

Musselburgh Area Partnership

Newsletter May 2015

Welcome to the 1st newsletter for the Musselburgh Area Partnership...

We are currently working to bring the ideas and initiatives we have been discussing over the last few months together into an Area Plan – a plan that will identify the outcomes we want to see for this area and the things that will need to be done, locally and by public service providers, to ensure we get there.

After looking at local evidence and listening to residents and local groups the Partnership has identified 7 priorities for action. These are:

1. Increasing investment in local infrastructure and facilities;
2. Reducing traffic congestion and improving walking and cycling routes;
3. Ensuring development preserves and enhances our distinct localities;
4. Encouraging an 'achieving culture' in the area for people of all ages;
5. Ensuring our communities have the knowledge and tools at-hand to make healthy lifestyle choices;
6. Working with police and others to make our area safe and feel safe;
7. Improving the availability of local information and creating an environment where community groups feel supported and residents know how to get involved in their neighbourhoods and interests.

Recruiting a local Chairperson

Musselburgh Area Partnership is now inviting people from across the area to nominate themselves for the position of Chairperson of the Partnership.

When the Musselburgh Area Partnership was formed in April 2014 Sharon Saunders (East Lothian Council's Head of Children's Services) and Darrin Nightingale (Head of Education) were asked to jointly chair the Partnership 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 Musselburgh wards aged 16 and over who would like to contribute to the development of community planning in this ward. It is a new role (and may well prove challenging at the outset) 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. 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 Musselburgh Area Partnership at Musselburgh-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk or call 01620 827822. **Nominations close on the 1st June 2015**

The Musselburgh area covers both of the Musselburgh wards and includes the villages of Wallyford and Whitecraig.

Musselburgh Area Partnership brings together Community Councils, Tenants and Residents groups, Parent Councils, Elected Members and representatives from community networks in this area to identify local priorities and plan for the action needed to deliver change.

Our current focus is completing our Area Plan - a 10 year strategic plan that will guide the work of the Partnership. This plan will also determine how we allocate Musselburgh's share of the £1 250 000 East Lothian Council has devolved to Area Partnerships this financial year to deliver on local priorities.

Nominations are now
being sought for the
position of

CHAIRPERSON
of the
MUSSELBURGH
AREA PARTNERSHIP

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

Getting Active - Free and fun fitness opportunities

The Musselburgh Area Partnership wants to encourage more people to be more physically active as part of their day-to-day lives. There are lots of initiatives that could help achieve this – from improving cycle paths to the installation of outdoor gym equipment - and we are looking at a number of these ideas for the longer term. Something we are particularly keen to encourage however is for people of all ages (but particularly local families) to make the most of the green and open spaces already at their doorstep – and one way of doing this is to make sure there are free, fun things to do once you are there.

A low cost way we are looking at to get this started is to develop and/or promote ‘activity trails’ along local paths and other greenspaces, for example:

- the new Brass Rubbing trail on the River Esk path;
- a Treasure Trail at Wallyford Bing – focused on the 10 mining heritage carved stones located there;
- develop a history quiz for the Musselburgh Heritage Trail;
- seasonal ‘spotting bingo’ for birds at Levenhall Links or wildflowers along the Whitecraig Railway Path.

All of these could be advertised to local families or visitors for download or use via a phone app while out and about.

Improving Local Streetscapes

We know that it is often the little, niggling things that bother people about their local area and create an impression of neglect. To address this Partnership members are working with East Lothian Council staff to establish a schedule of annual streetscape audits of our town and village centres. Building on an approach identified in the Musselburgh Town Centre Strategy this is designed to look at an area with ‘fresh eyes’. These audits will help the Partnership identify where the funds devolved from East Lothian Council for capital and landscape projects can be best deployed and support the delivery of continuous, small scale improvements.

Beginning in May 2015 with Musselburgh High St one thing highlighted, and something you don’t really notice till you’re looking for it, was the lack of clear signage to the range of carparks close to Musselburgh High St. Over the next few months High St users will now start to see new signs that name each carpark and direct people to these off-street parking sites.

Over the summer months there will be similar streetscape audits undertaken in the main streets of Wallyford and Whitecraig. Residents who want to get involved should contact Stuart Baxter, Area Manager (contact details to the right).

Musselburgh
Area Partnership

The Musselburgh 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 Musselburgh-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk or on 01620 827822 or find out more, including meeting dates and minutes, at

www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/committee/108/east-lothian-partnership-musselburgh-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 Musselburgh Area Partnership is Stuart Baxter and he is based at Brunton Hall.

Here Stuart introduces himself...

‘I have worked with East Lothian Council for nearly 20 years and most recently as Operations and Engineering Manager in Road Services and have delivered many projects ranging from small to several million pounds in value. I have been heavily involved for over 20 years with local communities both as Chair and Vice Chair of two community councils. I also spent more than 17 years as the Chair of the Association of East Lothian Community Councils which involved working with many different stakeholders and service providers across our communities.

This combination of council service and community involvement has given me invaluable experience of helping communities to deliver projects that really matter to them. I believe the Area Partnerships are key to ensuring communities help shape the services they need and how they are delivered. I see my role as Area Manager to be a focal point for both the communities and the service providers.

Working with the Musselburgh Area Partnership is a fantastic opportunity which I am really looking forward to and by working together to achieve the priorities identified within the Area Plan I know that we can make a real difference to our local people and communities.’

Stuart Baxter can be contacted on 01620 827669 or 07887660553 or via email at sbaxter@eastlothian.gov.uk