangerous road with no lighting</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Well lit cycle-lane between Whitecraig and Musselburgh</li> <li>- Pavement upgrade</li> <li>- Lower speed limit on that road</li> </ul>

<b>Key theme: Health Inequalities</b>				
<b>What is the specific issue?</b>	<b>What (if anything) is already being done to address this?</b>	<b>Who is involved?</b>	<b>What else (if anything) do we need to know to be able to work on this issue effectively?</b>	<b>Ideas for action</b>
<p><i>Healthy Eating</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of cooking skills</li> <li>- Availability of links to fresh food</li> <li>- Access to cheap fresh food</li> <li>- Allowing kids free access at lunchtime – buying sugary items</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roots and Fruits</li> <li>- Whitecraig growing their own vegetables</li> <li>- Healthy eating incentives in school</li> <li>- Vegetable Garden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- East Lothian Council,</li> <li>- Social Enterprises</li> <li>- Gardening Project: Dads Back to Work</li> <li>- Pupil/Parent Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is Community Learning and Development already doing?</li> <li>- Could gardening projects work in all primary schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learn to cook days</li> <li>- Cooking on a Friday afternoon at schools – Kids and Adults</li> <li>- Home Economics teacher</li> <li>- Bring a suitable alternative into MG's car park</li> </ul>
<p><i>Health Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Different rules around doctor's appointments: waiting outside; phoning/waiting; different practices</li> <li>- Nowhere to get prescription close to surgery</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficulties faced in introduction a pharmacy into GP practices – would annihilate other chemists.</li> <li>- With increasing population will there be a need for another health centre, Wallyford and Dolphinstone area?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better transport to health centres and surgeries</li> </ul>
<p><i>Environmental Health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emissions on the High St.</li> </ul>				
<p><i>Fitness</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exercise facilities prohibitively expensive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walking for health</li> <li>- Support from the Start doing a lot across the authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Musselburgh Transition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who would co-ordinate publicity of all activities</li> <li>- Swimming's free for children during hols</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better publicity of free swimming etc</li> <li>- Get families out more, need help to do this, cost?</li> </ul>
<p><i>Addiction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lots of families have alcohol/drug problems – soaking up resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many projects working independently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children's Wellbeing, Police</li> <li>- Various Projects, eg: circle</li> </ul>		

<b>Key theme: Community Safety</b>				
<b>What is the specific issue?</b>	<b>What (if anything) is already being done to address this?</b>	<b>Who is involved?</b>	<b>What else (if anything) do we need to know to be able to work on this issue effectively?</b>	<b>Ideas for action</b>
Though most agreed that Musselburgh is safe, a number of issues were highlighted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overlap of Police Shift to increase presence</li> <li>- Focus on hotspots</li> <li>- CAPP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Police</li> <li>- Our Community Warden</li> <li>- ELC CCTV</li> <li>- CAPP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More info on type / nature of crime</li> <li>- With loss of Haddington Sherrif Court means less reporting in local media, therefore people will not see justice being served</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Internet cafe – very small</li> <li>- More facilities for 14 yr olds upwards</li> <li>- Former employment office for sale</li> </ul>
Drunkenness in the evening		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pubwatch</li> </ul>		
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removal of Traffic Wardens</li> </ul>			
Break – Ins				
Youths (though some disagreement over whether this was a problem)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PSP</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What would attract 16/17 yr olds to a 'youth club'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth Cafe</li> </ul>

<b>Key theme: Inclusive Communities</b>				
<b>What is the specific issue?</b>	<b>What (if anything) is already being done to address this?</b>	<b>Who is involved?</b>	<b>What else (if anything) do we need to know to be able to work on this issue effectively?</b>	<b>Ideas for action</b>
EL increasing in size – not just different ethnic populations	Community Councils seem to work well Community Education Working with newcomers to produce EL guides in different languages, Braille, etc	Community Councillors	How best to use social media Breakdown the detail of current demographics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directory of all the community groups</li> <li>- Children from other countries might already be good English speakers but their parents may not be – need to help parents integrate in terms of language</li> </ul>
Used to be part of Midlothian, still a hangover from this.		Community Learning and development. Schools are key.		
New community of 160 houses near Old Craighall				
Lots of communities but all seem to be inclusive				
Older Adults staying at home rather than going into hospitals but lack of carers to enable this				Need STRIVE to help galvanise the community
Higher percentage of population with learning difficulties than in other communities	Crossreach providing support and being involved with churches			
Need for awareness raising and a vehicle for better communication	Some clubs exist: Scouts, BBs, Guides, Youth Clubs – need for greater advertisement			Schools/ Churches/ GPs/ Youth Clubs etc could all use better communication connectivity. Encourage use of social networking.
Need to involve more of the community, eg: young people				
Feeling that Musselburgh is quite an				

inclusive community but places like Whitecraig and Wallyford are on the periphery				
Including people with dementia – lack of care centres	Dementia Friendly East Lothian	Dementia Friendly East Lothian	Still to work in Musselburgh but it is planned	
Not enough opportunities for middle aged – Sports Centre caters too much to the young				
Need to involve and include outside communities more. A need to priorities areas of need including budgetary input			A need to bring in and advertise NEW things. All too 'samey'.	

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