

COCKENZIE COMMUNITY FORUM

MEETING – Wednesday 1 August 2018, 1900-2045 hrs, Cockenzie House

ACTION NOTE

Present: Ferhan Ashiq, Chair, Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership (Chair)
Graeme Jeffrey, Chair, Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Council
Brian Weddell, Chair, Prestonpans Community Council
Philippa Barber, Longniddry Community Council
Sandra King, Preston Seton Gosford Area Manager
Douglas Proudfoot, Head of Development, East Lothian Council
Susan Smith, Economic Development, East Lothian Council
Iain McFarlane, Service Manager Planning, East Lothian Council
David Ostler, Coastal Regeneration Forum
Sheila Chambers, Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Council
Calum Miller, Prestonpans Community Council
Gillian Stewart, Cockenzie West Tenants' & Residents' Association
Liz Clark, Secretary, Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Council
Gareth Jones, Coastal Regeneration Forum
Cllr Lachlan Bruce, East Lothian Council
Cllr Fiona O'Donnell, East Lothian Council
Cllr John McMillan, East Lothian Council
Cllr Willie Innes, East Lothian Council

1. Apologies

Apologies from Philip Wark, Arran Johnston, Ray Montgomery, Cllr Gilbert and Larry Tomlins. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Innes for attending and welcome and best wishes were given.

2. Action note of previous meeting

The Community Engagement event is on the agenda at Item 6. With regard to the remit of this group, it was agreed that DP and FA will discuss this and report back (**ACTION: DP/FA**). The minutes were approved - proposed by Cllr Bruce and seconded by Graeme Jeffrey.

3. Matters arising

- Website presence.

SS reported that the council website has recently been refreshed and in conjunction with Planning colleagues, she is looking at Cockenzie content with information about investing, the Masterplan report and process and community engagement all to be featured. SS asked and all agreed that the minutes of these meetings should be posted once approved.

4. Planning Update

- RedRock

IMF reported that the application for the RedRock converter station has been called-in by Scottish Ministers. East Lothian Council submitted its Statement of Case, approved by elected members, at the end of June and has since received a response from Scottish Ministers. East Lothian Council has reviewed the applicant's comments and provided feedback. All documents are listed on the council website. Comments from the Council include a number of factors including making the best use of the site and on the other hand

RedRock has responded that the application is approved via the Masterplan Report. There may be subsequent points of clarification sought by the Reporter and how these can be provided whether by written submissions or by Public Inquiry. The Reporter will now proceed to prepare the report with recommendation to Ministers, expected to be by the end of August at the earliest given the complexity of the case and the amount of materials submitted. Scottish Ministers then have 28 days, can be extended, to accept the Reporter's recommendation or not.

FA asked about a meeting between RedRock and Prestonpans Community Council and BW responded that there was limited additional information. JMM commented on the Council's desire to promote the site and that emerging developments could be of interest to the Reporter – IMF said that this would only be of importance if it was a material change. DP added that the Council's Statement of Case made the Council's position as site owner clear, namely no objection in principle rather to the location.

WI commented that whatever the Reporter determines, the Council is the site owner and expressed disappointment in the company taking this stance. RedRock has been advised to consider alternative locations within the site and the Council objects to a location that does not suit its objectives. All options, including port, need to be explored.

GJo asked about the importance of the planning application given the Council is site owner. IMF replied that as energy transmission operator, RedRock could have Compulsory Purchase Order powers. With Contract for Difference funding sought and deadline, the company needs Planning Permission in Principle and Heads of Terms with landowner. For CPO to apply, the company needs to demonstrate that the landowner is unwilling to provide land which does not apply in this instance.

CM asked IMF about any competing proposal. For the Reporter to take this into material consideration, there would have to be a PAN indicating that a Planning Application would be submitted. DP added that the Statement of Case emphasised that the site on the north side is a key development opportunity. DP said that competing proposals would not be welcome until NPF4 in place, around Quarter 3 2020.

DP recapped that the Reporter changed the way in which Cockenzie could move from NPF3 to NPF4 during the current LDP period without supplementary Planning Guidance and the intention is to bring this forward after NPF4 is in place.

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/news/article/12805/council_response_to_cockenzie_inchcape_application

5. Site condition issues

In RM'S absence, DP reported that RM continues to monitor site condition issues. The main issue remains security and the gates to the jetty. RM is putting in place stronger reinforced pillars and security arrangements. DP asked all members to monitor and advise East Lothian Council or Police Scotland of any concerns.

East Lothian Council Security – 01620 827201

Police Scotland - 999 or 101

FOD commented that where risk to life, contact should be made with Police Scotland and also suggests that temporary use of the site should be explored. RM is arranging to have the TSCC powered to assist with this.

In addition, RM visited the site and met with members of the Coastal Regeneration Forum. It was agreed that further remediation of the area would continue to ensure maintenance of the site.

6. Community Engagement event

- Draft programme

SS explained the delay in presenting this paper – due to meeting with representative of Peter Brett Associates only having taken place the previous day. She outlined background to concluding the Masterplan report process and reporting back to the community and stakeholders. JMM welcomed this and commented that it is important to state what we want to achieve from the event and take time to prepare the programme.

CM commented that the Masterplan report is not evidence-based including references to the participation of the local community. It is important to state how feedback will be used and attributed and the weighting between local community and stakeholder issues. SC wondered who would be attracted to attend or contribute unless the programme is more detailed.

DP commented that the event is not just about the Masterplan report. Unless members of the community are interfacing via the council website, many will have no sense of what has been produced; the 230 public participants deserve to be given information about how their feedback will be used. The Masterplan report is important and visionary but all need to understand the changed circumstances detailed - Government and agency views, resources, port-related development, the rail line are all emerging factors.

GJ said that Masterplan report process was well-done and the event is essential and should be undertaken quickly adding that the community has not had opportunity to comment on the port proposal, for example. Prestonpans Community Council would welcome the event if port was to be considered and recommended that Professor Alf Baird should be involved.

WI said that the Masterplan report was commissioned by ELC and undertaken by PBA. The report has been noted by ELC and it is important that feedback be given to community as quickly as possible via an enticing event. DO said that there may be consultation-fatigue within the community. IMF added that with Planning consultations, it is important to hear a wide range of voices, going to people rather than relying on people coming to an event. DP commented that the outcome of the RedRock call-in should be known in advance.

SC asked about a venue and ideas were sought from members – eg Preston Lodge High School, Port Seton Library, area offices, outwith Preston Seton Gosford (Haddington, The Brunton). Different means of communication were suggested such as utilising social media, formal feedback sessions, council Communications input, pop-up events. Alignment with the Year of Young People was another suggestion.

SS suggested a sub-group to take forward these ideas and lead discussion with PBA – GJ, BW, SK and JMM all offered to assist. **(ACTION: SS).**

In relation to wider community engagement, DP added that it had been agreed that a press statement be given after each meeting to the East Lothian Courier **(ACTION: ELC Communications).**

7. Engagement with interested parties

Further to engagement outlined at previous meeting, reference was made to a recent meeting of national stakeholders, namely Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Transport Scotland, that was particularly useful. In addition, DP mentioned ongoing liaison with SEPA.

CM expressed frustration about the lack of progress. He referred to Skyora who contacted CM having noted the port discussion. It is a company launching small satellites and seeking a rocket test site immediately. This could be an opportunity for temporary use of the coal plant. FA is impressed by the proposal. WI would welcome temporary use and in addition this would be an exciting educational opportunity for young people. DP would be happy to progress discussion on these proposals. IMF clarified that the company has been in touch with the Planning Service with regard to a different site. JMM would like to see progress made but appreciates constraints and challenges and WI added that temporary use involves less governance than a permanent one.

DP said that the Department for International Trade described Cockenzie as a jewel. In order to undertake worldwide marketing, the Council needs to be clear as to what is being marketed, where and when. For ELC control will be a factor, eg investment partner to develop infrastructure and undertake site marketing, and resources will be required to do this.

In discussions with Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Deal partners, DP said that East Lothian is well-positioned as a business location. Interested parties are keen to hear about the NPF timescale and site conditions.

8. Remit and future direction of group

DP and FA agreed to meet and discuss this given that the remit needs to be revised as the focus has been on the Masterplan process to date. Once drafted, it will be presented to the Cockenzie Member/Officer Working Group and to the next meeting of this group.

9. AOB

CM said that the ash pipe has not been maintained to any great degree by Scottish Power noting that there is a legal obligation on Scottish Power to assess and provide risk assessment. DP referred to note of recent meetings and Scottish Power has provided an e-mail address for any concerns. Discussions are to be held with Scottish Power Generation regarding the electric bridge and seawall and the ash pipe needs to be included in these conversations. WI said that if Scottish Power is obliged to have a register, then this should be available for viewing. Asbestos only an issue if damaged or disturbed and an objective assessment by ELC is required. DO commented that SEPA have reviewed and are saying that only of interest if an attempt is made to disturb.

FOD said that the HSE have power to ask Scottish Power to adhere. The Council's Environmental Health Service looked at the ash pipe and its concrete casing 18 months ago and DP agreed to have this revisited (**ACTION: DP**).

Future meeting schedule:

Wednesday 26 September, 1900 hrs, Cockenzie House

Wednesday 28 November, 1900 hrs, Cockenzie House

DRAFT