

Fa'side Area Partnership

Newsletter May 2015

The key focus for the Fa'side Area Partnership at the moment is bringing the ideas and actions we have been discussing over the last few months together into an Area Plan – a 10 year strategic plan for the ward. After looking at local evidence and listening to residents and local groups the Partnership has identified 9 priorities for action; priorities that focus on the real differences we want to make in this area.

These are:

1. Enhancing the streetscape and public spaces in our town and villages;
2. Growing a robust and thriving local economy;
3. Improving travel throughout the ward – reducing congestion and encouraging more walking and cycling;
4. Increasing opportunities for play and physical activity for all ages;
5. Helping families to create healthier environments for children;
6. Improving access to healthy food;
7. Extending the range of community facilities available in the area;
8. Ensuring all residents feel safe and secure in their community;
9. Creating a more supportive community where everyone, regardless of age or ability, feels included and is able to live a fulfilling life.

The Fa'side ward covers the communities of Tranent, Ormiston, Elphinstone, Pencaitland and Macmerry.

The Fa'side Area Partnership brings together Community Councils, Tenants and Residents groups, Parent Councils, elected members and representatives from community groups and networks across this area to identify local priorities and plan for the action needed to deliver change.

This is the 2nd newsletter of the Fa'side Area Partnership. Our 1st newsletter can be found at http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/meetings/id/16427/april_newsletter

Recruiting a local Chairperson

Fa'side Area Partnership is now inviting interested people from across the ward to nominate themselves for the position of Chairperson of the Partnership.

When the Fa'side Area Partnership was formed in March 2014 Tom Shearer, East Lothian Council's Head of Communities and Partnerships, was asked to take on the role of Chairperson on an interim basis. This was a way for the East Lothian Partnership to show its commitment to supporting the Area Partnership while it found its feet, consolidated its membership and became familiar with the new role it was being asked to play as a ward wide consultative and planning group.

Now that the Partnership is well established and working on producing an Area Plan for the ward, the members agree that the time has come to appoint an independent chairperson from the local community. This is a voluntary position open to Fa'side residents aged 16 and over who would like to contribute to the development of community planning in this ward. It will be a new role (and no doubt will be challenging) however for the right person – someone with strong local connections and the drive and passion to make a difference in their local area – it will also provide an exciting opportunity to play an important leadership role in their community.

Making the transition to a community based Chairperson should not however be seen as a sign that East Lothian Partnership is reducing its support for the Area Partnership. In February East Lothian Council devolved £1.25 million to Area Partnerships to deliver their Area Plans, and created 4 new staff posts to assist with this (more info over the page) in addition to the help already provided by the Local Community Planning team.

For more information or to request an application pack please contact the Fa'side Area Partnership at Faside-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk or call 01620 827822. **Nominations close on the 1st June 2015**

Nomination are now
being sought for the
position of

CHAIRPERSON

of the
FA'SIDE AREA
PARTNERSHIP

Local residents looking
for a chance to make a
real difference in their
community are
encouraged to apply.

Planning for the future of Tranent town centre

On Thursday 30th of April a range of suggestions and recommendations from the Tranent Town Centre Charrette were presented to the community at a public meeting at Ross High.

The ideas had been developed by Kevin Murray and Associates (who led the charrette in Tranent) following workshops with local residents, business owners and East Lothian Council officers, and aimed to address some of the issues and concerns raised by the community about Tranent Town Centre.



We are now gathering community feedback on these ideas. They are on display in Tranent Library until the 15th of May 2015 and staff there have surveys visitors can complete. The display and survey are also available on the East Lothian Consultation Hub at <https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/>

This feedback will be used by Kevin Murray's team to further develop their recommendations for Tranent into a report which will be presented to Fa'side Area Partnership in June.

Getting Fa'side more physically active

The Fa'side Area Partnership wants to encourage more people to be more physically active as part of their day-to-day lives. We know from looking at health data that Fa'side faces significant challenges in relation to good health and some areas have particularly high rates of hospitalisation for illnesses tied to a lack of physical activity.

Making a difference to this would mean providing incentives and opportunities for:

- More people to get involved with sports – particularly young women and older men;
- More people to access work, school and services via active travel;
- More people to get out and enjoy our parks, rural paths and other green-spaces on a daily basis;
- Encouraging informal play at all ages.

Some of the things we are already looking at for our Area Plan to help make these changes are: establishing a skatepark in Tranent, supporting the improvements planned for Ormiston Park, developing a community garden in Elphinstone, better sign-posting of local core paths, secure bike storage in Tranent town centre, a path linking Glenkinchie Distillery to the Pencaitland Railway Walk and cycle leader training with senior pupils at Ross High School.

Fa'side
Area Partnership

The Fa'side Area Partnership is one of 6 Area Partnerships across East Lothian operating as the local voice of the East Lothian Partnership to deliver local community planning.

You can contact Fa'side Area Partnership at Faside-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk or on 01620 827822 or find out more, including meeting dates and minutes, at

www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/committee/107/east_lothian_partnership-faside_area_partnership

For information on Area Partnerships in other parts of East Lothian: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/EastLothianPartnership

Area Managers

In April 2015 East Lothian Council appointed 4 Area Managers to work with Area Partnerships and help deliver on the priorities identified in their Area Plans.

The Area Manager for the Fa'side Area Partnership is Simon Davie. Simon will be based in Recharge on Church St, Tranent.

Here Simon introduces himself...

'I have 25 years experience and knowledge of working for both central and local government organisations, alongside a short period working for a registered social landlord. For approximately the last 10 years I have worked for East Lothian Council, as the Community Housing Manager for the Tranent local office. During this time I led a very successful housing management team who were very committed to delivering great outcomes for our tenants and customers. This was demonstrated when our team were nominated and obtained an award for customer excellence at last year's ELC Star Awards ceremony.

One of my key achievements there was the delivery of 100 new council homes in Steading View, Tranent. The scheme has integrated well with the existing established community. I worked hard alongside my team and a range of other parties to ensure the creation, delivery and transition of this new development which is the largest council development over the last 25 years.

I have lived in East Lothian all my life and currently stay in Port Seton with my wife and two children. I am very much looking forward to working with members of Area Partnership and local people within the Fa'side ward to deliver your priorities.'

Simon Davie can be contacted on 07912 785 194 or via email at sdavie@eastlothian.gov.uk