

**Minutes of the meeting of the Fa'side Area Partnership
22nd February 2022 7.00-9.00pm, a ZOOM Meeting.**

Chair

Chair Bill Axon (BA)

Quorum

12

Members and substitute members present:

Debbie Middlemass, Vice Chair (DM)

Ian Pryde, Macmerry & Gladsmuir Action Group/ Chair of FAT (IP)

Donald Grant (DG), Co-opted member (DG)

Isobel Berry, Elphinstone Community Association, Fa'side TRA (IB)

Cllr Colin McGinn, Elected Member, ELC (CM)

Neil Ellis, Tranent and Elphinstone Community Council (NE)

Mike Falconer, Tranent & Elphinstone Community Council (MF)

Alan Lauder, Macmerry and Gladsmuir Community Council (AL)

Sam Renton, Recharge (SR)

Others in attendance

Simon Davie, Connected Communities Manager – Fa'side, ELC (SD)

Stevie McKinlay, Connected Communities team – Fa'side (SM)

Lorna MacLennan, Business Support Administrator, ELC (LM)

Marilyn McNeill, IJB

Apologies

Cllr John McMillan, Provost, ELC (JM)

Cllr Kenny McLeod, Elected Member, ELC (KM)

Grace Stirton, OWTRA (GS)

Paul McGregor, Tranent and District Community Sports Club (PM)

Tracey Redpath, VCEL (TR)

Katherine Jane James, Support from the Start (KJJ)

Cllr Fiona Dugdale, Elected Member, ELC (FD)

Alan Bell, Recharge (AB)

Rosanne Woods, Chair of the (RW)

Carol Finneron, Pencaitland Community Council (CF)

Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Elected Member, ELC (SA)

Elaine Morrision, East Lothian Food Bank (EM)

Voting members in attendance – 9 present

		Key discussion points	
1.	Welcome	BA welcomed everyone to the meeting of Fa'side Area Partnership. All papers for the meeting have been circulated. The meeting is not quorate so decisions will have to be made via email.	All
	Apologies	Apologies are noted above. On behalf of Fa'side AP, BA wished to record our good wishes and the hope of a speedy recovery to Cllr Kenny McLeod following his operation. All members agreed. SD will convey these thanks to KM.	SD
2.	Declarations of interest for agenda items	BA asked members to declare any interests for items on the agenda or as we progress through the Agenda. <i>No Declarations made.</i>	ALL
3.	Approval of Minutes	Minutes were checked and agreed as an accurate record. Approved by IP and Seconded by DM	ALL
4.	Matters Arising	<p>A. Queens Green Canopy (QGC) – paper attached. SD referred to the previously updated paper on QGC. SD highlighted the funding streams available for communities to support QGC activities. Liz Nicol asked if any communities were interested in planting trees. To date only Ormiston and Macmerry are investigating the possibility of getting involved. Community groups to contact Liz directly.</p> <p>B. Queens Platinum Beacon Event - Paper attached. SD referred to the additional paper circulated and providing advice for communities who would wish to host such an event. SD asked members to contact Liz Nicol directly if interested.</p> <p>AL noted that there was significant amounts of space in and around Macmerry and Gladsmuir to consider the initiative. He will raise with MGCC. AL is having ongoing discussion with Mike Foy about the potential of planting a tree in Macmerry.</p> <p>Page 2 Item 2 SD asked if there would be an opportunity for the Fa'side Young Defenders to see the recycling process at Kinwegar. JL will send details to SD as to how this could be achieved bearing in mind the COVID restrictions. Post Minute Note: - JL has made contact with Stuart Wood to ask if a visit to Kinwegar could be arranged. <i>Matter still outstanding.</i></p> <p>Page 2 of draft notes 27/10/20 – Headed 'Page 2 item 5' – Tranent & Elphinstone Community Action Plan and Coalfield Regeneration Fund. SD and MF to discuss this matter. <i>Matter outstanding.</i></p> <p>Page 5 Item 9 of Draft notes from 27/10/20 – Handbook to be reviewed. SD/LM will complete and circulate to all members for comment. SD/LM will complete before next meeting. <i>Matter outstanding.</i></p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>AL</p> <p>SD</p> <p>SD/MF</p> <p>SD/LM</p>

	<p>Page 7 item 8.3 – FD commented that mental and social isolation were significant issues impacting on our local communities. SD agreed to circulate the completed evaluation form fundamental foods following the emergency food provision. SD awaiting report and will circulate. <i>Matter outstanding.</i></p> <p>Page 9, Item 7a – SD to meet with MA and discuss evaluation of the Lighthouse project. <i>Matter outstanding</i></p> <p>Page 6 item 9a – Area Plan – SD to complete the amendments agreed at previous meeting. <i>Matter outstanding.</i></p> <p>Page 6 item 9b – Annual Report 19/20 – SD/SM/LM will arrange to distribute the Annual Report as part of our communications strategy. <i>Matter outstanding.</i></p> <p>Page 5 Item 7c – 1 June 2021 – SD/LM confirmed that we not managed to progress the video reel any further forward. MA asked if the music could be changed. FD suggested that we could place these on the screen in the George Johnstone centre. <i>Matter Outstanding.</i></p> <p>Page 5 Item 8ai – 1 June 2021 - IP advised members that AB had suggested using some of this funding to provide local residents with free bus transport from some of our outlining villages. IP will seek a response from the Sub group members on this point. AB noted that it was very much a general proposal and the detail would need to be considered further. <i>Matter Outstanding.</i></p> <p>Page 5 Item 8a ii – 1 June 2021 – Cairns at Church Street – SD reminded members that he had previously circulated a proposal with the plan showing a possible new site for the cairns to be located as we were no quorate at the last meeting SD member if they were supportive of the proposal given that we are quorate at this meeting. Vote was unanimous (13 members in favour of moving the Cairns to their proposed position). SD will now arrange for Cairns to be moved and interpretation boards to be prepared alongside those previously involved in their design. <i>Matter ongoing.</i></p> <p>Page 5 Item 8a v 1 June 2021 - IP confirmed that he, SD and Andrew Hogarth met last week to carry out site visits to potential new cycle racks locations in each of the villages. AH will create a proposed plan with photos for each possible location, which we will initially share with council colleagues seeking clarity on whether there are any issues with the proposed sights. Upon receiving the response IP, SD and AH will then contact local communities to discuss the proposals. PMN SD has the plan and proposed sites. Will circulate email to Community Councils and groups to discuss. <i>Matter outstanding.</i></p>	<p>SD</p> <p>SD/MA</p> <p>SD/LM</p> <p>SD/SM/LM</p> <p>SD/LM</p> <p>IP/AB</p> <p>SD</p> <p>IP</p>
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5.	Connected Communities Team Update	A. COVID 19 update – SD highlighted that we are moving in a positive direction with regards to the number of people contracting COVID. First Minister announced today that as long as the numbers continue on the current trend they will remove the legal requirement to wear face masks indoors by the end of March. SD confirmed that ELC position on meetings is still to meet on line. SD asked any questions. None raised.	

		<p>BA flagged the need for discussion around views about continuing on line or returning to face to face meetings. All present agreed that we should continue our meetings on line. SD asked BA if he should renew the AP's licence for ZOOM. BA agreed the licence should be renewed.</p> <p>B. Manager Report – SD referred to attached report. SD highlighted the following:-</p> <p>a. Alice Pelan left in December and SM was successful in obtaining a Managers post in Dunbar & East Linton 3 days per week, and we are lucky to have him in this area for 2 days per week. Hence, the team's capacity is still severely reduced. Hope to announce a new Admin in the coming weeks. The recruitment for SM post did not go well and therefore SD will require to re advertise. This means that SDs capacity will not improve in the next 3 to 4 months. SD apologised to members for the negative impact caused by his lack of capacity.</p> <p>b. FCK have received an extension (a year) for their memorandum of understanding with ELCO Bowling Club. SD also passed on his thanks to CM, and the Walk with Scott foundation for their generous donation and support of the services FCK provide. CM advised that he would pass on his thanks.</p> <p>c. Tranent Town Hall – SD highlighted that the Bronx Boxing Club are in on a short term let to use the facilities. There numbers of both adults and young people have been really positive since opening. And they have approached SD seeking financial support for some equipment and the possibility of providing boxing provision to some of our more vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. DG asked if the hall would still be used as a polling station. SD confirmed that the Bronx would vacate and allow the hall to be used in this instance for the local elections. SD also confirmed that ELC will carry out a feasibility study for the future of the hall. SD noted that there are 3 initial notes of interest from community groups.</p> <p>d. Ormiston Community Centre- SD confirmed that the centre will be re-opening this week.</p> <p>e. Pencaitland Village – The hall has been reopened.</p> <p>f. Dementia Friendly Tranent and the Garden of Reflection - SD attended a site meeting with colleagues from our Amenity Services team and representatives from DFT. DFT are preparing an update on the project which I will circulate to all members. DFT indicated that they have secured the services of another contractor and to keep the project within their budget are replacing the proposed stone boundary wall with hedging. DFT have received support through our Amenity Services team and the Area Partnerships resource</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>Note</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p>
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		<p>allocation. NE asked if we could purchase additional bins for Polson park as there is only one bin in the park. SD confirmed that he would contact Amenities and respond. DG asked if the plans for the garden had significantly changed? SD indicated he did not think so but would obtain a copy of the updated plans and share them with him.</p> <p>g. ELC Visitor Management Plan – SD thanked community members for attending the consultation meeting on the plan. We focused on our green infrastructure such as our parks and core path network. SD advised members that there is a briefing next week where the consultant will share his findings. SD will invite community members that attended. NE said that he visits Ormiston Park regularly and he thinks the equipment and variety on offer there is excellent. He asked if there were any plans to improve the other parks around Fa’side? SD advised that work will be undertaken hopefully this year to improve Pencaitland Park. Other than this there are no immediate plans for existing parks. DG confirmed that Macmerry Park was last upgraded 15 years ago. IP confirmed there had been recent additions to enable children with mobility issues to access the park. This had been supported by FD following a meeting of local residents. DM reported that a play park in Elphinstone had been upgraded a couple of years ago. SD noted that the only other possible project might be around play provision in the area between George Johnstone Centre, Crookston and Balfour square. This will depend on the outcome of the proposed sale of Tranent Infant School.</p> <p>h. Foresters Park – SD advised members that the final element of the project (the closure of the vennel in Lindores Drive which accesses the park) will commence next week. SD has updated Tranent Colts, Tranent Juniors, Tranent and Elphinstone Community Council, Enjoy Leisure and Elected Members.</p> <p>SD asked if anyone had any questions.</p> <p>BA thanked SD for his report and stated there was no need to apologies as everyone is finding a struggle after the COVID lockdowns.</p> <p>C. Officers update – SM referred to the attached report. SM highlighted the following:- (the first 3 items are from the matters rising section of the previous minutes).</p> <p>a. Outreach Pilot project with Recharge. This has been a great success and SM will share the outcome report once completed. AB and SM are working on a plan for next year which will be</p>	<p>SD</p> <p>SD</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p>
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		<p>Rights Based Approach to outreach which will incorporate the views of young people, how they influence decision making and their views on play.</p> <p>b. Drama in Fa'side – SM confirmed that it was not possible to include children and young people from Tranent in this project. The reason for this is that the drama took place directly after school and there was no opportunity for other children/young people to participate. SM confirmed that the provision for this year coming, whilst based at Elphinstone will offer places to the different schools across Fa'side.</p> <p>c. Get into Summer – SM worked alongside a number of local partners with a small group of young people involved in offending behaviour. SM still has to complete the evaluations of this work.</p> <p>d. Festive Provision – SM reported that this had been a great success and was something that the whole team were able to contribute to. Although there was a significant increase in referrals the work carried out to support local residents was inspiring. A huge thanks to all involved.</p> <p>e. Capacity – Due to SM's change in role his capacity has significantly reduced. SM is trying to cover the most important priorities at this point in time but realises this is having a negative impact for community groups. SM apologised to members.</p> <p>f. BA thanked SM for a comprehensive report and noted that there was no need for his apologies as members understood the position that SM and SD are in.</p>	<p>SM/AB</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>SM</p> <p>Note</p>
6.	Consultation hub	<p>A. There will be other consultations ongoing, which will close prior to our meeting. SD reminded members and groups to check the Consultations hub regularly for any new updates. Please check the link below to see if there are any other consultations that are of interest to members.</p> <p>B. <u>Local Housing Strategy Engagement Survey - East Lothian Council - Citizen Space (eastlothianconsultations.co.uk)</u> – closes 28th February 2022</p> <p>C. <u>Gambling Statement of Principles - East Lothian Council - Citizen Space (eastlothianconsultations.co.uk)</u> – closes 6th March 2022</p> <p>Link to live consultations: https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/</p>	<p>ALL</p>
7.	Sub Group updates and Community Groups	<p>A. Fa'side Active Travel – IP gave a verbal update. IP referred to the attached report and provided the following update:-</p> <p>a. IP recognised that last year was exceptionally challenging. Between his ill health, the pandemic, his lack of capacity and the same for others, the sub group has not had the opportunity to progress as it has previously.</p> <p>b. AB has advised that the operating licence for our Drone is now active, so we are able to provide Aerial footage of our footpaths. IP noted that was</p>	

		<p>excellent news. AB also confirmed that the website is ready to go live, however requires a meeting of the sub group to finalise some outstanding matters. IP noted this was also really positive news and given his recent operation he feel in a position to help move this forward. IP/SD will catch up and circulate some dates for a possible meeting. Likely that this will be after end of March 2022. IP repeated his call for other community representatives to come forward as members of the subgroup.</p> <p>c. Queens Green Canopy – IP had been hoping to use some of the active travel budget to purchase trees for this initiative (either through FAT or MGCC) however he has been unable to progress his investigations to the point he has defined costs. SD advised IP that if we needed support for the AP beyond the funding streams for the QGC they should apply directly to the Partnership. There would still be time in the next couple of months to seek financial support from our next year's budget.</p> <p>d. Possible renaming of group – IP stated that once the subgroup was up and running he would like to change the name from FAT to FAST – Fa'side Active and Sustainable Travel.</p> <p>e. Cargo Bike Pilot – IP highlighted the initiative lead by Chris Milne of ELC whereby he has secured 3 cargo bikes for business or communities use. The idea is like the old delivery bikes. To date there has been zero interest in their use.</p> <p>f. Save Our Local Economy (SOLE) – IP advised that he was keen to explore the use of cargo bikes as part of this initiative. IP advised however, that through the community council network he has not heard positive feedback on the Dunbar pilot. Despite this negative feedback, he is interested to see how this initiative could support local communities.</p> <p>g. Budget – Due to lack of capacity noted above the sub group has been unable to meet or allocate any projects this financial year. As a result IP proposes returning the funding (£5k) to general budget.</p> <p>B. Fa'side Health and Wellbeing – SM could not make the meeting. The meeting mainly focused on the funding that had been allocated to the subgroup (£10K). They planned to investigate governance around how they would process and scrutinise applications. SR advised that he had a meeting with RW this week to review how Recharge process there cash back for communities funding. SD had stated that a representative from the Community Foundation at Hibs was present at the meeting and this was positive. The foundation seemed a lot more engaged within the community and they are involved in a number of small community based projects. NE advised that through his own work he had a meeting with the Chief Executive of Hibs and he seems genuinely committed to making a positive impact in our communities. SD noted</p>	<p>SD/IP</p> <p>IP</p> <p>IP</p> <p>IP/SD</p> <p>SM/RW</p>
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this is really positive to hear. SM to follow up on this with RW.

C. **Young Defenders** – SR referred to the attached report and provided the following update:-

- a. He has taken members of the sub group on 2 trips recently which has helped the group gel together.
- b. Sub group are working on their priorities for the coming year which will focus on reducing poverty and LGBT+ issues in our area.
- c. Also now providing local transport for members taking them back home.

SR advised that he would be leaving recharge on 5th March and would be grateful if this information remained confidential until that time as young people and parents are unaware. AB would update on SRs replacement. BA said on behalf of Fa'side AP he would like to express his sincere thanks to SR for his commitment, support and advocacy on behalf of our young people in Fa'side. Whilst devastated for our partnership BA wished SR all the very best in his new role. CM advised that due to his role on the recharge board he knew exactly the type of impact SR has made on our Young People in Fa'side, he wished SR all the very best for the future. MF agreed with all of the previous comments and wish SR all the very best. SD agreed with all the previous statements and noted the excellent support and guidance that SR has provided to our Young People. SD advised members he saw excellent interpersonal skills demonstrated by SR whilst involved in the Children as Human Right Defender project. SM echoed all of the above comments and noted our loss was his new employers gain. It was great that SR was remaining in post so that all of his experience would not be lost.

D. **Support from the Start (Sfts)** – DM provided a verbal update following the networks last meeting. DM reported that all of the participants that attended the mental health first aid training all achieved their certificates. DM confirmed that the network had approved financial support for the Fa'side festive provision. She also advised that Nicole Osbourne was seeking support for a continuation of the Sure start project (courses for parents). DM advised that the network were still preferring to meet on line. Members had indicated that they were struggling to find funding streams that were appropriate to their organisation in a timely manner. As a result the network will add a list of electronic links to any live funding streams which are current. DM confirmed that the next networking meeting will take place on Tuesday 1st March 2022.

E. **Scrutiny and Monitoring Sub Groups (SMSG)** – SD referred to the previously circulated paper which defined member's votes with regard to the 5 applications circulated via email. No questions were tabled. SD advised members that he had visited VCEL and the

AB

SD

		community pantry is looking great. SD will circulate some photos.	
8.	Budget updates	<p>A. Financial year 2021/2022 position</p> <p>SD referred to the previous circulated budget update and highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Amenity element: He confirmed that he would circulate an update on our Amenity services spend. ii. Roads element: SD confirmed that we have fully allocated our Road expenditure as per the paper. iii. Education/lunch clubs: SD advised that we have fully allocated our additional Education funding, which supports our lunch club provision. iv. Additional Scottish Government – Food: SD confirmed that we have fully allocated our Additional Scottish Government Funding for Food and Welfare. v. FAT: SD advised that as FAT has not allocated their £5,000 this sum will be returned to the general budget. As a result the total to spend before the 31st March is £17,764.43. vi. SD asked member is they has any question or queries. None were tabled. vii. New applications: SD confirmed that he is in discussion with 2 communities groups – the Bronx and Centre Stage. SD will circulate applications for consideration by members through an email vote. If supported this would fully allocate our general budget. If not we will return around £15k to East Lothian Council. viii. Additional Scottish Government – Digital: SD also advised members that he has been working alongside Ralph Averbuch from Pencaitland Community Council around the additional Digital funding we received - £5,500. Ralph plans to submit a Fa’side wide application. If approved allocate the £5,500. If not we will return the £5,500 to the Scottish Government. SD proposes that AP members agree to transfer the funds to the PCC bank account and they will make an application thereafter, which members will be able to scrutinise. <p>Please note that we normally provide members with 14 days to respond. If groups/ reps are able to, given that this is the end of the financial year, it would be really helpful to receive early responses from members.</p> <p>You will receive an email headed 'Fa’side Area Partnership – Urgent decision required'. Please look out for this and respond as quickly as possible.</p>	<p>SD</p> <p>All/SD/LM</p> <p>All/SD/LM</p> <p>Note</p>
9.	AOCB	<p>*MUST BE AGREED THROUGH CHAIR PRIOR TO MEETING*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fa’side Festive provision evaluation – Late paper SD referred to the late festive provision paper which was circulated. He thanked MF for his work coordinating the various volunteers which made our provision possible. SD thanked all of our community partners in particular 	

		<p>Pennypit Community Development Trust and their staff. He also highlight that efforts of Alice Pelan, and SM in coordinating and collating all of the support information needed to create our 'runs' for deliveries. On Christmas Day, 32 meals and household gifts were delivered to elderly and vulnerable residents within the Fa'side Area, through FCK and volunteers. SD highlighted to all members the 45% increase in referrals from 2020.</p> <p>BA thanked all those involved in the provision for their hard work and commitment to local residents in need. He expressed that in this country, one of the richest in the world, his concern around the need for the level of support in the 21st Century.</p> <p>MF also conveyed his thanks to all those involved in the provision specifically the Pennypit Community Development trust.</p> <p>BA apologised for his lack of capacity in the last 6 weeks but this was due to personal reasons.</p>	
14.	Dates of area partnership meeting	<p>The following are our meeting dates for the rest of this year. All of these meetings will be on Zoom as per</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Tuesday 5th April 2022 Tuesday 31st May 2022 Tuesday 6th September 2022 Tuesday 8th November 2022 </p> <p>SD highlighted that need to arrange another AGM to review our post holder's and update membership. BA agreed and asked SD/LM to arrange an additional meeting in the near future.</p>	ALL

Contact: - Email: faside-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk Phone: Lorna MacLennan, 01620 827146 or Simon Davie on 07912 785 194

Item5b – 22nd February 2022

Connected Communities Managers update as at xx February 2022

Covering period November 2021 to February 2022

1. Our team's activities have been significantly reduced since the end of December 2021. Alice Pelan our Senior Business Support Assistant left the team to take up a new opportunity. As highlighted at our last meeting, Stevie McKinlay also secured a new part time promotion –as the Connected Communities Manager for Dunbar and East Linton. Stevie is still carrying out his Community Development Officer's role in the team, however on a 2 days per week basis.

Both posts have been advertised and I am working to recruit to both in the very near future although it could be some time before we secure a Community Development Worker due to the notice period that may be required, depending on the preferred candidate's circumstances.

I apologise if this has negatively impacted upon community groups and or Area Partnership projects. As I am conscious that we have not been as responsive as normal.

2. Sub groups of area partnerships. Individual updates included on this agenda. As No 1, I was not able to set aside some time and work with the Active Travel sub group. Ian's capacity is still significantly impacted upon by his role as Chair of Macmerry and Gladsmuir CC. I am seriously concerned about the negative impact this is having on the priority we are able to provide to Active Travel and Sustainability for our local area; particularly given how important this matter is and some funding streams that we will be missing out on.

Ian has agreed to continue in the role however, we need a local community representatives to come forward and take on this role. To provide it with a bit of profile and commit some time to driving this key agenda forward.

If anyone is interested in this position and wants to have a chat about it, Ian and I would only be too glad to meet up. Matter ongoing.

3. FCK update: As Interim chair of the FCK, we have been working hard to recruit new Trustees onto the board of the charity. I am delighted to confirm that Mike Falconer and Margaret Tait were inducted as Trustees recently and we are working with at least 2 other community members with a view to them joining the board.

Delighted to report that we have secured another years extension of our Memorandum of Understanding with ELCO bowling club and would like to thank and acknowledge the support we have received from their committee and members.

Want to acknowledge the significant impact and support we have received from Tranent and Elphinstone Community Council, who have been instrumental in securing additional funding for the charity.

We will be advertising the part time Community Development worker for FCK in the coming weeks and have applied for additional funding to try and increase this from a part time to a full time post. We will make members aware when the post has been advertised.

Still providing lunches at ELCO on a Tuesday and Thursdays, alongside meal deliveries with our partners from ELCAP to around 20 residents in our area who are either elderly or vulnerable. Macmerry Mensshed members are still with us and have moved to attending on a Thursday. Finally FCK supporting a range of local events to raise funds for the charity. *Matter ongoing.*

4. Get into Summer activities has been completed. We have received confirmation that the scheme will run this year and indeed there may be funding to run it in Easter. Still waiting on more details and will share this with members as soon as we get the details. *Matter ongoing.*
5. Tranent Traders Association. This work has mainly been paused due to current restrictions. Think we have lost both the Scottish Towns Partnership (STP) funding and the local ELC based funding. STP through lack of response from the traders and ELC through the criteria placed on funding by CEG (ELC overview group for funding). Had a chat with senior colleagues in Economic Development about the matter and they are keen to see if there is something we can do in Tranent going forward. I am waiting for colleagues in Economic Development to come back to me to see if we can explore this further. *Matter ongoing.*
6. Support and supervision to our Connected Communities Team. Seeking to create an annual plan for the team which identifies our priorities for this year. Have some content created and work in progress. *Matter ongoing.*
7. Ongoing engagement with Macmerry Mensshed on use of hall. Trying to build capacity and understanding of the group, around their use of the facility and sustainability of the group. This is connected to the community conversation in Macmerry. *Matter ongoing.*
8. Working alongside colleagues on Improving the Cancer Journey in East Lothian on behalf of the Connected Communities Team in East Lothian. *Matter ongoing.*
9. Continuing conversations around Community Facilities across Fa'side. Recent decision to re-open community facilities in Fa'side. Please note the update below for the facilities that our team manages. This has taken up a significant amount of time and is what we have been focussing on from December until now.

As highlighted previously, our Connected Communities team rely upon Facilities Management staff to open, close and clean our facilities. Given the challenge we have around budgets, we are restricted in terms of our provision of activities and the time and spaces we can offer due to the established hours we have for each facility. In addition, and as the situation remains uncertain, we may need to close facilities at short notice should other priority areas require support.

- A. Tranent Town Hall: The Council's Corporate Asset Group (CAG) have agreed to allow the Bronx Boxing Gym temporary access to Tranent Town Hall to operate club

activity. This will facilitate the club to support Ross High School, the Sport Development team and young people in the Fa'side area by offering boxing facilities for young people and in particular some diversionary activities for vulnerable children and young people in the area who require a structured outlet for some of their emotional and physical needs.

Our Sports Development team (Paul Huish has led the engagement with the club) have been working with the club around their Governance which has improved significantly over the last couple of years and will continue to build their capacity in order that they become a sustainable club. Colleagues have worked with the club to get an agreement in place that will provide short term access to the club covering a number of requirements.

The agreement is one which allows the club to deliver boxing sessions, activities and some diversionary work in our community and also provides ELC with the opportunity to ensure the Club can manage such an arrangement whilst achieving cost recovery. It is expected that the club will start to use the hall sometime after this week with the exact date of entry to be finalised.

CAG agreed in principle to the short term arrangement allowing access to the Bronx Boxing Gym whilst wider consideration is given to the Town Hall. Further information will be brought through corporate asset management group on future options for the building in due course.

- B. Elphinstone Community Centre: We have continued to support the Primary school by allowing full use of the Main Hall and Meeting room spaces in the centre during the day. We have been using the Main Hall to support some Youth Work activities which Stevie will update on in his report.
- C. Ormiston Community Centre: We are working with community groups to re-instate those groups who had extended bookings in the first instance in the centre. There is a significant amount of additional cleaning required to support the existing groups and we have been approached to support an after school club which will be located in the centre. The club and its need has been identified by local residents and the ongoing works in Ormiston primary. Given the existing groups who have identified that they are planning to return, we do not expect to have a large amount of capacity to provide additional activities in the centre. We hope to bring back community groups by mid to end of February, as long as there are no challenges or issues with our Facilities Management resource.
- D. Pencaitland Village Hall: We are working with our colleagues in Facilities Management to get local groups back into the hall. Our Janitor/Care taker has handed in his notice and we are in the process of seeking to recruit to the role. At present, we are seeking to place a temporary arrangement in place to get the small amount of hours covered in the hall. We are working with the lunch club to bring them back in to the hall and have also been approached by a local toddlers group to return to the hall. We hope to have the lunch club back in the coming weeks and it will take a slightly longer period to clarify if we can support the toddlers return.
- E. Macmerry Village Hall: Remains closed at present. There is some maintenance work required to enable the facility to be recommissioned. Awaiting an update from Property colleagues in order to ascertain when this work can be carried out. Also,

the current caretaker/cleaner has been re-deployed elsewhere to undertake other duties in priority areas. As soon as we have received an update we will update members. Macmerry Menshed are currently accessing FCK once per week as a stop gap measure to support their members.

F. The community conversations have led to various discussions with colleagues within ELC around its Corporate Asset Management strategy. Requests have been received as part of our phased re-opening plans for more information and clarity on buildings and let holder's usage of the space. Stevie is working closely with let holders to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for their return. *Matter ongoing*

G. We are working with colleagues in our Elections office, as most of the above facilities are registered polling stations. Local elections are due to take place on 5th May and we are in the process of supporting the team in ensuring stations are fit for purpose.

10. Engaged with Tranent Skate park Foundation – who have over a thousand members on their Facebook page (please see the attached Facebook link). Currently reviewing sites and engaging with Council teams to support our investigations. If we can secure a site in principle then we will seek to create a working group to support the project. *Matter ongoing.*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/422021105447215/?ref=share>

11. Engaging with Sports Hub on the creation of the Pavilion at Polson. Possibility that we might support the social media around the project and some administrative tasks in order to get the project completed. *Matter ongoing.*

12. Waiting on outcome of One Council Partnership Funding to clarify if there is an additional ask of our team with regards to local groups and their applications. *Matter ongoing.*

13. Finalised the applications that were circulated in December for processing and payment. Covered in this agenda by way of update. Some conversations ongoing with applicants about possible funding applications they would like to make to Fa'side AP. *Matters ongoing.*

14. Managed to secure temporary funding for the Included and Engaged post. Did not come from AP funding streams. Matter closed.

15. Met with local representatives from a Muslim prayer group who are interested in securing a venue in Tranent to be used as a local Mosque. As per 9 A. Facility now being used in short term by The Bronx Boxing Club. Have update prayer group and have asked if they are still interested in Town Hall, depending on outcome of options appraisal for the hall. *Matters ongoing.*

16. Meeting with Mid and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP) Manager to discuss gaps in provision for those living with Drug and Alcohol conditions in our communities. I have passed on his details to Stevie and the Health and Well-being sub group for further discussions. Smart recovery group now operating in VCEL building on High Street in Tranent. Interest in trying to support and secure premises for peer support fellowships relating to drug misuse and addiction. *Matters ongoing.*

17. Meeting with PCDT staff to discuss lessons learned from last year's Festive Provision and starting to draft proposals and engage with key stakeholders for this year's provision. *Matters ongoing.*
18. Dementia Friendly Tranent (DFT) – Garden of Reflection, Polson Park. Alan Bell from Recharge had been carrying out some outreach in the park and young people had asked for an update. I contacted DFT regarding the project and can confirm the following update.
 - a. DFT are in dispute with their previous contractor, who they have ceased working with. This is a legal matter and therefore one they can say no further on. The project has been paused recently to allow some due diligence regarding this legal matter and clarity on how the project can progress. As many local residents will know foundations and part of the wall structure had been completed as part of the ongoing works. DFT have arranged a meeting with Andrew Hogarth and myself on 11th November to provide an update on their proposals going forward. Following this meeting, I will update members of the partnership.'
19. Supported Community groups securing access to Social Isolation Fund in East Lothian. Please see Stevie's update report for more information on the outcome.
20. Worked with Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL) and community groups on applying to the new 'Communities Mental Health and Well Being fund'. Applications currently being assessed and we are awaiting outcomes for local groups.
21. Tracey Redpath was confirmed as new co-opted member of the partnership and we will place an agenda item each meeting to cover third sector updates for our members but also for the opportunity for local third sector groups to raise any issues.
22. Facilitated a community meeting with ELC's consultant for the proposed Visitors Management Plan. The meeting and conversation focused on seeking information and proposed projects from local communities. We await an update from the consultant on the outcome of the meeting. We hope this input will enable us to signpost the plan for future funding bids and if successful could lead to 'pipeline' funding for our local communities. Ian Pryde attended and will also cover this under his Active Travel update.
23. Attended the Local Housing Partnership meeting. Agreed to support new play provision in Ormiston Park with some additional benches and also to close of the vennel in Lindores Drive, which is the final part of the Foresters Park – parking project. The closing of the vennel which formed part of the planning permission is due to take place in the coming weeks and notification will be given to Elected members and key local stakeholders regarding the works.
24. Reviewing our budget position and end of year spend for our general budget and seeking updates on our amenity resource allocation.

Simon Davie
Connected Communities Manager – Fa'side
4th February 22

Item5c – 22nd February 2022

Communities Development Officers update as at 22nd February 2022

Covering period November 2021 to February 2022

Context – Since our last meeting I have reduced my hours to 0.4 FTE and am working in Fa'side on a Monday and a Friday. This is having a significant impact on our capacity. Recruitment of an additional development officer is ongoing.

- Flexible approach to support both teams (Fa'side and Dunbar and East Linton) different work streams and ongoing projects. *Ongoing.*
- Reopening of Community Buildings – Ongoing discussions with community groups / phased reopening of centres on going. Working with ELC corporate bookings team, facilities management and health and safety colleagues to ensure safe re-opening. *Ongoing*
- Supporting Fa'side Festive provision and winter essentials, including programming the delivery routes for Cash for Kids / Food provision. This matter was successfully concluded at the end of December 21. Presently pulling together information on the evaluation of the provision. Matter closed
- Youth Work Programme in Elphinstone - Youth club has restarted after shutting down in December. Arts taster sessions continue over the next 12 weeks.
- Working closely with Recharge to identify a Rights based approach to Outreach Youth Work for the 2022/23 financial year. Identify the needs of our young people to programme transition and mental health support to P7 and S1 pupils. Working with Recharge to undertake a needs assessment of young people. This will be based in Pencaitland. *Ongoing.*
- Continued support to community groups. Macmerry Men's Sheds lunch club attendance at FCK, Pencaitland Lunch Club, The Bronx boxing club and Primrose Day Centre. This work involves various discussions with other partners and indeed funders. *Ongoing.*
- Support to Youth Sub Group & H&W Sub group. *Ongoing.*
- Engaging with Volunteer Centre East Lothian and Health and Social Care partnership, investigating possible funding routes and streams to support local community groups to build capacity and assist them becoming more sustainable. *Ongoing.*
- Working with East Lothian Council to implement the new Bookings Live system. *Ongoing.*

Stevie McKinlay
Community Development Officer – Fa'side
8th February 2022

Item 7 A – Meeting 22/2/22

Active Travel sub-group report for the Fa'side Area Partnership meeting on February 22nd.

There is considerable active travel promise in our activities to date.

Lack of resource, though, financial, digital, and personnel means some of our well-defined projects have not come to completion. At our most recent meeting, nearly a year ago, we discussed the possibility of revisiting an audit of our paths network, originally done around five years ago. Family groups out for a walk were a pleasing feature when the worst of the COVID lockdown eased. Now, with further relaxation, the pattern continues, for families with children, bikes, a new dog, even granny in her buggy, seen in places like Butterdean Wood.

Several primary, community connecting, core paths fall short of the standard 1.5 to 2 metres wide and are not fit for purpose where we anticipate and promote increased walking and wheeling traffic. We have mapped more than 60 finger-post signs the destinations/distance information on many is inadequate. How much relevant direction to put on any one sign has been a subject of long discussion. Digital media will be attractive for many with the use of QR codes on signs and destination boards. While the council systems remain difficult to access, we have ventured the possibility of our own website with route maps and other information, environmental and historic – which Recharge will take forward on our behalf. Drone generated imaging of selected paths in our network is an ambitious active project – which Recharge will take forward on our behalf. There are more than 50 cycle stands in storage waiting to be installed in community locations around Fa'side. Suitable sites are identified and photographed. It remains to talk to the Communities, the Council's Environment, and Roads departments for permission to go ahead. We may have to ask communities to bear some of the costs when they are calculated; Cycling Scotland is one of the Government supported charities known to assist with funds for such a project. The task before us is enormous. The contribution made by Council staff is enormously helpful. Communities' representation could be better. If we are to survive as a group it is urgent that we recruit individuals with commitment to a sustainable, thriving Fa'side.

Our 21/22 annual budget allowance remains largely unspent. Speaking personally, I would rather return it than spend on something not immediately useful.

On the 18th of January with several Fa'side community representatives, I attended a zoom meeting on an East Lothian visitor management plan consultation. The majority opinion was that existing community attractions (such as local parks) would be enhanced by provision of toilets and cafés. There was some discussion about how we connect these parks and obvious links were made to signage, digital infrastructure and path conditions – as noted earlier in this report. This is a county wide consultation, carrying no promise of funding.

Later in the spring we will have the chance to take part in an electric cargo tricycle trial arranged by the behaviour change officer Chris Milne. The bikes so far identified are probably better suited to business use and local deliveries; last time I heard there was no business interest. There could be a role for these bikes in the SOLE project (Sustain Our Local Economy). Highly criticised, the SOLE pilot in Dunbar had a most unfortunate start.

Ian Pryde

Fa'side Active and Sustainable Travel Sub group (FAST) February 2022

Item 7B – Health & Wellbeing Sub Group (Fa’side Area Partnership 22/2/22)

Fa’side Health and Wellbeing Sub-group met on 20th January 2021.

Summary

Many of the groups had internet problems that day and were unable to attend.

Main discussion on the funding from the Area Partnership next year and for the various groups to think what their priorities are.

Meeting to be arranged with Recharge and Hibs Foundation as they already have a funding application process which the H&WB sub-group can use to suit us. Then the chair will contact everyone before the next meeting with the process so we will be ready to go in the new funding year.

Item 7C – Meeting 22/2/22

Young Defenders Report- February 2022

The Young Defenders have been meeting regularly after school on a Monday. We currently have 8 members and are looking to add more. We have people from Pencaitland, Ormiston, Tranent and Humbie, who all attend Ross High School, coming along regularly.

Since November they have begun to look at their community and what they think can be improved. They are also beginning to consolidate their priorities for the area. The group are still settling in but did do Christmas crafts and had their first trip in December to see the Dunbar Christmas lights. We will be focussing on games, community involvement and their role within Recharge and the community. Youth Scotland are also coming down to some of their sessions to work with them and provide accreditation as part of Generation Cashback. This is the only Generation Cashback project within East Lothian.

Sam Renton
Recharge

ITEM 7E - Meeting 22/2/22 – Outcome of Members votes - January 2022

	East Lothian Play Association	Macmerry & District Men's Shed	Fundamental Foods/Pennypit Trust	Fundamental Foods/Pennypit Trust	Community Pantry (VCEL)
	Play Park Sparks *	Recovery and renewal of group *	Fa'side Lunch Club Provision February' 22 *	Festive provision December '21 *	Community Pantry *
	£3,950	£1,360	£4,587.50	£2,000	£4,900
Yes	12	12	11	12	9
No	0	0	0	0	0
DofI	0	0	1	0	2
Abstain	0	0	0	0	1
Total	12	12	12	12	12

Need a quorate vote from members/substitutes of Fa'side AP

Total number of members = 27

Quorum is 40% + 1 = 11+1 = 12

*** Decision was reached to approve all 5 applications that were sent to members for an email vote.**

Simon Davie

Connected Communities Manager - Fa'side

