

Minutes of the meeting of the Preston/Seton/Gosford Area Partnership
Wednesday 20th January 2016, 7-9pm
Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans

Members (and substitute members) present:

Peter Ford, Chair (PF)
Cllr Margaret Libberton, Elected Member (ML)
Cllr Peter MacKenzie, Elected Member, ELC (PM)
Bryan Hickman, Cockenzie & Port Seton CC (BH)
Philippa Barber, Longniddry CC (PB)
Janice Finney, Longniddry CC (JF)
Zoe Inglis, Prestonpans CC (ZI)
Ferhan Ashiq, Prestonpans CC (FA)
Gillian Stewart, Cockenzie West TRA (GS)
Lynne Lewis, Preston Lodge HS Parent Council (LL)
Aaron Doidge, Preston Lodge HS Pupil Rep (AD) Jeni Gibson, Preston Lodge HS Pupil Rep (JG)
Andrew Crummy, Three Harbours Arts Festival (AC)
Anna Beard, CRA (AB)

Others in attendance:

Andrew Stevenson, Chair East Lothian Path Wardens, (AS)
Marlene Love, Cockenzie House & Garden, Cockenzie & Port Seton In Bloom (ML)
Donald Bremner (DB)
Sandra King, Area Manager, ELC (SK)
Stephanie Kerr, Local Community Planning Officer, ELC (SKerr)
Pat Gordon, Community Development Officer, ELC (PG)
Carolyn Murray, Business Support Administrator, ELC (CM)

Apologies:

Cllr Willie Innes, Elected Member, ELC
Rachel Menzies, Prestonpans PS Parent Council
Sharon Malcolm, Cockenzie Primary School Parent Council
Jim Hislop, Prestonpans Community Sports Hub
Gareth Jones, Coastal Regeneration Alliance
Philip Wark, Coastal Regeneration Alliance

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTION
1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies		
	Apologies received were noted.	
2. Membership/Quorum Changes		
	Following discussion regarding the need to approve Area Partnership decisions because of quorum issues it was decided to change the area partnership standing orders to have quorum as 40%+1 (currently 50%+1). SKerr/CM to distribute amended standing orders.	SK/CM
	It was agreed that Cockenzie House & Gardens should be members of the Area Partnership with Marlene Love as nominated member.	
	CM to contact St Gabriel's RC PS Parent Council and Longniddry PS Parent Council again re their membership of the area partnership.	CM

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	PF advised the meeting that Isobel Robertson of Cockenzie TRA had tendered her resignation from the area partnership. On behalf of the area partnership PF gave his thanks to Isobel for all her work.	
3. Minutes from Previous Meetings		
	<p>24 June 2015 – Approved, FA proposed and PB seconded.</p> <p>23 September 2015 – Approved, ZI proposed and JF seconded.</p> <p>4 November 2015 – Approved, PB proposed and FA seconded.</p>	
4. Priorities – Area Manager Update		
	<p>SK presented her report and reviewed progress of the agreed budget priorities. Discussion ensued and the following items had actions/decisions agreed as noted.</p> <p>Cockenzie Playing Fields – Amenity Services were requested to cut the grass and put in goalposts as a temporary measure until the land usage question has been clarified with Scottish Power. GS asked who should Cockenzie TRA contact if they needed to, SK confirmed it would be Stuart Pryde, Principal Amenity Officer, East Lothian Council.</p> <p>Greenhills Seating – It has been agreed that the seating would be better placed down near the Prestonpans Yachting & Boating club.</p> <p>Miners Memorial – PG updated the meeting with regard to this project which is well in hand the next step is obtaining planning permission and applying for Coalfield Trust funding.</p> <p>Cuthill Park (Seating, Community Garden) – ZI gave an update to the meeting - Funding bids have been successful with Coalfields Trust, Civic Pride and the Area Partnership. Street signage to be installed at top and bottom on road and on Prestongrange Road. An outdoor room is to be created in the community garden and an outdoor table top has been gifted by Scottish Power from the power station site. The front wall has been tidied up and the story telling corner completed. The proposal for the new path to the mining museum will need input from the Golf Club. Paths in the park and disabled access are being considered by opening up the vennel leading from the bus stop alongside the bowling green. ZI also noted that Cuthill Park had been nominated for ‘Most Improved Park in UK’ award.</p> <p>The Battlefield Trust is completing an application to the Heritage Lottery and a steering group will be meeting shortly. ZI asked if there was area partnership representation on the steering group and as there currently isn’t the Partnership was asked for a supporting statement.</p> <p>Improve signage to Pennypit – It was agreed to improve signage to include recognisable symbols for toilet facilities, food etc.</p> <p>Prestonpans War Memorial – an application to War Memorial Trust is awaiting input from Gareth Jones.</p> <p>Improve path and signage on John Muir Way – Three areas have been identified at Prestonpans. BH commented that only Prestonpans has so far benefited from work yet other areas in the ward also need</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PF/SK</p>

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	<p>improvements. PF advised that the route used by walkers near the John Muir Way path along the coast at Prestonpans isn't safe and there was confusion over the official route and land ownership issues. PF also noted that area partnership Amenity Services requests will work more smoothly next year due to earlier planning being possible. PF thanked SK for moving this priority forward quickly.</p> <p>Coastal Regeneration Forum – AC updated the meeting with regard to the Spitfire project which is currently waiting on moulds being cast. David Ostler has also identified two local artists to be considered for the next stage.</p> <p>Budgets - PF asked for clarification from SK regarding the Amenity Services budget and whether this was fully allocated. As this allocation was for staff hours and machinery this depreciates each month and Amenity Services has aimed to do as much as possible before the financial year ends.</p>	SK
5. Area Partnership Plan		
	<p>PF opened the discussion with a quick overview of the plan structure and stated that the area partnership is now beginning to identify priorities and influence local service delivery. SKerr asked that the members bear in mind that existing sub groups and organisations can take forward actions or new groups created to take the lead in prioritising actions from the plan.</p> <p>1.7 - Battle of Prestonpans Site – BH asked if there anything in the area partnerships scope to allow us to assist. SKerr noted that support could be given to the Battlefield Trust if the Partnership agreed this as a priority and suggested actions be added to the plan. PF commented that the area partnership could also help influence future decisions on behalf of community groups/organisations and SK added that the area partnership can also work with local groups/organisations to assist with external funding bids.</p> <p>Longniddry (page 7) – LL commented that as a resident of Longniddry she felt there wasn't much in the area plan specific to the village. There was considerable discussion of the 'green space' in Longniddry and that perhaps signage was needed to promote its use.</p> <p>PB raised the need for local consultation and noted that she has contacted Longniddry Community Centre to investigate how it could be used to communicate with residents. ZI suggested that perhaps annually the 3 communities in the ward do a publicity event to encourage interaction. PF added that there is a need to do a better job of communicating with the communities and perhaps work could be done with the East Lothian Courier to plan an information campaign. ZI added that communities have changed and we all need to look at widening communication. AC added that community engagement worked well when attached to an existing event instead of public meetings.</p> <p>SKerr highlighted that outcome 11 (page 26) relates to communicating with the communities in the ward and could be refined following discussion by area partnership. PF added that area partnership should be</p>	

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	<p>inclusive and inviting people along to meetings so more voices are heard is important.</p> <p>SK commented that an 'On The Move subgroup' was needed to make recommendations regarding active travel.</p> <p>1.14 - Port Seton Harbour – PF asked if there had been any contact with the Harbour Trust and noted that the area partnership needs a point of contact in order to open up lines of communication and to get a feel for how we can help. ML provided contact name and PF agreed to contact the Harbour Trust and Wemyss & March Estate.</p> <p>PG asked that a pitch and putt at the Bowling Green be added to the area plan, there had been one there originally that worked well and that with a new 2G/3G pitch being installed at the Port Seton Community Centre they may ask for help for purchasing equipment for multisports. It was agreed these should be added. SK noted that this should also feed into sports hub plans.</p> <p>1.15 - Fishergate Road Housing Application – BH advised the meeting that nothing has moved forward yet with this development and it wasn't included in the Local Development Plan.</p> <p>5.14 - Preston Lodge High School Pipe Band – AD advised this could be removed as alternative funding had been secured.</p> <p>5.18 - Survey in Preston Lodge - AD noted that this is moving forward.</p> <p>6.1 - Employ a full time staff member (attendance) – AD advised this issue had been addressed and this can be marked as complete.</p> <p>LL noted that there was a new rewards system in place now at Preston Lodge 'EPraise'. AD added that the system is used to tally house points online and students can then spend on pencils/pens/dictionaries however it is expensive to run for the school. AD to speak to Mr Lanyin whether there is a case for inclusion in the area plan and report back.</p> <p>6.4 – Mentoring/Peer Support Programme for young people – AD raised concerns regarding this action as it had been unsuccessful at Preston Lodge despite lots of support.</p> <p>6.5 – Young people can access the support they need in school settings - AD commented that this action would be more relevant currently.</p> <p>JG added that she and AD are speaking to Mr Clark (Head Teacher, Preston Lodge) tomorrow regarding input to the area plan.</p> <p>SKerr added that there was a need for a health subgroup but the area partnership can discuss this at a later date.</p> <p>PF summarised the discussion by commenting that good points had been raised tonight, it was clear that a lot had already been achieved and area partnership influence beginning to show through.</p>	<p>SK</p> <p>PF</p> <p>SK</p> <p>SK</p> <p>AD</p> <p>AD/JG</p>

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	<p>PF asked if there were other actions/priorities that should be added to the plan. PB asked that a possible beach wheelchair project be added and that with the length of coastline in this ward that perhaps more than one be funded although there are issues of where to store etc.</p> <p>BH asked for more environmental aspects in the plan for example biodiversity – the need for the right mix of flowerbeds including native plants. PF noted that the area partnership could learn a lot from Cockenzie & Port Seton In Bloom. ML confirmed that the In Bloom organisation could provide a lot of advice/assistance in this area. She also confirmed that In Bloom have spoken to other towns/villages offering to share expertise. PB noted that the Longniddry war memorial had been raised locally with a need to make it more attractive.</p> <p>AC commented that the Preston Gosford Seton area has a lot of assets and other communities have Development Trusts and that perhaps this may be an option in order to fully utilise these assets.</p> <p>8.7 – Explore need to address food poverty – ZI raised the Kiddie Appeal set up by a previous councillor and noted that the community council were looking to starting it up again but there is a need for storage space and a distribution headquarters. SK commented that ‘Support from the Start’ would be a good network to be involved. FA added that one of the main challenges is volunteers for testing/checking items. BH said he would bring up at Cockenzie and Port Seton CC and PG added that Port Seton Community Centre had been involved. PF confirmed it would be added to the plan.</p> <p>SKerr advised the meeting that the next stage would be to take the area plan to groups and ask for comment, additions, leads etc for discussion at the next area partnership meeting on 23 March 2016. All feedback/comments etc should be sent to psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk no later than 19 March 2016.</p> <p>FA reminded the meeting that they should bear in mind that the area plan is a working document actions will come in and out throughout the 10 year period. LL commented that prioritising had felt too rushed last year and a rough timetable would be useful. PB asked how communication of the area plan would be done and ultimately the consultation on the plan. PF and SK confirmed that the initial communication/consulting would be through the individual local organisations and as the area partnership.</p>	<p>SK</p> <p>ML</p> <p>SK</p> <p>ALL</p>
6. AOCB		
	<p>Beach Wheelchair Project – SK advised the meeting that the North Berwick Coastal beach wheelchair project has been nominated for a COSLA award (since the meeting it has been announced that it is through to the final three).</p> <p>‘What’s On’ – SK advised that Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership have taken the lead on investigating the development an East Lothian wide ‘What’s On’ database solution. With the costs involved with a project of this nature the project team are suggesting that all area partnerships buy in. SK asked the meeting to consider if this was</p>	

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	<p>something that their organisations/groups use currently or would use if available. PF noted that there are approximately 400 different organisations/groups in the Dunbar & East Linton ward with 300 being affiliated to different websites so it is an area that he feels the area partnership should look at. SK will keep the area partnership updated.</p> <p>East Lothian Community Rail Partnership – FA updated the meeting with regard to the East Lothian Community Rail Partnership (ELCRP) who have a broad remit but primary objective is the Waverley to North Berwick rail link. FA is currently attending as the representative for all area partnerships and they meet every couple of months. FA asked the meeting to consider if they or anyone they knew that has a particular interest in rail travel would also be interested in representing the area partnerships.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALL</p>
7. Date of Next Meeting		
	<p>The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, 23rd March 2016, 7 til 9pm in the Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans.</p> <p>Apologies to be sent to - psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</p>	