

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, 7-9 pm  
Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans**

**Members (and substitute members) present:**

Ben Morse, Chair (BM)  
 Cllr Lachlan Bruce, East Lothian Council (LB)  
 Pamela Fraser, Cockenzie and Port Seton Community Gala (PF)  
 Sandra Bell, Chairperson Port Seton Centre Management Committee (SB)  
 Carla Allan, Volunteer Centre East Lothian (CA)  
 Sheila Chambers, Cockenzie and Port Seton in Bloom (SC)  
 Natalie Moir, Support from the Start (NM)  
 Stuart Thomson, Pennypit Community Dev Trust (ST)  
 Graeme Hutchison, Prestonpans Children's Gala (GH)  
 Allan Sneddon, Prestonpans Children's Gals (AS)  
 Janice Wilson, Prestonpans Community Council (JW)

**Others in attendance:**

Jordan Irvine, ELC Community Development Officer (JI)  
 Shirley Gillie, Business Support, ELC (SG)

**Apologies:**

Emma Brown, Connected Communities Manager, ELC (EB)  
 Cllr Colin Yorkston, East Lothian Council (CY)  
 Andy Castle, Preston Tower Parent Council (AC)  
 Cllr Neil Gilbert, East Lothian Council (NG)  
 Sarah Torrance, Preston Tower Parent Council (ST)  
 Michelle McKinney, Support from the Start (MM)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS
<b>1. Welcome, Introductions &amp; Apologies</b>	
	BM welcomed everyone along to the meeting tonight. Introductions were made and apologies noted.
<b>2. Minutes of previous meeting</b>	
	Minutes from the previous meeting on 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 were approved by SB and seconded by PF. GH highlighted he and AS had given apologies for the meeting but were not on the mins. BM apologies and SG will amend.
<b>3. Matters Arising</b>	
	BM advised that matters arising will be covered in the agenda items. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Leaders Briefing – on agenda</li> <li>• Area Partnership Review – full discussion.</li> <li>• BM thanked everyone for their engagement at him chairing the meeting remotely last time. It was very helpful and useful.</li> <li>• BM advised we would not be hearing from sub groups tonight but all information received at the consultation events will be fed back and if anyone has any questions for the sub groups chairs please let us know.</li> </ul>

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<b>4. Feedback from Community Leaders Briefing</b>		
	<p>CL Briefing held in Port Seton on 13 November to update on planning and development updates for the PSG and Fa'side areas. Community Council chairs attended and will have specific updates for their own areas.</p> <p><b>NPF3 to NPF4</b>  General update on the changes from National Planning Framework 3 to its fourth iteration. NPF4 has a greater focus on sustainability, biodiversity and initiatives such as 20 minute neighbourhoods. There is an increased focus on infrastructure first. The largest local impact is on the status of the former Cockenzie Power Station site. NPF3 only allowed for energy-related developments, whereas NPF4 allows a broader spectrum of developments including economic opportunities and net zero infrastructure.</p> <p>The Local Development Plan (LDP1) runs through 2024, with LDP2 to replace that going to committee in 2024. LDP2 housing targets only begin upon adoption (i.e. likely 2026), meaning all building until then does not count towards the 6500 additional houses targeted between 2026 and 2034.</p> <p><b>Blindwells and Longniddry Village</b>  Developments planned based on these are triggered at certain levels. 170 houses on site at present with families moved in For example, the 253<sup>rd</sup> house will trigger further infrastructure around roads in the area. The planned work for Longniddry Primary School has been pushed back based on expected need, PL extension due in the capital budget. Ross High extension was more urgent thus completed in 2023.</p> <p>There was talk earlier about kids from Blindwells and getting or not getting taxis to school. NM checked with head teacher during the meeting and she confirmed that not all kids get a taxi. BM/LB understood that all kids going to Cockenzie Primary school get taxis but that that may not be happening. BM asked LB to chase this up. LB not sure if transport is meant to be provided, but BM and others confirmed this was a commonly held view and had been stated by various people including council officers . NM confirmed only 3 requested this. Maybe parents don't know about this. NM will chase up with head teacher.</p> <p>Proposal for Wellbeing Centre, but that is up to NHS Lothian.</p> <p><b>Prestongrange</b>  Engine Shed complete, stock moving from pithead baths. STEAM agenda for site. Desire for more work on Hoffman kiln, but no money. Security and preventing further deterioration are main issues.</p>	

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	<p><b>Cockenzie</b></p> <p>Inchcape works ongoing on site. Inchcape development is for approximately 1000MW.</p> <p>Scottish Power substation has ~1500MW capacity. The remainder is subject to ongoing development proposals from the Cockenzie Battery Storage site and Seagreen. Seagreen is consented for 500MW but may extend to use any residual capacity left. In Principle only. Haven't secured full funding. Another contract for difference round in March? That capacity could be expanded, but no proposals for that at present.</p> <p>Battery storage is due to submit planning to ECU shortly. If not next few weeks then January. Capacity for connection at Cockenzie is finite. Any residual left Seagreen will look to maximise. 300MW.</p> <p>Work on the link road behind the site won't be started until Seagreen done and is an intrinsic part of that application. Ray Montgomery good contact for road queries. BM noted concerns within Cockenzie about impact of Inchcape vehicles on East Lorimer Place.</p> <p><b>Levelling Up:</b> 8 additional hectares of developable land. 40% of material will fill in void at sea. I.e. 60% of material unnecessary... will be used to regrade site. Just under 10 hectares developable north of road, 23 hectares at coal store site along coal/hedge road. Repair sea wall. Reinststate rock armour.</p> <p>Would require re-routing of JMW for works to take place. Bridge will be removed and JMW will go around outfall. Separate planning application.</p> <p>Cooling water culverts: need to have condition assessed. Do they need to be grouted. May not be required. £3.5m would be required if needed. Was part of levelling up bid as worst case scenario. Should be reinvestable into site if not needed – requires UK government sign off.</p> <p>Bunds: chemical analysis of area. Some Diesel contamination near diesel tanks near entrance. Reinforced concrete from conveyor will need to be broken up. There will be dust control measures, but work will take place in summer. Levelling up funding specifies trying to complete by early 2025.</p> <p>If not using bund material: would need imported.</p> <p><b>Technical Masterplan:</b></p> <p>Coal store has no power, water, sewage at present: what will it cost to put in? Engagement in early part of new year. 2017 has no technical detail – more aspirational. Expectation is produced by 2025.</p>	

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	<p>Non-energy development jobs on site late 2020s. 10-15 year development dependent on market.</p> <p>2017 masterplan wasn't adopted as it contradicted NPF3.</p>	
<b>5. Roads</b>		
	<p>BM confirmed the Roads budget has been suspended but would like us in the meantime to identify proposed projects. We have had success with some projects from last year and some have been carried forward. Having a wish list would be a good idea. NG suggested previously that £50,000 allocation is not a lot of money and if we are trying to share evenly with a few smaller projects maybe it would be better looking at bigger projects that can be rotated and try to agree ahead for when the Roads budget becomes unsuspending. GH added he doesn't think that will be any time soon as he has been trying to get car park lines painted for over 2 years was told they can't be painted this financial year or 2024/2025 even though some of the spaces are disabled spaces. BM confirmed we can add the car park lines to the roads list and if anyone has any other suggestion to just let us know through the PSG mail box and we can pass on to the roads department to get costings and see if it is viable etc.</p> <p>JW mentioned concerns that Longniddry Community Council re Blindwells pathway safety. BM was under the impression that it was a scheduling concerns and that an alternative route was not possible and not any plans to develop it. HY had added at the Community leader's Briefing that the route didn't feel safe. JW added that Prestonpans Community Council wouldn't support current route. BM would check with HY to clarify this was not a new route but an existing path.</p> <p>Jl mentioned that a concern had been brought up at the Heritage consultation re getting across the road at Levenhall links/Prestongrange. Very busy road and it has been suggested by the Heritage group to look at improving access. BM added this was a good idea for a bigger ticketed item and would tie in with Active Travel and see if possible external funding could be sought. PF suggested needs something to slow the road down. JW raised concerns that if we encouraging people to use Prestongrange then looking at he road would be important. LB added connecting Active Travel routes to Musselburgh. PF also mentioned the links with the lagoons. BM will ask the roads team to explore this possibility and see if other budgets may be available. SC asked where the boundary between Prestonpans and Musselburgh was. Someone mentioned little cluster of houses, opening entrance to lagoons. JW mentioned about opening up a path at Prestongrange through the woods to Cuthil Park and GH mentioned that this had been explored. BM added this had come up at the Sustainable PSG meeting and Chris Milne will look at this.</p>	<p><b>BM</b></p> <p><b>CM</b></p>

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<b>6. Amenities</b>		
	<p>BM added today in Port Seton and Cockenzie the flower beds at the war memorial and fishers road have been turfed over by the council without any consultation or anything. BM wondered if there was potential in the amenities budget to take this over. Still in the early stages as this just happened this morning. Concern from Community Council and In Bloom that other options could have been explored.</p> <p>BM asked everyone to discuss with their groups and feedback any ideas for the amenities team and we can take these forward. GH asked if the team are not planting bedding or cutting the grass what is the plan for the long term for the team. JW expressed concerns regarding supplying plants/growing flowers for all of East and Mid Lothian and NHS trust.</p> <p>BM ongoing work at Cuthill Park and exploration of allotments. There was a large discussion about the area including access and security and that a lot of work would need to take place for this to happen. BM mentioned a Scottish Water old contact and LB will contact Scottish Water and will make contact with GH also.</p> <p>JW added that as part of her masters she has 480 hours if she can help with anything please let her know.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>LB</b></p>
<b>7. Vice Chair recruitment</b>		
	<p>If anyone is interested in this position, please let us know and more details can be provided. BM highlighted we still have Sub Group Chairs vacancies.</p>	
<b>8. Consultation Feedback</b>		
	<p>BM confirmed the area plan is up for renewal and we have been gathering information from Consultation Events, Consultation Drop Ins, Online Consultation Plan and still open to any suggestions anyone may have. Next steps will be gathering all the information before the January meeting and producing a draft. Following this there is opportunity for further consultation and feedback, before the plan is finalised for the May meeting</p> <p>LB is looking into the economic development priorities with the team. BM expressed it is hard trying to coordinate between businesses as the owners sometimes do not have enough time to get involved.</p> <p>BM shared updates from consultation so far;</p> <p><b>On line responses</b> 21 from the community. 4 groups involved. General themes/sub groups; cost of living crisis, isolation, economic shock, post covid. If anyone has any further comments please let us know.</p> <p><b>Drop In Boxes</b> in libraries/community centres We had displays in 4 community centres and 3 libraries for whole of October. We had 45 responses. Lessons to be learnt for next time is to batch the responses up and mark which centre/library they came from just to help us collate the responses.</p>	<p><b>LB</b></p>

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	<p><b>Community events</b> - Following the last AP we emailed suggestions for community events up coming and we supplied boards for an unmanned stall at various places.</p> <p><b>Community groups</b> - We received specific responses from;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Port Seton Walking Football</li> <li>- Port Seton Youth Café</li> <li>- Port Seton Over 60s Lunch</li> <li>- Longniddry young people</li> </ul> <p><b>Subgroups</b> There was a discussion about the main points from the consultation, please reference feedback slides. A large part of the discussion was on raising awareness of what's available in the area and what more the AP can do to help with this either online or in newsletters/flyers</p>	
<b>9. Reports from Sustainable PSG (As hasn't met since August)</b>		
	BM advised there had been some very useful conversations had at the consultations regarding Active Travel and Climate Change.	
<b>10. A.O.C.B.</b>		
<b>11. Area Partnership Proposed Meetings Dates for 2024</b>		
	<p><b>17/1/2024</b>  <b>27/3/2024</b>  <b>15/5/2024</b>  <b>5/6/2024</b>  <b>11/9/2024</b>  <b>9/10/2024</b>  <b>20/11/2024</b></p>	<p><b>Apologies to be sent to -</b>  <b>psg-</b>  <b><u>ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</u></b></p>