

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Minutes of the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership Meeting Tuesday 21st January 2025, 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)
Cllr Carol McFarlane, Elected Member East Lothian Council (CM)	
Kirsty Towler, NB Environment Trust & Heritage Trust (KT)	
Alan Fraser, Gullane Area Community Council, (AF)	
Eric Martin, Dunpender Community Council (EM)	
Frank Neate, Gullane Area Community Council (FN)	
Carole Glover, North Berwick Coastal Community Connections (CG)	
Fred McClintock, Dirleton Village Association (FMc)	
Janice MacLeod, Support from the Start (JM)	
Lauren Cowie, NBC Children & Youth Network (LC)	
Mitchell Stevenson, VCEL (MS)	
Simon Metzner, NB District Assoc of Churches (SM)	
Alex Hutchison, North Berwick - In Bloom Groups (AH)	
Kathy Duncan, Sustaining North Berwick (KD)	
Brett Walker, Chair On The Move (BW)	
Glyn Taylor, Gullane School Parent Carer Partnership (GT)	
Nicky Fox, NB Community Centre Management Committee (NF)	
Kenny Miller, North Berwick Community Council (KM)	

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)
 Katie Reid, Support from The Start (KR)
 Jim Conway, Carers of East Lothian (JC)
 Robin Grant, North Berwick Coastal Area Health & Social Care Charity (RG)

Apologies:

Sharon Wellwood, North Berwick High School Parent School Partnership (SWellwood)
 North Berwick High School pupil council
 Lorna Scott, Gullane Village Association (LS)
 Tim Harding, Lime Grove TRA Community Group (TH)
 Krish Bissoonauth, Gullane Village Association (KB)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS, DECISIONS <i>Actions</i>	FAO

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies		
	HS welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New year. Round the table introductions were made and apologies were noted.	
2. Minutes Previous Meeting		
	<p>The Minutes from the meeting held on the 12/11/2024 were agreed and accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.</p> <p>DH wanted to apologies for the technical issues at last meeting. Both Bluetooth speakers required a software update, hence the poor sound quality. DH has offered the hybrid option since starting in post during October 2020 to accommodate Members need and circumstance.</p> <p>DH advised to present during a meeting he needed to be cognisant of conversation in the room & on screen and engage accordingly, spot people raising their hands in the room (and again on screen), manage the emails that people send him during the meeting. Its like being a DJ.</p> <p>HS added she is grateful to DH for offering hybrid and reiterated apologies and confirmed we are doing our best.</p>	
3. Declaration Of Interest		
	This is a standing item on the agenda. Please declare any conflict of interest when voting. There is application being considered tonight. KM noted his conflict of interest in relation to the North Berwick Community Councils application for a defibrillator and maintenance costs.	
4. Matters Arising		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Membership : North Berwick Coastal Area Health & Social Care Charity (NBCA H&SCC)</p> <p>RG gave a presentation on the background and aims of the charity. RG confirmed they are looking to join the NBC Area Partnership. Presentation attached. Members welcomed the presentation and a number of discussions took place in relation to specific items within it. HS thanked RG for his presentation and asked Members to vote in relation to NBCA H&SCC becoming a full Member of NBC AP.</p> <p>Members voted: 20 YES 0 Against 0 Abstain</p> <p>HS welcomed NBCA H&SCC to the NBC Area Partnership.</p> <p>Local Place Plans: HS asked for an update from each area.</p> <p>Gullane: - AF reported that the Local Place Plan for Gullane has not yet been registered as valid. Notwithstanding, a Local Place Plan has no weight in the determination of a planning application.</p> <p>AF went on to advise that he and other colleagues from GACC (and BW) had waited 4 hours at the recent ELC Planning Committee to make representation in relation to 16 new houses being proposed for Gullane. In particular the detrimental impact that these would have on the already not fit for purpose wastewater treatment in the area. The validity of Local Place Plans and their ability to influence Planning and ELCs forth coming Local Development Plan 2 appears to be negligible, if they have any validity or influence at all.</p> 	

	<p>North Berwick:- KM confirmed final draft consultation prior to submission with steering group had taken place. Have a few updates still to be made. Hoping to be submitted very soon. KM stated that he was disappointed with time the consultants had taken to produce the final draft. Alarming to hear that they are not given due attention by Council.</p> <p>Aberlady:- SW confirmed that Aberlady Local Place Plan has been approved and registered by ELC. SW went on to advise that the next priority for the Community Association was to start drafting an Action Plan for the village of Aberlady.</p> <p>HS thanked everyone for the work that had gone into the Local Place Plans and went on to advise that she would be utilising all the Plans in the production of the New Area Plan as the old one 2019-2024 had now expired. HS again asked for those interested in taking part in a short working group to get in touch with her. She went on to say that she envisaged the exercise taking 2 afternoons and offered the use of her house and coffee and biscuits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday Hunger Allocation: DH confirmed that KR had provided a satisfactory report and was duly awarded £1,000 which was recommended by the Children & Youth network and ratified at the full Area Partnership. <p>HS asked KR is she would be willing to report back on the Christmas Cheer initiative as it very much tied in with Holiday Hunger and Food Poverty. KR advised Christmas Cheer had supported 46 households. 76 Adults and 87 Children. This year vouchers replaced food. In previous years the provision of food had caused a number of storage and distribution issues. By providing Aldi vouchers that precluded the purchase of alcohol, families were then able to purchase food of choice, not necessarily turkey and Brussel sprouts. Similarly, the angel tree model meant that specific gifts could be identified for specific individuals. The referral and collection processes have now been further streamlined to ensure efficiency and delivery of the service. KR thanked all those that had been involved in particular Jan Gaunt and Tracey Cunningham in making Christmas Cheer such a success. She went on to thank Dirleton Fete and Games, and the Glen Golf Club for their generous donations. Report attached.</p> <p>HS highlighted again the numbers of adults and children that this initiative has supported, and the difference it makes to peoples lives in the Coastal Ward.</p>	
<p>5. Reports from Subgroups</p>		
	<p>NBC Children & Youth Network - JM advised that the 1st meeting of the New Year was currently being planned, and dates were being looked at. LC advised that a local business that manufactures water bottles had donated £5 from every sale before Christmas to North Berwick Youth Project. She went on to advise that Gullane Games had also donated £150 to the project. Funds will be used to support free fitness session for young people.</p> <p>On the Move Group – BW Area Partnership 2025/2026 budget is as yet unconfirmed. OTM would like to progress road crossings with allocated budget influence, as identified within their Action Plan and the 2017 Charrette. Coastal car park - AC's report forwarded to Chief Exec who had referred it to Peter Forsyth, Road Services. BW advised he would follow up for a response.</p>	

	<p>Digital speed devices – Aberlady, Whitekirk, Gullane and NB school campus remain faulty or are not working. DH agreed to follow up again with Roads colleagues. NB High Street. Addition of loading bay outside Police – This is an Experimental TRO that will last a maximum of 18 months. Members expressed frustration at the change, questioned the 11th hour change and asked Councillor CM to please clarify. JC expressed enthusiasm for work on High Street starting after years of speculation and debate.</p> <p>NBC Health & Wellbeing Association – HS advised that the priorities for the HWA and the forthcoming Area Partnership Plan had been identified during workshops prior to Christmas, and had now been pulled together into a useable format. She went on to say that a meeting would be called next month with a view to finalising priorities, aims, objectives and format.</p>	
<p>6. Reports from Community Councils</p>		
	<p>Gullane Area Community Council AF & FN again advised of their disappointment regarding the lack of acknowledgement by ELC that the current wastewater treatment in the Gullane Area is insufficient to support current demands far less 16 new houses. FN highlighted that Scottish Water had acknowledged the inadequacies of the current wastewater treatment facilities some years ago. However ELC have stated that they have no evidence or knowledge of this. FN expressed frustration at the impact the lack of sewage treatment was having on the environment and in particular Aberlady Bay. He went on to provide details on the legitimacy of discharges in the local area.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note added at the request of FN:-</i> It is an offence to fail to comply with or contravene or cause or permit others to fail to comply with or contravene, a water use licence, including any condition imposed.</p> <p>Directors, manager and other individuals within a company may be held personally liable for offence under Regulation CAR/L/1001550. 23rd Feb 2007 issued.</p> <p>Further information available from FN at Gullane Area Community Council. HS acknowledged the frustration and angst felt by FN and others.</p> <p>North Berwick Community Council KM advised that the Community Council had spent much of its time dealing with the proposed parking measures about to be introduced in North Berwick. He was pleased to announce that Picnic In The Park would be again taking place this year on 8.6.2025. Keep an eye on social media for more information.</p> <p>Dunpender Community Council/Whitekirk CIC EM was pleased to report that ELC had been filling in potholes in and around Whitekirk over the last few days. HS enquired about the possibility of holding a future AP meeting at the recently refurbished Whitekirk Village Hall.</p>	
<p>7. Reports from Village Representatives</p>		
	<p>Aberlady Community Association LF highlighted various topics from the report received from Aberlady Community Association included below.</p> <p>Post meeting note Aberlady Community Association OSCR has given approval for transferring our assets from the current ACA charity to a new SCIO</p>	

Village Hall

WiFi has been installed

The Christmas Fair was very successful raising over £1500

Planning permission has been given for solar panels and a heat pump for the small hall.

A group of volunteers plan to upgrade the decor in the small hall so that it can be used more frequently and create an income source.

Investment is needed to progress with the warrant and technical specification stage for the planned hall improvements

Local Place Planning

The Local Place Plan has been accepted and now registered with the Council.

A Community Action Plan will be addressed in the near future.

Aberlady Bay

A meeting took place with John Harrison, Aberlady in Bloom members and committee members from Aberlady Community Association on Sea Green in December to discuss the creation of a wild flower area later this year.

Aberlady in Bloom

The AGM took place this month in The Aberlady Inn. Aberlady is looking forward to seeing the results of the Spring bulb planting.

Aberlady Craft Group.

A very jolly and beautiful Snowy/ Winter post box topper was created by the group.

The Old Bakehouse coffee shop will no longer open at the weekends. Craft classes will be extended in the area instead

Aberlady and ELC liaison

Further work still needs to be done to continue with the upgrading of the Aberlady Bay toilets including external painting, signage and door furniture.

Aberlady Primary School

The Gala Committee planned a Burns Supper for 25th January but this had to be cancelled for lack of support.

SWard advised that a Just Giving page had been launched by an Aberlady resident to raise funds to maintain one of the villages defibrillators. The target was £800, however between 24/36 hours of the page being advertised, £1700 had been raised.

LF and BW conferred as to the condition of Postmans Walk in Aberlady. DH advised that the path was not adopted by ELC. He had also been advised that should the community have any concerns regarding the upkeep of the path that these should be addressed to the estate. AF questioned the walk being a right of way and the councils responsibility to upkeep it.

LF enquired if there had been any further communication with the contractor who had visited Coffin Lane with a view to providing support with its upkeep as part of the Councils Procurement and Community Benefit procedures. DH advised that he would get back to the contractor to enquire if there was any opportunity for him or his team to be part of the proposed works that the community and ELC Countryside Rangers were going to undertake on Friday 31/01/2015.

Dirleton Village Association

FMc advised they have now been renamed to Dirleton Community Association.

	<p>Gullane Village Association</p> <p><i>Post meeting note:- KB 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.</i></p> <p>GULLANE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION REPORT – January 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The GVA hosted a GVA Members Night at the end of November. This was a Paint & Sip festive creative session and was led by local artist Kat Healy and well attended and enjoyed by all ages. The next Members Night is a Burns Night Talk and social on Tuesday 21st January. We now have over 100 members, membership is open to any adult in the community at no charge. · In December, GVA members supported a Christmas Card making session with the Gullane Youth Club involving watercolour and acrylic painting techniques. Great fun was had by all. · Following the GVA initiative to establish chair-based yoga sessions in the Recreation Hall, delivered by the very experienced Nicola Bourke, this has now become a regular session. From a health & well-being perspective, this has been hugely beneficial to people living with mobility issues, injuries and the socially isolated. · ‘Gullane Sewcial’, run by GVA members, is continuing on the success of last year by arranging follow on sewing sessions at a more intermediate level. A block of beginner’s sessions will start after the Easter holidays. · The 16th issue of the Gullane Newsletter is now being compiled for distribution early February to over 1,700 village households. We have had really positive feedback from the community stating how useful the information provided is and how nice it is to keep in touch with what’s going on in the village. · The Belly Bins initiative has now been completed with 2 new bins replacing old bins that were no longer fit for purpose. The artwork by local artist Steven Butcher has been much admired capturing the beauty of Gullane beach & habitat. 	
<p>8. Reports from other relevant Member Organisations</p>		
	<p>Volunteer Centre East Lothian VCEL</p> <p>MS wanted to highlight a surgery for Community Groups that would be used to highlight the range of support offered by Volunteer Centre East Lothian. MS stated the he wanted Community groups to know who and what VCEL are. He went on to say that he was keen to host face to face meetings in the first instance. Looking at monthly or bi monthly in each area. The surgeries would be open to everyone including professionals and volunteers. Still in planning stages. Dates and venues to follow. MS highlighted the crucial role that volunteers now play in the delivery of Community based activities and programmes, and highlighted some of the training and supports that VCEL can offer.</p> <p>NHS Lothian</p> <p>LChant reiterated MS from VCELs observations regarding the NHS Community Benefit Gateway portal to please get in touch with her or MS for further information.</p> <p>https://www.nss.nhs.scot/procurement-and-logistics/governance-and-sustainability-services/access-our-community-benefit-gateway/</p>	
<p>9. Budget Report</p>		
	<p>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.</p>	

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
North Berwick Community Council - Defibrillator Maintenance			£1,800.00	
TOTAL	£ -	£ 50,000	£ 20,614	£ 3,000
BALANCE	£100,000.00	£0.00	£24,386.00	£0.00

HS thanked DH and added that half the budget remains unspent. Asked everyone to have a think about projects as it is a substantial amount of money left.
DH added the closing date for applications for this financial year is Friday 7th February 2025 and decisions will be taken at the next NBC AP meeting on 25th February 2025.

10. Applications General Budget 2024/2025

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

The following application was discussed:-

- North Berwick Community Council – Defibrillator maintenance - £1,800
Members voted: 19 YES 0 Against 1 Abstain/Conflict

FM highlighted the importance of safety equipment being unlocked and available. He advised several times during the meeting that defibrillator boxes should not be locked. RG concurred that the was the current recommended advice from the Ambulance Service.

11. 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
25.02.2025 - 29.04.2025 - 24.06.2025 - 23.09.2025 AGM – 11.11.2025

Apologies to
nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk