

Fa'side Area Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Fa'side Area Partnership

3rd February, 7-9pm, Fraser Centre

Chair

Tom Shearer, Interim Chair of Fa'side Area Partnership, Head of Communities and Partnership, East Lothian Council (S)

Members and substitute members present

Cllr Donald Grant (DG)

Cllr Shamin Akhtar (SA)

Cllr Jim Gillies (JG)

Elizabeth Hutchison, Muirpark and Steading Tenants and Residents Association (LH)

Helen Spencer, Elphinstone Primary School Parent Council (HS)

Margaret Scott, Tranent West Tenants and Residents Association (MS)

Maureen Allan, Tranent & Elphinstone Community Council (MA)

Phil Summerfield, Pencaitland Community Council (PS)

Ralph Averbuch, Pencaitland Community Council (RA)

Robert McNeill, Tranent & Elphinstone Community Council (RM)

Roger Powell, Ross High School Parent Council (RP)

Maureen Cuthill, Macmerry and Gladsmuir Community Council (MC)

Scott Gillies, Ormiston Community Council (SG)

Pauline Megson, Ormiston Community Council (PM)

Others in attendance

Alan Bell, Recharge (AB)

David Orr, Fraser Centre (DO)

John Russell, Fraser Centre (JR)

Kaela Scott, Local Community Planning Officer, East Lothian Council (KS)

Rurighd McMeddes, Assistant Local Community Planning Officer, East Lothian Council (RMc)

Andy Stewart, Principal Planner, ELC (AS)

Jean Squires, Planning Officer, ELC (JS)

Colin Henderson, Pencaitland Parent Council (CH)

Simon Davie, Community Housing Manager – Tranent, ELC (SD)

David Wilson, Public Artist (DW)

Apologies

Cllr Kenny MacLeod (KM)

Mark Ormiston, Ormiston West Tenants and Residents Association (MO)

Loraine Congalton, Community Development Officer ELC (LC)

	Key discussion points	Action
1. Welcome	<p>TS welcomed everybody to the meeting, thanked the Fraser Centre for hosting, and welcomed AS to the meeting.</p> <p>TS highlighted that the primary focus of this meeting would be on developing a ward wide response to the MIR consultation.</p>	
2. Minutes	The minutes from the 11 th November were approved as accurate	
3. Matters Arising	No matters arising from the previous minutes were raised.	
4. Main Issues Report Consultation	<p>a. Introduction to the Main Issues Report</p> <p>AS gave a brief run through of the MIR highlighting key issues in the ward.</p> <p>AS explained that the MIR is the main consultation stage for the composition of the Local Development Plan (LDP), and that the LDP itself must by law comply with the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) which covers the SESPlan (South East of Scotland) area.</p> <p>Due to the conditions stipulated in the SDP the MIR is required to allocate land for 10,050 houses and 79ha of employment land. East Lothian is projected to experience amongst the fastest population growth in Scotland, with up to 10,000 new residents per decade forecast for the next three decades.</p> <p>The SDP identifies a Strategic Development Area (SDA) within East Lothian which runs from the west to the East of the county along the main transport corridor. It is a requirement within the SDP that most of the housing and employment allocations for East Lothian are found within the SDA.</p> <p>The MIR presents the council's preferred approach on how to achieve these requirements, but is a consultation document, not a draft plan.</p>	
	<p>b. Developing a ward wide response to the Main Issues Report</p> <p><i>Compact vs Dispersed</i></p> <p>AS provided an explanation of the two potential strategies: Compact Growth, and Dispersed Growth. He highlighting that the preferred approach of East Lothian Planners is Compact Growth, with most of the housing allocations being found in the western end of the SDA (ie: Musselburgh, Prestonpans, Tranent and the surrounding areas).</p> <p>AS explained that previous plans generally adopted a Dispersed Growth strategy, however Compact Growth is the preferred approach in the MIR due to a number of factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing travel miles as most traffic going into Edinburgh; • Need to use existing infrastructure; • WWT capacity in the West 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of public transport in the west; • Housing demand is predominantly in the west. <p>AS highlighted that the flip side of the argument is related to the need to create more jobs in East Lothian to counter the commuter trend into Edinburgh.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed attendees were split between those who supported the preferred strategy, and those who supported the reasonable alternative. Key points raised for and against the preferred strategy are summarised below:</p> <p><u>For:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compact strategy will mean building on “sunk” infrastructure, limiting costs and making development more likely to occur. • Important for people to live close to where they work to reduce time in cars. <p><u>Against:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of affordable housing in the east of the county may be driving housing demand in the West where prices are lower. As such more affordable housing should be built in the east. • Alternative approaches to employment that don't assume the vast majority of residents commute into Edinburgh are possible especially as more people work at home. Hence dispersed growth need not have such an impact on travel. • Dispersed approach would retain character of towns throughout county avoiding coalescence of settlements in the West of the county and an Edinburgh ‘sprawl’. <p>In addition, a number of points were raised regarding the impact of development in the West of the county on the local area.</p> <p>All agreed that Tranent would need to take some of the allocations but stressed that investment in infrastructure must follow these allocations, especially with regards to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of additional housing on traffic through Tranent High St. Suggestion of a bypass to re-route traffic onto the A1. • Need to limit negative impact on school capacity and potential need to re-assess catchment boundaries. • Need for more affordable housing, including rented • Need for more housing that meets the needs of the elderly. • Potential to allocate some of the ‘affordable’ requirement to self-builders to provide greater value to buyers. <p>Some AP members supported the preferred strategy and some supported the reasonable alternative.</p>	
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	<p>Some members suggested a hybrid approach whereby sites such as Haddington and Drem alleviate the density of the Compact strategy without necessitating dispersal of housing across the whole ward.</p> <p><i>Preferred Sites in the Tranent Cluster</i></p> <p>Attendees highlighted that improvements to traffic management to ease congestion through Tranent Town Centre will be required for either the preferred or the reasonable alternative sites.</p> <p>AS explained that a Tranent bypass has long been needed, highlighting the most likely option will be a bypass to the east of the town, as having one to the West would be too expensive.</p> <p><u>Ormiston:</u></p> <p>AS highlighted that the preferred allocation in Ormiston will continue to develop Ormiston to the West, away from the conservation area. He stated that the school has capacity to meet additional demand. There were no objections to this plan.</p> <p>AB asked if the impact on the Community Facilities in the area had been taken into account. AS stated that such concerns were too detailed for this stage of the process, but need for community centres etc, would be considered at later stages.</p> <p><u>Pencaitland:</u></p> <p>Community largely in support of Pref-T13. Mixed feelings in the community regarding Pref-T14, support from some community members as it will support the school, etc.</p> <p>Members stated that drainage issues are barriers to developing on open land to West of Pref-T13, however they stated that these issues could be overcome and that this site could potentially be considered.</p> <p>RA asked why developments were allocated as large 'lumps' of land, rather than smaller sites scattered throughout a settlement. AS explained that ELC needs to be fairly sure that sites which are allocated will be developed. Small scattered sites are less viable.</p> <p><u>Elphinstone:</u></p> <p>HS stated that the opinion of Elphinstone residents is that 80 houses is too many for the village, equating to over a 3rd more homes. Residents would be happy with an allocation around 20-30 homes.</p> <p>In addition residents are concerned that there are not enough protections against coalescence between Tranent and Elphinstone.</p> <p>AS explained the reason for the size of the allocation:</p>	
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- 80 homes fits within landscape setting of Elphinstone
- The site may include amenities eg: car park for football pitch
- The site was undermined and as such will need significant investment to ensure safe for building. Allocation must be large enough to justify investment.
- Elphinstone primary school has capacity to extend.

Macmerry:

MC stated that residents at Pref-T8 will travel via the A1 so impact on traffic will be minimal. MC continued that an extension to the industrial site makes sense when looking for more employment land.

New Winton:

Suggestion to allocate land around New Winton for development has been rejected, decided that scale inappropriate as outwith the SDA.

Ross High:

DG asked about the impact of preferred sites on Ross High. AS stated that the preferred sites could be provided for with an extension to Ross High. Alternate sites would require additional arrangements.

Cockenzie:

RM highlighted the need to provide more jobs in the local area and argued that Cockenzie needs to remain allocated for employment.

Countryside Around Towns

AS explained that 'Countryside Around Towns' is a proposed new policy that will protect important landscape settings of settlements and prevent coalescence between settlements.

The MIR suggests CAT classifications around the east end of Ormiston, and between Tranent and Blindwells. AS stated that this would provide significant protection to the landscape within CAT designated areas, particularly against developments outwith the LDP. All agreed that CAT policies would be a positive step in Fa'side.

AB stated that young people in the area were keen to see a CAT designation between Tranent and Elphinstone.

Mineral Extraction

Opencast:

AS explained that new guidance from Scottish Government requires LDPs to identify an Area of Search for opencast coal. MIR has identified a potential Area of Search to the south of Ormiston where

	<p>it may be possible for commercial coal extraction to take place.</p> <p>Preferred option is <u>not</u> to identify this space as an Area of Search as it is unlikely that commercial coal extraction can take place without significant impact on the local community and the surrounding environment.</p> <p>Attendees were in support of the preferred option. In addition RM suggested this pressure from the Scottish Government on LAs is contradictory with commitments to emissions reduction.</p> <p><u>Unconventional Gas:</u></p> <p>AS stated that there may be commercially viable deposits of coal-bed methane and shale gas in the western parts of East Lothian. There are a number of different ways of extracting this, one of which is fracking.</p> <p>At present the issuing of licences for extraction is a reserved power though this may change within the next year or so. The granting of planning permission for such development however is a devolved power. In addition there is a moratorium on unconventional gas development in Scotland for the next 18 – 30 months.</p> <p>The preferred strategy in the MIR with relation to unconventional gas is for the council to develop policy to be included in the LDP regarding the council's position on unconventional gas development and how planning applications will be handled in the event of it being permitted in Scotland after the moratorium is lifted.</p> <p>All attendees supported the preferred strategy highlighting the importance of a clear policy for dealing with unconventional gas.</p> <p><u>Sand and Gravel:</u></p> <p>PM asked if the site at Longyester was sufficient to cover the sand and gravel needs of East Lothian. AS stated that East Lothian must contribute to the requirements of the SESPlan area.</p> <p><i>Other</i></p> <p>AS concluded stating that the MIR covers all aspects of spatial planning policy at a local government level and any comments which do not fit within any of the specific questions are also welcome. There is a "catch all" question in the submission form for this.</p> <p>AS also highlighted that there are a number of other policies at the end of the document, some of which will be reviewed and some of which are new policies. Comments on these are also welcome.</p> <p>TS highlighted that though the minutes of the meeting will be used to provide a submission on behalf of the Fa'side Area Partnership for the MIR, individuals and constituent groups are also encouraged to make</p>	<p>Staff to collate the discussions at the meeting into a ward wide response to the MIR consultation.</p> <p>Members to make submissions to the MIR as individuals and on behalf of representative</p>
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	<p>submissions before the deadline on Sunday the 8th of February.</p> <p>TS thanked AS and JS for attending the meeting and giving full explanations of the issues being covered.</p>	<p>groups and encourage others to do the same.</p>
<p>5. Updates</p>	<p>a. APOGI – A Place of Great Importance</p> <p>TS handed over to LH to introduce plans for a public art project at the Muirpark Steadings Park. LH explained that APOGI is a community based project that aims to put local people at the heart of proposals for upgrading the greenspace between Muirpark & Steading View.</p> <p>DW provided a short presentation outlining the proposal for a gateway feature from the road into the park with six stone cairns adorned with 250 'Tallys' representing members of the community who have bought in to the project by sharing stories of the area. In addition the public can donate items to be 'concealed' within the cairns.</p> <p>LH encouraged all attendees to raise awareness of the project and encourage people to get involved, suggesting people put up posters and support on social media. In addition there will be an open day for the public to launch the project on Wednesday the 11th of February at the site 2-3pm. LH encouraged all attendees to come along.</p> <p>For more information on the APOGI project please like the facebook page or follow on twitter (@apogipark14). If you would like to get involved you can get in touch via: apogipark@gmail.com.</p> <p>b. Town Centre Regeneration Sub-Group</p> <p>MA provided an update on the progress of this sub-group stating that two tenders had been submitted from consultants for carrying out the charrette consultation in March and that interviews for this will be carried out on Friday 13th of February.</p> <p>RA highlighted the importance of ensuring that the communities of the villages are also included in the charrette process even if they are unable to attend the events, suggesting some form of online consultation in addition.</p> <p>KS stated that there will be measures in place to ensure all communities in Fa'side are included and that an online consultation may take place in addition.</p> <p>c. Community Facilities Sub-Group</p> <p>KS provided an update on the progress of this sub-group stating that it has met twice now and the current focus is on the audit of community facilities in the area looking at what facilities are already available in the area and how they are being used. She highlighted that the next step will be engagement with the Fraser Centre</p>	<p>Members engage with APOGI on social media and spread awareness of the project and the public launch event throughout local networks.</p> <p>Members engage with the Fraser Centre consultation and the Recharge community survey and encourage</p>

	<p>consultation which will take place on the 12th of February.</p> <p>AB stated that Recharge are also carrying out a community survey and that a link would be sent round for this.</p> <p>d. Active Travel Working-Group</p> <p>RM provided an update on the progress of this sub-group stating that it has now met twice and its final meeting will take place in March.</p> <p>At the second meeting several potential projects were discussed with council officers. Some of these are due to be started or completed by the end of the financial year including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved drainage on the Railway Path at Crossgatehall - Upgrade path between Ormiston and Tranent to shared use <p>Other projects achievable within 2-3 years including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upgrading path from Elphinstone to Tranent to shared use - Improving access to Railway path from Pencaitland - Installing cycle storage in Tranent town centre for students at Ross High and commuters accessing buses in Tranent. - Improving signage throughout the ward <p>Finally other projects should be achievable in the longer term including shared use path along the A199 and A6093 among others.</p> <p>e. Young Person's Sub-Group</p> <p>AB provided an update on the progress of this sub-group stating that it has met twice and at the most recent meeting discussed the MIR where concerns regarding a number of issues were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire to see more shops and a greater variety of shops, • Need for more natural landscape and greenspace in Tranent and the wider area. • Strong opposition to opencast coal development in the ward due to impact on the landscape and local communities. • Opposition to development on the Cockenzie site if this would mean losing the chimneys, needing to re-route the road, or losing significant greenspace. • Support for development of port at Cockenzie site provided above conditions can be met due to impact on employment. • Support for CAT designations, but desire to see CAT allocation between Elphinstone and Tranent. <p>In addition the sub-group have been discussing key improvements they are keen to see in the ward, and discussing unsafe areas of Tranent and what could be done regarding these.</p>	<p>others within the community to do the same.</p>
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	<p>f. CAPP Update</p> <p>JG provided an update from the CAPP stating that key issues are traffic through Elphinstone and Macmerry. Police have been looking into this and tickets have been given on several occasions.</p> <p>g. TECAP Update</p> <p>HS provided an update from TECAP stating that the group are pleased many actions from within the Community Action Plan are now being taken forward in the Town Centre, Community Facilities and Active Travel sub-groups. As all actions are currently being dealt with TECAP have decided there is no need to meet again for six months.</p> <p>h. Other:</p> <p>It was noted that the soft-play area at the Loch Centre is due to open on the 28th of February after many years of fundraising.</p>	
<p>6. Next Steps</p>	<p>a. Area Partnership Budgets Confirmed</p> <p>TS stated that the Area Partnership devolved budgets have now been confirmed and the Fa'side Area Partnership allocation will be £200K. This will be looked at in more detail at future meetings.</p> <p>b. Area Managers</p> <p>TS stated that the closing date for the Area Managers was the previous Saturday and a healthy number of applications had been received. There will be four posts recruited across the six Area Partnerships and one of these will be solely responsible for Fa'side.</p> <p>TS highlighted that once the Area Managers are in place it will be possible to begin planning the appointment of community chairpersons for each Area Partnership, highlighting that these may be individuals already involved in the Area Partnership, or individuals from the wider community.</p> <p>c. Framework for Area Plans</p> <p>TS stated that the next meeting will return to key themes developed in early discussions and to the work of the sub-groups.</p>	
<p>7. AOCB</p>	<p><u>Health and social Care Integration Consultation</u></p> <p>KS stated that the consultation on the Integration of Health and Social Care is now live.</p> <p><u>Special Landscapes Consultation</u></p> <p>TS stated that ELC Planning Dept. are currently running a consultation on Special Landscape Areas throughout East Lothian and are keen to hear people's views. More information can be found in the poster in</p>	<p>Members to respond to the Consultation on the Integration of Health & Social Care and the consultation on Special Landscape</p>

	<p>the appendices.</p> <p>Both of these consultation can be found online at: www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk.</p> <p><u>Health Inequalities Workshop</u></p> <p>KS stated that members and substitutes of the Area Partnership will soon be invited to take part in the next stage of the examination of potential strategies for combating health inequalities throughout the west of the county.</p> <p><u>Dementia Friendly</u></p> <p>MA stated that Dementia Friendly is growing and are holding a meeting from 1pm till 3pm on the 18th of February at STRiVE and all are invited to attend.</p> <p>For more information contact maureen.allan@allan-ross.co.uk</p>	<p>Areas, and encourage others to do the same.</p> <p>Members consider attending Dementia Friendly meeting on 18th February at STRiVE and encourage others with an interest to attend.</p>
<p>8. Date of Next Meetings</p>	<p>Tuesday, 28th April, 7 – 9pm, Fraser Centre, Tranent</p> <p>- This meeting will revisit the key themes developed in earlier meetings and the work of the four sub-groups in order to start developing an Area Plan.</p> <p>Tuesday, 23rd June, 7 – 9pm, Fraser Centre Tranent</p> <p>Tuesday, 25th August, 7 – 9pm, Fraser Centre Tranent</p> <p>Tuesday, 3rd November, 7 – 9pm, Fraser Centre Tranent</p>	<p>apologies to: faside-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</p>

Contact

Email: faside-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk Phone: Kaela Scott, 01620 827822

Special Landscape Areas

We are looking for suggestions of your favourite natural places to help East Lothian Council designate areas with special landscape value

Where are they?
Where are they?

Please go to

[https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/
housing-environment/sla](https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/housing-environment/sla)

Or google “Special Landscape Area Suggestion Box”

Ends 1st March 2015

