

ELCC Meeting – Tuesday 16th November 2021

Innerwick Village Hall, 7.30pm

1. Present/Apologies

Present - Community Councillors: Colin Bloomfield, Chris Bruce, Kelvin D'Arcy-Burt, Anne Lyall, Wendy Smillie, Julia Harrison.

Apologies – Cris Thacker, Donna Collins.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of 26th October 2021 approved (proposed CBI; seconded CBr)
- Minutes of the last meeting of 15th June were approved by unanimous email decision.

3. Matters Arising

CBr had sent out a link to the Spaces for People consult on extending the 20mph limit throughout East Lothian. ELCC members present went through the questionnaire for organisations and a group response was sent. ELCC members present confirmed access to the link to the questionnaire for individual responses.

Training for roles within East Lothian Community Councils was confirmed to be coming soon, but no specific dates given yet.

National Care Service Briefing, 28th October 2021 – WS attended and provided extensive notes. ELC are concerned about the proposals for a number of reasons:

- The initial proposal was based on a report on adult social care, but the proposals from Scottish Government go beyond that remit and encompass children's services and more. ELC do not support the widening of this remit.
- The removal of responsibility due to centralisation of control: a loss of local knowledge, networks, and particularly the local voice of people

directly impacted and working within social care; transference of responsibility to unelected members; a lack of local democracy and accountability; broken links between organisations.

- The financial implications, including a lack of details about costs; the possibility of bids for contracts happening outwith East Lothian and compounding the issue of loss of local knowledge and voice; implications for jobs, particularly for staff on the ground.
- Lack of clarity on what the proposals mean to each of the political parties – this is the start of the process but it is likely to be politicised and will be a big topic at hustings.
- A huge amount of money would be needed to enact these proposals, and there is a feeling that this money would be better spent improving the system already in place.

One positive would be the opportunity to standardise pay conditions and contracts across the system, and also to gain uniformity of standards.

ELC's response has been submitted, and the responses to the proposal will be published next year.

An invitation was to be extended to the three energy networks, SPEN, SSE, and NnG involved in the offshore windfarm project, for attendance at the ELCC meeting on 18th January 2021. CBr has been in contact with Paul McLennan to discuss Community Windpower and the financial funding implications for the 22 new wind turbines in the area, as well as encouraging links with The Ridge in Dunbar. This was to encourage these companies to employ a percentage of local residents as around 1000 new infrastructure jobs will be created in East Lothian as a result of this project. ELCC members encouraged to think about proposals to these companies for the upcoming meeting. **(Action: ALL)**

4. ELCC Membership

Due to other commitments, CT has stood down as a co-opted member of ELCC, and will no longer be able to undertake the role of communications officer and the running of the website. JH to contact Janette Macdonald about the time and training required to undertake this as part of the secretarial role. **(Action: JH)**

5. Treasurer's Report

Last year's accounts have been approved and returned by the auditor.

CBI was in possession of last year's accounts and will send a copy of these to East Lothian Council. **(Action: CBI)**

Crystal Rig 3 is accumulating funds as no agreement on allocation plan has been finalised yet.

A significant number of funding applications have been sent in, and two large village hall projects anticipated – these will be discussed at the next funding meeting of the ELCC (23rd November 2021).

6. Liaison Meetings and Roles

Planning – KDB agreed with individual members over their preferences to receive either just the numbers alone of the planning applications relevant to their areas, or to receive the associated documentation as well.

Tarmac – David Mumford attended the meeting on 25th October 2021 on our behalf and took comprehensive notes, summarised below:

- No serious pollution problems since previous meeting.
- Concerns raised about cement works junction on A1. Possible roundabout proposed at an estimated cost of £2 million. JH to contact DM for further information on this, and to contact Tarmac to express our interest in being involved in the decision making process on this. **(Action: JH)**
- Plant working flat out – only plant in Scotland and also supplies northern England. Brexit has limited imports of cement and there is increased demand from construction industry.
- CO2 reduction strategies discussed: alternatives to cement by architects, change to cement content, consideration of new types of cement. Company are aware of need to reduce greenhouse gases, however the challenge is great given Dunbar Cement Works are the 5th biggest emitter in Scotland (Viridor are at 13th, so the local implication and challenge is significant).

- No clear map provided of new cycle path. CBr to contact cycle officer for more detail. **(Action: CBr)**

Area Partnership reps – AL and WS to attend next meeting

Association of East Lothian Community Councils – CBI now a member; update was that 12 toilet facilities across EL will be temporarily closed owing to staff shortages.

A1 Action Group – JH sent follow-up email regarding diversion signs and cycle path; awaiting response.

CAPP – KDB will attend meetings

DELAP Health and Wellbeing Group – WS attended; reports of difficulties with the vaccine rollout regarding the booking system and location issues. Some people report having to travel long distances to get appointments. This has led to frustration, with NHS staff and volunteers bearing the brunt of this.

Consultation on care at home and community hospitals ongoing – there is a willingness to engage locally in the form of face to face public meetings and a quarterly newsletter has been suggested to improve communication.

Community health and wellbeing fund holds £3000 for mental health issues due to Covid; Plans to look at introducing gatherings in local Meeting Centres to support dementia sufferers and carers. JH to pass to IPWA as similar plans being suggested locally in Innerwick. **(Action: JH)**

Huge staff shortages in care and a lot of upset due to changes in care packages. Paul McLennan planning a job fair in the new year which will aim to address this.

Issues with snack vans coming from outside East Lothian not complying with the Good Food Charter.

7. Local Updates

Stenton – Community Association has held its AGM, which was well-attended, and village hall is holding more successful events post-Covid. Concern raised about speeding at the Pitcox junction; first plan of action

is to encourage wider engagement with the Spaces for People 20mph consultation.

Spott - none

Innerwick – concerns raised about road alterations at Thurston Mains due to windfarm traffic and construction. Residents concerned about road safety and environmental impact. Breakdown in communication has occurred between residents and Community Windpower. JH to contact Paul McLennan to update on this issue and seek resolution. **(Action: JH)**

Oldhamstocks – Horticultural Society has resumed with plans for a reduced event next year; perhaps limited to daytime only.

8. Correspondence

Dunbar Basics Bank Event – WS to attend this on 3rd December 2021.

The Ridge Christmas Lunch – emphasis on publicising availability to local residents who may benefit but are not yet aware of the project and its work.

Plant a Tree for the Queen’s Jubilee – Stenton, Spott and Innerwick local groups keen to participate and seeking funding. Concern raised about availability of saplings across the UK!

Traffic Speeds at Pitcox – advised to await results of 20mph consultation. Comms email now taken over by JH.

9. Dates of Next ELCC General Meetings

- Funding meeting Tuesday 23rd November 2021 at 7.30pm, by Zoom.
- Social meet up – all members keen but December looks busy; postponed to January/February. JH to investigate local pizzerias (what a chore). **(Action: JH)**
- **Meeting Dates and Locations 2022** - to be displayed in local noticeboards; councillors to book local halls so invoices can be sent to CBI **(Action: JH, CBI, AL, CBr)**

All meetings to take place on Tuesday at 7.30pm unless otherwise indicated.

18th January – Stenton Village Hall

22nd February – Innerwick Village Hall

29th March – Oldhamstocks Village Hall

3rd May – Spott Village Hall

10th May – Funding meeting via Zoom (tbc)

7th June – Stenton Village Hall

23rd August – Innerwick Village Hall

13th September – Oldhamstocks Village Hall

25th October – Spott Village Hall

15th November – Funding meeting via Zoom (tbc)

29th November – Stenton Village Hall