

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership
Wednesday 11th October 2023, 7-9 pm
Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans**

Members (and substitute members) present:

Ben Morse, Chair (BM)
 Cllr Colin Yorkston, East Lothian Council (CY)
 Cllr Lachlan Bruce, East Lothian Council (LB)
 Pamela Fraser, Cockenzie and Port Seton Community Gala (PF)
 Helen York, Longniddry Community Council (HY)
 Sandra Bell, Chairperson Port Seton Centre Management Committee (SB)
 Tracey Redpath, Volunteer Centre East Lothian (TR)
 Sheila Chambers, Cockenzie and Port Seton in Bloom (SC)
 Natalie Moir, Support from the Start (NM)
 Andy Castle, Preston Tower Parent Council (AC)
 Stuart Thomson, Pennypit Community Dev Trust (ST)

Others in attendance:

Emma Brown, Connected Communities Manager, ELC (EB)
 Jordan Irvine, ELC Community Development Officer (JI)
 Shirley Gillie, Business Support, ELC (SG)
 Morag Haddow, Transportation Planning Officer ELC (MH)
 Lorna Bellany, NHS (LBe)

Apologies:

Cllr Neil Gilbert, East Lothian Council (NG)
 Diane Baillie-Whyte, Cockenzie & Port Seton TRA (DW)
 Marilyn McNeil, IJB (MM)
 Sarah Torrance, Preston Tower Parent Council (ST)
 Graeme Hutchison, Prestonpans Children's Gala (GH)
 Allan Sneddon, Prestonpans Children's Gals (AS)
 Lyn Marshall, Deputy Lieutenant (LM)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	
1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies		
	BM is chairing the meeting remotely tonight and will be assisted by EB. BM welcomed everyone along to the meeting. Introductions were made and apologies noted.	
2. Minutes of previous meeting		
	Minutes from the previous meeting on 6 th September 2023 were approved by TR and seconded by HY	
3. Matters Arising		
	BM advised that matters arising will be covered in the agenda items.	
4. Roads Budget		

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	<p>Members were recently sent correspondence detailing the hold on spend from the devolved Roads budget due to the current financial position of the council. MH attended to provide an update on projects which can be undertaken in this financial year. Replacement of bus stops was agreed in last financial year, however issues with the contractor means this has not been possible. These projects will be carried into 2024-2025. The DSD sign in Cockenzie has been replaced. Two other active travel projects which were agreed last financial year can be undertaken with external funding. These include pavement at journey hub next to Prestonpans station and to link the new active travel corridor from Blindwells to Jonnie Cope Road. EB raised concerns from members about the lack of communication on proposed projects from members which were given to the Roads team in May and asked if these could still be scoped even if they can't be undertaken in the current financial year. BM stated concern about local voice in Roads spend and that if the Roads budget is removed longer term what is the point of Area Partnerships.,</p>	
5. Amenities		
	<p>Amenities proposals</p> <p>SB has met with amenities regarding the memorial garden and we are awaiting costs. Amenities have agreed to 2 clear up days at Cuthil Park in October and March. HY had requested cutting back of shrubs in Kings Avenue. Amenities have undertaken to cut the bushes back to the edge of the road but EB to follow up with Ian Lennox about the meeting the Community Council had on site requesting the footpath to be reinstated.</p> <p>BM reminded members to propose any additional projects.</p>	
6. Vice Chair recruitment		
	<p>If anyone is interested in this position, please let us know and more details can be provided. We have been approached by someone who has an excellent CV but we have not had a conversation yet but hopefully will in the near future and we can provide more details at the next meeting.</p> <p>BM highlighted we still have Sub Group Chairs vacancies.</p>	
7. Area Plan Review		
	<p>The Area Plan review will include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation Events The Health & Wellbeing event took place with 20 attendees and 4 speakers. There was positive feedback to improve future events. The next consultation event is on 24th October Climate Change & Active Travel followed by Children & Young People on 30th October and Heritage on 14th November. - Consultation Drop Ins There are boards in each of the community centres and libraries with feedback boxes - Online Consultation Plan 	

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	<p>We split into small groups to discuss an online survey, conscious of the consultation fatigue currently in our community. We concluded a short survey of 5 questions based on those on the consultation board plus is there anything would be sufficient. It was suggested we included examples from past funding to help people think of potential areas for the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas of plan to be reviewed that aren't covered by subgroups – are priorities still relevant. 3 of the sub groups have met and reviewed current area priorities an update was handed out of this work. The C&Y had yet to be updated as the meeting happened yesterday, and sustainable PSG does not meet until 21st November. <p>It was suggested that a presence at local community events would capture a wider audience. Capacity was discussed and it was suggested we could re use the boards currently in community centres at tables at these events.</p>	
8. Reports from Sub Groups		
	<p>To update the Area Plan priorities table attached <i>New Sub group chairs; Sustainable PSG, Heritage Network and C and Y Network</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children & Youth Network EB advised there is a new co-chair – Danielle which is great news. Would be good to encourage other sub groups to try an appoint co-chairs. The group have been working on updating priorities and checking if they are still relevant for the new Area Plan. Lisa Shine attended to speak about the Children's Service Review. Also Katie, one of the MSYPs presented on their concerns around young people being refused entry onto buses due to a small minority of antisocial behaviour. MSYSs are also attended the Children & Youth consultation café. - Sustainable PSG BM advised there is no update as the group have not held another meeting. They have been discussing NCR76 as there is a black hole in our area. Trying to work with Sustrans and ELC on this. We are looking at the section of dual carriageway between Longniddry and Seton Mains. Seton East along the A198. Confusion as drivers sees this dual carriageway as a 70. Evaluation work in this area was done before COVID. We are trying to link with other Area Partnership sub groups due to our boundaries with 4 other areas. <p>Health & Wellbeing NM advised the group met last Tuesday and we have been moving our meeting locations around PSG to try and widen engagement. We have had good attendance at our meetings and have been looking at the priorities and updating those if needed for the new Area Plan. We held a H&W consultation café and points raised included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focus on in work poverty • Long covid. • Libraries as a front door to other services. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to promote and raise awareness • Blindwells <p>- Heritage Connections JI confirmed the group met last week but unfortunately there weren't too many people at the meeting and a discussion took place around promoting and encouraging others to join. We discussed the priorities and agreed it needs investment. This brought us back to the discussion about constitution which everyone is in favour of and we just need to try and move forward with that. A lot of work has been done in the school and we are keen to embed that in the Area Plan for history & heritage at an earlier stage. Keen to do bigger and better things but this does rely on funding.</p>	
9. A.O.C.B.		
	<p>LBe advised that Mental Health & Wellbeing funds are open again so applications are two stages. Small applications up to £2,000 close mid November. Larger applications £2,000 - £15,000 close 3rd December 2023. TR will check if the Area Partnerships can apply. Decisions will be given after the year and funding to start on 1st April 2024.</p> <p>TR advised that CAB Musselburgh would be leading on the Cash 1st approach to supporting people with cost of living crisis. Families can receive £25 per person direct to their bank account every 4 weeks. It is being trialled by Pennypit Trust.</p> <p>TR updated that we are running another Introduction to Fundraising course on 26th October 2023 at Port Seton Centre. This is a really helpful resource.</p> <p>SC raised concerns about representation for Blindwells. HY reminded that Blindwells falls under Longniddry Community Council until boundaries are reviewed. A recent newsletter was produced with support from Area Partnership and Connected Communities and the Community Council delivered this to every household in Blindwells. It is hoped this will raise interest in getting involved. EB also mentioned a new Blindwells Communities group which Abigail Morrison from Longniddry Parish Chairs and HY attends. EB meets with Hargreaves every 2 months and the focus has been on the provision of a porta cabin behind Ogilvie Housing for community use.</p> <p>Discussed dates for 2024 meetings to avoid clashing with other community meetings.</p>	
10. Area Partnership Meetings Dates for 2023		
	22.11.2023	<p>Apologies to be sent to - <u>psg-</u> <u>ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</u></p>