

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Minutes of the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership Meeting Tuesday 12th November 2024, 7-9 pm North Berwick Community Centre & TEAMS

Voting Members present:	Substitute members present:
Hilary Smith, Chair (HS)	
Liz Forsyth, Aberlady Community Association (LF)	Sadia Ward, Aberlady Community Association (SWard)
Mairi Benson, North Berwick Community Council (MB)	
Don McKee, North Berwick Community Council (DM)	
Alan Fraser, Gullane Area Community Council, (AF)	
Eric Martin, Dunpender Community Council (EM)	
Sharon Wellwood, North Berwick High School Parent School Partnership (SWellwood)	
Carole Glover, North Berwick Coastal Community Connections (CG)	
Fred McClintock, Dirleton Village Association (FMc)	
Janice MacLeod, Support from the Start (JM)	
Lorna Scott, Gullane Village Association (LS)	
Mitchell Stevenson, VCEL (MS)	
Carol Murray, NBC Bloom Group (CMu)	
Joyce Surfleet, North Berwick Day Centre (JS)	
Kathy Duncan, Sustaining North Berwick (KD)	
Brett Walker, Chair On The Move (BW)	

Others in attendance:

Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager (DH)
 Shirley Gillie, Unified Business Support – ELC (SG)
 Laura Chant, Population Health Project Manager – NHS Lothian (LChant)
 Zena Trendell, Gullane Area Community Council (ZT)
 Lorna Raeburn, Glorious Gullane Bloomers (LR)
 Veronica Campanile, Gullane Village Hall (VC)
 Iain Blake Bell, Gullane Village Hall (IBB)

Apologies:

Cllr Carol McFarlane, Elected Member East Lothian Council (CM)
 Cllr Liz Allen, Elected Member East Lothian Council (LA)
 Kirsty Towler, NB Environment Trust & Heritage Trust (KT)
 Frank Neate, Gullane Area Community Council (FN)
 Marilyn McNeil, IJB (MM)
 Jane McMinn, North Berwick Harbour Trust (JMc)
 Glyn Taylor, Gullane School Parent Carer Partnership (GT)
 Kathrine Sellar, Gullane School Parent Carer Partnership (KS)
 Lauren Cowie, NBC Children & Youth Network (LC)
 Tim Harding, Lime Grove TRA Community Group (TH)
 Simon Metzner, NB District Assoc of Churches (SM)
 Alex Hutchison, North Berwick - In Bloom Groups (AH)

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		
	The Minutes from the meeting held on the 18/06/2024 were agreed and accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.	
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. LR advised that although she was not an In Bloom Group voting Member, that the Bloom Group had an application for consideration this evening.	
4. Matters Arising		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership : following a query raised on school representation, HS confirmed that the parent councils of all primary schools in the catchment area for NBHS, in addition to the High School, are core members of the AP. Collectively they can exercise a total of two votes. LF offered to establish who the Aberlady representatives might be. • Local Place Plans – HS was blown away with the AGM. DM updated all re the NBC Local Place Plan. A number of Community representatives highlighted difficulties experienced communicating with ELC Planning representatives and the expectation placed on them to produce LLPs. It was noted that there appeared to be discrepancies between the requirements of an LLP as stated by Scottish Government and what was required by ELC. HS praised all for the work undertaken to produce LLPs, and advised that they would be the backbone for the new Area Plan. • 20mph entering North Berwick, Haddington Road – BW showed members a map on the screen of the current speed restrictions entering North Berwick, and a proposal for having uniform 20mph restrictions on entry to the town. DH advised that the proposal had been submitted to the Roads Team to take forward. BW updated members that the On The Move sub group were getting things done slowly. This year the Dirleton Green Lighting project got the full £45,000 influence of the Road Budget. BW looked for approval for next years Roads Budget influence, a crossing point in North Berwick that had been identified within the Charette. HS stated that there was no guarantee of next years budget allocation and would prefer to have this confirmed before making any decisions on how it should be allocated. 	
5. Reports from Subgroups		
	<p>NBC Children & Youth Network Holiday Hunger Allocation</p> <p>JM advised that the sub group last year recommended that ELOSCN, NB Youth Project and Kindness Cooperative receive £1,000 each for Holiday Hunger. This year the sub group are again recommending the same. Evaluations have been received and are very positive. DH confirmed that this funding comes from Education to support those families in receipt of free school meals to ensure children have food during the</p>	

holiday periods. The funding is not from the General Budget. The Children & Youth Network believed these 3 organisations are best for blanket coverage.

Members voted YES:14 Abstain/Objection/Against:0

MB added that there are still some funds held in NB Community Councils Resilience Fund, and maybe in future years this could be something that could be tapped into for this purpose.

NBC Health & Wellbeing Association

- **H&WA AGM – Setting priorities and next steps** – HS advised LChant came along to the Health & Wellbeing Association AGM and subsequent meeting to facilitate a workshop to take forward agreed priorities. LChant and Robin Grant (retired consultant) presented statistical information during the workshops that assisted Members to identify gaps and priorities in the Coastal Ward, in relation to Health & Wellbeing. It is hoped that the work undertaken by the Health & Wellbeing Association in identifying gaps and priorities will influence the Health and Social Care Partnership to target resources appropriately in relation to community needs.
- **Kindness Cooperative – Christmas Cheer** – DH took time to explain how Christmas Cheer had been run in previous years and highlighted the overwhelming generosity of community in donating cash and gifts to support local income families within the Coastal Ward at Christmas time. The previous model for delivery had proved to be too labour intensive, as last year there had been an overwhelming number of referrals for support. DH stated that he had been working with Rotary Club of North Berwick and volunteers to look at a more efficient method of delivery. This year specific gifts will be identified by referrers for specific individuals. This will reduce the amount of donations and sorting time. Instead of food Aldi vouchers will be provided, with a value of £7 per individual within a household. eg If a household has 5 members (2 adults and 3 children) a voucher of £35. Vouchers excludes the purchase of alcohol or tobacco products. DH asked anyone who would like to make a referral to get in touch. DH advised that information on the initiative and the referral process had already been shared widely across the ward.
- **Walking Festival – 2024 Report** – HS advised the 2024 report is now available. Please let us know if you would like a copy. This year was bigger and better than last year. More people going, getting more active. Some walks were themed which were very successful. There is still some money left which will help to start planning for next years Festival. Planning has already started. Next year is it hoped to work more closely with other organisations, agencies, walking groups and festivals in the area. Anyone interested in volunteering please get in touch. Looking to build capacity next year, and the website is assisting with this. We need to look at how we can use the website throughout the year to promote walking and not just the one week that the Festival is running. If anyone has anything relevant they would like us to share on this website please get in touch.
HS stated she hoped to map all the community gardens (not parks) across East Lothian. If you know of any community gardens please let us know. It would be great for the county. MS advised the Climate Hub may have done something similar so would be good to contact Jo Gibb to check. HS will speak to her in the next few days.

SG to share

On the Move Group – BW gave his update earlier in the meeting under matter arising.

	<p>Support from the Start Item not addressed due to time constraints.</p> <p>Volunteer Centre East Lothian VCEL Item not addressed due to time constraints.</p> <p>NHS Lothian Item not addressed due to time constraints.</p>	
6. Reports from Community Councils		
	<p>Gullane Area Community Council Item not addressed due to time constraints.</p> <p>North Berwick Community Council Item not addressed due to time constraints.</p>	
7. Reports from Village Representatives		
	<p>Aberlady Community Association <i>Post meeting note:- LF of ACA submitted the below report prior to the meeting. Due to time constraints, the report was not presented during the course of the meeting.</i></p> <p>Aberlady Village Hall</p> <p>Planning permission has been granted for the installation of solar panels, an air source heat pump and new entrance doors at the Village Hall. The Community Association will now proceed to the Stage 4 Technical Designs and the application for a Building Warrant, for the renovation project.</p> <p>Local Place Planning</p> <p>The draft Local Place Plan has now been published and has been made available to all residents for comments. This process will be completed on 10th November and any comments will be added to the document.</p> <p>Aberlady in Bloom</p> <p>A group from the AiB team hosted Aberlady cubs in the Memorial Garden where the children were introduced to a number of insects through their appearance and their role in the garden. An insect hunt took place and plant maintenance helped the cubs to attain their gardening badges.</p> <p>A group from the AiB team assisted the children from the After School Club to turn an unused patch of ground at Aberlady School into a flower and vegetable garden.</p> <p>Meetings and working parties continue to take place throughout the Autumn. Bulbs have been planted in established boxes and containers. A significant number of bulbs were planted recently at the Gullane Road entrance to the village to help to signify a village gateway. Pom poms have been added to the gateway planters to add colour. A repositioned box has been planted up and placed at the foot of Haddington Road.</p> <p>The team has tidied up the Memorial Garden in preparation for Remembrance Sunday and the service around the War Memorial.</p> <p>Aberlady Craft Group.</p> <p>Since our last report the group created an Olympic topper for the post box in the summer and at this time of year the post box has a Halloween themed look!</p>	

Aberlady and ELC liaison

The Aberlady Bay toilets are showing a much improved update with new doors. The inside areas have been painted. Further work still needs to take place including external painting, signage and door furniture.

It has been noted that new signage has been located at the village entrance/exit on Haddington Road. On the north side leaving the village is a warning of the uneven road surface for one mile and on the south side of the road entering the village is a sign warning of adults and children crossing the road from a pathway from the houses in the South of the village to the pavement on the other side of the road opposite Aberlady Bay.

Aberlady Pop Up Post Office

New providers are offering the service in Aberlady Village Hall on Thursday afternoons from 1.15 – 3.30pm

Aberlady Community Connections

This group now meets courtesy of both Aberlady Inn and The Leddie. It is well attended by a group identified as possibly suffering from Social Isolation. Membership is by recommendation and invitation.

Aberlady Rainbow Group.

An organiser has come forward and the group is running again weekly in the Village Hall.

Aberlady Bay Advisory Group.

This group meets in SOC twice annually where a report from the Warden is presented and related items are discussed. A member of Aberlady Community Association has been invited to attend. At the last meeting, bird and plant sightings were highlighted as was the dredging of Marl Loch and the improvement of Coffin Lane.

Aberlady Community Association

An Autumn Fair will take place on Saturday 23rd November as part of a fund raising plan and the perceived need to increase footfall and awareness of the Village Hall and its upgrade

The positions of the final benches relating to the Sit and Stroll project have been approved and will be placed near the school fence at the top of the football pitch.

Margiotta's store agreed to site the defibrillator from the old Ducks Hotel on their frontage.

The Autumn/Winter Newsletter is currently being published and will be distributed to all residents.

Resilience Planning

GACC has brought to the Association's notice that Resilience planning should be revisited. The previous plan will be updated and the Resilience Organiser will raise awareness of the plan to village residents.

The Loupin-on-Stone.

It has been reported that this historic monument outside the Church is in bad state of repair. Information on the responsibility of maintenance is currently being sought.

Dirleton Village Association

Item not addressed due to time constraints.

Gullane Village Association

Post meeting note:- LS of GVA submitted the below report prior to the meeting. Due to time constraints, the report was not presented during the course of the meeting.

GULLANE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION REPORT – November 2024

- The GVA held its annual Artisan Fair giving 13 local craft traders space to sell their products and for locals to enjoy starting their Christmas shopping. The event also raised over £1,500 towards GVA projects.
- Last month the GVA invited Nina Long, Countryside Ranger to talk at a member's night on 'Enhancing Nature at Gullane'. She was really interesting & informative, and topics included the problems that face Gullane including beach invasive species, and dune erosion. We have not put Nina in touch with the Primary School to do similar with them.
- A new initiative subsidised by the GVA is 4 taster chair-based yoga sessions. Delivered by the very experienced Nicola Bourke and followed by a half hour social with refreshments. A great turnout of 22 attended the first session and we hope that the sessions will be a permanent fixture on the Recreation Hall calendar giving less able-bodied participants the opportunity to enjoy yoga.
- Using the sewing machines funded by the Community Council, 3 blocks of 6 weekly Beginners Sewing Sessions have been completed with enthusiastic new sewers completing 5 projects throughout the course. The sessions are taught free of charge by 2 of our trustees & a GVA member and therefore raising additional funds for future projects. A Christmas sewing session is arranged for all of those who have attended so far.
- A meeting was held recently with Development Trust Association Scotland in order that the GVA work to become prepared for the likely outcome of the end of the Recreation Hall lease in March 2025, anticipating that Community Asset Transfer may be suggested. The GVA have also met with Strathclyde University in the hope that a group of students may wish to get involved in the process.
- The 15th issue of the Gullane Newsletter has now been distributed to over 1,700 village households highlighting Health & Wellbeing, What's On in the village, news from the Primary School and churches, as well as Dates for your Diary over the festive season.

Whitekirk Village CIC

Item not addressed due to time constraints.

DH shared the below General Budget slide during the discussion on the applications. Projects in green have been approved and paid. Projects in orange are applications being considered tonight.

NORTH BERWICK COASTAL AREA PARTNERSHIP 2024/2025 BUDGET PRIORITIES				
	Amenity Services	Roads	General £45K	Holiday Hunger
Project	£	£50,000.00	£45,000.00	£
Fringe By The Sea			£2,500.00	
GVA - Big Belly Bins			£2,000.00	
Aberlady Comm Ass - Public Toilet Maintenance			£314.00	
Dirleton Heritage Lighting Project		£50,000.00		
Gullane Comm Ass - enhancing accessibility GVH Chair Lift			£10,000.00	
North Berwick In Bloom - Glorious Gullane Bloomers - Renew Plants			£4,000.00	
ELOSCN - Holiday Hunger				£ 1,000
Kindness Cooperative - Holiday Hunger				£ 1,000
North Berwick Youth Project - Holiday Hunger				£ 1,000
TOTAL	£ -	£ 50,000	£ 18,814	£ 3,000
BALANCE	£100,000.00	£0.00	£26,186.00	£0.00

9. Applications General Budget 2024/2025

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

The following applications were discussed:-

- Gullane Community Association – Enhancing Accessibility GVH – Chair Life - £10,000
Members voted: 8 YES 4 Against 2 Abstain
- North Berwick in Bloom & Glorious Bloomers – renew plants - £4,000
Members voted 11 YES 0 Objections/Abstain

10. A.O.C.B.

HS thanked everyone for their patience, perseverance and an added that she valued everyone's opinion.

Dates of Next Meetings

2025 Meeting Dates
21.01.2025 - 25.02.2025 - 29.04.2025 - 24.06.2025 -
23.09.2025 AGM – 11.11.2025

Apologies to
nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk