

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Minutes of the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership Meeting Tuesday 30th April 2024, 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)	
Mairi Benson, North Berwick Community Council (MB)	
Liz Forsyth, Aberlady Community Association (LF)	Sadia Ward, Aberlady Community Association (SWard)
Brett Walker, Chair On The Move (BW)	
Fred McClintock, Dirleton Village Association (FMc)	
Sharon Wellwood, North Berwick High School Parent School Partnership (SWellwood)	
Frank Neate, Gullane Area Community Council (FN)	
Lauren Cowie, Children & Youth Network (LC)	
Carole Glover, North Berwick Coastal Community Connections (CG)	
Katie Reid, Support from the Start (KR)	
Mitchell Stevenson, VCEL (MS)	
Kathy Duncan, Sustaining North Berwick (KD)	
Cllr Liz Allen, Elected Member East Lothian Council (LA)	
Jonathan Taeuber, Aberlady Primary School Parent Council (JT)	

Others in attendance:

Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager (DH)
 Shirley Gillie, Unified Business Support – ELC (SG)
 Marilyn McNeil, IJB (MM)
 Caroline Rodgers, Head of Communities & Partnerships ELC (CR)
 Laura Chant, Population Health Project Manager – NHS Lothian (LCh)
 Joyce Surfleet, North Berwick Day Centre (JS)
 Rory Steele, Fringe By The Sea (RS)
 Jackie Shuttleworth, Fringe By The Sea (JSh)
 Lorna Raeburn, Gullane Community Council (LR)
 Alan Fraser, Gullane Community Council, (AF)
 Krish Bissoonauth, Gullane Village Association (KB)
 Sue Northrop, Dementia Friendly EL (SN)

Apologies:

Nicky Fox, North Berwick Community Centre Management Committee (NF)
 Jane McMinn, North Berwick Harbour Trust, (JM)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS, DECISIONS <i>Actions</i>	FAO
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		
	<p>SG advised she had received confirmation from In Bloom that Carol Murray was the correct name representing In Bloom at the previous meeting.</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on the 19/03/2024 were agreed and accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.</p>	
3. Declaration Of Interest		
	This is a standing item on the agenda. Please declare any conflict of interest when voting. There are two applications being considered tonight.	
4. Matters Arising		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Benefit Joint Themes: DH reminded everyone of the list Members came up with for potential projects and specific items. Each Partnership to put a maximum of 3 forward. AVA highlighted that their priority for the Village was gateway stone cairns. GVA had put forward a new kitchen for the Recreation Hall and Big Belly Bins. NBEHT will let us know. DH encouraged Members to still add to this 'wish list' as the opportunity to add further items may arise in the future. £8,750 has recently been received by the Council to support food poverty as a result of the Community Benefit Scheme. The money received will be divided propositionally between the 6 Area Partnerships. HS added this is really great news. Proves the scheme does work. LC added NHS has a similar platform - Community Benefit Gateway and worth putting suggestions into the NHS one also. Information can be recirculated if required. • DH confirmed that the conditions of award for the funding of Aberlady Community Association's Local Place Plan had been met. SWard confirmed the ACW fee was £750 per day. • The Health & Well Being Association – Connecting Communities Day which had been awarded with conditions, had also been met. HS provided a detailed breakdown of costs for the community day. If anyone would like to see this, please let DH know. • Confirmation of quorate. Based on current Membership, quorate is 13. DH advised he had been approached by Stevie Wands asking if his Membership position could be 'paused' just now as he is on secondment. This would bring the quorate down to 12 for just now. HS asked if everyone was happy with this proposal. All were in agreement. HS praised SWands for the contribution he makes to the Partnership. HS raised the question of existing Membership. HS advised it would be important to write out to existing Members over the summer and check if they want to continue to be part of the Area Partnership. Discussion was had around the proposal that - if you don't turn up for 3 meetings without notification or apologies, Membership is automatically removed. This will be further explored at the June meeting. If anyone has any thoughts or comments on this please let HS know. SWellwood added it would be useful to know who are Members of the Partnership. DH will share this information in advance of the June meeting. 	

5. Reports from Subgroups

NBC Children & Youth Network

LC advised there had not been a meeting in recent months due to a lack of capacity as effort was being entirely focused on launching the Bursary scheme. DH confirmed JMC/KR had been working on the processes for administering Bursary awards for extracurricular activities for children of low-income parents in the coastal ward. They will take the initiative to a Head Teachers meeting of the Children Planning Framework Locality Team at the end of May. Members praised JMC/KR for their work on this much needed initiative. A meeting of the C&Y Network will be arranged soon.

NBC Health & Wellbeing Association

A) Kindness Cooperative

KR advised she'd had a meeting with East Lothian Foodbank on the 6th of May to look at how the emergency food provision in the ward could be managed by them going forward. KR advised that the numbers of individuals and families looking for support in the ward had increased considerable over the last 12 months. The dedicated Team of local volunteers were struggling to keep up with demand and the ever growing size of the bi-monthly deliveries. She also advised that Scottish Government are moving towards vouchers/cash 1st. HS asked for it to be minuted that there had been a phenomenal amount achieved by the small team during and post pandemic. LC asked if she could liaise with KR to collect some data/stats. KR will arrange this.

B) Health & Wellbeing Association

HS advised that the HWA had not met yet recently. A date however is to be set soon for the AGM. HS thanked LC for the report she'd produced outlining health and wellbeing inequalities in the ward. The information provided will be used to identify priorities for the Health and Wellbeing Association, and for new Area Plan.

The Abbey Care Home

NS advised those present on the plight of the Abbey Care Home. She spent time highlighting what it meant to both her personally and the community. The facility and grounds have huge potential and possibility. She highlighted Cockenzie House and how it had been utilised in recent years. SN is looking for people with a passion and who would like to get involved to look at what's possible, to get in touch and help spread the word. HS thanks SN for her time and passion. CG thanked SN and advised Community Connections could help spread the word through Facebook/posters etc.

Demystifying Death Week

CG advised that the purpose of the weeklong series of events was to start encouraging conversation/dialog around death by holding various fun events, but with a serious messages. Next Friday, the event at Blackadder Church is free. Storytelling, professional artist etc. CG went on to advise of the forthcoming 'Ease Training – End of Life Skills'. DH advised he had shared the promotional information.

On the Move Group

BW advised maintenance and repairs already reported were still outstanding. A schedule was prepared by DH and presented to Roads. A meeting had taken place on 17th March 2024 with Chris Milne ELC, BW and DH. CM updated BW and DH on the list of outstanding matters and where they were currently at. It was disappointing that Scotrail would not improve the bike racks at NB Station but we

	<p>look forward to the travel hub proposals from ELC where this may be addressed, plus toilets.</p> <p>CM advised to copy him in to our wish list for active travel schemes in the ward.</p> <p>Coastal Path - Worst Sections cleared and accessible, way markers now in place. A 'Remembering Together' project will give publicity to the route, including an app and interpretation Board to coincide with August Walking Festival.</p> <p>NB High Street Clutter - Councillor Carol MacFarlane is talking to NB Community Council.</p> <p>Reconstitution of the NB Community Development Company - Extraordinary General Meeting to be held at NB Community Centre, arranged for 7pm on 5th June 2024 and advert to go in Courier. Whole ward welcome. MS at VCEL to support move to becoming a SCIO.</p> <p>Law Path - Law Parents were pushing ahead with the design of the Law Path (funds secured for professional assistance) to the campus from the east (Glenburn Road). Meeting coming up with Rangers due to proximity of wetlands.</p> <p>NB Shuttle Bus - Steering Group on 9th May, prior to meeting with ELC Transport Manager on 5th June at NB Community Centre.</p> <p>Support from the Start</p> <p>KR advised Stay & Play on Wednesday mornings at the Centre is well attended, as are Baby Sensory and Baby Massage. KR is receiving more requests for PEEP, Raising Teens with Confidence and Raising Children with Confidence courses. The hope is to run these courses in the Autumn.</p> <p>Sessions will be arranged for the summer for STEM in Aberlady and Gullane and looking to have a science week at North Berwick High School.</p> <p>KR is helping with a Lego day at Dirleton Primary School using STEM resources.</p>	
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6. Reports from Community Councils

	<p>Gullane Area Community Council</p> <p>Met last week to look at the Local Place Plan. They are due to meet with AVA and DVA to run through shared issues. The main feedback from the community is transport. DH added the timescale has now been officially extended for submission of Local Place Plans, and that Planning are happy to look over drafts to ensure the format being presented is fit for submission. HS suggested that the next meeting in June is used to share draft Local Place Plans for those that are willing to share.</p> <p>LC's Health and Wellbeing Inequalities report has a lot of data which may help with Local Place Plans. She is happy to assist.</p> <p>North Berwick Community Council</p> <p>Working in partnership with Planning Aid Scotland to produce a Local Place Plan for the town of North Berwick. It is hoped the LPP will be submitted by the end of June.</p> <p>The Community Council is planning to have a public picnic in the park on Sunday the 6th of June from 3pm till 6pm. It will be in the Lodge grounds. There will be dancers, a choir and a pipe band. You just need to bring a picnic blanket and some food. Tea and coffee will be available.</p> <p>The Council has been approached by Zippos Circus to have access to the Lodge grounds next year. Awaiting more information before any decision is made.</p> <p>Judy Lockhart resigned from the Community Council last week. Now have a vacancy. HS thanked for the update and said if the Community Council would like anything distributed or shared, please just let us know.</p>	
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7. Reports from Village Representatives

Aberlady Community Association

Aberlady Village Hall - The Association has approved the new plans to reconfigure the stage, kitchen, toilets and small hall along with a heating and lighting upgrade, structural reinforcement and internal insulation.

Costs are now being collated and suitable funding streams explored. Village fund raising events are being planned.

Local Place Planning - The deadline to respond to our community survey (online and paper copies) was April 1st. The results have been analysed and priority issues identified. An independent consultant is now working with a small steering group on a draft Local Place Plan for Aberlady which will be based on the results of the survey and the information given by residents at the public meetings which were held earlier in the year. The mandatory 28 day consultation period for feedback is likely to start next month with some priority areas forming part of a Community Action Plan which will be developed in parallel.

Aberlady in Bloom - Meetings have taken place when needed but regularly every two weeks. The Memorial Garden is the primary focus at this time of year as the flower boxes and various plots around the village are still full of Spring flowers. The team has bought two compost containers made to order by a local resident and paid for with funds from NBCAP awarded to the "In Bloom" groups. They are situated in the Memorial Garden.

The team has acquired 3 tiered planters and it is hoped they will be situated at the three entrances to the village.

Aberlady Craft Group - Since our last report the team has created an Easter topper for the post box.

Aberlady Community Association - The application to OSCR to change our constitution to a SCIO has been accepted in principle. We now wait to go to the next stage which will be guided by OSCR.

Aberlady and ELC liaison - A Meeting took place recently with the Aberlady Bay Warden, the Community Payback Team, Bret Walker from NBCAP and ACA. This meeting was arranged to review the poor condition of Coffin Lane. Also discussed was the refurbishment of the Aberlady Bay toilets.

Aberlady Church - A Beetle Drive has been arranged by the Gullane and Aberlady Church to take place this weekend. The Annual Plant Sale is scheduled to take place in May. Any flowers which are given to the church following events are dismantled and bouquets are handed out to elderly residents in the village. The Church is still looking for more monthly flower arrangers.

Aberlady Pop Up Post Office - The contract for the current providers of this service will cease at the end of the month and the new provider will continue the service but for only one morning per week.

Aberlady Bowling Club - Fund raising and social events take place throughout the year including a Bingo Night this month.

Aberlady Community Connections - This group continues to meet bi-monthly courtesy of Old Aberlady Inn. It has been suggested that the group meets more often perhaps for a weekend lunch and on completion of the Village Hall Project, in the revamped small hall, for various activities.

Aberlady Rainbow Group - Unfortunately as no one has come forward as an organiser of this group it will cease to exist.

	<p>Dirleton Village Association FMc advised that the Local Place Plan is now in a draft form. Next month will be used as an opportunity for further consultation and development. It's really good! HS added that this is an exciting opportunity to plan for the long-term future. Dirleton Fete and Games Day is Saturday 22nd June 2024 in the afternoon. More details will be circulated. Aberlady advised that theirs is on the 1st June. HS added if anyone has any posters/flyers, just let us know and we can circulate.</p> <p>Gullane Village Association KB advised that the 3rd Easter event that the GVA held was good fun. The Recreation Hall is thriving with lots of groups using it. The Newsletter is delivered to 1800 households at a cost of £800. Has proved to be an invaluable tool. On a less positive note – the Recreation Hall has been unable to secure a long-term lease which is essential for satisfying fundraisers if they are to develop the Hall further. Need to wait and see what happens next.</p> <p>Whitekirk Village CIC No Update available.</p> <p>VCEL MS advised Members of his role as Community Engagement Partner for NBC. If anyone is looking for any support or advice in relation to Community Organisations or Charities, please contact MS. MS is looking to launch a pod cast with stories from community/individuals on their successes/difficulties. The initiative is looking to help promote various organisations and their work. VCEL can also help promote events so please get in touch.</p>	
8. Budget Report		
	<p>DH advised the General Budget for this financial year 2024/2045 for North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership is £45,000. There are two applications to be considered tonight.</p>	
9. Applications General Budget 2024/2025		
	<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"> • Fringe By the Sea – Free Fringe - £2,500 Members voted 16 YES 0 Objections/Abstain • Gullane Village Association - Big Belly Bins - £2,000 Members voted 14 YES 0 Objections/abstain 	
10. A.O.C.B.		
	<p>HS advised the What's On in North Berwick Coastal Day planned for the 1st June 2024 is clashing with other events that are happening. An inspection is now also happening at the end of May for Connected Communities. It was suggested to postpone until the autumn. All agreed.</p> <p>HS thanked everyone for coming along tonight and for their time, hard work and effort given.</p>	

Dates of Next Meetings	2024 Meeting Dates 18/06/2024, 24/09/2024 APM, 12/11/2024	Apologies to nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk
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