

# North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

## Minutes of the North Berwick Coastal Partnership Meeting Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023, 7-9 pm North Berwick Community Centre & zoom

| Voting Members present:   | Substitute members present |
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| Hilary Smith, Chair (HS)  |                            |
| Cllr Carol McFarlane, Elected Member East Lothian Council (CM)            |                            |
| Libby Morris, North Berwick In Bloom (AH)                                 |                            |
| Brett Walker, Chair On The Move (BW)                                      |                            |
| Frank Neate, Gullane Area Community Council (FN)                          | Bill Watson                |
| Liz Forsyth, Aberlady Community Association (LF)                          |                            |
| Lorna Scott, Gullane Village Association (LS)                             |                            |
| Alison Clark, NB Environment and Heritage Trust (NBEHT) (AC)              |                            |
| Cllr Liz Allan, Elected Member East Lothian Council (LA)                  |                            |
| Kenny Miller, East Lothian Council (KM)                                   |                            |
| Liz Martin, North Berwick Bass Rock (LM)                                  |                            |
| Sharon Wellwood, North Berwick High School Parent School Partnership (SW) |                            |
| Colin Campbell, Association of East Lothian Day Centres (CC)              |                            |
| Katherine Duncan, Sustaining North Berwick (KD)                           |                            |
| Katie Reid, Support from the Stat (KR)                                    |                            |
| Janice MacLeod, NB Area Youth and Children's Network (JM)                 |                            |
| Alison Brown, VCEL (AB)   |                            |
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### Others in attendance:

Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager (DH)  
 Susan Woods, Senior Business Support Assistant – ELC (minutes) (SWo)  
 Jennifer Janis, ELHSCP (JJ)  
 Jane Ogden-Smith, ELHSCP (JO)  
 Laura Kerr, ELHSCP (LK)  
 Fiona Wilson, ELHSCP (FW)  
 Paul Zochowski, ELC Planning (PZ)  
 Rebecca Hughes/Simpson, GACC (RH/S)  
 Lorna Raeburn, Gullane Bloomers (LR)  
 Seonaid Stewart, East Lothian Foodbank (SS)  
 Marilyn McNeil, IJB (MM)  
 Kirsty Towler, Local Resident (KT)  
 Lucy Higginson, ELC Equalities & Tackling Poverty (LH)  
 Stevie Wands, NB Community Sports Hub (SWa)  
 Katie Cunningham, Chill East Lothian (KC)  
 Lucy Young, Chill East Lothian (LY)  
 Kirsteen Powell, Carers of East Lothian (KP)

### Apologies:

Jonathan Taeuber, Aberlady Primary School Parent Council (JT)

| AGENDA ITEM                                    | KEY DISCUSSION POINTS, DECISIONS<br><i>Actions</i>   | FAO |
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| <b>1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b> |  |     |
|  | HS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Round the table introductions were made and apologies were noted.   |     |
| <b>2. Minutes Previous Meeting</b>             |  |     |
|  | <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were agreed and accepted as a true accurate reflection of the meeting, albeit with the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a typo in the dates of the next meetings.</li> <li>• The AGM is a separate meeting and should not be listed alongside other meetings.</li> <li>• Kathy Duncan from Sustaining North Berwick was at the last meeting, although she was not recorded in the minutes.</li> </ul>   |     |
| <b>3. Declaration Of Interest</b>              |  |     |
|  | <p>This is a standing item on the agenda. Please declare any conflict of interest when voting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BW made the application for the On the Move Sustaining Choices. This application is joint with the Health and Wellbeing Association, and Hilary is the Chair of this, so will also need to be absent for voting.</li> <li>• KM made the application for the Local Place Plan.</li> </ul>   |     |
| <b>4. Matters Arising</b>                      |  |     |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Berwick High Street Clutter: The Roads Department have said that, if the RNIB or Carers of East Lothian highlight any particular problems in North Berwick High Street, they will go to discuss them with the shopkeepers and see if a solution can be settled on. Concerns that plans published on Monday did not mention signage or equipment required, and may add to street clutter.</li> <li>• Safe Routes to School: There have been talks with Mr Tait, a farmer, about getting access across his field. Thanks to North Berwick Trust, it seems there will be a path, but unlikely to have 5m high lighting.</li> <li>• Pupil Voice on Playing Field: Pupils wanting to circulate petition, petition is still live. Have not had any dialogue about options that do not remove hedgerow in school despite live planning, or how Safe Routes to School will interact with this. Deadlines are coming up. Planning portal gives opportunities for all to comment, and the petition the option to support pupils. BW has put in a Freedom of Information request to the Education Department.</li> <li>• Preloaded Gift Cards: ELC Economic Development have said this is not going ahead as there is not enough interest.</li> <li>• Community Benefits Joint Themes: DH will send around a copy of slides tomorrow. Several communities have given him lists of what community benefits might be desirable as value for the community from contractors.</li> <li>• Self-Evaluation of Area Partnership: Survey to be completed, a handful replied. Please do return surveys. HS would like to have collated the responses by the AGM.</li> </ul> |     |

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| <b>5. Robin Edgar – Team Manager – Policy &amp; Strategy:- Local Development Plan (LDP 2)</b>                   |   |  |
|   | <p>Plan 1 was developed in 2018 and is still being used.</p> <p>There is a new Planning Act and system which starts with an evidence report for the Scottish Government. After this has been tested at the gate check process, they can go on to prepare the proposed plan.</p> <p>The plan will cover a 10 year period as opposed to the previous 5 year one.</p> <p>The government’s National Planning Framework 4 must be used when planning.</p> <p>There are 3 key policy areas: Climate Emergency, Nature Crisis, and Health. These include community health such as open play areas and encouraging active travel.</p> <p>They are consulting at the very start of the process and asking for ideas and issues people think could be addressed.</p> <p>Want to have evidence report by February, and are hoping for the Plan to be adopted in 2025.</p> <p>Individuals to respond by the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, but it is possible to apply for an extension, and the Area Partnership has more time in order to consider responses.</p> <p>Responses can be made by filling the survey or submitting typed up comments.</p> <p>Under the new act, communities are entitled to put together their own Local Place Plan and submit them to the Council. Not compulsory, but people have good reason to want to. A Local Place Plan can be submitted at any time, but the deadline is for helping to consider these responses in time for the first stage of the plan.</p> <p>They are proactively in discussion with health authorities. Cannot allocate at this stage.</p> <p>Posters are being produced and placed around shops and public places, there are adverts in paper, and paper copies of surveys available in libraries.</p> <p>Concern voiced that scepticism is growing due to consultations appearing to make no impact on final plan. Must show action in response and that voices were heard.</p> <p>Noted that not all suggested actions can be taken forward, but that they need to work on returning to people and explaining why.</p> |  |
| <b>6. Lucy Higginson – Policy Officer (Equalities &amp; Tackling Poverty):- Poverty Plan Engagement</b>         |   |  |
|   | <p>The plan is based around the idea that overcoming poverty is an act of justice and is needed to protect human rights.</p> <p>The current plan has 7 broad outcomes: good quality jobs, benefits, housing, housing affordability, education outcomes, health inequalities, and resilient and well-connected communities.</p> <p>53% of actions in this plan have been completed. Some have been hindered by COVID-19 and the Cost of Living Crisis. They are on-track, but there is a need to look at how effectively poverty is actually being tackled.</p> <p>North Berwick is an affluent area where poverty is low, but those who are poor feel it greatly and are living in hidden poverty, working 2 or 3 jobs to remain in houses and send their children to school.</p> <p>The Beast from the East isolated people from carers and community, highlighting that diversity of economy is not present. There is a need for controls around tourism and Air B&amp;Bs, to make sure housing is for people who want to be residents.</p>   |  |
| <b>7. Jane Ogden-Smith – Equalities and Engagement Officer, East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership</b> |   |  |
|   | <p>ELHSCP handles health and social care across East Lothian. It is a partnership between East Lothian Council and NHS.</p> <p>They want to gather a long list of suggested solutions from the community. They will then narrow down to a shortlist with a community panel, see if they answer the</p>  |  |

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|  | <p>questions asked, return to a community consultation, and then present the final version for IJB approval. These will be used to shape the next 5 or 10 years. They are hoping to submit to the IJB by September or October 2024.</p> <p>To gather these solutions, they are running a number of events and an online survey. They have found that people want to stay at home with support for long as possible and feel that early intervention should be priority. There is sufficient hospital bed provision, and still a need for Care Homes.</p> <p>They face struggles such as the current financial situation, which is at a stage where investing in something new means disinvesting in something else, and the difficulty attracting people to work at services.</p> <p>They would welcome being invited to other events and can also send an information pack so you can take the presentation to your groups yourself.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing are inviting them to give a longer, more in-depth talk if anyone is interested.</p>   |  |
| <b>8. AGM – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>   |   |  |
|  | <p>Looking for people to maybe have stalls there. Hoping this will be an interactive evening. Will be in touch.</p>   |  |
| <b>9. Reports from Sub Groups - Please note that some reports have been added post meeting at Chairs request due to lack of time for reporting during meeting.</b> |   |  |
|  | <p><b>NBC Children &amp; Youth Network</b><br/> JMc would like to acknowledge the Members and their hard work. Membership is growing and they are getting representatives from day care, school councils, and pupil councils, and intergenerational work is happening. They are interested in whether a bursary scheme is possible, due to concern about poverty of experience. They are looking at the bursary scheme already in Dunbar.<br/> Next meeting is on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September at 4 o' clock.</p> <p><b>NBC Health &amp; Wellbeing Association</b></p> <p><b>a) Kindness Cooperative</b><br/> New volunteers. 45 households monthly, increasing. Need for fresh food increasing. Thanks to North Berwick Trust for funding.<br/> DH notes that SW had shared school funding opportunities, one of which is for breakfast clubs.</p> <p><b>b) Walking Festival</b><br/> Festival started on Sunday, is on day 3 of its activities, had 10 walks so far, total of 31.</p> <p><b>NBC On the Move</b><br/> All updated within the minutes. DH notes it has been hard work, led by BW and with help from community groups, and they have produced a Roads Budget plan for the next few years.</p> <p><b>Support from the Start</b><br/> Jan Gaunt's post has been lost and will not be replaced. There are Scottish Government funds remaining in Carefree Kids. In the meantime, Gemma (who ran Stay and Play with Jan) has become self-employed and North Berwick Community Centre Management Committee is employing her to run Stay and Play using money from the Children and Families pot. Will need to look for funding elsewhere if this continues in the long-term. There are currently about 31 families attending Stay and Play, and about 18 families a year helped through Baby Massage.</p> |  |
| <b>10. Reports from Community Councils</b>   |   |  |
|  | <p><b>Gullane Area community Council</b></p>  |  |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to time constraints on meeting no opportunity for update.</li> </ul> <p><b>North Berwick Community Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to time constraints on meeting no opportunity for update.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>11. Reports from Village Representatives</b> |  |  |
|   | <p><b>Dirleton Village Association</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to time constraints on meeting no opportunity for update.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gullane Village Association</b></p> <p>Due to time constraints on meeting no opportunity for update. The following update was submitted post-meeting:</p> <p>GULLANE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION REPORT – August 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The GVA took a gazebo stall at the Gullane Games at the beginning of the month to spread the word of the activities of the GVA and other organisations / clubs within the village.</li> <li>• KR ran another successful and well attended 3 days of free Storytelling &amp; Crafting sessions open to all local families.</li> <li>• We have just received 5 new sewing machines from a grant from the Gullane Area Community Council which will be added to with equipment and supplies funded by the GVA. The aim is to run affordable classes &amp; offer drop-in sessions for the community to gain access to the equipment and expertise. Several of the GVA trustees were involved in the Gullane Scrubbers making NHS scrubs and gowns for the Sick Kids.</li> <li>• The GVA celebrates the 10th edition of the Gullane Newsletter arriving from the printers on Friday. It includes a double spread on the Gullane Games and another from the History Society on the history of the Games which makes really interesting reading.</li> <li>• We are in the planning process for the 3rd GVA Artisan Fair to take place over the weekend of 11th &amp; 12th November.</li> <li>• Many of the groups that took a break over the summer have now returned to the Recreation Hall, including additional dance &amp; art workshops.</li> <li>• We are also delighted that the Recreation Hall will be hosting the East Lothian Health Visiting Team - 2–5-year-old Nasal Flu programme, which is a first for Gullane.</li> <li>• Following additional meetings with the ELC the GVA is waiting on a decision from the proposal forwarded in May as to the proposal for a 5-year extension on the lease of the hall required to gain access to funding to upgrading the heating &amp; lighting of the hall. Temporary measures will have to be put in place now to see us through the colder months to ensure no further loss of bookings.</li> </ul> <p>The following update from Glorious Gullane Bloomers was submitted in advance:</p> <p><b>Glorious Gullane Bloomers Update</b></p> <p>1. Continuing brighten up Main Street..12 barrels, 4 x 3 tier planters 23 hanging baskets, large planter with 5 baskets, plus 21 Planters.</p> <p>Success with slow feed pellets sunshine and plenty watering. Yellow and Red/pink as Gullane Colours.</p> <p>Lost 6 HB in Main Street due to lampposts change to LCD lights, gained 5 at Golf Club and 3 Margiotta PLUS 2 extra on Goose Green.</p> <p>2. Bio Blitz.. part of Eco Group.</p> |  |

3. ECO Group started Summer 2021 Beach Clean first Sunday every month 6-8pm Also part of **Scottish Coastal Clean up from 4th – 8th June. Gullane took part 5 June Also looking at packaging recycling and Dune erosion.**

5. Wild Flower garden Church Grounds experiment success so build on this May 2024.

6. Help with planting Millennium Woods project and Forest School Daffodils and crocus as well other bulbs not so good as not enough light. Ash trees problems being culled so might help next year.

7. Blue Stane maintain and build on ...Buddleia very friendly bees butterflies, cut back twice a year. Replant larger plants for other areas, reused old slabs. Seat well used meeting area Keep area tidy ...need a Bin!

8. Golf Club ..brighten up Gullane entrance and Golf Club Entrance ...they paid £1650 planter and pay flowers and we plant and maintain.. They have supplied water and hoses to help us...very useful this summer!

9. Community Garden found piece of ground waiting ok from ELC in conjunction GVA who have applied for further 5 year lease and Scouts and local residents.

10. New Project Found area near Blue Stane got ok to use joint venture ELC and Bloomers will flower bed Clear out in Autumn plant up in May for summer flowering.

11. Whats app Group Primary School ...playground, and Plant a tree for Jubilee.

12. Asked brighten up Margiotta and now The Watchman too for next year Plus Secret Boutique on Main Street with 2 window boxes.

13. Volunteers been difficult but thru FB Appeal got 2 couples happy to step in and fill the gap gained Carolyn Lynda and Val ..ongoing Pat Martin Irv Joan and me and lost Jane due to ill health.

14. Nice write up Gullane Newsletter asked for help next year in September issue.

15. Core Volunteers now 7 plus 2 couples step in when needed instead of 4 ...so helps spread the work load.

16. Like to still think about Community Garden in conjunction with GVA , and ELC amenities..nearScout/Recreation Hall area .. Awaiting to see if Recreation Hall obtains another 5 year lease from ELC.

17. Seagull proof bins ..NB have 6 at a cost of £3500 each, Gullane trying to see if we can rent 3 at a cost of £500 each for a year then raise sponsorship to buy. Seek help from local business and Area Partnership?

18. Plaques showing Glorious Gullane Bloomers , Logo designed and then put in all areas as suggested. Also have pink and Blue polo shirts and jackets with logo which help get us noticed. All thanks from grant from Area Partnership and generous Trust fund Donation.

19. Applied to Coop for Local Community Funding for next year.

**Aberlady Community Association**

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|  | <p>Due to time constraints on meeting there was little opportunity for update. The following report was submitted in advance:</p> <p>As I have been on holiday recently there may be other members of NBCAP who would like to contribute to this report from Aberlady.</p> <p><u>Aberlady Community Association</u></p> <p>Steven Polwart has taken over the Chair of this Association</p> <p>The re-furbishment of the hall will be the priority for the foreseeable future. The Aberlady Community has been given a questionnaire regarding this project and approximately 250 responses have been received.</p> <p>The August Newsletter delivered to every household in the village explained the situation and encouraged all households to respond.</p> <p><u>Defibrillator</u></p> <p>The third defibrillator has been installed outside the village hall.</p> <p><u>Aberlady in Bloom</u></p> <p>This group meets weekly to arrange working parties for watering, maintaining boxes, flower beds and gardens in the village.</p> <p><u>Children’s Play Area</u></p> <p>ELC is currently re-vamping this vital space for Aberlady children who have had an input in its design through the school</p> <p><u>Sit and Stroll Project</u></p> <p>There is a prospect of a further bench to be allocated in the village. Currently painting work is being carried out on signage, railings and waste bins around the village.</p> <p><u>Duck’s Hotel</u></p> <p>As this building and its front garden is in the middle of Aberlady its future will be vital to our village. It has been sold and will close in September for an estimated 8 months.</p> <p><u>Scone Cafe</u></p> <p>The last afternoon Scone Cafe has taken place in Duck’s Hotel. A group of 12 ladies attended this week. It is hoped that the monthly morning scone cafe which takes place in Old Aberlady Inn will continue as before. As Ducks is closing, Old Aberlady Inn will run 2 sessions to make up for this.</p> <p><b>Whitekirk CIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to time constraints on meeting no opportunity for update.</li> </ul> |  |
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| <b>12. Budget Report</b> |   |  |
|                          | <p>DH presented the budget and spend to date.</p> <p><b>Amenities Services Budget Influence (Men &amp; Machines)</b></p> <p>2023-2024 Allocation - £100k</p> <p>Spend to date - <b>£0</b></p> |  |

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|  | <p><b>Roads Budget Influence (Priorities)</b><br/> 2023-2024 Allocation - £50k<br/> Spend to date - <b>£0</b></p> <p><b>General Budget (Capital to Address Priorities)</b><br/> 2023-2024 Allocation - £50k<br/> Fringe By The Sea - Free Fringe - £5,000<br/> Haddington &amp; District Swimming Club - French Exchange - £2,807.04<br/> Carers of East Lothian – North Berwick Group - £872.75<br/> North Berwick in Bloom – Aberlady, Gullane &amp; North Berwick - £5,500<br/> Aberlady Community Association - £1,439<br/> Spend to date - <b>£15,618.79</b></p> <p><b>Holiday Hunger</b><br/> 2023-2024 Allocation - £3k<br/> Spend to date - <b>£0</b></p> <p><b>Pending Applications this evening:-</b><br/> North Berwick Community Council – North Berwick Local Place Plan - £5,000 (General)<br/> NBC Area Partnership On the Move Group – £1,285 (General)</p> |  |
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**13. Applications General Budget 2023/2024**

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|  | <p>The following applications were discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NBC Area Partnerships - Planning Advisory Service: Preparation of an active and sustainable travel action plan for the ward - £1,285<br/> Opportunity to use PAS to engage in production of planning for improving active travel. Already a draft timeline for engagement. Half the funding money comes from PAS. Area Partnership had received money for Smarter Choices in past, banked with Health and Wellbeing, and so have a small pot for activities like this. The engagement will not have a set criteria to gather evidence for, but be a genuine open-minded enquiry.<br/> <b>Members voted 16 YES 0 Objections 0 Abstain</b><br/> 19.5 average score</li> <li>• NBC Community Council - North Berwick Local Place Plan - £5,000<br/> Planning Aid Scotland is a charity that helps develop Local Place Plans. A steering group has been established consisting of NB Trust. The LPC is too big to create without PAS help. PAS will start work in December and be ready to give the plan to the council in May. Housing needs assessment is needed/helpful, will inform it, and is being separately funded by the Trust.<br/> Receiving £17k from trust, £3k from Community Council, and rest from this application. Other 2 funders have dropped out – National Lottery refused as they are allegedly not far enough along, but can perhaps reapply after funding has been received.<br/> Other communities have managed other plans, but the Local Place Plan is very new and the timescale is very short. If it misses the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> of May then the Local Development Plan may not be able to take it on board this cycle. Employing outside agency also gives it impartiality.</li> </ul> |  |
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|                               | <p>How does the spatial plan address inequality? There is a need for more affordable housing, strategy group of Trust has tried several times to make a strategy plan of the town but could not.<br/> Can only vote in principal until having an updated budget – can say yes or no after seeing it.<br/> <b>Members voted 10 YES 2 Objections 1 Abstain</b></p> |   |
| <b>14. A.O.C.B.</b>           |  |   |
|                               |  |   |
| <b>Dates of Next Meetings</b> | <p><b>2023 Meeting Dates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2023</li> </ul>  | <p>Apologies to<br/> <a href="mailto:nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk">nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</a></p> |