

EAST LAMMERMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2023

7.30 PM STENTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Chris Bruce Chair (Oldhamstocks)
Jill Malcolmson (Innerwick)
Kelvin D'Arcy-Burt (Stenton)
Colin Bloomfield Treasurer (Stenton)
Peter Branfield (Spott)
Anne Lyall (Spott)
Fiona Wilson East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership
Jane Ogden-Smith East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership
Rev David Mumford (Innerwick)

APOLOGIES: Wendy (Smillie) (Oldhamstocks)

East Lothian HSCP Provision for Older People Programme

FW and **JOS** introduced themselves and advised they are visiting Community Councils to discuss how best to deliver services/options for older people in the community.

Funding is through NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council. Issues covered include mental health, community care, social work, community hospitals, care homes. Lothian-wide rehabilitation and sexual health services are to be added to the East Lothian delegated management portfolio in the future.

Findings will go back to public consultation then presented to the IJB next October. **FW** advised if anyone wanted to be on Panel to speak with **JOS**.

Aware people want to stay in their own homes, question is how to support and prevent crisis situations. People are discharged from hospital and they want to deliver services to them at home. Believe there are sufficient hospital beds in East Lothian but still the need for private facilities ie care homes. Population and census show a surge in East Lothian numbers, particularly older people. Finances are an issue, more financial input needed. Buildings are in a poor state and need money spent on them. Want to provide a hospital at home service, to prioritise people being able to stay in their homes. East Lothian is very good in supporting people leaving hospital and want to continue this, however it is challenging providing at home care in rural areas.

Finding the workforce is more of an issue than finances. Service is provided inhouse rather than through agencies.

There are 3 local authority care homes, others are independently run. Palliative care not so good, how do we support people who wish to die at home ie. hospice at home, district nurse at home, it is finding the right balance of what people want.

Hospital bed provision - East Lothian Community Hospital has 6 wards and an Endoscopy Unit. The Edington is now more out-patients/vaccines etc. Belhaven Hospital buildings are becoming tired and need investment.

Minor injuries provision is challenging, excellent facilities at Haddington but out of hours have to go to A&E in Edinburgh.

PB asked how hospice facilities fitted in and **FW** advised there is a hospital ward to provide continuing care. Hospices are mainly based in Edinburgh, trying to create hospice at home and be flexible with beds locally. **PB** said he had experience of people who wanted to receive 24 hour care at home and **FW** said it would depend on the level of support needed and sometimes home was not the right place due to family being unable to provide this.

JM asked how this fitted in with the national care service and was told it is getting watered down, there is a need for more employees.

DM commented on how important it is to support carers looking after someone with domiciliary services in place. He gave an example of how it only took 10 minutes to show a woman how to lift her husband properly and stated it was important to encourage professionalism of all domiciliary staff to establish relationships and share skills with carers.

FW mentioned the need for local day centres linked in with respite care as something which could enable people to keep caring at home as these could be relied on weekly.

FW recognised in East Lothian there are a lot of demands on community/acute hospitals and knows what services are available. A team was put in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary who managed to get length of stays down, they are going to team up with Midlothian Acute Hospitals next.

CBr said he was aware of cases where individuals have returned home from hospital because their families have accessed direct payments to employ people to provide care, some died at home or went into Roodlands. He said there is not the level or demand in villages to employ someone permanently to do this, how this could be facilitated has been on people's minds before.

DM suggested that patients could write a disclaimer on confidentiality issues surrounding their information but was advised that GDPR doesn't allow this, **JOS** said people needed to be encouraged to talk about/plan how they would like their end of life to be. **DM** said that end of life plans make situations much easier, the plan can be kept with people and if/when someone is no longer in a position to give consent the plan can be referred to. **PB** mentioned Power of Attorney as useful too.

CBr said questions had been included in the recent local Place Plan survey about NHS support and the analysis showed people wanted more access to minor injuries units and should primary care offer more exercise on prescription, there was a strong impression people would take this if they knew more about it.

PB asked the age range being looked at and was told it was aged 50 and above. He felt the "older people" label was very negative as it tended to put people off. **FW** said engagement was needed from all age ranges as it was for the future. **JM** pointed out that services provided are not necessarily only for older people and someone in a lower age group would not be found through this process. **JOS** said that the number of people living in East Lothian who are over 65 is going to increase by 32% over next 5?? years. **FW** said that hospital beds tend to be occupied by over 65's, COVID and MSK patients aged 18 and above.

CBr asked **FW** and **JOS** how many meetings they have attended and **FW** said she had been to about 5 meetings, **JOS** has spoken to around 800 people so far They are hoping to work with South Asian and Polish communities as feel their voices are not heard and would like to work with the deaf community in East Lothian too. They also plan to visit foodbanks to gain views, all age groups are currently affected and using foodbanks.

Action; PB offered to place relevant information on the **ELCC** website and **JOS** undertook to provide this. She also asked for any relevant case studies and survey information to be shared with her. **Wendy Smillie** will be asked to do this as a member of the Reference Group for this work.

CBr thanked **Fiona** and **Jane** for their time, and they left the meeting at this point.

Minutes of 15/8 meeting

approved by **KDB**, seconded by **AL**

Matters arising meeting 15/8/23

Stenton - KDB/PB nothing to add.

Spott Road/A1 junction - PB advised the vegetation has been cut. He said signage is hidden by chevrons and was advised to ask **Lynne Jardine** to follow this up with **BEAR Scotland**.

Further to recent concerns at **Dunbar Community Council**, **CBr** said that he would hope nothing like this would happen in this group but if it did, what would procedure be, there is no guidance. He contacted **ELC** who said procedure is up to local community councils as they are independent bodies and **ELC** won't get involved. He has looked at existing procedures (**Aberdeenshire** a good example) and thought it would be a good idea to adopt something similar. **CBr** to circulate links to all to look at this.
CBr to take lead.

Local Place Plan

CBr asked if all had had a chance to look at the update document sent to them. He advised the survey closed tonight and this could be used to augment what happened in the meetings.

Sarah McLeary, consultant has sent him more detailed notes and this will form the first staging post of how she will do the work.

CBr has had a meeting with electrical developers and asked them to pay for 2nd part of the work to develop our Local Place Plan, they will let him know by 15th November if they will pay for this.

CBI had rightly asked what was to be obtained from this work and was told the Council will take note of any Place Plan submitted in Spring 2024, but we can also aspire to understand what local communities want and seek other ways to support such changes. **CBr** said he knew that **Innerwick Parish Welfare Association** had got a dry response from electrical developers regarding funding for **Innerwick**, which calls into question how committed they are to these matters.

CBr asked if **IPWA** had been able to provide evidence of community support for their ask - in advance of any place plan? Combined views etc could help to persuade funders to assist with anything wanted.

CBr looked at survey responses, 72% would like some community ownership of community energy service, this might be possible through community spin off benefits.

Sarah advised she would like to go back to community associations with meeting findings and ask what should be done to augment or convert these into the map. This was supported as a good approach.

Sarah wanted to know who else she could talk to - Adrian (Space Dunbar) West Barns, Dunpender Insulate Innerwick. Suggestions included:

Thurston Mains Caravan Park (Verdant Leisure)
Church of Scotland (Rev Suzie Fletcher)
Rev Douglas Hamilton (covers Stenton as part of Traprain Parish?)

It was mentioned that an ELCC meeting had been held at Thurston Manor but no one attended, unsure if management were helpful in promoting the meeting.

(Sarah to visit)

CBr need to analyse survey results. Need to create a spreadsheet (**PB**), pivot table (**KDB**)
CBr said if needed could possibly buy in services to produce the pivot table.

CBr asked if anyone would be interested in looking at the survey results, **JM** offered to do this (Sarah will do some too). **PB** suggested everyone have a look at it this which he has already sent this out. **CBr/Sarah/PB to lead - all to review survey responses and feedback any notable findings from their individual perspective to CBr/Sarah**

PB said people wanted local shops but a good turnover is needed to support them.

Windfarm Benefits East Lammermuir

CBI said have ELCC constitution which states the community council meets so many times a year to discuss local matters which are then fed back to ELC. Nothing about windfarm benefits so projects such as that done with Dunbar Health Centre do not fit in with constitution at all.

Regarding the EL Community Benefit Trust, approval and a Charity Number came through from Oscar about 4 weeks ago. The Companies House application has been submitted for ELCBF Ltd, this would hold Fred Olsen money and distribution would be according to the constitution for certain types of community, not personal benefit. He is in discussions now with the bank to set up the correct type of account. ELC Trust hold separate meetings twice a year, applications made mainly on line since COVID, they are coming up to another round and Currently have 11 applications. Closing date is midnight 31.10.23. Will be putting out summary documents about applications soon as usually a surge in the last few days before the deadline.

Virtual meeting 14th November, **PB** unable to attend but will provide feedback. Meeting time brought forward to allow **AL** to attend another meeting on the same day.

DM unable to attend but could provide information in advance.

CBI said next year Fund and Trust will have to have AGM, would aim to have both meetings same date/time. Precise timing to be agreed at May 2024 funding meeting, by which time we will hopefully be operating the new entities.

PB need books signed off to coincide with AGM. Accountant needed, books will be simple, perhaps 20 transactions a year.

PB Will have to put in application for admin costs/legal fees, will need another £1,000 in legal fees.

Cost of Living Crisis

Advice Direct Scotland happy to manage funds/applications on our behalf, happy to run with whatever rules given but we have to specify very clearly what these are.

CBI if set out what we would like to do for crisis funding etc if this conflicts with Fred Olsen rules we would have to go back to FO.

CBr said this could be discussed at funding meeting on 14th November and asked if anyone was willing to look at criteria and suggest tweaks? To discuss and agree before next round.

Association of East Lothian Community Councils Benefits proposals

CBr -AGM of Association of East Lothian Community Councils is 15th November, working group of 8 community councils chaired by him had developed a set of Principles for an East Lothian-wide Benefits Fund. Key item is what is the role of an AELCC, what has been done and the setting up of a Community Benefit Fund for East Lothian.

Fund should primarily be for environmental concerns. If potential Berwick Bank proportion of their £12 Billion budget could go to all of East Lothian instead of just East Lammermuir, on the night will make pitch and be asked what thoughts are.

CBr fed back thoughts from WS; she would agree to the principal of setting the fund up for all East Lothian, this would have a bigger impact but some money must be protected for East Lammermuir, some could go to those directly affected in the area.

KDB East Lammermuir would receive a proportion of the community benefit as would Garvald, Gifford, Cockenzie and Port Seton? Community councils would attract the lions share but seems reasonable this be shared among those where the opportunity is not there, the difficulty will be working out the percentages. It was suggested 50% stay locally. No matter who receives the money, both communities would benefit.

Action - CBr to represent this view at the AELCC AGM - likely to influence other community councils' views.

PB Innerwick could apply to East Lothian for hall money.

KDB asked if Innerwick hall was on hold and whether the church was up for sale. He was advised the church has been sold privately. Innerwick hall is going to have to be refurbished which is going out to tender. Work will be assessed in 3 phases.

CBr explained Oldhamstocks had temporarily withdrawn hall planning application. There will be a site meeting and then plans will be resubmitted for approval.

PB queried whether Fred Olsen had given approval for proposed Benefits Funds and was told yes in principal, they are keeping Kirsty Leiper informed

Membership of Community Council

DM said he was happy to represent Innerwick. Unanimous decision to co-opt DM onto ELCC as Innerwick Community Councillor with immediate effect.

KDB has taken on Secretary role.

Treasurer's Report

CBI advised balance stands at £1648.40.

Local Place Plan hall hire etc currently stands at £524.27.

Police Report

Previously circulated (attached) There is a CAPP meeting next week but **KDB** unable to attend.

CBr has enquired about Dunbar Police Station closure but has not heard back, will circulate response when received.

DM asked for traffic management on A1 to be raised with the police, massive problems if an incident and road gets blocked. Was told they would advise refer to BEAR Scotland. Action **KDB** to raise again at CAPP.

Local Energy Infrastructure Developments

CBr has sent everyone a map. **KDB** asked about cabling and was told there was a single new tower proposed at Branxton which takes power overhead. All other cabling to be buried.

DM commented we were going to be in middle of building site for next 10 years.

JM, DM and **CBr** attended a meeting on 25th October where all attended except the politicians. Loads of pair and small group work. Four original We Are Innerwick members have now stepped back from the active work for various personal reasons..

East Lothian Winds of Change core group now small numbers, Did not get what they wanted "a pause in the planning process" and it is now a case of what do we do next. The Plan B approach was to minimise disruption, noise, frequency of lorries etc and ensure safety for the community during and after construction and to maximise any positive gains for the local area.

Number of speculative applications for battery storage raised. Branxton sub can link up 7 or 8 in proposed building. 4 connection contracts currently known, so there is potential for more.

Was pleased there seemed a good chance of 2 people being appointed to work with ELC but funded by the developers as we do not have the capacity to take on large scale developers. Battery storage schemes in other areas feasible.

Another meeting is scheduled for 4 December where it is hoped to get them to move on with a single map, single schedule, funding of jobs, a Charter setting out how they will work with local community etc.

Aitkengall battery storage is up in hills. **CBr** felt should object to the process because not spoken to anyone, concerns about fires but perhaps not a bad proposal if need storage to support the national grid, given its remote location. Deadline for comments is 17 November.

CBr deadline for comments on Branxton substation proposal is 14th November. Given that they had not put single collaborative planning schedule up, previous objections probably still relevant but has more points to mention. **CBr Will draft and send to all for review.**

Local heat and efficiency strategy

CBr advised the local heat and efficiency strategy has been approved by the council today in first draft.

Cockenzie legacy Pipes bring in seawater, plus heat from Oxwellmains Incinerator, with a private wire electricity supply this has potential to provide hot water instead of having a boiler, like the Copenhagen district heating system? Need to get heat out of electrical development and put this into Innerwick properties. Heat is the new currency, capture and make use of it.

Jacqueline Bell's response to this read out by KDB.

CBr said he had been advised by Martin Hayman (Heat & Energy Strategy Officer) that it would be possible to sell back the heat created from the rubbish sent to Dunbar from Edinburgh to burn. Set up a company where the community had a voice, must have community ownership.

Liaison Meetings

Viridor Incinerator

DM said he was unable to attend next liaison meeting with Viridor on 22nd November and wondered if anyone would be able to attend in his place, the meeting is held on site and lasts about an hour.

Tarmac Cement Works

DM asked **CBr** to officially write to Tarmac regarding a liaison meeting, which they have been putting off for a year.

Valencia Landfill Oxwellmains

DM and **CBr** attended a public meeting with Valencia following the recent onsite fire. He said points raised - there had been no air monitoring, this was not Valencia's responsibility, can ask SEPA to do this. SEPA did computer assessment and said there was no risk of it being toxic. A lithium battery was the source of the fire, unsure how Valencia monitor the site and a formal investigation is to take place. Continuing difficulties with litter, too much dust, inadequate use of water. When fire brigade got there no hydrant near for them to use. Used JCB's to cover it and they got heat damaged, 18 hours later more equipment was brought in. Overall not very impressed with calibre of current management. They have said they will have a liaison meeting.

DM found Viridor good re liaison meetings, someone was present at meetings but since being sold to Valencia no consultation about Landfill operations at all.

Area Partnership DELAP

JM asked if **CB** had completed evaluation. **CBr** to look at this Transport budget closed £50,000 in light of ELC financial position.

AL will attend DELAP funding meeting 27th November.

AELCC meeting 29th November, agenda includes local development plan support around PP, and large scale battery storage schemes. Has asked Sarah could she join it because it is about the local place plan. Could someone else go as actual member? **JM** asked if she should attend to shadow Sarah, via Teams Meeting. Agreed.

A1 action group

Jacqueline Bell represents East Lothian, **CBr** to discuss with her.

EL Bus Forum

CBr said LPP Survey demonstrates this is a big concern in community.

JM asked what PINGO was, it was explained that this is a subsidised demand led bus service.

DELAP Health & Wellbeing Group

No report - Wendy not present.

Local Updates

AL - none to report.

KDB - advised the retaining wall that cannot be seen from main road coming along nicely.

CBI - advised on the flooding - council came out and cleared drains but it happens at that point. The car park has mound, remove this and water would flow down and away. **KDB** asked him to send details over and he'd take this up.

CBI New signs put up by Council for Presmennan Woods facing wrong direction, point to village hall.

AL reported mud got into village hall. She asked who had the sandbags, people advised to get own. Housing Association had sandbags but not distributed. The new path had also flooded.

Cockburnspath had sandbags (Borders Council)

CBr said after Storm Babet Oldhamstocks burn was 4 ft higher.

CBr - advised that some streetlights in Oldhamstocks have been fixed (by SPEN).

Journey Hubs

AL company commissioned to do study where possibly wanted. Not relevant to the villages, more for larger areas. Nothing to be gained by joining.

Dunbar Space - **KDB** - DUNBEAR development changed hands, site sold. What would new owners do for spaceDunbar.

Meeting closed 10.00pm.

Next Meeting

5 December, 19.30, Innerwick Village Hall

MCJ/CB
13.11.23