

# North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

## Minutes of the North Berwick Coastal Partnership Meeting Tuesday 21st June 2022, 7-9 pm Gullane Recreation Hall & zoom

<b>Voting Members present:</b>	<b>Substitute members present</b>
Hilary Smith, Chair (HS)	
Cllr Jeremy Findlay, Elected Member East Lothian Council (JF)	
Cllr Liz Allan, Elected Member East Lothian Council (LA)	
Mairi Benson, North Berwick Community Council (MB) zoom	
Gordon McLelland, Gullane Area Community Council (GM)	
Brett Walker, Chair On The Move (BW)	
Frank Neate, Gullane Area Community Council (FN)	
Janice Macleod, Chair NBC Children & Youth Network (JMc)	Lauren Cowie, NBC Children & Youth Network (LC)
Liz Forsyth, Aberlady Community Association (LF)	
Elma Danks, Association of East Lothian Day Centres (ED)	
Kerry Hardie, Aberlady Primary School Parent Council (KH)	
Ruth Pepper, Sustaining NB (RP)	
Sarah Gibson, Gullane School Parent Carer partnership committee (SG)	
Jim Conway, Economic Development, (JC)	
Steve Wands, NB Sports Hub (SW)	

### **Others in attendance:**

Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager (DH)  
 Shirley Gillie, Business Support East Lothian Council (SGi)  
 Alison Brown, Volunteer centre East Lothian (AB)  
 Sarah, Gullane Village Association  
 Alex Hutchison, NB in Bloom (AH)  
 Katie Cunningham, Lucy and Fiona, Chill East Lothian (KC)  
 Rory Steel, Fringe by the Sea (RS)  
 Barbara Gardner, Remembering Together (BG)

### **Apologies:**

Carol McFarlane, North Berwick Community Council (CM)  
 Derek Carter, Dirleton Village Association (DC)  
 Lorna Scott, Gullane Village Association (LS)  
 Katie Nevans, Support from the Start (KN)  
 Simon Metzner, NB District Assoc of Churches (SM)  
 Tim Harding, Lime Grove TRA Community Group (TH)  
 Hilary Smyth, Gullane Village Association (HSy)  
 Olwyn Owen, North Berwick Environment & Heritage Trust (OO)  
 Alison Clark, North Berwick Environment & Heritage Trust (AC)  
 Jacqueline Cottrell, North Berwick Community Council (JC)  
 Anne Orr, Dirleton Good Neighbours (AO)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS, DECISIONS <i>Actions</i>	FAO
<b>1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b>		
	HS welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new councillors and expressed joy of being able to meet in person. Thanks was passed to Gullane Village Association for use of the recreation hall and to Shirley for the provision of refreshments. We are trying a hybrid format tonight. Round table introductions were made and apologies were noted.	
<b>2. Minutes Previous Meeting</b>		
	The Minutes from the Zoom meeting held on the 3rd of May 2022 were agreed and accepted.	
<b>3. Matters Arising</b>		
	It was agreed that all items considered to be matters arising were covered as agenda items to follow.	
<b>4. Declaration of Interest</b>		
	<p>This is a standing item on the agenda. Please declare any conflict of interest when voting.</p> <p>HS declared a conflict of interest – East Lothian Walking festival#22</p> <p>MB abstained from voting on all applications as NBCC had not had a meeting and therefore had not had a chance to go over the applications.</p>	
<b>5. Membership</b>		
	HS welcomed new members and thanked them for coming along tonight. Appreciate we are all here trying to make things better for everyone.	
<b>6. Gullane Village Association – The journey so far</b>		
	<p>GM gave an update on behalf of LS. “Firstly, please accept my apologies for not being able to attend tonight’s meeting to give this in person. Covid has eventually caught up with me and hence my absence. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of the attendees for their support of the work of the Gullane Village Association over the last year since we joined you.”</p> <p>Below is a brief background of how the GVA came to be and its lease of the ‘old Scout Hall’ (as the village knew it) -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions of a possible village association for Gullane started just before lockdown between Gordon McLelland &amp; Robert O’Riordan in the recognition that the village was under-represented in the Community Council and NBCoastal Area Partnership and the failure of the newly formed tenant’s association.</li> <li>• Working with the Resilience team produced a core of individuals keen to set up the GVA</li> <li>• Having to move the Resilience Hub into the then moth-balled Old Scout Hall in July 2020 made the team immediately question why such a valuable community asset was sitting empty</li> <li>• Discovery that the hall was being put back up for Community Asset Transfer again in January 2021 pushed the team to establish the GVA formerly, establish a constitution and apply for charitable status.</li> </ul>	

- A Business Plan was submitted to ELC in January 2021 which avoided the hall being advertised for sale or let and after several long months of waiting the GVA took on the lease of the hall in September last year.
- Meantime charitable status was accepted, and the main aims of the association established.
- The committee was determined that the GVA be about the POSITIVE things that we can do for, and with the village, and definitely not to become a target for the moans & groans about potholes & dog poo!
- Neither is it for planning issues when concerned residents are encouraged & welcomed to attend Community Council meetings where the expertise exists to address these kinds of issues.
- In addition, we have Gordon McLelland (ex- Resilience SPOC) as a committee member who is on the Community Council who can help advise residents too.
- Since September of last year, we have worked hard to clean, decorate and make the Recreation Hall (the official name of the hall) ready for the community groups to use for meetings, children's parties, art & sports classes, and the likes. All the initial hard work was done by committee members as we did not have the funds to employ decorators and tradesmen.
- We have a way to go in still fitting out a kitchen currently furnished only with a sink; install decent heating; and lighting – all of which we will be aiming to have completed by fundraising and grants during this year.
- The realisation through our resilience work was the need to include those in the community without access to the internet, so at one of our very first GVA meetings, the decision was taken to create a free Newsletter, distributed to all 1,500 households and it has proved a great success in bringing together all the various clubs, groups and businesses as you can see. We have just issues No. 5 and have sponsorship for the Autumn & Christmas editions secured.
- We also raised funding for a large central village noticeboard, similar to Dirleton's, earlier in the year and hope that this will be a fixture by the end of the year.
- We have hosted a 2-day Artisan fair in the hall to support local craft & ECO businesses, inspired by the success of the Dirleton Fair. The next will be hosted later in the year.
- We secured £5,000 for the Summer of Play 2021 which enabled us to run a cook school attended by lots of children as well as lots of sports activities free for families that would otherwise not have been able to attend.
- Representation for Gullane on the NBCAP has, as you know, enabled us to recently receive funds to completely re-furnish the hall which you can see tonight, as well as provide funds for 2 laptops for digital access for residents which will be purchase this month. A programme for digital access will then be created. Representation has also assisted in supporting other groups, such as the Children's Hub & the Millennium wood school.
- We are absolutely thrilled that last week Gullane hosted, here in the hall, its first Youth Group for many many years, run by Christie from NB Youth Project & supported by Lauren and Emma and eventually a rota of volunteers. We see this as a real milestone in the success of the GVA in being able to make this possible and make it a group supporting a multigenerational community.
- Looking forward, we already have a good amount of regular and one-off bookings for the hall, be it Taekwondo, art classes & children's parties, to enable us to be financially viable but we will need to increase fundraising and going for further grants with a steep increase in rent in September and fuel

	<p>costs already high, to enable the hall to be warm &amp; comfortable when the Autumn months approach for new groups such as the Bridge Club, to use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition, we still want particularly to enable us, with Sue Northrop’s assistance, to host Dementia friendly meetings, and a Community Café.</li> <li>• The GVA will continue to operate as an umbrella group to support &amp; work with the many clubs, societies, churches &amp; individuals in the village and to encourage all these separate organisations to help &amp; support each other</li> <li>• We have a good social media &amp; website presence, and this will be on-going development with the on-line hall diary the latest development.</li> <li>• We are continually learning &amp; getting ideas through other groups such as yourselves but at the same time, through the continue support of the of Doug &amp; Katie to ensure that we comply to the ever-changing rules and regulations that we need to abide by – a real minefield for us newbies!</li> <li>• Our first year’s accounts have now been submitted and on their approval in the next couple of weeks we will be arranging our first AGM so we will get an opportunity to get the community’s feedback on how well we have really done and how we can support the ever-expanding population of the village!</li> </ul> <p>A full report outlining the development and role that GVA has played in the community since its inception is available on request.</p>	
<p><b>7. Remembering Together - update</b></p>		
	<p>HS welcomed BR along to the meeting.</p> <p>BR advised ‘Remembering Together’ is a project to co-create memorials that will honour the people we have lost, mark what has been lost and changed in our lives and preserve the best of what we have learned and created during the Covid pandemic.’</p> <p><a href="https://www.rememberingtogether.scot">https://www.rememberingtogether.scot</a></p> <p>Greenspace Scotland and East Lothian Council have commissioned artist Barbara Gardner-Rowell to work with local communities on Phase 1 of the Remembering Together project to develop ideas for a memorial project in East Lothian, over a five-month period, June – October 2022.</p> <p>To start the project, three face to face community workshops will be delivered in each Ward, in July and August, along with two individual activities by email and post.</p> <p>The aims of these activities are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• offer a safe space for conversations about people’s experiences of the pandemic, through creative activities that focus on process rather than outcome</li> <li>• work with materials and objects in ways that open people up to self-reflection and creative thinking</li> <li>• encourage a co-creative approach</li> <li>• enable connections and meaning from our experiences</li> </ul> <p>Findings will be collated and presented back to the community in a touring exhibition in September, where visitors will have the chance to review all the activities and vote on their favourite idea for a memorial, which will be further developed in Phase Two.</p> <p>Contact for further information:</p> <p>Barbara Gardner-Rowell, Lead Artist Phase One, Remembering Together East Lothian, Email: <a href="mailto:rememberingtogether@eastlothian.gov.uk">rememberingtogether@eastlothian.gov.uk</a></p>	

## 8. Reports from Sub Groups

**Children & Youth Network + Bursary Update** JMc again highlighted an email received from Gullane Children's Hub back in May outlining the financial difficulties of families in hardship meeting the cost of out of school clubs, playgroups, clubs etc. Whilst the Hub has been supporting those experiencing difficulties, there wasn't sufficient funding for this to be sustained. HSy had briefly met with DH and HS prior to the meeting starting to again highlight the difficulties families were experiencing.

DH advised £12,000 form Scottish Government from last year was agreed to be transferred to H&W. Looking for agreement tonight to transfer a further £3,000 to the C&Y Network to help with bursaries.

There were no objections from members. All in agreement to transfer a further £3,000.

SW advised everyone to look on the council website for booking live to see all the activities available to families during the forthcoming summer holidays. All in the one place to get information. SW will forward the link.

LC advised of the Herb Space projects intention to provide a mental health awareness day. Event to take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 all day.

LC raised awareness that there was a lack of wheelchairs in schools and recreation centres that allow children to participate in sports. SW confirmed sadly the same at all schools in every town. Need for bespoke wheelchairs. HS happy to offer support from NBC AP. AC is happy to look and explore funding options. SW asked for anyone who would like to be involved to meet, maybe at the end of August to look at this. MB works as Paediatrician at the Sick Kids Hospital and happy to come along for a day and help and advice. JC advised he is a parent of a young adult with a wheelchair and is happy to be involved and help.

LC mentioned that they had a member from the Scottish Youth Parliament come to one of their meetings and it was amazing. They really got involved.

**Health & Wellbeing Association** – HS advised the H&W annual report had been circulated. She would be happy to answer any questions and encouraged feedback.

HS updated members on the East Lothian Walking Festival. There was a walking festival in North Berwick last year which was a huge success and this has now spread its wings to cover all of East Lothian. The programme is being developed to include lots of walks suiting all abilities including beach wheelchairs and the Beyond Boundaries project.

HS advised that the co-chair of the HWA (LS) is stepping down and she would be delighted if someone would come forward to help in any way they can. Please get in touch.

**On The Move** – BW provided the following update:-

- Draft programme of works developed for North Berwick in conjunction with Ian Lennox, ELC Roads Manager.
- North Berwick speed advisory cameras being replaced to ensure batteries have sufficient power during darker winter periods. £6,000 installation costs.
- SESTRANS road safety works and crossings confirmed to take place at North Berwick School campus during July and August.
- Destination Boards have been cited within the coastal ward without consultation with the OTM group and/or Communities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campervans and overnight parking in and around North Berwick continue to cause tension and animosity. Information on the legality of campervans parking and overnight stays has been distributed through OTM networks.</li> <li>• ELC Climate Change Officer has offered assistance in producing the OTM section of the new NBC Area Plan.</li> <li>• Car Parking Review of East Lothian – BW to provide update as and when becomes available.</li> <li>• BW/DH along with ELC Roads Manager Ian Lennox have identified potential causes of flooding in the vicinity of the cycle shop on North Berwick high Street. Ian Lennox to advise drainage engineers.</li> <li>• High Street clutter in North Berwick. BW/DH to liaise with the ELC council staff to work towards removal.</li> <li>• RHP advised that the RingGo App was available for use in the North Berwick Coastal ward.</li> <li>• DH advised that he would work with colleagues in ELC Amenities Services to ensure that the Ballencrieff roundabout would have debris removed and sympathetic planting to be sourced.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support from the Start</b> - KN is unable to attend tonight as she has just got married – huge congratulations to her.</p>	
--	---	--

**9. Reports from Village Representatives**

	<p><b>Aberlady Community Association</b> <i>(Post Meeting Note)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hall refurbishment Questionnaire on future of hall sent out to residents on surveymonkey and newsletter Local architect appointed to survey possibilities for upgrade Information on state of outside walls needing repointing – may set us back by £20,000</li> <li>• Aberlady in Bloom Maintenance on going involving Memorial Garden, Community Garden, New wild flower planting, apple trees and oak tree, flower tubs, hanging baskets etc. Portfolio planned for Beautiful Scotland entry.</li> <li>• Stroll and Sit Project 4 new benches installed and others ordered for Sea Green and Sea Wynd. Repainting of benches on going courtesy of Community Payback Team Review of street dustbins undertaken and upgrading is on going</li> <li>• Pollution in Aberlady Bay Meetings planned with MSP, SW, SEPA, GACC, ACA and others</li> <li>• Traffic Management Decision on double yellow lines on corner agreed with residents, GACC, ACA and ELC. Further meetings and consultation to be arranged with ELC, GACC and ACA and On the Move.</li> <li>• Aberlady Gala and Jubilee Picnic Very successful and great fun.</li> <li>• Youth Network Surf/skate lessons well attended and now completed One off Parkour event took place. Well attended and much enjoyed</li> </ul>	
--	--	--

	<p>More events at the planning stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycle Racks More cycle racks are being discussed by residents, GACC, ACA and OtM</li> <li>• Newsletter - May edition distributed to all residents</li> <li>• Community Connections Scone Cafe takes place in Ducks Inn and Old Aberlady Inn fortnightly</li> <li>• Aberlady Community Association AGM scheduled to take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July</li> </ul> <p><b>Gullane Village Association – update above</b></p>	
<b>10. Budget Report</b>		
	<p>DH advised members we still have the full allocation for this year:-</p> <p>General £50,000</p> <p>Roads £50,000</p> <p>Amenities £100,000</p> <p>HS reminded Members that we are given these resources from East Lothian Council to make a difference, to allocate resources, to offer support and reduce inequalities. We do this by funding projects that support the vulnerable. It is not a honey pot. We use our resources to help people in our community.</p>	
<b>11. General Budget Priorities 2022/2023</b>		
	<p>HS presented the following applications that had been received. All potentially from the General Budget.</p> <p>a. Story Treasure Chest (Fringe by the Sea) £4,475 RS gave members some background to the application and a good discussion took place. Members voted 15 YES – 0 NO – 1 Abstain</p> <p>b. Chill East Lothian – Start Up Costs &amp; Pilot Course £2,870 Katie, Lucy and Fiona gave members some background to the application and a good discussion took place. Members agreed that they would consider partial funding. Members voted on a reduced amount of £1,500 7 YES – 3 NO – 4 Abstain</p> <p>c. East Lothian Walking Festival, #walkfest22 £560 HS gave members some background to the application and a good discussion took place. Members voted 13 YES – 0 NO – 1 Abstain 1 conflict of interest HS</p>	
<b>12. A.O.C.B.</b>		
	<p>JM wanted to say how brilliant the Jubilee Celebration had gone in Dirleton and LF said the same for Aberlady. Great to hear.</p> <p>HS thanked everyone for coming along, highlighted the joy and value of meeting in person once again.</p>	
<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b>	<p>Dates for meetings 2022</p> <p>31.8.2022 – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE</p>	<p>Apologies to</p> <p><a href="mailto:nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk">nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</a></p>

	15.11.2022	
--	------------	--