

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

**DRAFT MINUTES – Special meeting of the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership,
30th June, 2015 7-9pm at Dirleton Primary school, Dirleton**

Meeting Chaired by:

David Small, Chair, Director of Health and Social Care, East Lothian Council (DS)

Members (and substitute members) present

Cllr Jim Goodfellow, (JG)

Cll Tim Day (TD)

Sheila Sinclair, North Berwick Community Council (SS)

Hilary Smith, North Berwick Community Council (HS)

Elma Danks, North Berwick Community Council (ED)

Donald McDonald, Gullane Area Community Council (DM)

Rosanne Ainslie, Gullane Area Community Council (RA)

Carl Hamer, Dirleton Village Association (CH)

Gordon Gray, Dunpender Community Council (GG)

Tim Harding, Lime Grove TRA (TH)

Irene Galloway, Law TRA (LG)

JF, Gullane Primary School Parent Council (JF)

Niall Bradley, Aberlady Primary School Parent Council (NB)

Ian Watson, North Berwick Area Children and Youth Network (IW)

Lesley Kay, North Berwick Area Children and Youth Network (LK)

Eric March, Association of East Lothian Day Centres (EM)

Sue Northrop, North Berwick Community Centre (SN)

Nicky Fox, North Berwick Community Centre Management Committee (NF)

Eric Thomson, Gullane Village Hall Management Committee (ET)

Others in attendance

Sandra King, - Area Manager, East Lothian Council (SK)

Stephanie Kerr, Local Community Planning Officer, East Lothian Council (SKerr)

Sean Watters – Strive Well-Being (SW)

Katie Nevans – Community Development Officer, East Lothian Council (KN)

Apologies received

Sharon Lewis, Dirleton Village Association

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

| Agenda Item | Key discussion points | Action |
|--|--|--------|
| <p>1. Welcome</p> | <p>DS welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. DS explained that was a special meeting and the purpose was to appoint a community chair for the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership. DS noted that this meeting was quorate.</p> | |
| <p>2. Community Chair Appointment</p> | <p>DS stated that there were 2 candidates applying for the post of community chair and these were Sue Northrop and Lesley Kay. Both candidates were then invited to give a 5 minute presentation on their relevant experiences and what they could bring as chair to enhance the role of the Area Partnership. Both candidates suggested during their presentations that they would like the Partnership to consider a co-chairing option.</p> <p>A short round of Q&As for each candidate then followed and, individually, both candidates were asked the same questions which were as follows.</p> <p>Q) SA asked what they thought the main challenges were?</p> <p>A) SN replied that this would be agreeing and moving on collective priorities and developing dialogue with council staff. She added that the role of Chair has to be flexible and responsive to the way the partnership evolves.</p> <p>A) LK replied that it would be to create an Area Plan that everyone was happy with.</p> <p>Q) SS then asked what the candidates what they thought their role, as community chairs, would be with the community councils.</p> <p>A) SN replied that she was not sure at this stage but that as the Partnership and chairs began working together that this would become clearer.</p> <p>A) LK replied that there would be continued commitment from the chair to support the roles of the community councils and that the relationship would develop constructively over time.</p> <p>Both candidates were then brought together to discuss how they would see the co-chairing role working and there were several questions asked by the members.</p> <p>Q) How will the co-chairs ensure that information is shared and responded to?</p> <p>A) The co-chairs will meet regularly and share all relevant</p> | |

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | <p>information with the partnership and they would review their process as and when needed.</p> <p>Q) JG asked that standing order could be drafted re the role of co-chairs</p> <p>A) Skerr advised that she could draft these</p> <p>Agreement – the members unanimously agreed to trial both candidates as co-chairs for the Partnership for a 6 month period.</p> | <p>Action: Skerr to draft a procedure paper for circulation before the APM</p> |
| <p>3. Local Area Plan Development – group discussion on greenspace and the environment</p> | <p>Skerr introduced the topic of greenspace and the environment by highlighting what had already been discussed and brought members attention to papers previously distributed that detail the initial context of this topic. These are the “Key themes” paper and the “moving forward” paper. Skerr asked that members go back to the key themes paper and review the themes and where possible, identify geographical areas that these issues arise. The members then split into two groups to talk.</p> <p>Group 1 discussed</p> <p>Beach wheelchairs Great project and should be expanded to cover the other beaches in the ward, especially as it will increase tourism. Other beaches to consider are:</p> <p>Yellowcraigs beach although there is a lack of infrastructure a boardwalk to tide line would improve access for wheelchair users.</p> <p>Gullane beach how could access to this be improved for wheelchairs? Issues with coastal erosion that would cost a significant amount of money to improve to make the beach accessible. There is also considerable amount of seaweed that would need to be cleared although there is a seaweed tractor that clears the seaweed and private business could be encourage to take the seaweed away – possibly to use as a bio-fuel.</p> <p>- Portobello (constitution)</p> <p><u>Other paths that could be developed or improved included:</u></p> <p>Glen swing park (rugby club) and simply improving the signage could make this a more popular route</p> | <p>Skerr to add these papers to the appendices of these minutes.</p> |

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Coastal path from NB to Tantallon – all that is need to make this route fully useable by wheelchair and prams is to complete the last 200 yards with a path and this should be fairly easy as it is part of the John Muir Way.

Aberlady to Longniddry a route could be taken through the Bird reserve from the bird centre although a traffic management plan needs to be considered for the reserve and surrounding roads as there are problems with inappropriate parking.

Gullane to North Berwick - Gullane Parent Council have been working on delivering a cycle path to NB which would link with other paths and create a network of cycle paths and increase tourism.

Drem from Gullane – finishing the last section of this to create a cycle path would be of great benefit to all in the area. Why has this stalled?

Dunpender to North Berwick – there is a desire to tarmac this old route however, it has reached an impasse because horse riders want to keep the current surface as it is conducive to allowing their horses to gallop. Another option discussed for horses to gallop was Gullane hill.

Other issues that impacted on certain areas across the Ward were:

Dog fouling and suggestion to reduce this included increasing the number of bins and signage advising people to pick up. The rugby club at North Berwick had positive result by doing this. The group also discussed the possibility of banning dogs from beaches but uncertainly as to whether this was allowed or enforceable.

Other approaches to reduce dog fouling included stating that dog owners must have bag and creating designated dog areas ie by promoting areas as child friendly and not to allow dogs in. An area where this could be trialled is the boating pond.

Seagull feeding this just creates aggressive seagulls and causes more problems for residents and tourists alike. Would more signage work to stop this?

Speeding push bikes are an issue at the Lodge and a solution

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

might be to create a bike lane?

Group 2 discussed

Beach Wheel Chairs

- Check gradients – Access Panel check - North Berwick
- Work with Harbour Trust to fill in holes on slipway
- Assess demand from other beaches – Improvement to Yellowcraig viewing panel?

Amenity Services/Transport

- Partnerships need to see Council Plans/planned works so they have advanced notice and can prioritise.

Coastal Erosion

- North Berwick Golf Club commissioned study re coastal erosion – North Berwick (8 year programme)
- Impact on wider coastline for walkers
- Work done on old pier.
- Survey of coastline. Expertise – John Muir Way.
- Boardwalk/gabion.

Planting

- Wildflower planting on roundabouts (differential planting) sustainable planting – a mix.
- Build capacity of volunteers – bedding plants.

Access out of hours - Council Buildings

- Culture change within council re keys buildings (insurance).

North Berwick War Memorial

- North Berwick War Memorial funds required e.g. hanging baskets, railings.

Community Spirit

- Good community spirit – e.g. people picking up litter. Beach cleans/help publicise via Brownies, Scout groups.
- Capitalise and recognise good work being done.
- Reward citizens, random acts of gratitude. Praise good work in newsletter.

Glebe Field Planning Proposal

- Private land.
- Community Councils (part of statutory consultation).
- Status of Area Partnership. Can Area Partnerships make representation on planning proposal?

Dog fouling

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue for CAPP meeting. • Impact of professional dog walkers - walking numerous dogs • All dogs to be chipped April 2016 • Are dog bins located in the right places? • Wardens can check at peak time. • Report to Dog Warden ASBT • Wardens out in uniform (plain clothes wardens Partnership could support?) • Incentives for good behaviour. | |
| <p>4.AOCB</p> | <p>Athelstaneford Skatepark SK reported that the Partnership had agreed to fund the £2500 needed to allow the build of the skatepark. SA, mentioned that there had been some concern from the GCC about entering into a joint funding agreement but that they supported the project.</p> <p>This led to discussion around how the Area Partnerships funding could be used and Skerr explained that as this was the 1st year of the existence of the Area Partnership and that because an Area Plan had not yet been agreed the Partnership was in a position where by it need to spend the devolved budget but that priorities had not yet been set. This wouldn't happen next financial year (16/17) as the Plan would be in place and the budget allocated according to the actions but it meant that for this financial year (15/16) the Partnership would have to agree to some short term actions that they could use the developed budgets for. This then linked to the follow item.</p> <p><u>The 3 Wishes exercise</u> Skerr handed out a "3 wishes" form that was for groups and services to complete detailing what they would like for their groups/ services, local area and what facilities they would like to see in their community by 15th September. Please note that after discussion it was agreed to extend the date for return of the forms as many groups won't have met before the initial suggested date of the 18th August.</p> | <p>Action: SKerr to attach a copy of this to the minutes</p> |
| <p>5.Dates of next meetings</p> | <p>APM Tuesday 8th September, 7-9pm – Hope Rooms, North Berwick, Tuesday 22nd September – prioritising the wish list, 7-9pm, Gullane recreation Hall, Gullane</p> | <p>Please send any apologies to: nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</p> |

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Appendix 1: Summary – North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Progress to date

This Partnership has had 9 meetings – it was the 4th Partnership established.

| | | Focus of the meeting | Outcomes |
|--------------|---------|---|--|
| AP Meeting 1 | 20/5/14 | Establishing the Partnership – a procedural meeting looking at roles, remit, code of conduct and membership | Decision to ask for wider membership from a range of groups including parent councils, community facilities, sports and children & YP representatives. |
| AP Meeting 2 | 24/6/14 | Exploring data – presentation and discussion | Partnership aware of key issues affecting the Ward and themes discussed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poverty and inequality 2. Access to affordable housing 3. Access deprivation 4. Localising services 5. Sustainable economy 6. Increasing older people 7. Greenspace and environment 8. Community safety |
| AP Meeting 3 | 9/9/14 | Confirmation and prioritising of key themes Further discussions around <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for Young People • Access Deprivation – travel and transport • Increasing Older | The votes tallied presented themes in the following order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for Young People (23.5) - Access Deprivation (16) - Sustainable Economy (7.5) - Localising Services (6) - Increasing Older Population (5.5) - Green Space and the Environment (5) - Affordable Housing (4) - Poverty and Inequality (-.5) - Community Safety (-5) <p><i>(scores = the sum of green votes, minus half the sum of orange votes)</i></p> <p>Notes available on the minutes</p> |

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

| | | Population | |
|----------------------|----------------|--|---|
| AP Meeting 4 | 28/10/18 | Consolidating and prioritising key themes from meeting 3 and starting to explore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable local economies • Greenspace and the local environment • Access to appropriate, affordable housing | Moving forward with the 3 new themes and exploring what we need to know |
| AP Meeting 5 | 25/11/14 | Stage 1 consultation on the Health and Social Care Integration Plan | |
| AP Meeting 6 | 27/1/15 | Consultation on the Main Issues Report | |
| AP Meeting 7 | 24/3/15 | Refocusing our priorities: Areas for further attention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Opportunities for Young People : Children and Youth Network Action Plan ➤ Needs of our Older Population : independent living and community support ➤ Greenspace and the Environment | Discussions around these themes |
| AP Meeting 8 | 9/6/15 | Postponed from previous meeting discussion on localising services | |
| AP Special Meeting 9 | 30/6/15 | After recruitment of the chairs. Discussion on greenspace and the environment | |

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Next Steps:

Appendix 2:

Key theme: Green space and the environment

Some points put forward so far....

- Beach accessibility for the elderly and disabled: Beach Wheelchair Project
- Coastal and Beach Erosion
- Maintaining and improving parks and green spaces
- Dog fouling issues
- Considering the potential environmental impacts of proposed Cockenzie development
- How to plan for adequate green space with consideration of new housing developments- achieving this balance.
- The willingness that exists in the community to adopt a more “green” approach
- Parking provision to access green space
- Green corridors and links between settlements
- MIR: Countryside Around Towns designations