

Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

MINUTES

**Meeting of the H&L AP,
Wednesday 4th February, 7-9pm
Bolton Village Hall**

Meeting Chaired by : Douglas Proudfoot, (Interim Chr) Head of Development, ELC (DP)

Members (and substitute members) present

Ann McCarthy, East Lothian Health Network (AM)
Rosemary Greenhill, Humbie E&W Saltoun and Bolton Community Council (RG)
Nick Morgan, Gifford Community Council (NM)
Emily Armatage, Haddington and District Community Council (EA)
Alastair Beck, Humbie E&W Saltoun and Bolton Community Council (AB)
Gordon Crawford, Yester Parent Council (GC)
Alan Dunton, Nungate Tenants and Residents Assoc. (AD)
Penny Short, Garvald and Morham CC (PS)

Others in attendance

Kaela Scott, Local Community Planning Officer, ELC (KS)
Rurighd McMeddes, Assistant Local Community Planning Officer, ELC (RM)
Phil McLean, Planning Officer, ELC (PM)
Paul Zochowski, Principal Planner, ELC (PZ)
Paolo Vestri, Service Manager – Corporate Policy (PV)
Douglas Reynolds, Bolton Steadings Residents Association (DR)
Paul Sales, Bolton Steadings Residents Association (PS)
Sheena Jamieson, Community Member (SJ)

Apologies received

Cllr. Ludovic Broun-Lindsay (LBL)
Cllr. Tom Trotter (TT)
Phillip White, Garvald and Morham Community Council (PW)
Roz McGuire, King's Meadow Parent Council (RM)
Amanda Herriott, Knox Academy Parent School Partnership (AH)
Hamish Hastie, Knox High School Pupil Representative (HH)
Paul Darling, Haddington Community Council (PD)
Doug Haig, East Lothian Council (DH)

Agenda Item	Key discussion points	Action
1. Welcome	<p>DP welcomed all attendees to this meeting of the Area Partnership and indicated that the main focus of the meeting was the Main Issues Report Consultation.</p> <p>All attendees introduced themselves for the benefit of PZ and PM.</p>	
2. Approval of the minutes	<p>Minutes from the meetings that took place on Wednesday 12th November, and Wednesday 10th December were both approved without any amendments.</p>	
3. Matters Arising	<p>a) <u>Membership of the Area Partnership</u></p> <p>DP stated the need to revisit membership of the area partnership with a view to offering membership to all parent councils in the ward.</p> <p>All attendees agreed. Membership invitations have now been sent to all parent councils in the ward and it is hoped that new members and substitutes from those Parent Councils who wish to be included will be in attendance at the next meeting.</p> <p>In addition two groups that are in the process of becoming TRA's have expressed an interest in joining: Haddington West Residents Association and; Bolton Steadings Residents Association.</p> <p>There were no representatives in attendance from HWRA, and BSRA are not yet a formal TRA. As such this matter was left for a future meeting.</p>	
	<p>b) <u>Superfast Broadband</u></p> <p>DP explained that work with Community Broadband Scotland has been taking place to establish superfast-broadband in rural areas of East Lothian. The next stage is a consultation to evidence demand service.</p> <p>A consultation is now live and being spread across all rural communities in the county. Posters and flyers were handed out detailing the consultation and all attendees were encouraged to raise awareness in their local networks. DP stressed the importance of a good uptake.</p> <p>This consultation is now live and can be found here: www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk</p>	<p>Members to respond to the superfast broadband consultation on ELC's consultation hub and encourage others to do the same.</p>
4. Main Issues Report Consultation	<p>a. Introduction to the Main Issues Report</p> <p>PZ gave an introduction to the MIR highlighting key issues in the ward.</p> <p>PZ explained that the MIR is the main consultation stage for 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 amongst the fastest population growth in Scotland, with up to 10,000 new residents per decade 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 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>PZ provided an explanation of 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>PZ explained that previous plans adopted a Dispersed Growth strategy, however Compact Growth is preferred in the MIR due to several 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 • Accessibility of public transport in the west; • Housing demand is predominantly in the west. <p>PZ 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 supporting compact, and supporting dispersed growth.</p> <p>Haddington & District CC – Compact Garvald & Morham CC – Compact (but conflicted) Humbie, East & West Saltoun and Bolton CC – Compact</p> <p>Nungate TRA – Dispersed Bolton Steadings Residents Assoc. – Dispersed</p> <p>No clear opinion one way or the other was expressed by any of the other groups represented at the meeting.</p> <p>A brief summary of the arguments for and against the preferred strategy (ie: compact growth) is detailed below.</p> <p><u>For:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logical to allocate housing land where there is demand • Protects agricultural land • As west more dense limits impact on landscape of East Lothian 	

Against:

- If compact growth West will be nothing more than a sub-urb of Edinburgh: not benefit to whole of East Lothian
- Could invite boundary expansion from City of Edinburgh Council
- Lack of affordable housing serious problem throughout rest of county, important to address this with housing allocations
- Economic benefits of compact growth will flow into Edinburgh
- Important young people have options for housing in their area.

DP highlighted that there was clearly a mixed view and pointed out that an alternative may be a 'hybrid' approach, where a more dispersed version of the compact growth strategy is developed.

Local Allocation of Housing and Employment Land

PZ stated that within the MIR there are 'Preferred' and 'Other' sites identified within Haddington. The preferred sites are where the planning department propose to allocate land for housing in the next plan, dependent on the consultation. The other sites are sites which may need to be unlocked if preferred sites elsewhere cannot be provided.

In the following discussion a number of issues were raised:

- RG asked why focus of housing was to west and cautioned that this results in elongation of Haddington, when perhaps it would be better focused around a centre. PZ answered much of the land to the north, east and south was considered important as Haddington's landscape setting, including designed landscapes.
- DR stated that the economy of Haddington would be under threat if Blindwells is increased to over 1600 homes. DR advocated increased development at Haddington.
- NM responded stating that including both the sites already allocated for Haddington in the Local Plan 2008, and the preferred sites for the town in the MIR, a significant increase in population is already likely.
- RG highlighted that if all development happens to west people may tend to use their cars and be drawn away from town centre. Hence these sites may not help the economy of Haddington.
- AD queried whether the slow progress of Letham indicated a lack of demand. PZ and PM explained this site has been held up for many reasons, including the need for a new primary school.
- NM questioned the lack of preferred sites in the rural areas to the south of the ward with reference to sites identified in the appendices around Gifford. PZ stated that no preferred or alternative sites had been allocated in the rural areas of Haddington and Lammermuir, though some had been put forward by landowners. The appendices include all of the sites put forward by landowners.
- PZ highlighted that submissions could suggest additional sites for

housing or employment land and may wish to do this in and around villages in the rural south of the ward.

DP moved discussion on to employment land and economic development in the area. He highlighted that it is a key goal of ELC to reduce the proportion of the working population commuting to Edinburgh and the importance of using East Lothian's existing infrastructure as well as investigating hi-tech solutions to achieve this.

AB stated that there was historically a flow of businesses out of East Lothian. PZ stated that generally big businesses want to be close to the key markets in the central belt.

DP highlighted that improving the economy and employment capacity of East Lothian is not going to be easy, but there are many opportunities and one piece of infrastructure may unlock significant gain.

DR supported additional development in Haddington and suggested a working group to consider placemaking and economic development in Haddington. KS stated this suggestion could be considered next meeting.

Education and Cluster Alignment

DP stated that he was aware cluster alignment is a serious concern for many people in rural parts of the ward and expressed that the MIR would be able to take these concerns on board.

In the discussion that followed a number of key points were made:

- Catchment boundaries need to meet needs of communities they affect and placement needs justified based on need. Current boundaries are not perceived to be meeting these requirements.
- Catchment boundaries do not align with the ward boundaries.
- Catchment boundaries do not align with the natural grain of communities including Humbie, Saltoun and Bolton meaning children at primary school together, are separated at secondary.
- Any review must take the social impact into account. In the southwest of the Haddington and Lammermuir Ward, the number of young people is very low, but the social impact is very high.

DP highlighted that all of these views would be taken on board during any considerations regarding catchment review.

Other

PZ stated that suggestions had been made that Haddington should grow. He asked where. NM disputed the assertion that more homes in Haddington would lead to economic benefit for the town.

DR answered that this was complicated advising ELC officers to seek expert advice on allocating employment and retail land and stating that Haddington needed to be allowed to grow to support retail as more

	<p>houses means more people shopping locally.</p> <p>RG stated that if housing allocation was out to West of town people were more likely to be drawn to retail in the West of the county, especially if they need to use their cars to access Haddington town centre anyway.</p> <p>SJ stated that the problem with Haddington in terms of retail is lack of parking in the town and advocated the development of a park and ride. There was some agreement that lack of parking is an issue. DR advocated parking provision at the Roodlands Hospital.</p> <p>AM disagreed that there was a lack of parking in Haddington, stating that the car park at Tesco is hardly ever full. PZ stated that a parking survey of Haddington had been carried out and that this could be made available at the next meeting for further discussion.</p>	<p>Staff: to provide parking survey of Haddington for consideration at next Area Partnership meeting.</p>
<p>5. Next Steps</p>	<p>a. Area Partnership Budgets Confirmed</p> <p>DP stated that the devolved budgets for the Area Partnerships had been confirmed by the council on the 16th of December. He stated that the devolved budget for the H&L Area Partnership included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £100K from Sport, Countryside & Leisure for Amenity Services. • £50K from Roads for capital works (eg: footways, car-parks). • £50K unrestricted funds for other priorities (this fund is not due to recur in the following year’s budget). <p>DP stated that the money allocated from existing budgets presents an opportunity to influence and direct spending in the local area, while the unrestricted fund presents the opportunity to augment and enhance existing projects, or establish small scale projects.</p> <p>AB raised concerns about the importance of careful structures to ensure confidence that Area Partnership’s decisions are right for the community.</p> <p>DP stated that the budget is constrained and devolution to Area Partnerships has been approved by elected members. He also stated that the Area Partnership will receive significant support in allocating funds.</p> <p>KS stated that during the next meeting the Area Partnership will consider key priorities and consider evidence from throughout the community.</p> <p>b. Area Managers</p> <p>DP stated that applications had been received for the Area Manager posts and that these officers will have some responsibility for the budget allocations. DP stated that it is hoped the Area Manager for H&L Area Partnership will be in attendance at the next meeting.</p> <p>c. Framework for Area Plans</p> <p>KS highlighted that at the next meeting the group will return to the key</p>	

	<p>priorities established during initial meetings.</p> <p>KS stated that considerable work has gone into bringing the discussions and the priorities together. She stated that documents detailing the 'consolidated key themes' will be sent out within the coming weeks.</p> <p>KS encouraged all members and substitutes to read through this once it is circulated and feed it back to their respective groups for comments, highlighting that this will inform the agenda at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Members to read through the 'consolidated key themes' and seek comments from respective groups</p>
6. AOCB	<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>DP 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 the appendices.</p> <p>Both of these consultation can be found online at: www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk.</p>	<p>Members to respond to the Consultation on the Integration of Health & Social Care and the consultation on Special Landscape Areas, and encourage others to do the same.</p>
Date of Next Meetings	<p>Wednesday 25th of March, 7-9pm, venue tbc</p> <p>- <i>This meeting will revisit the Key Themes identified during the initial meetings with a view to developing the first stage of the Area Plan for the Haddington & Lammermuir Ward.</i></p> <p>Wednesday 27th of May, 7-9pm, venue tbc</p> <p>Wednesday 9th September, 7-9pm, venue tbc</p> <p>Wednesday 18th November, 7-9pm, venue tbc</p> <p>Please send any apologies to: h&l-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</p>	

Contact: Kaela Scott, Local Community Planning Officer: h&l-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk 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

