

## ELCC Meeting Minutes – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

### **Present:**

Colin Bloomfield (Host); Chris Bruce (Chair); Cris Thacker; Janice Hanvidge; Anne Lyall; Donna Collins; Janette MacDonald; Julia Harrison

### **Introductions**

### **Items/Agenda agreed**

#### **1. Offshore Wind Farm**

Rosie Scurr, Onshore Environment and Consents Manager for NnG Offshore Wind would like to deliver a presentation on construction works of the onshore substation site and installation of the cable. This was to take place on 5<sup>th</sup> May but due to Covid crisis and virtual nature of meetings, it was suggested that she create and deliver a presentation that all members can access and view in advance of the next meeting. Then she would still join the meeting to take any questions arising.

#### **2. Plastic Recycling Plant**

Viridor propose building a Plastic Recycling plant next to the ERF, which will be of great importance and interest to the community given that around 100 people attended the ERF consultation meeting. Martin Fyfe was attending a meeting which happened at 7pm on the same night as this meeting, and will provide further information as a result of that. There is also virtual exhibition available online until 8<sup>th</sup> May. Although there is a chimney on the drawings for the latest plant, the understanding is that no noxious fumes will be produced; this plant will be designed to take in a wide range of formats of plastics, to be sorted, separated, washed, decontaminated and made into raw polymers. Cautious optimism as this plant appears to be more environmentally friendly than previous Viridor builds, and the employment benefits to the area will be beneficial.

#### **3. Covid Response**

Arrangement of card distribution across ELCC areas, plus some queries over boundaries and who is in charge of certain areas within Innerwick and Spott. Discussion of how best to build in resilience to the team, as there are many volunteers in the different areas but fewer co-ordinators, and perhaps a back-up system may be required in the event of illness/changed circumstances.

#### **4. Sustaining Dunbar Grant Recipients of Supporting Communities Fund**

i. £12K was jointly applied for and awarded to Dunbar, Duppender, West Barns and ELCC under the umbrella of this fund. However, because ELCC are in possession of wind farm monies, it was agreed ELCC will not receive any of this funding and will not take any if offered. This needs to be clarified and in particular with Sustaining Dunbar as their website indicates that ELCC will get 1/4 of this sum which we are not.

ii. Rev Suzie Fletcher applied for and was awarded £4330 for the Parish of Dunglass in partnership with ELCC, IPWA and CCCC from the Supporting Communities Fund. According to Sustaining Dunbar website, some of this is to offset the costs of to the church of her work in the community (mileage, etc), some of it is to ensure we have sufficient food to feed those needing assistance, some of it is allocated to organising volunteers and other sundry expenses such as the phone calls, equipment, etc needed to do this.

It must be made clear that within East Lammermuir our Covid-19 SPoC's are not receiving monies from this to organise volunteers, mileage, phone calls etc and volunteers are not being paid for their contribution to the Covid response.

#### **5. Community Windpower Funding / Be Green**

Community Windpower have been in contact to suggest £20K of the £60K due to ELCC be diverted for the Covid response in East Lammermuir. Be Green have suggested that ELCC can apply for this fund in amounts of up to £2500, as at present ELCC still does not have a signed contract with Community Windpower. ELCC's preference would be for the contract to be finally agreed so that the £20K can be received as a full grant, and said monies be disbursed by ELCC for which Community Windpower/Be Green would be sent appropriate breakdown of spend

#### **6. Local Priorities**

J Hanvidge is working towards a response about the East Lothian Council local priorities provision of £2750 between the four villages. It was suggested that Spott and Innerwick quotas could be used to assist with their lack of local funding at present.

Oldhamstocks has not cashed £1000 of Covid hardship funding gifted by ELCC due to not requiring it, and this could also go to Spott and Innerwick in the present circumstances. The maintenance of halls as community hubs is crucial at these points, as they benefit the people in the community on a wide level.

#### **7. Community Support Fund**

From £41000, now standing at around £35000. Only 1 application received so far, but donations have been made to each welfare association and to cover expenses such as stationery, gloves, and the printing of 3 different Covid information cards. Emphasis made on how to move forward productively into Phase 2 of the Covid crisis, where mental health and wellbeing of the community was marked as a key priority. Local GP services have been contacted and other short and long-term solutions to this issue were suggested: wellbeing officer, counsellor funding, Princes' Trust, Mental Health First Aid, Carers East Lothian, Mental Health Nurse, community link worker, Thistle Foundation, Young Scot, local schools. All members in agreement that taking care of mental health and wellbeing, particularly in the aftermath of full

lockdown but also as a longer-term measure for the community, was extremely important.

#### **8. Banking**

Agreement that online banking would be a useful move in order to transfer money swiftly in the event of requests from families and individuals in need. Some challenges and difficulties in actually applying to go digital, and much work carried out by Janice and Chris – still being worked on, but having online banking is the aim.

#### **9. Other Funding/AOB**

Cycle route funding deadline closes 1<sup>st</sup> May. Suggestions made for where lanes should be added, and also a suggestion for these lanes not to be simply 'pop-up' lanes, but for the opportunity to be taken to make these permanent alterations, changing the infrastructure. Morag Haddow (ELC Transport Planning Officer) has put Chris' suggestions forward for this. Also, more suggestions for wellbeing sessions that are accessible and appealing to all ages/genders.

#### **10. New Community Councillor**

Julia Harrison co-opted as new member for Innerwick Village. ELC to be advised that Julia will join the community council until such time as community council elections are held – now possibly October 2021.

### **Actions**

- Invite Rosie Scurr to forward initial presentation, and then attend next meeting for questions (Chris Bruce)
- Arrange distribution of cards in Innerwick area, including checking boundaries for certain areas and seeing if volunteers able to cover those areas can be found (Julia Harrison)
- Contact Sustaining Dunbar re clarification in Supporting Communities Fund statements (Chris Bruce)
- Contact Be Green to discuss contract agreement (Chris Bruce)
- Further discussion on building in resilience to Covid response co-ordination (Julia Harrison and Janice Hanvidge)
- Resubmission of online banking application (Chris Bruce and Janice Hanvidge)
- Ask Dunbar Medical Centre for their suggestions about how to support mental health and wellbeing moving forward (Julia Harrison)
- Contact Mental Health First Aid to discuss course delivery (Julia Harrison)
- Contact Thistle Foundation to discuss wellbeing services as long-term prospect for the community (Chris Bruce and Cris Thacker)
- Research use of a mental health worker in North Berwick High School as a model for future support for youths in East Lothian (Cris Thacker)
- Contact Connections to find out waiting times for counselling (Donna Collins)

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm, virtual meeting hosted by Colin Bloomfield