

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Minutes of the North Berwick Coastal Partnership Meeting Tuesday 23rd March 2021, 7-9 pm ZOOM MEETING

Voting Members present:	Substitute members present
Hilary Smith, Chair (HS)	
Eric Martin, Dunpender Community Council (EM)	
Cllr Jeremy Findlay, Elected member ELC (JF)	
Cllr Jim Goodfellow, Elected member ELC (JG)	
Tom Drysdale, Gullane Area Community Council (TD)	
Frank Neate, Gullane Area community Council (FN)	
Mairi Benson, North Berwick Community Council (MB)	
Kelly Evans, North Berwick Community Council (KE)	
Janice Macleod, NBC Children & Youth Network (JM)	
Liz Forsyth, Aberlady Community Association (LF)	
Lesley Kay, Lime Grove Asset Transfer Group (LK)	
Kerry Hardie, Aberlady Primary School Parent Council (KH)	
Lorna Scott, Gullane Village Association (LS)	
Katie Nevans, Support from the Start (KN)	
Derek Carter, Dirleton Village Association (DC)	Anne Orr, Dirleton Good Neighbours, on behalf of Dirleton Village Association (AO)
Elma Banks, Association of East Lothian Day Centres (ED)	
Leanne Nicklas, Gullane School Partnership (LN)	
Tim Harding, Lime Grove Tenants & Residents Association (TH)	Ruth Wolstenholme, Lime Grove Tenants & Residents Association (RW)
Ian Watson, North Berwick Arts Centre (IW)	


Others in attendance:

Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager (DH)
 Shirley Gillie, Business Support East Lothian Council (SG)
 Libby Morris, North Berwick Trust (LM)
 Jennifer Lothian, ELC Sustainable Energy & Climate Change Officer (JL)
 Robert Burgon, NBC Community Connections

Apologies:

Simon Metzner, NB District Association of Churches (SM)
 Bill McNair, North Berwick Community Council (BM)
 Jane McMinn, North Berwick Harbour Trust (JM)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS, DECISIONS <i>Actions</i>	FOR THE ATTENTION OF
1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies		
	<p>HS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>HS advised that this meeting would be recorded.</p> <p>Members wished to have a one minute silence at 8pm to remember those who were lost to COVID.</p>	
2. Minutes Previous Meeting		
	<p>EF advised there was an error in the previous minutes and should read Aberlady Community Association presentation Cathy Allan. This will be amended. Thank you for letting us know.</p> <p>Minutes from the Zoom meeting on 26th January 2021 were agreed and accepted.</p>	SG
3. Matters Arising		
	<p>HS advised most of the matters arising will be covered during the meeting but wanted to mention the Pump Track that was discussed previously for North Berwick Coastal. Ormiston have just announced that they are getting a Pump Track very soon which is great news for everyone.</p> <p>DH explained the position regarding the two points below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Allocation of £5,000 set aside for COVID eventualities. Agreed at meeting 10 November 2020. There were no objections to this being ratified and awarded to the North Berwick Coastal Health & Wellbeing Association to help with food poverty. b. Dirleton Resilience Team return of Awards - £1,786 – This was food poverty money which was returned to NBC Area Partnership. The money is ring fenced and cannot be used for anything other than food poverty. There were no objections from members present to the money being used for food poverty and would be awarded to the NBC Health & Wellbeing Association. 	
4. Declaration of Interest		
	<p>Please declare if there are any conflicts of interests in any application being considered at tonight's meeting.</p> <p>HS declared a conflict for NBC H&W applications</p>	
5. North Berwick Coastal Area Plan 2021-2024		
	<p>HS advised that there is some work that needs to be done to develop the new NBC Area Plan, and in particular looking at the priorities relating to coming out of COVID restrictions. Nee to look at what we have learnt and what we have achieved. Suggest maybe each sub group look at certain parts. This is a working draft and a very important document. HS will send first draft round so everyone can have input.</p>	

	<p>Climate change is part of the Area Plan and Jennifer Lothian, ELC Sustainable Energy & Climate Change Officer delivered a short presentation at the meeting.</p> <p>JL gave an update on the Climate Change Agenda and the priorities for East Lothian Council. JL encouraged members to contact her if they had any questions climatechange@eastlothian.gov.uk JL advised further information is available on the pages below.</p> <p>East Lothian Council’s Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025 Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025</p> <p>The Climate Change Strategy Annual Update, approved by Cabinet in January 2021 can be viewed here (Report 04).</p> <p>The summary infographic of the Climate Change Strategy Outcomes and Key Priority Areas – link.</p> <p> ELC Climate Change Strategy A3 infograph</p> <p>JL mentioned the United Nations’ COP26 Climate Summit which is a huge international climate summit coming to Glasgow this November 2021. ELC are considering whether they might run promotion or events around that / or what might be done to showcase some of the work that has already taken place. JL asked the meeting if they would like to think whether there is anything they might like to do from a community point of view.</p> <p>NBC Area Partnership Governance, Standing Orders, Membership HS suggested a short term sub group to look at these documents and recommendations regarding voting etc. Looking for volunteers. Would be good to have representations from Community Councils, Elected Members and anyone with any background experience/knowledge to get in touch. Looking at two meetings only. JF said he was happy to get involved.</p>	
6. Reports from Sub Groups		
	<p>NBC Children & Youth Network JM stated that they had had their first meeting today and it went really well. There has been a lot of great work supporting families in communities and it had been heart-warming to hear. The group will be looking to set 3 priorities for next year. They will also be looking at membership, and hoping for more representation from the villages and from parent councils. If anyone interested please get in touch. The next meeting is arranged for the 3rd May 2021.</p> <p>NBC Health & Wellbeing Association HS advised that the Compassionate Communities project have several live online events being organised and delivered including bereavement, end of life, and arm chair chats which have been really successful. See the Health & Well-being web site for more details. http://northberwickhealthandwellbeing.co.uk/</p>	

The group are looking to increase their network with local groups and share information. The Making Connections research is in 1st draft form and is due out this week. HS will update members at the next meeting.

Currently arranging a Walking Festival for August, all being well. More information will come up later in the meeting when discussing applications for funding.

Community Connections has grown in the past 2/3 years from the Health & Wellbeing Association, which was originally a sub group of the Partnership. Set up to support social isolation it has proved successful and of great benefit to the community particularly through COVID.

Have moved from pilot project to registered Scottish charity and have a board of trustees. They have set up telephone befriending service, virtual coffee meetings and are training volunteers. They are training volunteers for buddy walks one-to-one. They have also been working on monthly newsletters which is great. There is a treasurer's opportunity available. The main focus just now is applying for three years funding to the lottery. Hoping for a befriending councillor for young people. An exploratory meeting will take place next week.

Initially focus of the project was on older people, but now keen to look at supports for all ages. Looking to extend some services across the NBC ward and hope to work further with villages. There is a vacancy to join the board. If anyone is interested please get in touch, specially anyone with knowledge on regulations regarding protection vulnerable groups. HS expressed pride for this group who grew from a subgroup, nurtured as a pilot and are now going from strength to strength.

NBC On the Move

HS confirmed they had a meeting last week. Looking at ways to be creative with ideas for promoting active travel and sustainable transport. Including improving access for everyone. East Lothian Council are looking for ideas from the community. Feel free to be as ambitious as possible.

NB Town Centre Charrette is still ongoing.

Support from the Start

KN highlighted that the group are continuing to work on their action plan.

Looking at three priorities -

1. Retain family worker
2. Provide parenting courses on line until face-to-face is allowed
3. Deliver training courses locally to avoid travel and child care issue

The age group Support from the Start work with is 0-8 years. KN confirmed they are looking into different funding streams to further extend the family support worker post.

Village Representation**Aberlady Community Association**

LF advised Aberlady Community Association continuing to support the community and looking at future plans re Community Connections. Proposals include coffee mornings for the lonely or socially isolated in Longniddry, with the Ducks hotel being looked at as a possible venue. Hoping to look at a benches project (adopt a bench) as part of a wider village maintenance project, but may be difficult at the moment. Ideas such as a seed library are being looked into. The book library is continuing to do well. There is a meeting tomorrow night. 3 people have been litter picking around the Aberlady area and have collected around 8 bags of litter. Busy weekends with visitors and cyclist seem to be part of the extra litter that's around.

Dirleton Village Association

AO highlighted that the remaining funds for Reasons to be Cheerful received from the NBC Area partnership will be spent on the Easter Trail. Looking at plant and share month in April/May. Seeds will be sown, nurtured into plants, sold on and will create a rolling project. Could even be extended to gardening classes once COVID restriction ease which would be good for everyone's Health & Wellbeing.

It's proposed to run a market every two or three months. We can't have big events at the moment so the group are looking at smaller manageable events. Trying to concentrate on local businesses which have had a hard time during COVID.

The group are also looking into bench ideas. Get people out of their homes and hopefully sit and chat. Some benches may need some small improvements made and these benches could also be used as exercise points.

DC advised that no work has been done on the Village Green project for 9 months due to COVID but DH has been looking into this.

There will possibly be an application later to repair or replace the Christmas lights.

DC advised the Bowling Club improvements only received 50% of their funding but are still going ahead with a reduced project with changed priorities.

Gullane Area Community Council

TD advised that the Community Council voted on two new members. TD advised has never had that many members in his 9 years. Rebecca Hughes, Andy, Edward useful knowledge and expertise. TD mentioned the removal of buck thorn and reassured everyone that this is not a wide spread problem.

Gullane Village Association

LS advised that good things have come from the recruitment of the COVID resilience team. Great volunteers and a great team who are now core members of the Gullane Village Association. They are applying for charitable status. The group have new goals which have come from all the great resilience work.

LS stated they had drawn up a business plan, and are working on an asset transfer to take on the lease of the Recreation Hall going forward.

	<p>The other main focus of the Group at present is looking at a new village notice board. Important to show/advertise to visitors and new comers all the great things happening in the community. An application came in to the Partnership today but is too late to bring to the meeting. HS will forward this to members.</p> <p>LS advised they are looking at an eco group and had a meeting a few weeks ago which was positive. The idea of a HUB to meet up for litter picking etc was suggested. LS enjoyed the presentation tonight from JL regarding climate change etc.</p> <p>Whitekirk Village EM advised he would like a directory on who is the best person to contact on certain matters. DH happy to help get the right person for the right task.</p>	
7. North Berwick Community Development Company		
	<p>LK advised the meeting that the North Berwick Community Development Company (NBCDC) was set up in 2018. Initially set up to look at a community asset transfer for Lime Grove. Unfortunately not successful, but the company is still there.</p> <p>LK advised that people are needed to drive it forward. At present there are 3 directors and 2 wish to step down. Need to look at the need for the Community Development Company and what role would it play. Anyone wishing to get involved to get in touch with LK.</p> <p>KE asked if the NBCDC would maybe lead with the skate park project? LK advised the company could hold funds for projects but would need a treasurer. There is a lot the Company could do but really need people to drive it forward. LK advised at the moment the Company is concentrating on the NBC area but could easily be delivering in all areas. DC asked if NBCDC was linked to the Trust but LK informed that there is no formal link to the Trust.</p> <p>HS advised the Company is not just about funding it is about support and infrastructure. Could maybe even help with 'hosting' for other organisations, maybe even a HUB. Lots of ideas to look at. HS asked if there is an appetite to progress, please get in touch.</p>	
8. General Budget Priorities 2020/2021		
	<p>DH gave an update regarding the funds available.</p> <p>Applications to be discussed tonight are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Countryside Services – North Berwick Glen Path Project – supplementary application was discussed and voting took place. 15 members voted yes. B) The Scottish flag Trust – deferred from January meeting – majority were against funding this application and DH advised that Haddington had also turned them down and suggested other funding streams. C) Aberlady Memorial Garden – EF declared a conflict of interest – 15 members voted yes. 	

	<p>D) North Berwick Coastal Walking Festival – HS declared a conflict of interest - further questions asked and discussion took place. Compromise £2,336 and apply next year – 15 members voted yes.</p> <p>E) Aberlady Hanging Baskets – EF declared a conflict of interest – 13 members voted yes.</p>	
9. Food Poverty & Holiday Hunger		
	DH advised the Scottish Government have allocated a further £13,000 to support COVID 19 food poverty. It was agreed by everyone that this money would be allocated to the NBC Health & Wellbeing association and KN would keep an audit trail and update at each partnership meeting.	
10. A.O.C.B		
	<p>There was no AOCB.</p> <p>HS thanked everyone for coming along tonight. A lot of great work done and decision made. Very much appreciated.</p>	
Dates of Next Meetings	<p>11th May 2021</p> <p>22nd June 2021</p> <p>31st August 2021</p> <p>16th November 2021</p>	<p>Apologies to nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</p>