

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Minutes of the North Berwick Coastal Partnership Meeting Tuesday 14th November 2023, 7-9 pm North Berwick Community Centre & ZOOM

Voting Members present:	Substitute members present
Hilary Smith, Chair (HS)	
Cllr Carol McFarlane, Elected Member East Lothian Council (CM)	
Cllr Liz Allan, Elected Member East Lothian Council (LA)	
Mairi Benson, North Berwick Community Council (MB)	
Frank Neate, Gullane Area Community Council (FN)	
Liz Forsyth, Aberlady Community Association (LF)	Sadia Ward, Aberlady Community association (SWa)
Brett Walker, Chair On The Move (BW)	
Simon Paterson-Brown, Dirleton Village Association (SP)	
Simon Metzner, NB District Association of Churches (SM)	
Alex Hutchison, North Berwick In Bloom (AH)	
Sharon Wellwood, North Berwick High School Parent School Partnership (SWe)	
Katie Reid, Support from the Stat (KR)	
Jonathan Taeuber, Aberlady Primary School Parent Council (JT)	
Katherine Seller, Gullane School Parent Carer Partnership Committee (KS)	

Others in attendance:

Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager (DH)
 Shirley Gillie, Business Support (SG)
 Marilyn McNeil, IJB (MM)
 Kirsty Towler, Local Resident (KT)
 Emma Jackson, Keep The Heid Mental Health Café (EJ)
 Jim Goodfellow, Local Resident (JG)
 Liz Martin, North Berwick Bass Rock (LM)
 Alan Fraser, Gullane Area Community Council (AF)

Apologies:

Mitchell Stevenson, VCEL (MS)
 Kenny Miller, East Lothian Council (KM)
 Alison Clark, NB Environment and Heritage Trust (NBEHT) (AC)
 Nicky Fox, North Berwick Community Centre Management Committee (NF)
 Seonaid Stewart, East Lothian Foodbank (SS)
 Lorna Scott, Gullane Village Association (LS)
 Lorna Raeburn, Gullane Bloomers (LR)
 Lauren Cowie, Children & Youth Network (LC)
 Cllr Jeremy Findlay, Elected Member East Lothian Council (JF)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS, DECISIONS	FAO
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	Actions	
1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies		
	HS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Round the table introductions were made and apologies were noted.	
2. Minutes Previous Meeting		
	The Minutes from the meeting held on the 29 th August 2023 were agreed and accepted as a true accurate reflection of the meeting. SW mentioned that AC/SW were missed from apologies for the APM meeting on 24.10.23. DH confirmed the minutes had been amended to show their apologies.	
3. Declaration Of Interest		
	This is a standing item on the agenda. Please declare any conflict of interest when voting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BW declared a conflict of interest for The On the Move application. 	
4. Matters Arising		
	<p>SWa asked for an update on the award given to North Berwick Community Council as a contribution towards a Local Place Plan to the town. She noted that the award was conditional and only be made subject to clarity being provided on the budget presented. DH confirmed that KM from NBCC had provided additional information confirming costings presented. Both DH and HS were satisfied that concerns had been dealt with and payment had been made to NBCC.</p> <p>HS advised most matters would be covered during the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Berwick High Street Clutter: BW confirmed this is ongoing and that Cllr Allan advised a good report was received from the equality officer and is being pursued. Going back to roads/conservation officer. • Safe Routes to School: TBW advised Emily Burt has been doing great work and attended the OTM meeting. This matter is still on going and should be kept on the agenda for future updates. • Community Benefits Joint Themes: DH advised all 6 Area Partnerships are pulling together lists. This is ongoing and would encourage everyone to be creative and imaginative with their ideas/wish list. Ongoing rolling programme. • Self-Evaluation of Area Partnership: HS advised these will be sent round to everyone. DH explained suggestions were 6 meetings a year with a few non funding meetings. HS explained the AGM worked really well with everyone having the space and time to chat to each other and build relationships. Would like to build on this positive step. 	
5. Membership – Gilsland Grange Mews Association		
	<p>DH advised he had received a request from the newly formed Gilsland Grange Mews TRA who were keen to come on board with the NBC Area Partnership. HS suggested we hold off voting tonight and carry this forward to the next meeting where hopefully someone can come along and answer any questions anyone may have. A number of questions raised re location of the TRA, the definition of a TRA and the role of ELTRAP.</p> <p>DH also highlighted that KS is attending her first meeting tonight as a representative of Gullane School Parent Carer Partnership Committee. (KS)</p>	
6. Area Partnership Delegated Roads Budget Influence Paused		

	<p>HS highlighted that the Roads budget influence has been taken away / paused for the foreseeable future. HS advised we would like clarity/dialogue that the Council will work with us on our priorities. We need to understand process. How do we take this forward.</p> <p>DH confirmed things had moved forward and we now have a dedicated officer assigned to North Berwick, Michael Naismith, and we have already been working closely with him on a number of projects. LF asked regarding all the identified roads projects that were previously put forward by the villages. It was acknowledged that some identified local issues where repairs or upgrades (white lines, broken DSDs) that should be carried out as a matter of course by the Roads Department. BW and DH will continue to push priorities. LF asked regarding the speed camera. LF disappointed some of the priorities identified won't be getting done. Would appreciate someone coming to talk about this in more detail.</p> <p>DH encouraged everyone to report their concerns through the new reporting facility. DH shared the screen.</p> <p>Dirleton street lighting failed and this was reported through this portal. The process is a reference number is allocated and ELC 20 working days to get back to you. If this does not happen then please get in touch with DH and he can escalate the concern using the reference number you were given.</p> <p>Whitekirk mentioned they have done this and not heard back. HS advised we need people to feedback any information, but this sounds like a positive step to make things better. DH encouraged everyone to use this system. LF advised block drains and speed camera had been reported previously. DH will escalate and take this forward. HS asked for an update at the next meeting please.</p> <p>FN highlighted Virgin Media had been working in Aberlady and had put up bollards without any notice given. He asked for the TTRO which seemed to be retrospective. Parking was restricted. Not sure why or how but after FN asked for the TTRO the bollards were suddenly removed. Coincidence or not they must follow processes. FN was given no feedback or explanation.</p>	
<p>7. APM Tuesday 24th October 2023</p>		
	<p>HS confirmed that the feedback received from the APM was very positive. It was a very relaxed evening and lots of opportunities for people to chat and network. Members discussed dates for the 2024 APM and the 24th September 2024 was the preferred date.</p>	
<p>8. 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.</p>		
	<p>NBC Children & Youth Network DH advised that the Network have not yet met yet, so no report available. There is a TEAMS meeting arranged for next week.</p> <p>NBC Health & Wellbeing Association Kindness Cooperative KR advised every 2 weeks food parcels go out to all areas of the ward. 45 deliveries. 90 individuals supported. Various products from tins, baby supplies, toiletries, pet food, freezer food and fresh food. Great team of volunteers. DH advised a meeting has been set up with East Lothian Foodbank next week to look at opportunities for coordinating resources jointly across the ward.</p> <p>Christmas Cheer. KR explained the launch today of the Angel Tree which has tags on the tree for specific presents. The public take a tag and purchase that present. KR asked if everyone could help in sharing this with their networks. DH confirmed that the opportunity was there for the whole ward, not just North Berwick. KR added if you know someone who would really benefit from this please get in touch as you can self-refer. HS wondered if parent councils could maybe help spread the word or referral people. KR was asked if she had any general statistics that she could share</p>	

	<p>without breaking GDPR as in age group, gender etc. To be provided at January meeting SM asked if there was a flyer available that could be shared to help.</p> <p>Walking Festival Started from nothing then grew and grew. 36 walks this year. Amazing stories and will continue to build on it. DH will circulate the report. HS welcomes any feedback. LF said the report was very detailed and impressive and suggested this would be a good format for other areas to look at.</p> <p>NBC On the Move BW advised the main focus in recent weeks has been on the Active Travel Plan. The consultation concludes at the end of the month. BW encouraged everyone to take part, and highlighted the opportunity for the findings to be used within Local Place Plans. DH advised there were still some paper copies of the consultation available if anyone needs them. There's a good response to it so far, and particularly from young people. Bus Forum – Support for local bus service proposal forthcoming from ELCs Head of Transportation, Andrew McLellan. 2 meetings of the local steering group have gathered support and momentum. Gullane Area Community Council to give consideration to the proposal for a Quiet Way from Gilsland to Kingston at next meeting. On the Move and North Berwick Community Council supportive. Cycle Racks at NB station - Chris Milne (ELC) in encouraging discussion with Scotrail. East end of North Berwick High Street – Unclear on schedule of works at present.</p> <p>Support from the Start KR advised Jemma Kerr (who ran Stay and Play with Jan Gaunt, family Support Worker) has become self-employed. North Berwick Community Centre Management Committee are employing her to run Stay and Play using money from the Children and Families budget. There is a high demand for these opportunities with 30 adults and 57 children attending on a regular basis. Baby Massage classes (also run by Jemma) have a waiting list 6 blocks in advance. A funding request has been made to North Berwick Trust to further support this post.</p>	
9. Reports from Community Councils		
	<p>North Berwick Community Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Member - Jim Goodfellow. All pleased to welcome Jim back to North Berwick Community Council. • Remembrance parade and service took place at the weekend. • Local Place Plan – starting in December. Planning Aid Scotland commissioned to undertake work. • Christmas Lights. In person switch on event this year. Small parade planned with, pipe band, dancers, local heroes (If you know anyone please get in touch). Big AI to compare. Santa and choirs etc. • Collecting for Christmas Cheer, mentioned earlier. <p>Gullane Area community Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to time constraints on meeting no opportunity for update. 	
10. Reports from Village Representatives		
	<p>Dirleton Village Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The heritage lighting project which has been half completed could come to fruition with the support of ELC in the next 12 months. 	

- Asset transfer of village hall. SCIO needs to be done. HS suggested if needed a meeting could be set up with people who have gone through this process and can pass on their knowledge and experience. DH confirmed NBCC have gone through this recently.

Gullane Village Association

The following update from Glorious Gullane Bloomers was submitted in advance:

Glorious Gullane Bloomers Update November 2023

GGB are thrilled to have achieved the **Highest Accolade of 5 ...Outstanding...** by RHS Its Your Neighbourhood.

“Excellent riot of colour so carefully maintained by these Glorious Gullane Bloomers and a real oasis of colour”.

We are delighted with the report, so big thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who have worked so hard throughout the year.

Thanks also to our those Businesses and Residents who have generously donated and supported our projects.

COOP MEMBERS can now officially support us as part of the Local Community Fund.

Please **CHOOSE US** as your cause by clicking www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes78541

This will enable us to organise and expand by creating a **COMMUNITY GARDEN!**

We have now removed all summer bedding and replaced with winter pansies ,wallflower ,and tulip and daffodil bulbs in all pots tubs and planters to brighten up the area through winter and into Springtime.

We have also added 2 lovely triple Wall Planters outside Secret Boutique and hope to extend to other Business who have already shown interest.

Aberlady Community Association

General

- New playpark now open.
- Sewage wastewater treatment – ongoing concerns on treatment capacity and lack of communication in relation to questions and concerns raised over discharge into Aberlady Bay.

Aberlady in Bloom

- A team of volunteers carried out bulb planting for Spring colour in Sea Wynd
- A sale of pots, plants, homemade produce and lavender bags took place recently to raise funds for winter planting in the various flower boxes round the village including outside Margiotta.
- A team of volunteers tackled the tidy up and cutting back of an overgrown garden in the Main Street to the delight and relief of the homeowner.

The Village Hall

- Meetings have been taking place to finalise the improvements that are needed in the hall and those the committee would like to see to make the hall more viable for the community.

- The After School Club has moved out of the small hall and plans are needed to make that space more user friendly.
- Plans are in place to change the management of the hall into a SCIO. We are currently looking to change the constitution and apply to OSCR to approve the changes.
- The committee was pleased to arrange for some of the excess furniture from Duck's Hotel to be delivered to the hall. Volunteers have been busy smartening up the furniture for public use.
- The Haddington Table Tennis club has arranged to use the hall for some of their groups.

Winter Newsletter

- The Aberlady Heads Up newsletter has just been printed and is currently being distributed round every house in the village. (HS asked if this could be circulated please).

Parish Church

- Aberlady and Gullane are pleased to announce the appointment of their new minister the Rev. Elisabeth Stenhouse.

Conservation and History Society

- There are plans to restore this society which took a back seat during the Covid outbreak.

Defibrillators

- The defibrillator which was situated outside Duck's Hotel has been temporarily removed and a new possibly interim location is being discussed. Meanwhile there are defibrillators at Tranter Road and outside the village Hall.

A Plan for Aberlady

- A meeting took place for village residents to contribute their thoughts and ideas for the future development of Aberlady as the start of the creation of a Local Place Plan.
- Residents are invited to use the Place Standard Tool which can be accessed via a QR code available in the winter newsletter.
- Aberlady Primary school will be invited to contribute to the process.

Aberlady Winter Window Trail

- All residents have been invited to decorate their windows for the festive season, register their involvement and take part in the trail. Maps will be available in the Church.

Other Festive Events

- Christmas Swap Shop.
- Family Ceildh.
- Christmas Tree light up and Carols.

Whitekirk CIC

EM mentioned the curry quiz night was fully booked which was great. HS asked him to let us know in advance when the next one is!

11. Budget Report	
	<p>DH presented the budget and spend to date.</p> <p>Amenities Services Budget Influence (Men & Machines) 2023-2024 Allocation - £100k Spend to date - £0</p> <p>Roads Budget Influence (Priorities) 2023-2024 Allocation - £50k Spend to date - £0</p> <p>General Budget (Capital to Address Priorities) 2023-2024 Allocation - £50k Fringe By The Sea - Free Fringe - £5,000 Haddington & District Swimming Club - French Exchange - £2,807.04 Carers of East Lothian – North Berwick Group - £872.75 North Berwick in Bloom – Aberlady, Gullane & North Berwick - £5,500 Aberlady Community Association - £1,439 Planning Advisory Service – OTM - £1,285 Creation of North Berwick Local Place Plan - £5,000 Spend to date - £21,904</p> <p>Holiday Hunger 2023-2024 Allocation - £3k Spend to date - £0</p> <p>Pending Applications this evening:- Keep The Heid – Mental Health Café - £3,300 (General) NBC Area Partnership On the Move Group – £1,350 Stage 1 Coastal Path (General)</p>
12. Applications General Budget 2023/2024	
	<p>HS thanked everyone who had returned their scores which provided a framework for the discussion tonight.</p> <p>The following applications were discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep The Heid – Mental Health Café - £3,300 (General) EJ came along to the meeting and explained the project and members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Members voted 14 YES 0 Objections 0 Abstain • NBC Area Partnership On the Move Group – £1,350 Stage 1 Coastal Path (General) BW explained the project and members were given the opportunity to ask questions. DH shared a map of the area. HS added that Barbara from the Remembering Together project had been in touch to ask about this path possible being used as a memorial path and HS suggested she get in touch with BW to discuss. More information available on the website Remembering together. Members voted 12 YES 0 Objections 0 Abstain Conflict 1
13. A.O.C.B.	
	None

Dates of Next Meetings	2024 Meeting Dates DH highlighted provisional dates for 2024 and explained how we always try to tie in with others to avoid clashes. All other dates TBC at January 2024 meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday the 23rd of January 2024• 24th September 2024 (APM)	Apologies to nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk
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