

Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership

Newsletter
May 2015

Welcome to the 1st newsletter for the Preston Seton Gosford (PSG) Area Partnership...

The PSG Partnership provides a forum for local communities to be better able to influence decisions and the way services are provided in their area on a ward wide basis. The Preston Seton Gosford ward covers the communities of Prestonpans, Cockenzie, Port Seton and Longniddry, and the Area Partnership brings together Community Councils, Tenants groups, Parent Councils, Elected Members and representatives from local community groups and networks to identify local priorities and plan for the action needed to deliver change.

The key task for the PSG Area Partnership at present is to develop an Area Plan for the ward. This will be a 10 year strategic plan identifying the outcomes we want to see for this area and the things that will need to be done, both locally and by public service providers, to ensure we get there. This plan will also determine how we allocate this ward's share of the £1 250 000 East Lothian Council devolved to Area Partnerships this financial year to deliver on local priorities.

Some of the key themes we are looking at include: how to make the most of our unique town and village centres; enhancing our coastal greenspaces; strengthening the capacity of our communities to play a more influential role and develop local resilience; supporting young people to make positive choices; and looking at how to confront some of the health inequalities that affect our locality.

We are working on the Area Plan at the moment, and will be putting it out for wider consultation after the summer to make sure that it really reflects the needs, priorities and aspirations of the local community.

Recruiting a local Chairperson

Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership is now inviting interested people from across the ward to nominate themselves for the position of Chairperson of the Partnership.

When the PSG Area Partnership was formed in June 2014 Ray Montgomery, East Lothian Council's Head of Infrastructure, 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 Preston Seton Gosford 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 it may well 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. 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 PSG Area Partnership at PSG-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk or call 01620 827707.

Applications close on the 1st June 2015

Nominations are being
sought for the position of

CHAIRPERSON

of the

**PRESTON SETON
GOSFORD AREA
PARTNERSHIP**

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

Developing a multi-agency approach to youth work

At the October 2014 meeting of the PSG Area Partnership the local Chair of the Community and Police Partnership (CAPP) raised their concern about absenteeism from Preston Lodge High creating a risk of young people becoming involved in anti-social behaviour.

From this a working group was established - bringing together school staff, community representatives, ELC officers from Children's Services, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Community Learning and Development, Sports Development and staff from a number of local community based organisations - to look at what could be done to improve the co-ordination of services and support provided for young people across the ward, with a particular focus on engaging vulnerable young people in positive activities within their school and the wider community.

By pooling their existing resources a number of initiatives have been developed in the area for these young people including:

- a boxing in school program focussed on discipline and fitness
- a 'breakfast bus' to help with getting to school ready to learn
- re-instating in spring the popular 'midnight football' games
- groupwork in Preston Lodge concentrating on building confidence and making links with activities in the local area.

The group is now looking at longer term changes they can make.

Making the most of our Coast

A key area for improvement identified by local residents is the coast line. It is recognised as an important historic focal point for the community forming a reminder of the areas rich heritage and is seen as an important local asset. Extensive consultation using a "Planning for Real" model at community events with local residents gave suggestions on what would make the coastal area better. This took in the coastline from Morrison Haven and the mining museum to Longniddry and there were reoccurring themes around making these places more attractive for the public's use. Improvements included making them spaces where people would like to spend time so adding play areas, seating and picnic benches where all re-occurring suggestions. There was lots of enthusiasm for developing Greenhill's site so that it could be used for a wide range of outdoor events. There is also need for improving access along the coastline making these paths accessible and safe for people to use for leisure activities and these include improving and developing cycle routes and walk ways. The Area Partnership is keen to respond to the ideas generated and look at where there is still need and scope to turn some of the above ideas into actual actions.

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 Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership is Sandra King. Sandra will also be working with the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership.

Here Sandra introduces herself...

'I've demonstrated my commitment to working with communities over the past 30 years. I began my career at the Scottish Tourist Board in marketing and volunteered with Lothian Association of Youth Clubs to promote their activities. This led me into youth work at the Red School Youth Centre in Prestonpans. When raising my children I was a member of the Steering group which campaigned for the First Step Community Project in Musselburgh. I established a forum for parents through CHANGES Community Mental Health Project and then worked with Midlothian Voluntary Action developing healthy living projects to address health inequalities. After completing my degree in Community Education at University of Edinburgh I joined East Lothian Council as a Community Development Officer working in Port Seton and for the past 4 years in the North Berwick Coastal Ward. I've had a leading role in promoting inclusion through the North Berwick Area 'Support from the Start' Group and Dementia Friendly East Lothian. I have a track record of partnership working which has led to many successful projects. I believe that Area Partnerships can make a significant impact on individuals and their communities and am delighted to play a key role in working together to help make life that much better for everyone.'

Sandra King can be contacted on 01620 893056 or via email at sking1@eastlothian.gov.uk

Preston Seton Gosford
Area Partnership

The Preston Seton Gosford (PSG) 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 PSG Area Partnership at PSG-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk or on 01620 827707. You can find the meeting dates and minutes for the Partnership at

www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/committee/110/east_lothian_partnership-preston_seton_gosford_psg_area_partnership

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