

COCKENZIE COMMUNITY FORUM (CCF)

MEETING – Wednesday 31 January 2018, 1900-2045 hrs, Port Seton Centre

ACTION NOTE

Present: Ferhan Ashiq, Chair, Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership (FA)
Calum Miller, Prestonpans Community Council (CM)
Sheila Chambers, Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Council (SC)
Graeme Jeffrey, Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Council (GJ)
Peter Ford, Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership (PF)
Brian Weddell, Prestonpans Community Council (BW)
Philippa Barber, Longniddry Community Council (PB)
Sandra King, Preston Seton Gosford Area Manager (SK)
Ray Montgomery, Project Manager, East Lothian Council (RM)
Douglas Proudfoot, Head of Infrastructure, East Lothian Council (DP)
Susan Smith, Economic Development, East Lothian Council (SS)
Iain McFarlane, Planning, East Lothian Council (IM)

1. Apologies

Isobel Robertson, Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Council

2. Community Forum moving forward

FA gave a prepared statement on how the Cockenzie Community Forum (CCF) should operate, namely be amicable, constructive, seeking common ground and acknowledging how those present are volunteers giving up their time. He advised that the Forum is now a sub-group of the Area Partnership (AP) and therefore members of the AP would be members of the CCF and could choose to attend future meetings. Although other AP meetings are open and public, this is not the case so far with this group but this needed to be reviewed. It was agreed to send AP membership rules for information (**ACTION: SK**). A Tenants & Residents Association asked to join and this was agreed on condition that the particular TRA is a member of the AP (**ACTION: TRA to be advised**).

3. Update on site ownership

RM advised the group that he has taken flexible retirement as Head of Infrastructure from East Lothian Council and will be a part-time Project Manager covering Cockenzie. He was able to report that the negotiations on the sale of the site from Scottish Power to East Lothian Council (ELC) are at an advanced stage but cannot give an accurate indication of timescale. DP welcomed RM's expertise and experience to this role.

4. Masterplan Report – feedback events

DP referred to the last meeting of the Forum, to the Prestonpans Community Council feedback and to PBA response to CM's e-mail for context. DP outlined two feedback events for community representatives and stakeholders that the council envisaged could happen over the coming months to gather in wider public and stakeholder views of the master plan report. The sessions could also inform on other matters including ownership.

DP advised that the Council had met with Dr Baird and representatives from Cockenzie Developments Ltd. Whilst this was a discussion that was commercially sensitive, the Council had also received feedback from Dr Baird on the master plan report. This feedback had been

prepared for Prestonpans Community Council and had been formally presented to East Lothian Council. The meeting reflected that for a port/cruise development to be viable as an option for consideration a technical study, economic appraisal and environmental impact assessment would need to be undertaken. The onus would be placed on any applicant to produce these studies, undertake comprehensive community engagement and demonstrate the viability of the proposal. The Forum noted that a further meeting was scheduled between the Council and Cockenzie Developments for 20th February.

CM asked for clarification as to the Masterplan document. DP responded that the document has been published, is complete and will not be amended. IM explained that the Scottish Government is consulting on the National Planning Framework, report due late 2018/early 2019, and Reporter comments on the Local Development Plan are due early February. This will provide the strategic context against which to consider developments.

PF welcomed RM to his role and added that a project of this scale will take time with advice and guidance from a number of sources essential. He asked about elected member involvement.

DP agreed that this is a long-term complex project and reinforced the point that NPF alignment is key. He reminded the meeting that a Cross-Party Cockenzie Working Group also existed encompassing elected member and officials. RM added that there may be a decision on site ownership and that any potential interest in the site should be identified/determined. CM said that he is aware of cruise companies' interest and agreed to pass on these details to SS as an economic development opportunity. **(ACTION: CM)**

Both PF and BW said that the CCF and stakeholders should look forward rather than re-visiting the Masterplan. FA asked about new opportunities and RM and DP said that all opportunities would be welcomed and examined accordingly. SK added that the CCF will have a key role in securing external project funding.

After some discussion about a community event, it was agreed to defer the public event(s) until site ownership is confirmed and further debate held. **(ACTION)**

Responding to a comment from SC, DP agreed to put the Alf Baird response on the Cockenzie page of the ELC website **(ACTION: ELC)**. The meeting also reflected that interested parties should be invited to present to CCF at an appropriate time with Inchcape/Red Rock and the Battlefield Trust named as such to date.

In conclusion, elected members will be invited to the CCF after site ownership has been concluded and a corresponding report presented to East Lothian Council **(ACTION)**.

5. Ash pipe

RM referred to a letter from FA to Scottish Power following up previous correspondence, both of which were still awaiting a reply. CM said that Prestonpans Community Council would favour an acceptable plan for the ash pipe being determined before transfer of the station site to the Council but RM and DP advised that this would not happen. DP reflected on previous discussions both at the Forum and at Prestonpans Community Council where the importance of collaboration between the Council and the Community was underscored.

The opportunity that future negotiations presented around the transfer of the Musselburgh Assets (as opposed to the ownership of the site) was highlighted. FA to continue to raise this issue directly with Scottish Power **(ACTION: FA)**. RM would also raise with Scottish Power Generation to chase a response. **(ACTION: RM)**

The Forum noted that there is a current Planning application for the two lagoons being handed over to ELC.

6. AOCB

DP expressed his disappointment about a recent article in the East Lothian Courier concerning his discussion with members of the Prestonpans Community Council and ELC Communications colleagues had responded to the newspaper. Prestonpans Community Council agreed that the article was not a proper representation of the discussion at the meeting.

FA said that all meetings would be held in Resource Room 1 of the Port Seton Centre unless more people are present, in which case the Port Seton Library will be used.

Future meeting schedule:

Wednesday 31 January, 1900 hrs, Port Seton

Wednesday 28 March, 1900 hrs, Port Seton

Wednesday 30 May, 1900 hrs, Port Seton

Wednesday 1 August, 1900 hrs, Port Seton

Wednesday 26 September, 1900 hrs, Port Seton

Wednesday 28 November, 1900 hrs, Port Seton