

**Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting of the Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership
Wednesday 16th November 2016, 7-9pm
Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans**

Members (and substitute members) present:

Peter Ford, Chair (PF)
 Cllr Steven Brown, Elected Member (SB)
 Cllr Willie Innes, Elected Member (WI)
 Cllr Peter MacKenzie, Elected Member, ELC (PM)
 Bryan Hickman, Cockenzie & Port Seton CC (BH)
 Philippa Barber, Longniddry CC (PB)
 Zoe Inglis, Prestonpans CC (ZI)
 Ferhan Ashiq, (Vice Chair), Prestonpans CC (FA)
 Gillian Stewart, Cockenzie West TRA (GS)
 Laura Wood, Prestonpans Inf School PCouncil (LW) Kirsty Souter, Prestonpans Inf School PCouncil (KS)
 Angela Bonnar, Prestonpans PS Parent Council (AB) Christine Patterson, Prestonpans PS PCouncil (CP)
 Angela Davie, Pennypit Community Dev Trust (AD)
 Philip Wark, CRA (PW)
 Marlene Love, Cockenzie & Port Seton In Bloom (ML)
 David Dickson, Support from the Start (ND)

Others in attendance:

Andrew Crummy, Local Resident (AC)
 Carl Barber, Local Resident (CB)
 David Ostler, CRA (DO)
 Saddah Aziz, Preston Lodge Parent Council (SA)
 Alex Paterson, Local Resident (AP)
 Brian Weddell, Prestonpans Community Council (BW)
 Graeme Hutchison, Prestonpans Community Council (GH)
 Natalie Moir, Pennypit Community Dev Trust (NM)
 Jonathan Revell, Head Teacher, Prestonpans Primary School (JR)
 Janice Thomson, Port Seton CC Management Committee (JT)
 Sheila Laing, Head Teacher, Prestonpans Infant School (SL)
 Sandra King, Area Manager, ELC (SK)
 Carlyne Murray, Business Support Administrator, ELC (CMu)

Apologies:

Helen Harper, Community Development Officer, ELC
 Gordon Horsburgh, Team Leader – CLDS, ELC
 Sue Cairns, EL Tenants & Residents Panel (SC)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTION
1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies		
	PF welcomed everyone to the second Annual Public Meeting of the Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership and apologies received were noted.	
2. Interim Chair		
	<p>Only one application had been received for the post of interim chair from Andrew Crummy. Members present unanimously approved his appointment.</p> <p>PF thanked members and wished the Area Partnership continued success and to keep doing great things in Preston Seton Gosford. PF thanked FA and CM for their support during his time as chair and particularly wanted to thank SK for her assistance and hard work for the Preston Seton Gosford area.</p>	

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTION
	<p>FA thanked PF for his constant support and that it had been an honour and a privilege to have been his Vice Chair. FA commented that PF's knowledge of East Lothian Council had been of great benefit to the Area Partnership and his departure would be a loss.</p>	
3. AOCB		
	<p>AC took over as chair and members were asked for any AOCB items.</p> <p>SK reminded those present that there was currently a consultation underway regarding the catchment area for Preston Lodge and the proposed Blindwells Primary School, the closing date is 20 December 2016. There are also Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership leaflets now available for members to take back to their respective groups and the presentation shown tonight is available to any members on request.</p> <p>DO updated those present regarding the master planning exercise currently underway regarding the power station site. A preliminary report is expected before Christmas with a public consultation of the report to follow in the new year when feedback will be taken on board for the final document. DO stressed that it was in everyone's interest to have their say and look at what is being proposed.</p> <p>CB asked how to go about proposing ideas for funding to the area partnership. FA advised that initial enquiries/suggestions should be submitted to SK or CM in the first instance.</p> <p>AC closed the meeting and commented that the Area Partnership will no doubt return to the themes raised tonight over the next year and he will be asking for short, concise reports at a meeting in order to ensure that as many voices as possible can be heard.</p> <p>Post meeting Sheila Laing asked that it be noted that Nicola Dickson is now her co-lead for Prestonpans Support from the Start.</p>	
4. 2017 Area Partnership Meeting Dates		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 January 2017 • 15 March 2017 • 10 May 2017 • 7 June 2017 • 13 September 2017 – 3rd Annual Public Meeting • 15 November 2017 	<p>Apologies to be sent to - psg-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</p>

Discussion Groups – your journey so far...

What has the Partnership done well?

- Brought community groups together
- Engaging communities on What's On East Lothian
- Identify local projects needing funding
- Local people can see results
- Practical support education attainment
- Local funding has secured additional money (War Memorial)
- Achieved projects in a good level and timescale
- Developed group cohesion (confidence)
- Helped sustain 'In Bloom'
- Cuthill Park
- Cockenzie House
- Support from the Start worker
- Support for the Summer Lunch Club
- Local people making decisions
- Sense of empowerment
- Communication between 3 areas within PSG
- A coordinated approach
- Got off the ground!
- Become established, recognised
- A positive group, ideas, tailored
- Not having to go through all the loopholes to get things done
- Established relationships with ELC, other agencies
- Going to events putting PSG on the map and engaging together
- Making a difference in the community – we've had the resources to get things done in a timely manner
- Knowing who the movers and shakers are in the area – faces to names

What could the Partnership do better?

- Get wider community engaged
- Lack understanding of scope – Local Development Plan.
- Feedback in between meetings on progress
- 'Branding' of projects delivered
- Inform Community Councils on work of sub groups
- Sub groups updating local area partnership
- Make better use of social media
- Local groups need to learn that the Area Partnership is a vehicle for prized projects
- Wider involvement of other groups
- May have to expand our core interest from education into eg Health
- Cleaner beach area – in certain areas!
- Preston playing fields need dog poo bins and signs
- Promote the group better
- Promote the area better: Preston Tower; Battlefield etc
- Find ways to involve children
- Consult communities on the funding available
- Communicate and engage
- Festival/event inviting the communities in
- Reach the hard to reach
- Engage the schools through young ambassadors
- Too few people are carrying the burden of getting things done
- Better engagement especially with disadvantaged groups – hearing local voices

- Understanding and influencing the bigger issues eg Local Development Plan (housing); Health Services; Social Services
- Representatives telling their group what the Partnership is doing and bringing issues to the Partnership
- Barrier re roles and partnership working for all the area.
- Decent press coverage – one-to-one with Courier correspondent
- Doing it for ourselves rather than having it done to us! Ownership and Responsibility

What if...

- More people on communications sub group
- Could create a local beach
- Enhance local employment initiatives
- More recreational activities on water
- Better range shopping on High Streets
- What if we had more visitors to area?
- Where will Blindwells sit?
- ...money was no object
- ...but many worthwhile initiatives can be free or require imagination and involvement
- ...a developer comes up with 'coastal' idea that the community doesn't like
- ...through the AP we began to find solutions to real local problems
- More offices and industrial unites
- Less co-ops! (x5!)
- They don't stop building houses: Doctors and Dentists can't cope
- Beaches at Prestonpans sand
- There were outstanding toilet and shower facilities along the coast
- PSG were dementia friendly
- Service provision were linked up
- Quality High Street experience
- Everyone's opinion is considered
- There is a need/priority we all pull together
- East Lothian Council reduced/withdrew funding?
- We were given more access to the running of community assets eg local centres?
- What if we can influence CLD priorities in line with local priorities?
- More people will to do more
- We had an Area Manager solely for PSG?
- ELC departments spoke to each other?

Your recommendations to the Partnership

- Create a walkway Cuthill Park to Mining Museum
- Cycle ways 'Off Road'
- Local history and recreation info maps/boards
- More public seating/benches
- Enhancing streetscape
- More facilities/activities for young people
- What about a 'supported by brand' for the local area partnership eg a purple plaque.
- We'd like to see an environmental sub-group (eg creating community woodlands, green play parks, community nature parks)
- Cultural touring/common heritage centre
- Better use of existing services
- Identify inspiring local people: those with the right connections within the community; those with wider connections.
- Be an exemplar of engaging with the whole of the community

- Support the Three Harbours Festival financially and other resources
- Annual events calendar – electronic and printed
- Getting the projects completed as quickly as possible (PRIORITIES decided quicker)
- Allowing budgets to be carried forward
- Become a statutory consultee (collective decision making)
- Working closer with Community Councils on development issues
- ELC officials understand the Partnership Priorities and taking us seriously (answer emails!)
- Make sure we have all interested groups involved? Attract more people to get involved
- Go to where people are at? Roadshows more visibility
- A local Area Partnership office!
- More admin backup, Carolyne is doing a grand job!