

Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

Newsletter May 2015

Welcome to the 1st newsletter for the Haddington & Lammermuir (H&L) Area Partnership...

The Partnership has been meeting since May 2014 and discussing what are the key issues and opportunities in this ward but we also want to ensure our Area Plan reflects the needs and priorities of the wider community so...

- Our youth members consulted with pupils at Knox about key local concerns for them, and led the discussions at our November meeting.
- We initiated a local survey about broadband needs in rural areas.
- We're working with ELC to involve people in identifying barriers to active travel in this ward for our Plan and the Local Transport Strategy.
- We linked Support from the Start and Friends of Neilson Park to explore options for increasing use of the changing pavilion for all ages.
- We are involved with meetings about the new East Lothian Hospital.
- We are looking forward to the results of a local survey on 'attitudes to learning' to help shape ideas for raising aspiration in people of all ages.
- We are bringing key groups, business and council services together to refocus action on delivering the Haddington Vision

The Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership brings together Community Councils, Tenants and Residents groups, Parent Councils, Elected Members and representatives from community groups and networks across the ward to identify local priorities and plan for the action needed to deliver change.

The main focus of the Partnership at present is developing our Area Plan - a 10 year strategic plan for the ward. This Plan will guide how we allocate our share of the £1,250,000 East Lothian Council has devolved to Area Partnerships this year to deliver on local priorities so we are want to ensure that as many people as possible have a chance to contribute to its development.

Recruiting a local Chairperson

Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership is now inviting people from across the ward to nominate for the position of Partnership Chairperson.

After the H&L Area Partnership was formed in May 2014 Douglas Proudfoot, East Lothian Council's Head of Development, 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 residents of the Haddington & Lammermuir ward aged 16 and over who would like to contribute to the development of community planning in this area. This is a new role (and may well be challenging at first) 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 the East Lothian Partnership is reducing its support for the Area Partnership. East Lothian Council has recently created 4 new staff posts specifically to help develop and deliver on Area Partnership priorities (more info over the page) and the assistance already provided by the Local Community Planning team will remain in place.

For more information or to request an application pack please contact the H&L Area Partnership at H&L-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

**HADDINGTON &
LAMMERMUIR AREA
PARTNERSHIP**

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

Improving Broadband availability in rural areas

Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership is leading on a project with representatives from other rural communities in East Lothian to demonstrate the demand for improved Broadband availability in the east of the county.

While there are existing roll-out plans which should see superfast broadband becoming available in most towns and larger villages by the end of 2017, there are many rural and remote areas of the ward that are unlikely to see significant improvements without further local action.

Earlier this year we undertook a survey across rural premises to establish interest in developing alternatives to commercial broadband provision in these areas. Over 500 responses were received, covering 1516 broadband users or potential users, from areas where the average upload speed was well below 2Mbps. 99% stated they would be interested in having access to superfast broadband in the future.

This has given us the evidence to begin working with Community Broadband Scotland, who can provide project support and funding for alternative infrastructure to local areas unlikely to benefit from existing plans. We hope to be able to provide communities with a further update on this in June.



Haddington Skatepark

A new skatepark in Haddington was identified as a key priority for local young people by the youth members of the Area Partnership.

Haddington Community Council have been working for several years on developing designs, drumming up support and raising funds to develop a larger skatepark in Haddington and, with the recent removal of the half-pipe in Neilson Park, this has become an even bigger priority for the local area. A site has been identified and approved just off Whittingehame Drive and so far, including support from Council departments, they have raised just over £20,000.

A range of designs recently went out for consultation (you can see these at www.haddingtoncc.org.uk/?p=294) and a workshop with skaters from Knox will help finalise a preferred design in May. With the overall project likely to cost around £100,000 the Community Council is now teaming up with others from the Area Partnership to try and take this forward. The groups is currently assessing options for funding, and have identified a number of potential sources, so we are hopeful that we'll see work starting on a new skatepark in the not too distant future.

Haddington & Lammermuir
Area Partnership

The Haddington & Lammermuir 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 the Area Partnership at H&L-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk or on 01620 827822 or find out more, including meeting dates and minutes, at

www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/committee/109/east_lothian_partnership-haddington_and_lammermuir_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 new Area Managers to work with Area Partnerships and help deliver on the priorities identified in their Area Plans.

The Area Manager for the Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership is Stuart Gibb. Stuart will also be working with the Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership.

Here Stuart introduces himself...

'I have worked in Local Government for over 30 years, the last 19 with East Lothian Council. During my time here I have held a number of senior posts such as Billing Manager - with responsibility for Council Tax, Business Rates and other revenues and for the last 10 years I have been Contact Centre Manager. There I was responsible for setting up, developing and managing the operation of the Council's Contact Centre in Macmerry. During my time in this post I led the management of projects that introduced nearly 20 new services and resulted in significant improvements to the delivery of Council Services. I also worked very closely with many colleagues, not just at East Lothian Council but also other organisations such as Police Scotland and NHS Lothian and I believe that this network, and my experience of successfully delivering services, will be extremely useful in my new role.

Since taking up this job I have been meeting with members and groups involved in Area Partnerships, something I have found incredibly interesting and useful in helping me to see and experience the excellent work that they are doing for, and within, their respective communities. I am very excited to take on this new post as I believe the opportunity to be so closely involved in making real and significant improvements to the lives of the individuals and the communities in which they live is a great honour.'

Stuart Gibb can be contacted on 01620 827893 or 07974 300278 and via email at sgibb@eastlothian.gov.uk