

**PSG Area Partnership**

**MINUTES**

**Special Meeting of the Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership,  
24<sup>th</sup> June, 2015, 7-9pm  
The Pennypit - Prestonpans**

**Chair**

Ray Montgomery, Head of Infrastructure, East Lothian Council (RM)

**Members (and substitute members) Present**

Ferhan Ashiq, Prestonpans CC (FA)

Zoe Inglis, Prestonpans CC (ZI)

Peter MacKenzie, Elected member, East Lothian Council (PM)

Willie Innes, Elected member, East Lothian Council (WI) – part attendance

Rachel Menzies, Prestonpans Primary School Parent Council (RMz)

Bryan Hickman, Cockenzie and Port Seton CC (BH)

Sharon Malcolm, Cockenzie Parent Council (SM)

Aaron Doidge, Preston Lodge Pupil Representative and MSYP (AD)

Jeni Gibson, Preston Lodge Pupil Representative (JG)

Janice Finney, Longniddry CC (JF)

Margaret Libberton, Elected Member, East Lothian Council (ML)

Jen Welsh, Prestonpans Infant and Primary School Parent Councils (JW)

Karen Caldwell, Cockenzie and Port Seton CC (BH)

Philippa Barber, Longniddry Community Council (PB)

Lynne Lewis, Preston Lodge Parent Council (LL)

Gareth Jones, Coastal Regeneration Alliance (GJ)

**Others Present**

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

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

Helen Harper, Community Development Officer, East Lothian Council (HH)

Peter Ford, Applicant for Community Chair Post (PF)

Sean Watters, Strive (SW)

**Apologies**

Isobel Robertson, Cockenzie West TRA

Ian Patterson, Prestonpans Sports Hub

Agenda Item	Key discussion points	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome</b></p>	<p>RM welcomed members to the special meeting of the PSG Area Partnership and explained that this meeting was set to appoint a community chair. RM also noted that there were a quorate number of members in attendance.</p>	
<p><b>2. Appointment of the community chair</b></p>	<p>RM announced that there were 2 candidates applying for the post of community chair and that minutes before the meeting started they had agreed between themselves that they would prefer to take on chair and vice-chair roles. And this was that Peter Ford would become the Chair and Ferhan Ashiq the Vice-chair – the members unanimously voted that they supported these appointments.</p> <p>PF then gave a short presentation about his personal back ground and previous involvement with a model of community participation while he was a Councillor for the Ward and that he was keen to build on the role of the community councils in the area partnership model. He also told the partnership a little bit about his working life and his desire to bring employment to the local area. A short Q&amp;A then followed. AD asked PF what his thoughts were around dealing with attainment issues in the ward and PF responded that by increasing the options for school leavers could assist raise ambitions for young people. GJ then asked PF what he thought the partnership could and could not achieve. PF replied that he seen the role of the partnerships to work with and enhance the work of the 3 community councils and not be limited by the constraints of the Council. He felt that the partnership should be vocal when it came to responding to issues particularly planning issues in the area.</p> <p>FA then gave a short presentation about his personal background which included studying in England and then living in Dubai. He reported on his involvement with the partnership so far and about the range of community groups he had been involved with and these included community rail partnership, the health inequality sub group of the partnership and with the community council. FA also advised the group on his recent business venture in the Musselburgh area. Q&amp;As then followed. ML asked what vision he had for the area partnership and he responded that he wanted to support the partnership to resolve local issues such as the problem with GP waiting times and commuter issues. ML then asked what FA would have hoped the partnership would have achieved in 5 years time and FA responded that it was about mitigating local issues and making the Ward a better place. PB then asked what FA could bring to the partnership and he responded that his community involvement and experiences from travelling meant</p>	

	that he had a good knowledge of solutions to problems and he hoped that he would bring a new way of thinking to the area partnership.	
<b>3. Group discussion – Economic development</b>	<p>The group then had a discussion around the local economy and what actions could happen to bring employment in to the area and create more educational and employment opportunities for people of all ages.</p> <p>The notes from this discussion are attached in appendix 1 of these minutes.</p>	
<b>4. Other actions</b>	<p>Some group members expressed an interest in forming and sub group to explore the issues around the Cockenzie power station site and SKerr stated that there was a group meeting with ELC Planning and Economic Development staff and ZI advised that it was a group made up of community council members and CRA members. SKerr thought that it would be better to see what this group was doing before setting up another group which may have the same remit.</p> <p>Some members felt that they lacked information about the area partnership and how it would get to the point of having an area plan. Skerr stated that all the minutes etc from the meeting where available on the council website at:  <a href="http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/committee/110/east_lothian_partnership-preston_seton_gosford_psg_area_partnership">http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/committee/110/east_lothian_partnership-preston_seton_gosford_psg_area_partnership</a></p> <p>And that she would meet with any members who wanted more information on a 1-2-1 basis and would send an email with some of the key points and papers to update members. Please see appendices to these minute for papers on progress towards forming the area plan and a moving forward document.</p>	<p>SKerr to find out more about this group.</p> <p>SK to send update email</p>
<b>5. AOCB</b>	Skerr stated that it might be useful for the partnership to meet before the AGM set for September so that the group could start identifying some actions that could be carried out quickly so that they could start spending some of the devolved budgets. The group agreed that holding workshop on Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> August would be useful for taking this work forward.	<b>All - attend the workshop on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> August</b>
<b>6. Date of next meetings</b>	<p><b>Workshop - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 7-9pm, Prestonpans Town hall, Prestonpans High Street</b></p> <p><b>AGM - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Port Seton Centre, Port Seton</b></p>	Please send apologies to: <a href="mailto:psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk">psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>

**Appendix 1) PSG Special Meeting Notes – 24 June 2015**

**Influence & Power of Area Partnership**

- Community Planning Statutory Process
- Look at other area plans (what other organisation can help). Importance of local knowledge. Identify what information Partnership needs.
- Different needs for different areas.
- Got to sell this to the people.
- Identify issues/problems.
- Strength of our heritage - mining, fishing, farming. Enhancing our areas.
- Directing expenditure to gain benefits for area.
- Negotiate expenditure.
- Communicating – what's on (social media/web)

**Young People**

- Preston Lodge has good results for school leavers who have moved onto positive destinations e.g. training and employment opportunities out with area.
- Young people may move out of the area for employment.
- Young people not going on to university need local opportunities.
- Create jobs and opportunities - apprentices/ for people living in area.
- Training hand-in-hand developing jobs.
- Positive destinations
- Wood Report – science, technology, maths subjects linking together. Encourage more uptake of casual employment in their local community. Apprenticeships – partnership with PL – encourage young people to get involved – local employment, training.
- Survey in Preston Lodge – Student Council to be reinvigorated. Reps on Area Partnership – ask young people what they want. Citizens Panel.
- Multi-agency group to explore employability for young people.

**Tourism**

- Upgraded walkway right down to the coast, linking. Tourism opportunity.
- Tourists on John Muir Way – where do they go for a coffee? Cafe, glass front, sea view. Need for walkway signage.
- Walkway in Longniddry.

**Local Business**

- Develop business units at Mid Road.
- Some assets underused – use in a better way.
- Hire of hall costs too expensive for community to use. Offer incentives for new enterprise to help them get started.

- Increase usage of the Town Hall e.g. small business offering “pop-up” shops similar to the ‘Why Not’ shop and cafe in North Berwick.

### **Town Centre**

- Look at town centre and offer incentives to attract business
- Town centre improvements for residents.
- Town centre regeneration – Prestonpans
- Shop local – what incentives.
- Restrict the number of Take-away / chip shops.
- Prestonpans High Street – parking – need more good quality shops.
- Recommend town centre planning – e.g. similar to Musselburgh.
- Attract a Green grocer/ Fish mongers (e.g. incentives could be free rent/rates?)

### **Housing Impact**

- 10,000 houses still to find (Scottish Government predictions)
- Health Centres - impact on wider area with additional housing.

### **Cockenzie Power Station Site**

- Power station site main agenda item!
- Cockenzie Power Station – loss of good quality jobs.
- Offer good quality units around former power station for office space and manufacturing.
- Economic opportunity – acceptable use of Cockenzie Power Station. Cruise destination?
- Scottish Enterprise – returning? Scottish enterprise no major input in East Lothian.
- Having a healthier and safer environment is a starting point.
- Liability of the site – sea wall, ash pipe, electric bridge, contaminated land, demolition costs. 10 million to take down? Sea wall maintained. Better in public ownership.
- Area Partnership influential – sub group. Business case for Cockenzie – CRA represented on sub group. Convene sub group – Esther Wilson, CC CRA August? Community View! Community Agenda.
- Economic Development support from ELC
- Set up a Sub Group including members of CRA (preference for an evening meeting)
- Coastal Regeneration Alliance - right to buy parts? Public ownership?

### **Cuthill Park**

- Cuthill Park – signage – Mining Museum. Different groups using the park.
- Potential for Cuthill Park. Scottish Power own walkway.