

**EAST LAMMERMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER 2023
INNERWICK VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Chris Bruce Chair (Oldhamstocks)
Wendy Smillie Oldhamstocks
Anne Lyall Spott
Kelvin D’Arcy-Burt Stenton
Colin Bloomfield Treasurer (Stenton)
Sarah McLeary Local Place Plan Consultant
Cllr Donna Collins Dunbar & East Linton
David Mumford Innerwick
Cllr Lyn Jardine Dunbar & East Linton

APOLOGIES: Peter Branfield Spott
Jill Malcolmson Innerwick

Minutes of 31.10.23 accepted.

Matters Arising

- Crystal Rig Solar Farm presentation - new date to be arranged.
- Stenton - heard about speed reactive sign, item to be removed from agenda.
- Narrative - CBr to speak to KP-H before next meeting.
- Spott Road - Cllr LJ will contact BEAR for update.
- New projector - SSE have underwritten the cost of this. Projector to be left at Innerwick Hall in a secure locked place, DM to check insurance covers this.

Local Place Plan

Sarah took us through a brief presentation, using the (excellent) new projector.

- SMcL - working on documents for report. Drafted consultation report includes record of local consultations and survey results but not postcodes/names etc. Should the comments be made public, some people may be recognisable from these. This information could be separated geographically in terms of needs/categorised by themes.
- Green energy a big issue in Innerwick, housing a concern in Innerwick. Roads and paths a massive issue - maintenance, walking and cycling. Spott - better access needed across A1.
- People supported community owned energy.
- Want Local Place Plan to be brief. Local people have knowledge of where they live and what they want to happen in the future.

ACTION; SMcL asked all to have a look at the draft documents and report back anything else to be included.

- Priorities/Dreams/Actions - who can help, what might happen in the future. DM happy to look through this and send comments through if someone else could add them for him. JM name was put forward to carry out this task.
- SMcL has asked Keith Dingwall if Planning Dept have capacity to engage with this. Would like to have an agreed path by the end of January 2024.

PB suggested displaying a copy of the draft plan in village halls and other community hubs. Question raised whether it was the right thing to produce one plan for East Lammermuir or should individual villages have their own. All agreed producing one plan for whole area was the best way forward.

SMcL suggested it would be possible to share the first part of the plan with local communities as this contained nothing too controversial. LJ asked if anyone had commented about employment/training in the area. SMcL said people felt it was relatively easy to find jobs/training in the area and that it was fairly easy to get around, but they couldn't manage without their car.

CBr would like another round of community meetings in January/February 2024 to check and build on what has been achieved so far. It was suggested that the time of these meetings be changed to give people who work the chance to attend.

CBr advised the deadline is approaching, need to lodge with Council in the Spring. SMcL and CBr working towards the spring for finalised plan. In 2026 the Council final Local Development Plan will be published. Has to take account of our LPP.

Electricity infrastructure developers have agreed to jointly pay for the second phase of SMcL's work.

ACTION: community councillors to work with their local community associations to arrange village sessions to progress the local place plan. SMcL will support at these four local meetings.

PINGO style bus service

As an early positive response to the findings of the LPP survey, ELCare to trial a demand responsive bus service in the Oldhamstocks Innerwick Dunbar area, start date as yet unknown.

Community Benefits Funding

- CB still waiting for Companies House response, at bank account stage, can't proceed until CH respond. Will need a corporate accountant to check a few things, LJ suggested Katie at the Ridge.
- Cost of Living - WS did not get anywhere with Advice Direct Scotland, has had talk with Mitchell Stephenson (Volunteer East Lothian) Will see Jill about having a meeting with MS as soon as possible.

CBr talked about a well-attended meeting concerning Richmond's Hope, this is a charity providing bereavement support to children and young people. They have bases elsewhere in Scotland and it was proposed to set up a base in Dunbar offering services 2 days a week. Referrals would be made from the local area through agencies such as social services and CAMHS.

Discussion centred around how much was known about RH and how much funding ELCC would have to offer initially. Concern expressed that if funded this there would not be sufficient funds to support other needed local services.

It was felt that more information was needed before committing more at this point but at the meeting on 18th December CBr would put forward a suggested funding contribution of £5,000 per annum for three years, looking for others to match fund.

Information to be sent to LJ who suggested reaching out to Belhaven School as a possible base.

Community Benefits - East Lothian-wide proposals

- As discussed at previous meeting Association of East Lothian Community Councils have agreed in principle to establish a Benefits Trust and Fund. Working with CB to understand how our documentation works and could help them.
- KDB advised that currently at the stage of discussing what the percentages should be in principle. It is likely most benefits will be offered through ELCC, people would approach the community council.
- CBr said the outline agreement was 50/50 East Lammermuir/East Lothian, but any East Lothian service would obviously potentially benefit East Lammermuir residents.
- CBr advised no decisions were to be made at the present time, need to return to this topic.

Treasurers Report

- CB - community council balance £1,192.03.
- Spend on LPP projects £3,219.00 to date.

Police Report

- Was circulated in advance by Laura Jackson.
- KDB said it was good getting specific East Lammermuir reports. LJ said if seeing certain trends, bring these concerns to CAP meetings Laura Jackson is Police contact.

Electricity Infrastructure Developments

CBr meeting Thursday with developers then proposes a public meeting end of January 2024 where people can hear what the progress has been. *(NB date now proposed is Monday 26 February 2024)*

Developers have met with council officers and agreed in principle to fund extra planning and biodiversity officers, plus a roads/compliance/project management role. The 4th proposal CBr put in for was for a short-term consultant to help liaise with each developer about community benefits. This had not been supported.

Public Inquiry on SSE Compulsory Purchase Order - looks as if it may be going to full public enquiry, but scope as yet unclear.

Newlands Hill (Belltown Power) - Stenton Councillors agreed to devise and promote a local survey to establish local views on this proposal. This would inform the community council response to consultation on planning application which is going to Energy Consents Unit. **Action: CB & KDB**

Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy

- SMcL - a draft local heat and energy efficiency strategy LHEES been approved by ELC. East Lammermuir villages/steadings will need their own solutions outwith the ambitious projects for the whole county.
- Decarbonising home heating seen as the biggest single contribution we can make to reaching net zero.
- CBr will ask Martin Hayman, lead officer to do a presentation for us. If local communities don't get involved with district heating schemes, homeowners will not put heat exchangers into houses, need involvement to get this taken up. **Action; CBr**

Liaison Meetings and Roles

- Valencia - given notice suspending operations. Should have had first report. DC they are stopping bringing all new waste in. Next liaison meeting 31st January 2024 (DM to attend).
- Tarmac - no sign of any meeting. CBr has written to them again. Asked LJ to write to them again also. LJ Paul McLennan MSP has had some contact with them recently.

- DELAP Area Partnership - AL - Discussion about TRA? Three applications in for funding and talking about priorities for meeting new TRA?

EL Volunteers and community farm looking for money, not sure what has been given. This would swallow up all of general funding. Next round of money July 2024.

- AELCC
SMc battery energy storage systems - proposed changes to planning process will be with ELC Cabinet February. Seeking to bring better local oversight to applications.
Local Housing Strategy does not include transient housing. Housing team to investigate implications of accommodation needs for proposed electricity infrastructure developments.
- DELAP Health & Wellbeing Group - WS advised the meeting at the beginning of November was cancelled.

Local Issues

- DM - Fred Olsen Renewables have 25 year term for Crystal Rig I windfarm which runs out about 2027, plans to replace turbines with new ones. Local residents have asked of Fred Olsen for restrictions of about 20mph on vehicles/convoys etc. in respect of construction of Crystal Rig Iv, due to commence April 2024.
- Spott - nothing
- Stenton - Xmas market this Saturday 10-3pm.
- Oldhamstocks - pot holes in village to be reported again.

Correspondence

East Lothian Hydrogen Opportunities - PB to attend 8th January 2024.

Insurance for community councils - CB to check this covers new projector.

Budget Consultation LJ - council does consultation every year. It has gone out and would try and encourage as many people as possible to think about what priorities are.

Scottish Government Travelling Cabinet - 11th December Haddington - CBr attending.

Statutory Review Polling Places - Innerwick to subsume Oldhamstocks polling places. Stenton/Dunbar to subsume Spott polling station. **Action; Need to draft a consultation response at our January 2024 meeting.**

Dates of Meetings 2024

CB sent suggested dates out. CBr asked if anyone has any objections otherwise list will be published.

New version (08 January) is here;

All Tuesdays at 19.30

23 January Stenton (Belltown Power)

20 February Innerwick (Fred Olsen Renewables Solar Farm)

19 March Spott

16 April Stenton

7 May Benefits Funding meeting – Virtual

11 June Oldhamstocks

20 August Innerwick

10 September Spott (Paul McLennan MSP)

1 Oct AGM's for ELCBF Ltd and ELCB Trust (Agenda items for those AGM's only
- This is a legal annual obligation henceforth) - Stenton

29 October Innerwick

12 November Benefits Funding meeting – Virtual

3 December Oldhamstocks

MCJ 9.12.23