

# North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Public Meeting

### Your area, your future, your ideas! – Taking the Conversation Forward Notes from Discussion Groups

1. HEALTH & WELL BEING GROUP (Sue, Carolyne)
2. COMMUNITY ASSETS (Sandra)
3. ON THE MOVE (Lesley, Steph)
4. COMMUNITY HUB (Katie, Lauren)

#### 1. HEALTH & WELL BEING GROUP

##### What do we need in our area for everyone to have a good life?

- Everyone - all ages – cradle to grave – ensure no one misses out
- Preventative health services
- Positive health – beyond fixing problems, address quality of life
- Inclusive clubs, activities, places
- Friendships, relationships across the community are supported
- Spread word about what we already have
- Help people through life transitions
- Support positive mental health - include people with mental health problems
- Support young carers and young care leavers – often exclude

##### Things we could do in the places we have:

- Quality food and health eating that involve the community – we have places where we can do this.
- Food growing space at Law Primary
- Community orchard
- Local fresh food
- Farmers market
- Allotments
- Raised beds in lodge grounds for all ages to get into
- Incredible Edible North Berwick

##### Activities/transport

- Cycling and Cycle lanes
- Education for cyclists to share better with pedestrians
- Encourage walking and cycling
- Wanderbus
- Park run – volunteer to set one up
- Schools to do daily mile
- Young and old walking together
- Activities and community events – in the Lodge and elsewhere

##### Making better use of the assets we have

Making sure that everyone is connected and included in the conversation and their community and can access services and influence decisions. This builds quality of life and makes places better for everyone to live.

- Street consultation
- Stall outside Tesco/surgery
- Annual Calendar of events – What's On

- Leaflets
- How to get involved/volunteer/ website match
- Welcome pack for new residents - for North Berwick/Drem, Gullane etc.
- Community Council Newsletter – redo design make it more relevant
- Community newsletter with tear off slip for ideas –put into box in library or why not/
- Street stalls
- Facebook
- Find people where they are – take the conversation to people
- Community fair Day, networking
- Young people design our Newsletter

#### **Who's missing out?**

- People not in North Berwick,
- Younger people
- Carers – young and older carers
- Very elderly, frail people
- socially isolated people
- People with mental health problems

#### **What if**

- We invite neighbours in for Sunday Dinner (isolated, lonely, bereaved, elderly)
- Neighbourhood gardening scheme
- Neighbourhood Christmas parties
- We all smiled at each other
- What if we invited our neighbours for mince pies
- What if all new residents were welcomed by neighbours and a basket of muffins!!
- We had more residents/tenants associations in communities, especially as we are growing
- North Berwick Coastal became a beacon of good practice and innovation for being healthy and connected communities
- We were all nice to each other

#### **Resources/Assets**

- Lots!
- Buy the Abbey Care Home and innovate
- Set up Community Development Trust with paid staff

#### **Influence ELC to work with us:**

- Planning department to include community views and discussion – work with us
- Get money from builders/developers to support community action & aspiration
- Develop a food strategy & partnership for the area
- Design places that are good for people
- Include policy of community gardens & public spaces for all developments
- Sustainability should underpin all new activities

## **2. COMMUNITY ASSETS GROUP**

#### **What do we need in our area for everyone to have a good life?**

- Engaged Community
- Low crime rate – secure
- Good supportive health services
- North Berwick – good for business

- Visitor destination - popular on high days and holidays
- Local shops and cafes
- Theatre space
- Environment
- Beach and other open spaces
- All year and all weather spaces for children to play
- Harbour
- Seaside
- Countryside
- Greenspaces in public ownership
- Public outdoor spaces
- Good walking, cycling infrastructure
- Golf Courses
- The Law
- Countryside
- Good schools
- Good public transport links (across county and to Edinburgh)
- Railway Line
- Reliable train service
- Road network
- Accommodate parking
- Combined local transport tied into parking needs
- Transport links / public transport

**What does our area offer already to meet these needs?**

- Playgroup/Nursery
- Schools
- Day Centre
- Community Centre
- Pipe Band
- Kayak Club
- Tennis Club
- Sports Fields
- Churches
- The Law
- Beach
- Recreation Park
- The Lodge Grounds
- Why Not?
- Indoor Swimming Pool
- Youth Project
- Seaside Resort
- Seabird Centre
- Yacht Club
- Putting Greens
- Museum
- Library
- North Berwick Trust (an asset working for the best interest of the community)
- Law Viewing – good example of Council House building

### **Does this give everyone a good life – who's missing out?**

- Isolated older people
- Young People
- People on low incomes living in an affluent area
- People with disabilities
- Somewhere to go in the evenings for youth/elderly which is not a pub or a restaurant
- Intergenerational spaces

### **Can we fill the gaps by using what we have already?**

- Combine spaces – multi purpose
- Young people visiting care homes –e.g. Brownies to Fidra

### **What if?**

- Arts Centre in a central location e.g. Blenheim Hotel (Birnam example )
- Old Blackadder Church was used as an Arts Centre
- Old Curling Pond area had better community use
- Telephone exchange building was used for community space
- We had an iconic building at Lime Grove (combining arts and community use)
- The Community Centre expanded and nursery moved to the school
- The North Berwick Trust built houses which could be rented (Helmsdale example)
- Funding was available to compulsory purchase – Lime Grove
- ELC owned land was protected from developers
- We had underground parking (issue of being on raised sea bed – sand) or build up the way.
- Integrated transport which people preferred to the car – wander bus (St David's example)
- There was more Council houses at Lime Grove
- The Fire station was moved out of town and the current site used differently
- The Health Centre expanded
- Funding wasn't a stumbling block
- People were willing to work in the best interests of the community
- Everyone felt a sense of belonging
- The Police Station was used for the community
- We could secure funding for rural communities
- We went to visit other Community Trusts and areas which had tackled similar issues

### **So what next?**

- Celebrate our community assets – we have many
- Arts Centre Group explore Blackadder Church site and visit Birnam – become a charity
- Flexible Multi functional spaces – need advice on what works together
- Youth Centre Feasibility – flexible space on large site
- Health Centre discussions with the community - work with Health & Social Care
- Meet with ELC to discuss community assets
- The Big stuff needs to be treated on an integrated basis and not in isolation

## **3. ON THE MOVE GROUP**

### **What do we need in our area for everyone to have a good life?**

- Connected, safe community, with safe cycling and walking routes
- Safe routes to school
- The ability to get around without a car
- Better availability and management of parking

### **What have we already?**

- The new pavement at the Recreation Park
- Some new cycle routes
- Mini buses, car club,
- An underused car park at the Recreation Park

### **Does this give everyone a good life – who's missing out?**

- Respect – give priority parking to those that need it (elderly)
- People with disabilities
- The need to balance the needs of the different groups eg pedestrians, cyclists, car drivers

### **Can we fill the gaps by using what we have already?**

- New cycle routes from new build (Miller Homes)
- Better surfacing on some routes
- There is not enough car parking, but suggestions for additional car parks are not approved

### **What if? (creative thinking on what can be done differently)**

- High Street - no priority so everyone adjusts to the conditions
- Lots of alternatives – wider pavements, change the view (not just cars)
- Change drivers attitudes
- Education – cars aren't the only way to get around
- Charrette – an opportunity to bring all the different groups together eg traders, High Street residents, pedestrians, cyclists, older people, disabled to find planning and design solutions
- Need to look at other towns to see what works and what doesn't.
- Parking was seen as part of the wider picture
- There was a Wander bus. Need to look at why previous schemes failed and what would make a successful scheme and whether to charge
- Needs a turnover of traffic. Enforcement part of the picture.
- Safety issues – danger of lorries on the High Street, safe routes to schools and in town
- Facts – what really happens on our High Street – best practices

## **4. COMMUNITY HUB GROUP**

### **What do we need in our area for everyone to have a good life?**

- An open, welcoming and accessible space which incorporates interests of all age ranges and abilities
- Inclusivity – people to view one another as equals.
- Promotion of community involvement and spirit
- A shelter for young people that is welcoming and has a space to hang about instead of the streets
- Space for everyone x 2
- Bikes like Amsterdam
- More houses as trying to find affordable flats and houses in East Lothian area is difficult and rare
- Individual space for young people
- Things that people of all ages can attend e.g. cinema
- Events that bring everyone in the community together
- Social events
- Health care services
- Care centres for the elderly

- A space for young people to go in their spare time where they can hang out with their friends that is warm and provides a food facility and provides young folk with a place to go to keep off the streets and out of trouble.
- Better shops for the area to bring people in.
- Something for the young people to do or go because there isn't many places now.

#### **What does our area offer already to meet these needs?**

- The Hope Rooms – Youth Centre
- Lots of assets – use them maybe v=better
- Green space
- People willing to help and find solutions
- Refurbishment of the Youth Café but its limited in the hours open
- North Berwick Youth Project
- Daycare centre
- Community Centre
- Lodge
- Doctors
- Dentists
- Café in the Lodge
- Outdoor spaces - the lodge, recreation grounds
- Local Sports Clubs
- Variety of shops
- Outdoor sports for young people
- Elderly housing
- Hospital
- Local businesses
- Better public transport
- Lots of support and space for elderly activities
- Sports
- Good education and preschool opportunities

#### **Does this give everyone a good life – who's missing out?**

- Children – no indoor space which is cheap or free – we miss the Space!
- Young People
- People with less money x 2
- I think young folk are missing out as they don't have anywhere to go so they crowd the streets and get into trouble.
- Nope – young people and people on low incomes
- Young people missing out as not much things for them as there is for older people in North Berwick
- 15-20 year olds – no affordable houses for people moving out, not much in terms of shops, we have to go uptown for the shops relevant to us.
- Can't afford to leave home and become more independent
- The elderly and the young as they are the ones often without work and can't find stuff to fill their days.

#### **Can we fill the gaps by using what we have already?**

- The Lodge – a place for young people to go and feel safe and socialize
- Lodge has lots of unused space that could be used for more useful things
- Lodge grounds have a lot of unused space that could be used as a shelter.
- Open café in the lodge all year round
- We don't need two putting greens!

- Space could be used for something else – picnic benches etc.
- Green hut in lodge upgraded and used for young people
- Green hut in the lodge opened throughout the year for young people (especially winter) as a place to take shelter if the weather is cold and raining
- Spaces in the lodge for more shelters/benches
- Empty buildings, empty shops – Blenheim Hotel
- Hope Rooms
- Hope Rooms dedicated to young people
- Blackadder made into a children & youth hub. Incorporating a healthy eating café and soft play

#### What if?

- Youth project
- Place for young people to shelter
- Cheaper Shops
- Public bikes with rental stations throughout North Berwick and other towns (Gullane, Drem) like Amsterdam
- New youth centre, near the centre of North Berwick with food facilities, heating, wide space to socialize, activities such as TVs, music section, arts room, friendly environment, welcoming all young people. Open late and not just 3 days a week like the Youth Centre – longer hours.
- Improved lodge – shelters
- Bigger hut
- More affordable housing
- Cheaper shops/ more variety
- Skatepark and another SPACE!
- Youth Centre with cinema, music rooms, chill out pace, café, skatepark
- Pedestrians were always considered first
- New activities (community hub) was for everyone not just for old/young people
- A youth centre with a music rooms, dance studio and sports hall with outside space, well lit but away from close residential areas. It will have a sensory room for young people with disabilities, a counselling room and office space.
- New bigger youth centre with café and comfy sofas
- Cheaper housing means the younger people can stay in the area rather than move uptown or to Musselburgh. With younger people in the town the town will grow, more business will pop up and will bring a more diverse culture and the town will thrive
- There wouldn't be groups of young people hanging around the streets/lodge
- A hub - It would give people a reason to get out and about