

# North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

## Minutes of the North Berwick Coastal Partnership Meeting Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024, 7-9 pm North Berwick Community Centre & ZOOM

<b>Voting Members present:</b>	<b>Substitute members present:</b>
Hilary Smith, Chair (HS)	
Cllr Carol McFarlane, Elected Member East Lothian Council (CM)	
Mairi Benson, North Berwick Community Council (MB)	
Frank Neate, Gullane Area Community Council (FN)	Gordon Mclelland, Gullane Area Community Council (GM)
Liz Forsyth, Aberlady Community Association (LF)	
Brett Walker, Chair On The Move (BW)	
Fred McClintock, Dirleton Village Association (FMc)	
Sharon Wellwood, North Berwick High School Parent School Partnership (SWe)	
Katie Reid, Support from the Start (KR)	
Sadia Ward, Aberlady In Bloom (SW)	
Kathy Duncan, Sustaining North Berwick (KD)	
Alan Fraser, Gullane Area Community Council (AF)	
Andrew Murray, Gullane Village Association (AM)	
Alison Clark, NE Environmental Trust, and Heritage Trust, (AC)	
Janice Mc Leod, Chair of the children and Youth Network (JM)	
Carole Glover, North Berwick Coastal Community Connections (CG)	

### **Others in attendance:**

Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager (DH)  
 Jim Goodfellow, Local Resident (JG)  
 Zena Trendell, Gullane Area Community Council (AF)  
 Hilary Smyth, North Berwick children and Youth Network, (HSy)  
 Erin Fulton, Planning Aid Scotland, (EF)  
 Derek Carter, Dirleton Village Association (DC)  
 Laura Chant, Population Health Project Manager – NHS Lothian (LCh)

### **Apologies:**

Alex Hutchison, North Berwick In Bloom (AH)  
 Mitchell Stevenson, VCEL (MS)  
 Lauren Cowie, Children & Youth Network (LC)  
 Kenny Miller, East Lothian Council (KM)  
 Nicky Fox, North Berwick Community Centre Management Committee (NF)  
 Lorna Scott, Gullane Village Association (LS)  
 Cllr Jeremy Findlay, Elected Member East Lothian Council (JF)  
 Shirley Gillies, Unified Business Support – ELC (SG)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS, DECISIONS <i>Actions</i>	FAO
<b>1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b>		
	HS welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending during a storm. Round the table introductions were made and apologies were noted.	
<b>2. Minutes Previous Meeting</b>		
	The Minutes from the meeting held on the 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 were agreed and accepted as a true accurate reflection of the meeting.	
<b>3. Declaration Of Interest</b>		
	This is a standing item on the agenda. Please declare any conflict of interest when voting. JM declared a conflict of interest on both applications tonight. KR declared a conflict of interest on the C&Y Network application.	
<b>4. Matters Arising</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Berwick High Street Clutter: This was discussed at the On the Move Meeting. The Partnership suggested that it might hold more weight if Disability groups were mobilized. CM suggested that she speak to local shopkeepers.</li> <li>• Community Benefits Joint Themes: DH advised that the list was still open. Identified projects will be discussed at the next Connected Community Managers meeting. LF asked if Aberlady toilets were on the list DH confirmed they were. The Members should contact DH if there are any more suggestions for themes.</li> <li>• Self-Evaluation of Area Partnership: HS informed Members that it had been ascertained and agreed that going forward that there would be 6 meetings annually. 2 meetings will include applications for funding, 3 meetings will be application free and more of a chance to hear what's going on in each locality, and 1 Annual General Meeting. Any applications with a tight turn around will still be considered.</li> <li>• Dates to follow.</li> </ul>	
<b>5. Membership – Gilsland Grange Mews Association (GGMA)</b>		
	<p>The Partnership were asked to vote on two potential new Members, however as no representatives from Gilsland Grange Mews were in attendance this vote was differed. DH will get in touch with GGMA to see if they intend to attend the next meeting.</p> <p>CG from North Berwick Community Connections explained the remodelled project to the Partnership and asked to become a member. The Members voted on this application, and it was approved by the majority.</p>	
<b>6. Action Plan for Active and Sustainable Transport: North Berwick Coastal Ward: Report attached</b>		
	The Draft North Berwick Coastal Ward Action Plan for Active Travel and Sustainable Transport had been circulated prior to the meeting and Erin Fulton of Planning Aid Scotland talked to it and took questions. Some Members were critical of the low response rate (118 replies). It was agreed that getting responses to consultations generally was a problem.	

	<p>BW advised of the Steering Group set up for the Mains Farm Bus proposal. He reported that Andrew McLellan, Transport Manger ELC had been very helpful in looking toward a bid in next financial year (2024/25) for a service from Mains Farm to the Station, Church Road and Health Centre.</p>	
<p><b>7. Reports from Subgroups - Please note that some reports have been added post meeting at Chairs request due to lack of time for reporting during meeting.</b></p>		
	<p><b>NBC Children &amp; Youth Network</b>  JM advised that the Network had not met, so no report available. A small group have however been working on the bursary application. KD informed Members that a second Young People’s Mental Wellbeing event is scheduled for February 2<sup>nd</sup> at NB High School. 10am-12pm will be open to pupils, 12pm-3pm will be for parents of teenagers to come and speak to the organisations. Currently 15 organisations have registered for the event.</p> <p><b>NBC Health &amp; Wellbeing Association</b>  HS informed the Partnership that the Walking Festival was now an organisation in its own right and thanked the Health and Wellbeing Network for hosting the Festival during its first few years of existence.  The Health and Wellbeing Association will be meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February to discuss organising a community event to assist the public in finding out more about what’s happening in the coastal community. The event is proposed to take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024.</p> <p><b>Kindness Cooperative</b>  KR advised every 2 weeks food parcels go out to all areas of the ward and that referrals had risen to 50 deliveries. 105 individuals supported. This was due to an increase in referrals from Health Visitors and the Community Link Worker. Various products from tins, baby supplies, toiletries, pet food, freezer food and fresh food are supplied. Due to the Trussell Trust inviting people from the immediate Tranent area into their foodbank to pick their own parcels, The kindness Cooperative had done the same. This worked well as clients received a cup of Lentil soup when they arrived and if interested the recipe and ingredients to make it at home. This was made possible because of the great team of volunteers they have. KR informed the Partnership that funding had been awarded from North Berwick Trust but as the Trust pays out retrospectively, she will be putting in an application to the Partnership to ask for money as a buffer in case there is a delay in the Trust money being paid into the Health and Wellbeing Account.</p> <p><b>NBC On the Move</b>  A discussion then took place about the state of the roads with AC informing the Partnership that there was a 60% increase in damage to car resulting from Potholes.  There were a number of comments on the malfunctioning of the DSD cameras in a number of locations. The one on the western approach to Gullane had been removed. Reference numbers had been obtained when these were reported. DH will escalate with Council Officers.  LF reported a hit and run by a van on Main Street, Aberlady. She also confirmed that the drainage problem at Sea Green had been fixed. DH and BW would pick up on these road safety matters and escalate.  BW advised that the Coastal Trail, the copse at 10th tee and buckthorn at the 14th fairway/13th green had been cleared, including the barb wire and scrub. Hopefully this is the start of a complete upgrade.</p>	

	<p><b>Support from the Start</b></p> <p>KR advised that SFTS have yet to meet but that the priority is filling the gap left by the loss of the local family worker. North Berwick Trust have granted funding to ensure parenting classes can continue. Stay and Play is currently running with this funding to pay Jemma as a self employed practioner and the sessions are extremely busy with 45 families accessing the service. KR will be delivering Raising Teens with Confidence at North Berwick High School from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February -28<sup>th</sup> March 2024. She will also be delivering Under Pressure training in Musselburgh on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March.</p>	
<p><b>8. Reports from Community Councils</b></p>		
	<p>Due to the remaining time, it was decided to get updates from the Community councils at the next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>9. Reports from Village Representatives</b></p>		
	<p><i>Due to the remaining time, it was decided to get updates from the Village Associations at the next meeting. The below reports were submitted prior to, or post meeting.</i></p> <p><b>Gullane Village Association</b></p> <p><i>The following post meetings updates were provided: -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting held last week with ELC regarding 5-year extension of lease of Gullane Recreation Hall concluded with need for receipt of Building Survey &amp; feedback from Estates Department. Meanwhile, the GVA operate with a rolling lease.</li> <li>• GVA Members &amp; Supporters event was held in October which included an exhibition of work undertaken by attendees at art classes held in the hall. We are looking to increase support by holding regular events and the next one will be a local book author Q&amp;A.</li> <li>• The sewing machines have been put into good use over the last couple of months, with Christmas Fabric Advent calendar making session, Aberlady Scouts sewing session and the recently started Beginners Sewing sessions.</li> <li>• The Christmas Newsletter went out to an increasing number of households in the village and was kindly sponsored by a local family. The spring edition will be distributed to 1,800 households &amp; public spaces.</li> <li>• The Recreation Hall bookings continue to flourish, including a new Meditation class beginning in February. The on-line diary is available for all to peruse.</li> <li>• Foodbank Christmas Collection event was a great success with 152kg of food taken by GVA volunteers to Tranent.</li> </ul> <p><b>Aberlady Community Association</b></p> <p><i>LF sent the report below prior to the Meeting and added here as a post meeting note.</i></p> <p>Aberlady is just waking up from the end of year activities so reporting at this time is minimal.</p> <p>Aberlady Village Hall: The hall is still well used for adults and children’s classes and activities through the week. There is a library shelf for adult fiction and jigsaw puzzles available to hall users. The post office operates from the hall on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings.</p>	

	<p>Place Planning: Following discussions and a public meeting in 2023 plans are in place to bring together residents (including school children) to further formulate our local place plan.</p> <p>Reaching out to all residents is important and by doing this we hope that residents will feel more included and be willing to take an active part in Aberlady's future.</p> <p>Aberlady in Bloom: We are basically waiting for Aberlady to bloom and have been approached by the cub leader who would like to involve the cubs in future projects including potato growing.</p> <p>Kirk Stables Community Garden: Spring planting will soon be in hand and any reallocation of the raised beds will take place. The JAM group from Aberlady and Gullane Parish Church will take over growing in at least one of the raised boxes this year.</p> <p>Aberlady Craft Group: The group received a number of accolades for the magnificent Christmas post box topper which replaced the equally wonderful Loch Ness Monster scene.</p> <p>Aberlady Community Association: An application has now been sent to OSCR for approval for the reallocation of the group's identity as a SCIO.</p> <p>A subgroup of the Association continues to put plans in place for the intended upgrade of the hall.</p> <p><b>Bloom Groups Update</b></p> <p>Winter bedding and bulbs have all been planted. We're looking forward to our Tulip Festival but will just have to wait and see any impact from the exceptional rainfall. Summer bedding is ordered with East Lothian Council Nursery.</p> <p>We're holding a planning meeting for volunteers next Monday to discuss plans for the year ahead.</p>	
<b>10. Budget Report</b>		
	<p>DH presented the budget and spend to date.</p> <p><b>General Budget (Capital to Address Priorities)</b></p> <p>2023-2024 Allocation - £50k</p> <p>Fringe By the Sea - Free Fringe - £5,000</p> <p>Haddington &amp; District Swimming Club - French Exchange - £2,807.04</p> <p>Carers of East Lothian – North Berwick Group - £872.75</p> <p>North Berwick in Bloom – Aberlady, Gullane &amp; North Berwick - £5,500</p> <p>Aberlady Community Association - £1,439</p> <p>Planning Advisory Service – OTM - £1,285</p> <p>Creation of North Berwick Local Place Plan - £5,000</p> <p>Keep The Heid – Mental Health Café - £3,300 (General)</p> <p>NBC Area Partnership On the Move Group – £1,350 Stage 1 Coastal Path (General)</p> <p>Spend to date - <b>£26,553.79</b></p> <p><b>Pending Applications this evening: -</b></p> <p>Dirleton Village Association – Dirleton Community Store - £1,200</p> <p>North Berwick Coastal C&amp;Y network – Out of school activity - £12,000</p>	

**11. Applications General Budget 2023/2024**

HS thanked everyone who had returned their scores which provided a framework for the discussion tonight.

The following applications were discussed and presentations are attached to these minutes:-

- Dirleton Village Association – Dirleton Community Store - £1,200  
**Members voted YES Objections Abstain Conflict 1  
DIFFERED** Subject to CM speaking to ELC to get an explanation as to why DVA are expected to pay for a survey of a property that ELC are trying to sell.
- North Berwick Coastal C&Y network – Out of school activity - £12,000  
**Members voted 10 YES 1 Objections 0 Abstain Conflict 2**

**12. A.O.C.B.**

N/A

**Dates of Next Meetings**

**2024 Meeting Dates**

19/03/2024, 30/04/2024, 18/06/2024, 24/09/2024  
APM, 12/11/2024

Apologies to

[nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk)