

North Berwick Coastal
Area Partnership

Your town, your future, your ideas!



**A Community Conversation Report
Spiegeltent, North Berwick Harbour
Monday 15 August 2016**



Your town, your future, your ideas!

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Introduction | 3 |
| Programme | 3 |
| Summary of Emerging themes | 4-5 |
| Presentation and Questions | 6 |
| Feedback from discussion Groups | |
| What do we need in our town for everyone to have a good life? | 6-17 |
| Does this give everyone a good life – who’s missing out? | 17 |
| Community Assets – Buildings | 18 |
| Community Assets – Natural Environment | 19 |
| Evaluation from completed forms | 19-20 |
| What happens next? | 20 |
| Thanks | 20 |

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INTRODUCTION

There are many changes coming to the North Berwick Coastal Area. These could have consequences for a number of our services and facilities: the Community Centre, the North Berwick Health Centre, the Edington etc. There are also proposals from the community for an Arts Centre and a Youth Centre.

As part of discussions about a possible location for the Arts Centre, the Arts Centre Steering Group met with representatives of the North Berwick Community Centre Management Committee in June and it became clear that there are several possibilities about where services and facilities could be located. It was felt important to look at the bigger picture.

This discussion was taken forward by the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership www.eastlothian.gov.uk/areapartnerships and a public meeting to start the conversation about this was held on Monday 15 August, in the Spiegelent at North Berwick Harbour. This is the start of a wider and inclusive discussion involving all parts of our community.

PROGRAMME

1. 7pm-7.10pm **Welcome & Scene Setting** – Lesley Kay, Co-Chair, North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership
2. 7.10pm-7.20pm **Short Presentation:** Ian Watson, Chair North Berwick Arts Centre Steering Group
3. 7.20pm-8.15pm **Discussions Groups** – Sandra King, Area Manager (Facilitated groups – Sue, Lesley, Sandra & Katie)
Insights and questions from presentation
View from the Law – What do we need in our town for everyone to have a good life? (Prompt questions to aid discussion – write individual ‘post it’ responses and group)
What does our town offer already to meet these needs?
Does this give everyone a good life – who’s missing out?
Map Community Assets
Can we fill the gaps by using what we have already?
What if? (creative thinking on what can be done differently)
5. 8.15pm- 8.30pm **Tea Break, walk around to see what other discussion groups said**
6. 8.30pm – 8.45pm **Back to your Discussion Group - So what next?**
What 3 key creative ideas can we take forward?
7. 8.45pm-9pm **Final Reflections from the floor**
Closing remarks & Thanks – Sue Northrop Co-Chair, North Berwick Area Partnership

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SUMMARY OF EMERGING THEMES

On 15th August 2016 the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership organised an event for the community to come together and talk about what makes life great in North Berwick. It was prompted by people telling us that they were concerned about the range of different proposals for North Berwick and how they were going to impact on day to day life. Over 100 people came along, got an update on the story so far and told us what they thought. The North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership continues to ask the community for its views about local priorities to inform the Area Plan and is part of work to enable and empower the community to have a greater say in local decision making.

This summary outlines the main themes that came up at the 'Community Conversation' and what we plan to do next. A full version of what people said can be found in this report or please contact nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk for a paper version.

- **The need for an inspiring vision and plan for North Berwick, which is creative and involves the whole community.**
 - **Wide support for a community hub to bring people and services together, including a community centre and arts centre for all ages and people who are often excluded.**
 - **Aspirations for a vibrant town centre, green spaces and natural environment that are accessible, safe and pleasant to be in, with more priority for pedestrians.**
 - **An appetite for new ideas and creative solutions to services and managing the changes in our community, including greater community control**
 - **Transport options that make it easier to get around, with opportunities for walking, safe cycle routes and public services options like a wander bus. Parking must be seen as part of a wider view.**
-
- **We want an inspiring vision for the future:** People told us that they wanted to have a big vision for the future of our town, with a long-term, holistic view of the issues and opportunities over the next 20 years or more. There was a sense that North Berwick could be a place that inspires other small towns round the world and that we need to be creative, flexible and focussed on solutions. This is an opportunity to do things better, learn from others and look at good ideas and new options from other towns round the world.
 - **That includes everyone:** There was a strong sense of a vision for a unified, strong and connected community which works for and is accessible to everyone, all ages, people with a disability (including mental health) and people on low incomes. We need to make our community spaces and places more accessible to everyone, was regularly raised as an issue, especially round the harbour and beach areas. But there was also awareness that different groups also needed specific arrangements, for example to replace the Space for young people and better options for older people.
 - **And where everyone has a say and is involved:** We want to ensure that young and older people, are included, people with disabilities and/or mental health problems; and people who are socially isolated. We want to include the voices from local business, shops, GPs and carers, housing developers and visitors and tourists to feed into discussion. The importance of the North Berwick Trust was also raised, people wanted the Trust to have more engagement with the community.

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- **We want to make best use of our many assets as our community grows and changes:** Many people spoke about the need for us to value and use the assets we have and think creatively about where these assets are and how appropriate and adequate they are as our town grows and changes. We need better organisation, better planning decisions and to make better use of the many assets we already have rather than automatically looking at new buildings. People outlined a wide range of assets and resources we have from buildings and outdoor spaces to community spirit and a friendly and dynamic community. People identified many ways we can build on the assets we have, for example through a food market, more eating facilities near the beach and a youth hostel.
- **We need to challenge how things are done and find ways to do things better:** Many people challenged how things currently are in the town and gave their ideas about how our assets including the Lodge, the Edington and the Blenheim could be used differently to benefit the community. For example, should core assets like the health centre, the community centre or a new arts centre be moved out of the traditional centre of the town to a new place where there is scope for new developments and better access? There was no consensus about what might happen where, but a lot of people are open to looking at different options and creative ideas about how we use our assets and where they are located in the town.
- **We want the community to be informed, involved and in control.** People want more consultation, information and community involvement and participation, including - local forums, online discussion forums and smaller groups. They wanted plans to be made with us and focus on the whole community to ensure that everyone benefits. Some people wanted the community to buy local assets and develop new services; some said we should focus less on profit in decision making.
- **We want a community hub:** a place that brings people together from across the community for a range of activities and places to meet other people and do activities. There were lots of diverse ideas about what the hub would do and where it would be but a strong emphasis that it should be intergenerational and open to all. A community Arts Centre should be accessible, open to everyone and connected to wider facilities and assets. But there was little consensus about where it should be.
- **We are concerned about** the High Street and how safe and accessible it is; we are concerned about transport and parking and how we can make it work so people can participate in community life and we are and about whether the infrastructure - the schools, nursery, housing options, health centre and transport systems can support a growing population.
- **But we have lots of creative and diverse ideas about what might work:** That includes looking at how other places have addressed issues and opportunities. For example, for the High Street, pedestrianisation and pedestrian priority schemes, better signage, electric bikes and cycle routes and wider pavements. For Transport more options for active travel and reducing car use, including traffic wardens, parking permits, out of town car parks, park and ride and a multi storey car park along with better facilities for cyclists, local and free transport, the wander bus and better bus and train services.

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PRESENTATION & QUESTIONS

Ian Watson, Chair of the Arts Centre Steering Group gave a power point presentation which outlined a number of the potential sites that the group had considered for an Arts Centre. This had acted as a catalyst to open up a community conversation about the increasing demand on the infrastructure of North Berwick and the need for some blue sky thinking.

Questions were raised about the existing community assets and whether we had made or were making best use of these. The old Blackadder Church was suggested as a potential site. There were concerns raised about the potential sale of the Limegrove Depot and the need to express an interest in the site to remain as a community asset. The parking issues were a concern. The audience were then asked to go into small groups to discuss a number of questions.

FEEDBACK FROM DISCUSSION GROUPS

What do we need in our town for everyone to have a good life?

A North Berwick Plan

The need for an inspiring vision and plan for North Berwick, which is creative and involves the whole community.

An appetite for new ideas and creative solutions to services and managing the changes in our community, including greater community control.

- A 20 year plan
- Decide what we want and how to develop it
- We need to look far and wide to see what works elsewhere
- Creative thinking and new options
- Full town creative thinking feasibility
- Better planning decisions taken
- We need to recycle and modernise old unused buildings in the town before building new and stretching further afield not building on green sites.
- Who is responsible for representing this holistic view of North Berwick to the Council?
- Polarised place and thinking – need more creative approaches
- Investment in current buildings and flexibility of spaces to meet growing needs
- More information and discussion and involvement in ideas and decision making
- Good organisation and holistic approach to planning
- People an asset
- Bring old town residents and outlying housing residents together – all together
- Plans to be made with the community
- Good opportunity to do something
- All facilities to be within walking/cycling distance
- More involvement in local planning
- Convivial places to meet, blether and discuss our future
- Bigger vision needed for town plan ahead, good opportunity to get things going
- Community buy out not for profit – private land into public ownership
- Approach Planning Aid Scotland

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- Need a feasibility study for the town
- Moratorium on building
- Access to activities (varied)
- A Forum for all representatives from community groups and organisations locally.
- More smaller events
- Continued, well advertised community consultations
- ELC to better inform the community of changes locally
- Community engagement
- Improve current infrastructure
- Connected community and facilities that enable that
- Many old buildings will have increasing maintenance costs – current asset analysis- renovation or new build?
- Opportunities for people to be more involved in town activities
- Keep people involved in conversation - Letters to every letterbox
- Better News dissemination
- Stronger local voices
- More people having a say
- Connecting people
- Friendship links
- Good community spirit x 3
- Dynamic population
- Bring all the community interest groups together – a forum
- Need voices from young people – online forum?
- Friendly people
- Healthy range of meeting resources already but little co-ordination
- Community activists who are solution focused
- A community which is not driven by profit

- Less commercially driven development
- Need input from local business/shopkeepers
- More consultation with GP's and Carers
- Ideas from visitors/tourists
- Ideas from housing developers
- Concerns that new developments are creating more of a commuter town and need to encourage more community involvement
- Positive voices strong, loud, community looking for solutions not problems
- Create on-line discussion Forum to gather views from across community

North Berwick Trust

The importance and interest in the North Berwick Trust from the community.

- Public meeting with Trust – so community can express wishes for the use of 15 million which has come from land belonging to town
- The more categories to be taken into consideration, the less likely anything is to happen e.g. E.U!!!
- Need many more meetings with ELC, North Berwick Trust reps

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- Trust members to meet the Community
- Make good use of North Berwick Trust funds
- Trust land needs exploration

Community Hub

Wide support for a community hub to bring people and services together, including a community centre and arts centre for all ages and people who are often excluded.

- Fund out of town combined site from sale of existing sites
- Intergenerational provision important
- Community project that employs local people of all ages and abilities
- Create an out of town hub – too many buildings (no longer fit for purpose) – viable if current sale of sites
- Everything under one roof
- Social community involvement
- A one stop shop - Hub
- Sell off most of the out of date facilities (ie. Community centre) and build new large open facility in Lodge Grounds (new community centre, health centre, theatre etc).
- Hub – flexible to be open 6am-10pm.
- Central hub for all age groups. Theatre/cinema/youth, elderly – training, workshops
- Youth/Old generation – local transport facilities to dove tail in and disability – better facilities
- Bring old town residents and new housing residents together
- Bring young and old together
- Accessible community space young, old, arts & education together
- It is essential that the proposed new building can accommodate Arts, Youth Centre etc but make sure it is big enough and no additions
- Sell library/museum and v=develop community hub to include library/museum
- Integrating the generations a priority
- New central community hub catering for arts as well as other groups to work together
- Well thought out and planned hub – size, what will be included?
- North Berwick needs a 'drop in' centre – a central place
- A community hub – young people, old people, a community centre and arts centre
- Facilities for all age groups especially or people who are hindered from accessing services and facilities at the moment
- Community Hub/Youth Centre
- One big building – Arts Centre, Multi-purpose activities
- Community Hub for everyone - what would it look like?
- could include work opportunities including training and working space, social enterprises - look at models elsewhere
- In Midlothian the school, pool, library are all in one location - worth a look
- Community hub – would it influence options
- Out of town combined services
- Assets currently dispersed
- Supportive community

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- Traffic options, ideas, solutions, integrating surveys
- Town centre not safe for people
- Traffic options, ideas, solutions
- More/ wider pavements in High Street
- More accessible High Street (not good for people in wheelchairs, prams & buggy)
- No space – concerns when walking with young children – cars so close to pavement
- Widen pavement outside Greggs
- Safe roads and reduction of traffic
- Good quality and range of shops
- 20 mph Speed limit – town wide
- 20 mph on Law Road
- Widen pavement on Law Road from community centre to High Street
- Concerns that new developments are creating more of a commuter town and need to encourage more community involvement

Traffic & Parking

- Address parking issues
- We need a broader conversation about improved movement and access in town – not just parking!
- If we have a 500 seat theatre – parking issues
- Traffic Wardens
- Parking Permits
- We need more parking
- Better Parking facilities
- Better signage for where parking is available
- Move most parking moved to the periphery leaving only short-term parking in the centre
- Car parking at west of town
- Park and Ride at each end of the town
- Visitor parking for short-term summer periods which can be used for other purposes
- A vision for North Berwick has to include parking and pedestrianise the High Street
- We must sort parking and transport/ traffic management
- A multi-storey park at the Imperial Car park would be ideal do not use existing car park as an exit out of North Berwick – use Balfour Street
- Adequate parking needed for all facilities
- Residents parking permits
- Overview of parking and notices to the parking places – all traffic sent by Melbourne Place to Quality Street Car Park to get out of town.
- Less focus on parking and look at alternatives
- Time for a park and ride – out of town parking areas
- Congestion charges to help fund park and ride
- Get cars off the High Street
- Parking sculptured around the town instead of large park and ride

Public Transport

- A means of transport around the town

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- Cycle routes in town
- Safe cycle routes and priority for pedestrians and bikes x 3
- Good cycle paths
- Better cycling facilities
- Fewer cars
- Cycle facilities and paths in town and countryside
- Local free transport x 3
- Bus links to Edinburgh could be better
- Better town transport, places/routes where people can feel safe with fewer cars
- Good transport links
- Public Transport around North Berwick
- Wanderbus to bring people into the centre x 2
- Wanderbus idea was liked but thought it would only get folk out of their cars if very regular e.g. every 15 minutes
- A funky, fun wanderbus for all ages
- Chip Shop Oil run Bus sponsored by North Berwick fry!
- Mini Bus/Transit Van
- More frequent trains
- Train infrastructure inadequate
- Railway important to our town x 2
- Good rail access into Edinburgh
- Shuttlebus
- Easy access to Edinburgh - choice
- Co-ordinated transport in the town to cater for bus circuits
- Toilets at station

Education

- Educational facilities to meet the growing needs of the town
- Life long learning opportunities
- Good schools x 3
- Good schools but running out of space
- Larger Nursery required all in one place

Art Centre

The Arts Centre Steering Group to explore further site options as part of their second stage feasibility which would include site investigate and a business plan.

- Sites - in our group the majority favoured a central location for future arts/ community provision and thought Lime Grove too far out of town
- Arts centre buildings- spread out around the town in our old buildings completely revamped inside.
- Focus on combined arts/community centre/youth centre
- Keep on track with Arts Centre in the centre- follow upon Forth Street Church site
- Arts Hub needed x 2

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- Arts centre good for the town
- Accessible centre which caters for young and old (day and evening), hosting events, theatre, cinema
- Several people like the NE corner of Lodge Grounds as a site
- Look at Art Centre Site – but focus on specifics.
- Arts Centre in Lodge ground site x 3
- Use health centre site for new Arts Centre , move Health centre out of town on Trust Land
- The site near the Seabird Centre car Park would be bigger asset for the town if an Arts Centre was built there, more people using the Lodge grounds .
- Presentation spent too much time discussing Arts Centre (that meeting took place on Saturday)
- We access Theatres/Arts in Edinburgh – best arts there
- Blenheim needs to be revisited – unlikely to get change of use?
- Blenheim Hotel site ideal
- Will the Arts Centre be sustainable after 5 years funding?
- Suggest group visit other centres – Bernan Arts Centre, Aberfeldy Cinema
- Bigger vision design if out of town
- 500 seat theatre will impact on town centre parking
- Explore Blackadder Church – have owners been approached about selling?
- The East Lodge site would offer most scope for an interesting building
- Out of town studios for artists
- Integrate gallery with surrounding environment
- A multi function multi age arts centre in a central location with a proper cinema integrated in it!
- Cinema, Arts workshops, selling space
- Need workshops
- Need an arts centre – theatre/cinema and hub of learning
- A few people did say they would like to live somewhere which is more interesting and creative (some examples were given)
- To cater for a wide range of arts –community arts and performance
- Small cinema

Community Events

- Fringe by the Sea – great week for the arts x 3
- Live Music
- Pipe bands
- Highland Games
- Cinema Club / Film Club
- Sense of community and responsibility

Lime Grove

- Protected land, complicated sale
- Why have ELC not informed community about sale of land?
- Too far away for community use
- If the money is available the Lime grove Centre meets all the needs – a bus running through the town would make it accessible.

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- Ideal site for young people's centre – 'The Space' relocated

Day Centre

- Day centre needs to be central and people seem to like it where it is.
- If the Eddington is relocated then the existing building would make a good Day Centre
- Day Centre an asset – need more community volunteer drivers

Young People

The need for a combined community space for young people.

- 'Space' for young people
- We miss the 'Space' incorporate indoor skatepark to new youth facility
- Cater for different interests from young people e.g. skaters,
- North Berwick needs a place for youth to meet and learn
- We need a youth centre/workshops
- Safe and secure places for youth
- Indoor Youth Facility needed
- More things for teenagers
- Youth facility
- Informal play paces – new developments
- Community woodland space available for play

Older People

The increasing older population and the need to consider their needs.

- Facilities for older people
- Dementia Friendly town
- ELC Dementia friendly Services
- More carers for oldies
- Older people friendly High Street

Health Centre/Services

The pressure on current health services and the need for expansion.

- We need good health facilities
- Move health centre out of town
- Use health centre site for new Arts Centre
- Health centre not in right place – better access required – out of own/bus route
- Infrastructure not coping – bigger more integrated Health centre needed
- Relocate health centre and Edington to Trust Land
- NHS invest in one large site – incorporate with other facilities e.g. hub
- Local health provision

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- Access to health facilities x 5
- Health Centre – more Doctors
- Harder to see Doctors
- Look at site for Health Centre.
- Better access to health centre
- Priorities: health Centre and be used to attract decent Doctors
- Health Centre/town centre will move
- No parking at health centre access issues
- Need for expansion of health centre x 2
- Modern and sustainable health and care facilities
- Health services should be expanded to include NHS Dentistry
- Health Centre/Edington Hospital should discuss with Health Board
- Better access to hospital
- New health centre in central location
- More preventative health work to include socially excluded
- New health centre with a community garden and encourage activity

The Eddington

- Need the Eddington x 2
- Better access
- Relocate Eddington to Trust Land
- Upgrade the Eddington
- Minor injuries unit an asset
- Edington resources a real asset

The Abbey

- Amazing space underused – good opportunity
- Need for The Abbey Home
- Expand the Abbey home
- The Abbey is a community asset – where people live (their home)

Housing

- Need for social housing
- Less commercially driven development
- Small self contained bungalows for the older population
- Housing for life
- Lack of affordable housing
- Energy efficient homes
- Local people – housing for them
- Housing to rent
- Holiday lets a problem
- People buying cheaper housing for short holiday lets impacts on people trying to get on the housing ladder

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- Scheme in Paris where property owners are only allowed to offer short lets within a limited period/to encourage long lets and have adequate housing for residents

Blenheim

- Blenheim Hotel site could be purchased for the community
- The North Berwick Trust should consider buying the Blenheim site x 3
- The Blenheim (housing accommodation - Ullapool example)

Lodge Grounds

- Leave alone??
- Community Green Card – held in trust.
- Build bridge across from East Road to Lodge grounds
- The site near the Seabird Centre car Park would be bigger asset for the town if an Arts Centre was built there, more people using the Lodge grounds .

North Berwick Community Centre

- Site of community hall ideal for redevelopment. Temporary move of nursery should not hold these plans to ransom whilst building goes on
- Relocate Community centre and redevelop to include youth centre on Trust land
- No longer fit for purpose
- Steep hill to centre and steep hill walk to entrance
- Position relevant to the High Street
- Educational facilities for adults
- Good family amenities
- Important to have a Community Centre catering to everyone
- Community events
- Community centre and the range of clubs/activities on offer
- Affordable spaces for groups to start up and find their feet
- The community centre does good work but not goodspace
- Sale of existing site could fund combined Community/Arts Centre on Trust land
- ELC should invest in Community Centre – essential to the town
- Focus on combined community and arts centre

Scout Hut

- Better disabled access

North Berwick Library

- Library important to our town

Coastal Museum

- Heritage and culture reflected

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Tourism

- What is there for tourists in North Berwick? (i.e. developments?)
- Capacity of town to deal with increased tourism
- Why Not- tourism information on High Street – main tourist info in library (too far away)

Sports & Leisure

- Sports and leisure Centre works well
- Pool
- Leisure facilities x 2
- Recreation Park
- Need a Running track
- More preventative health work to include socially excluded

Environment

Aspirations for a vibrant town centre, green spaces and natural environment that is accessible, safe and pleasant to be in, with more priority for pedestrians.

- Great scenic approaches into North Berwick and setting – a huge asset
- Keep our green space GREEN x 2
- Green/blue spaces important for North Berwick – why people live here
- Nature – sea/natural spaces
- Protect our beaches
- Great beaches but concerns about pollution (west beach)
- Worried about pollution on beaches
- The Sea
- The Law
- Lodge Grounds
- Fresh air and countryside
- Trees
- Open space
- Better use of coastline e.g. a cafe overlooking the water
- Boardwalk
- Skiffing facility but no hub
- Allotments not big enough
- More allotments x 2
- Community garden and orchard x 2
- Community orchard
- More growing areas
- Having the ponies on the Law - great for the town
- Beach Wheelchairs a huge success
- Beach Wheelchairs – the first beach on mainland Scotland to have wheelchairs
- The Vistas

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- The Bassrock and Islands
- Harbour
- A proper disabled facility needed at the Harbour – toilet, wash facility, changing facility
- A permanent building to house beach wheelchairs – kayaks, other beach sports
- Better access for all with growing and ageing population
- A beach leisure hub
- Better access to harbour (disabled access) e.g. harbour wall, viewing points
- Seabird Centre
- Golf courses
- Flowers – In Bloom
- Community woodland available for play
- Local community renewable energy project
- Massive positive energy – solar power
- Plan for a future without fossil fuels
- North Berwick has a chance to become an example to other small towns around the world by creating energy efficient homes and buildings and reducing the need for cars and buses powered by fossil fuels.
- Local community owned power generation renewable – reduce carbon footprint of town
- Outdoor pool x 2

Work and local economy

- More business units with affordable rents
- Attract more local business e.g. North Berwick Gin
- Good to have Aldi
- Places to eat out and go for a drink
- Food market
- Local produce
- Farm shops
- Good range of cafes in town centre
- Good harbour fish restaurant overlooking the sea
- A green grocer in the High Street
- Youth Hostel

Does this give everyone a good life – who's missing out?

Accessibility an issue for the town

Beach Wheelchairs is an asset

Disabled people

Low income

Young People

Leuchir isolated

Isolated elderly

Mental health

Young generally

Young Carers

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Need input from local business/shopkeepers
More consultation with GP's and Carers
Ideas from visitors/tourists
Ideas from housing developers

COMMUNITY ASSETS- BUILDINGS

Abbey Church
Abbey Older People's Home
Baptist Church
Beehive
Bowling Club
Cadet Hall
Coastal Museum
Community Centre
Council Chambers
Day Centre
Edington Hospital
Fire Station
Freemasons Hall
Glen Golf Club
Health Centre
Hope Rooms
Law Primary School
Library
Lime Grove Depot
Lodge Grounds Pavilion
North Berwick Golf Club
North Berwick High School
Nursery School
Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
Police Station
Post Office Depot
Rugby Club
Scottish Seabird Centre
Scout Hall
Sports Centre
St Andrew Blackadder Church
St Baldred's Church



COMMUNITY ASSETS – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Anchor green
Bass Rock
Beaches
Boating Pond
Caravan Parks x 2

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Coos Green
 East Links
 Farmland
 Glen
 Golf Courses x 2
 Harbour
 Limegrove Depot land
 Lodge grounds
 North Berwick Law
 Putting Green
 Railway line
 Recreation Park
 Scenic approach from all entry points to the town
 School pitches/playing fields
 Tennis Courts
 Trust land
 Woodland/ Whisky bottle

EVALUATION FROM FEEDBACK FORMS COMPLETED

How did you hear about tonight?

East Lothian Courier x 3
 North Berwick Movies Circular x 2
 Word of mouth x 3
 Support from the Start
 Flyer x 3
 Facebook
 Email
 Email from friend
 Pre meeting
 Internet

Evaluation Ratings

| Evaluation Ratings from Participants who completed forms (18 forms completed) | Unsatisfactory | Weak | Adequate | Good | Very good | Excellent |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| Venue – suitability / comfort/ accessibility | | | 2 | 10 | 6 | |
| Presentation style / methods used | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | |
| Discussion group | | 1 | 1 | 7 | 6 | |
| Ability to take part and get my points/views heard | | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | |
| Feel I could make a difference | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | |
| Knowledge gained | 2 | | 4 | 7 | 2 | |

Comments

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- The meeting last night in the big Spiegeltent was interesting - a victim of its own success in some ways because the volume of attendees didn't really suit the way the sub-sessions had been arranged, and of course two hours is never long enough to cover everything once the lid has come off the box so to speak. But clearly plenty of ideas were thrown about, which is a good start, and it proves that you can get a decent crowd in North Berwick for this sort of thing with the right pre-advertising (and a lovely mirrored retro-venue). So congratulations to the organisers.
- Not enough time to fully discuss but this the beginning of the conversation
- Poorly co-ordinated and structured
- Very poor presentation and organisation
- Not very well organised.
- Feel that we all input a lot into group discussion however, never heard other groups feedback!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The people who came along to the meeting told us what they think are the priorities for North Berwick and gave us lots of ideas for ways we might make life even better for us all. That included ensuring everyone has an opportunity to have their say and developing practical, creative proposals that will start to make progress on the priorities that are emerging through our community conversations.

The Area Partnership will continue to facilitate and support this process by:

reporting back on the event and the key themes that have emerged to the Area Partnership at its next meeting on 30th August. www.eastlothian.gov.uk/areapartnerships

- creating more opportunities for people to have their say through community events and social media
- holding meetings in different parts of the community, for example, schools, the Day Centres.
- publicising our sub groups meetings which are open to everyone and are where the proposals and priorities agreed in the Area Plan are discussed with the community and decision makers.

Get involved, stay informed

If you would like to get involved or keep informed about the work of the Area Partnership and the community conversation, please keep in touch. You can contact us at nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk or call us on 01620 827871.

THANKS

Thanks to everyone who came along to the 'Community Conversation' for sharing your ideas and getting the conversation underway. Thank you to the facilitators and scribes for a grand job recording all the feedback.

Special thanks to the 'Fringe by The Sea' organisers for the use of the Speigeltent.