

East Lammermuir Community Council

Meeting - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

*19.30 - Innerwick Church*

Minutes

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** – Chris Bruce (Chair), Julia Harrison (Secretary), Anne Lyall, Peter Branfield, Colin Bloomfield, Wendy Smillie, Stevie McKinlay, Lynn Jardine, Donna Collins, David Mumford, Elisabeth Wilson (20.30)
- 2. Apologies for absence** – Norman Hampshire, Kelvin D’Arcy Burt
- 3. David Mumford** – Update on Viridor and Tarmac
- 4. Stevie McKinlay, Community Liaison Officer, East Lothian Council**
  - Connected Communities Manager – core responsibilities involve engagement, community planning, learning and development service, community development services in each area. In team with Helen Harper, with a relatively small budget to deliver junior and senior outreach youth work. Based in Bleachingfield alongside Scouts, childcare, library. Broad remit in Dunbar and East Linton locality.
  - Currently working to support with roads, amenities, connecting with community – speaking to all community councils in area.
  - CBr summarised the main issues and concerns with East Lammermuir: very small rural community which is home to a lot of turbines, nuclear power station, waste disposal units. Disproportionate amount of planning and disruption for such a small area. National projects; must be local infrastructure and benefit. A1 trunk route with dangerous junctions. Difficulties getting investment as so far no deaths, frustration with BEAR Scotland. Active travel limited due to minimal crossings.
  - Community benefits are of big concern. Newlands Hill wind farm above Gifford is the next phase of very visible, larger turbines; the argument is that Scotland won’t reach carbon-neutral targets without this. Proposal from developer is that it should be part-owned by the community and produce sizable benefits. Can we – community

councils – approach these new developments in a way which genuinely benefits the communities?

- What we do with the benefits? Currently ELCC in the process of setting up an appropriate body to manage the funds we administer, and we also want to ensure positive relationships with council regarding that.
- Covid hardship fund supported people through a very fast system to help them - we feel positive about that but want to keep that going particularly in light of cost of living crisis. We want to prevent scams but keep it quick and accessible, but there are big challenges such as GDPR and the capacity of a small team of volunteers.
- Stevie keen to offer help and guidance; recommends finding out who is already doing similar things and is happy to communicate about that further. Will follow up with Caitlin McCorrie (sp?) to find out what council support is available.

## **5. Minutes of meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**Agreed**

## **6. Membership of Community Council**

Proposals to fill resulting vacancy for Innerwick Village community councillor. EW and JH to discuss and persuade!

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Current balance is £1730.67. An income of £138.55 was received from AELCC.

Signed accounts for 2021/22 had been sent to Peter Moore at East Lothian Council, and receipt acknowledged.

## **8. Data management and protection**

- GDPR guidance from council, we should have an officer, is there an agreement with council and other community councils about what is covered/what is not – SMcK to investigate.
- Training requested for new Google set-up; date to be decided at next meeting.

## 9. Exercise on Referral scheme

- Lyn Jardine present and interested in exercise on referral scheme. Started 22/08/22, day previous to meeting. Small pilot scheme, ELCC funded training of Enjoy Leisure staff. 100 referrals and subsequent exercise schemes are also funded. CBr has written to Fiona Wilson East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership to explain that our funding will not continue beyond this but we hope to prove a need and effectiveness through evaluation – keen to develop this conversation further. LJ to follow up response.
- LJ asks if this scheme is linked through Area HWB Partnership? Unsure: link workers probably are in touch with that though not official link. **(Action: CBr to forward what he sent to FW to LJ.)**
- Scottish Social Prescribing Network – awaiting contact details from Paul McLennan

## 10. Proposed windfarm – Newlands Hill

- Offer to host a visit from developers Bellpower – they want to come but best way forward is with a liaison group. CBr to ask them to contact JH directly.
- AELCC developments – meeting scheduled 24<sup>th</sup> August, Haddington – CB and CBr to attend.

## 11. Liaison Meetings and Roles - updates

- Area Partnership (Anne, SM input) – new model for funding proposed and will be discussed at next Monday's meeting. Key difference is a more democratic application review at the start. Trying to reduce time spent talking about funding and to focus more on actions, priority setting, planning, influencing council planning, road projects, infrastructure, two phases of funding rather than continuous applicants. CBr raised suggestion of bin lorry cameras down south, predicting new holes and repairing early and see if it saves money. Signage at Pitcox required update - bad accident recently. SMcK to highlight reporting system for incidents like that.
- East Lothian Bus forum – representative needed
- CAPP

- DELAP Health & Wellbeing Group – WS’s work patterns shifting so unable to prioritise this. Meetings have been held online until now; Friday was a hybrid meeting which worked well. SMcK can contact us in advance until we have an idea of who can take that on. Review next meeting.

## **12. Local Updates**

### **Innerwick**

- WeAreInnerwick group to engage with larger aspects of the various infrastructure projects planned in this area, deliberately distinct from IPWA. Technical knowledge in the group. At this stage, there is a need to look at what’s going to be permanent as planning permission may not cover all the details meaning surprises for residents in the future.
- Insulating Innerwick – proposed scheme by EW using windfarm money. Currently just an idea. Involves feasibility study followed by implementation; The Ridge can tender and deliver retrofitting of one building per week. Aim is to be free of charge. Addresses issues of climate change, fuel poverty, impact on health, training opportunities (SVQ in retrofitting imminent, with The Ridge a certified training centre), allowing people to live with dignity in their own community. Be Green have been approached. Rough figure was £5000 per house. This would be a pilot scheme to be evaluated. Oldhamstocks, Spott and Stenton next!
- Electric vehicles point needs to be updated.

### **Stenton**

- Doocot mended!
- Speed Sensor on the Dunbar road had been re-installed

### **Spott**

- None

## Oldhamstocks

- None

### 13. Windfarm Benefits

- CBI provided update for benefit of all - ELCC Consitution from 1976 found, establishes precedent for two members per village, and various other guidance for running the Community Council. ELCC are taking legal advice regarding a proposed contract with Fred Olsen Renewables regarding CR3.
- Legal agreements already exist with FOR for two phases for the windfarm, CR1 and 2, generating £5000 per megawatt; FOR hold all the funding and it accrues year on year. Bigger projects are funded from accrued funding, e.g.village halls. CBI provides minutes of ELCC funding meetings (as treasurer) for FOR. Ultimate legal responsibility however, lies with FOR, with ELCC acting in an advisory capacity.
- CR3 – New agreement with the aim to simplify process for FOR. As yet this is unsigned: FOR plans to issue a fixed sum each year based on the maximum capacity of this windfarm phase. ELCC are taking legal advice on how to move forward and what legal structure needs to be in place. This change means that responsibilities lie more with ELCC. FOR would require an annual report for use of CR3 funds. Initially thought best to become a charitable limited company with ELCC members being directors, giving limited liability. However, it also transpires Community Councils can also be be charitable. North Glenrothes CC are now a SCIO. Key concern is that the act of providing funding to another charitable organisation is not neccessirly considered as a charitable act in itself - in legal terms this is known simply as dispersement of funds. Active charity work is required to be considered a charitable organisation by OSCR. ELCC heading in that charitable direction but not necessarily there yet - we need further clarity over the correct legal structures. The proposed CR3 agreement most likely means needing a not for profit Limited Company which manages the CR3 funds and sits alongside ELCC – this is probably the most simple way of doing this.
- PB – Question asked, what are the benefits of being a charity? Aim would be to enable ELCC to address a broader scope of community

benefits. The recent Exercise on Referral project is an example of ELCC doing things likely to meet the OSCR charities test.

- LJ – Have ELCC considered the development trust model? Peebles Development Trust good to look at as a model. DEETAS provide very good supports. Aim is to take on a community planned approach to development. Agreement for CR1 and 2 is with ELCC specifically. Community councillors are a good group to handle funds because they are elected and have local knowledge.
- CBr – Anoushka from Be Green sent a draft agreement with Community Windpower. The new East Lammermuir Community Fund proposal is able to accept funds from other sources. Confidence needed that we have a safe system of governance. FOR keen to progress but ELCC keen to make sure we make a sound decision, even if that takes more time.
- SMcK to help us towards making a sound decision; pulling in additional support. Crystallising pros and cons of all options followed by a meeting dedicated to this topic was recommended. SMcK happy to coordinate an investigative working group if we have a think about timescales.

#### **14. Planning issues**

#### **15. Correspondence**

Spott Church – 5 year reprieve from closure received, and ELCC have been asked to look at criteria about funding buildings. Need fuller understanding of what is being requested; recommended reply to say they should put in their bid for funding and we can discuss then, looking at what happens once the reprieve is over. **Action: CBr**

#### **16. Dates of Future Meetings**

All meetings Tuesdays at 19.30:

13<sup>th</sup> September - Oldhamstocks

25<sup>th</sup> October - Spott

29<sup>th</sup> November - Stenton