

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Minutes of the North Berwick Coastal Partnership Meeting Tuesday 16 November 2021, 7-9 pm ZOOM MEETING

Voting Members present:	Substitute members present
Hilary Smith, Chair (HS)	
Carol McFarlane, North Berwick Community Council (CM)	
Eric Martin, Dunpender Community Council (EM)	
Elma Danks, Association of East Lothian Day Centres (ED)	
Jane McMinn, North Berwick Harbour Trust (JM)	
Lorna Scott, Gullane Village Association (LS)	
Liz Forsyth, Aberlady Community Association (LF)	
Brett Walker, Chair On The Move (BW)	
Janice Macleod, Chair NBC Children & Youth Network (JMc)	Lesley Kay, Children & Youth Network (LK)
Simon Metzner, NB District Assoc of Churches (SM)	
Kerry Hardie, Aberlady Primary School Parent Council (KH)	
Ruth Wolstenholme, Lime Grove TRA (RW)	
Stevie Wands, Community, North Berwick Sports Hub (SW)	

Others in attendance:

Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager (DH)
 Shirley Gillie, Business Support East Lothian Council (SG)
 Nick Morgan, Outdoor Access Officer ELC (NM)
 Ruth Pepper, Sustaining North Berwick (RP)

Apologies:

Tim Harding, Lime Grove TRA (TH)
 Katie Nevans, Support from the Start (KN)
 Nikki Ford, North Berwick Community Council (NF)
 Heather Young, Locality Worker for Volunteer Centre East Lothian (HY)
 Jim Conway, Economic Development (JC)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS, DECISIONS <i>Actions</i>	FAO
1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies		
	DH welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made and apologies were noted. DH explained he would be Chairing the meeting tonight. DH welcomed newly elected members of the Community Council to the meeting. DH advised that this meeting would be recorded, kept for 21 days then automatically deleted.	

2. Minutes Previous Meeting	
	Minutes from the Zoom meeting on 6 September 2021 were agreed and accepted.
3. Matters Arising	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday Hunger/Food Poverty – During the pandemic the H&W Association held the funds for supporting food parcels and social welfare. KN manages the food panty supporting many families and is working very closely with many partnership agencies. Approx £18,000 if anyone knows of any groups or families who need support please get in touch with DH/SG • Scottish Government COVID 19 Funding <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. £2,500 additional funding for Digital Inclusion. The chair of C&Y network will speak about a proposal later in the meeting. 2. £8,000 additional funding for Holiday Hunger. The chair of C&Y network will speak about a proposal later in the meeting. 3. £7,500 additional funding for additional youth work across the ward. The C&Y network chose not to allocate this funding just now but to wait till January to receive feedback from the surrounding villages with more information and ideas. • Queen’s Green Canopy- Everyone has been circulated the information previously HS is keen to have the NBC Area Partnership involved to see how we can help support this initiative. A number of ideas have been received so far.
4. Declaration of Interest	
	<p>DH asked members to declare any conflict of interest they may have in any of the applications being voted on tonight.</p> <p>EF highlighted she is involved with Aberlady in Bloom and wasn’t sure if that was a conflict. DH/HS agreed no conflict as they are two distinct groups and different villages.</p> <p>ED declared a conflict of interest with the NB in Bloom application</p>
5. Membership – Welcome to new Community Council Representatives	
	DH formerly welcomed the new community council representatives along to the meeting tonight.
5a. Nick Morgan – Guest Speaker	
	<p>BW explained that NM had made a presentation to the OTM group at their last meeting on 3.11.21 regarding the Coastal path between North Berwick and Tantallan. Arranging material for coffin lane Aberlady – path old burn glen burn open again. A concern regarding wheelchair access between Berwick Law and Wishart Avenue was raised by a wheel chair user. NM advised members that this is also part of the John Muir Way. The project would need £9,000. DH confirmed there is money in the Roads budget but unfortunately can’t be used for this. NM feels this is a very worthwhile project and has agreed that Roads Department will pay the lion’s share of the costs If the area partnership can provide the £9,000. DH clarified that this would need to come from the general budget if members agreed. NM confirmed there is 175 metres of whin dust path that would need to be tarred and 2 metres wide. There has also been trouble recently with drainage so would need to be raised to stop the water gathering. This path needs to be made more accessible for everyone. NM showed a map of the path to help the members. DH added that at the OTM group meeting they were unanimously supportive of this proposal. DH asked voting members to vote on £9,000 from the general budget for this project.</p> <p>Members voted - 12 votes yes - No objections - Unanimous decision to award £9,000.</p>
6. North Berwick Costal Area Plan 2021 - 2024	

	<p>DH advised HS still very keen to gain specific priorities from your community groups to collate into the future NBC Area Plan. Discussion took place as to previous consultations and maybe not the right time of the year and to try again in January 2022.</p>	
<p>7. Reports from Sub Groups</p>		
	<p>DH asked if the chairs of the sub groups and village representatives could perhaps send us a bullet point update either before the meeting is possible or the day after the meeting to help with making sure the minutes are an accurate representation of each sub group. Thank you.</p> <p>Children & Youth Network – JMc advised there had been a face to face meeting earlier this afternoon and was great to see everyone. A very productive meeting. The priorities for the group were agreed previously by zoom but may be need to revisit and look at any new ideas which would include the schools. Bike ability was mentioned as maybe an idea to get more pupils cycling to school. DH mentioned there is still funding available. JMc highlighted two initiatives from LK which the C&Y members were very keen to support and bring to the meeting tonight for members to vote.</p> <p>Holiday Hunger LK requested £2,100 to provide food and activities at the drop in nights and over the Christmas period. Members were asked to vote – 11 YES - no objections – 1 conflict of interest</p> <p>Digital Inclusion LK requested £650 for a lap top for the youth centre Members were asked to vote – 11 YES - No objections</p> <p>JMc would like to explore the possibility of Wi-Fi in the lodge gardens from the Digital Inclusion fund also.</p> <p>JMc advised extra COP26 funding directed to pupil P7 and up to secondary school for Climate Change. The C&Y network have agreed dates for 2022 to be a fortnight before the main NBC Area Partnership dates so we can report back to everyone.</p> <p>LK added that the youth shelter has no lighting and may submit a funding application in the future from the general budget.</p> <p>North Berwick Youth Project are looking for new board members and if anyone is interested please contact LK for more information.</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing – HS explained the main focus of the group has been working with Friends of Eddington and the North Berwick Community Connections with a campaign to keep the Edington. LS chaired a meeting for Mental Health and was very successful and will feed back soon. This is really interesting and is a second meeting trying to link up all the Health & Wellbeing groups all over East Lothian as well as at a local level. HS advised the group are hoping to hold face to face meeting soon as a lot of great work and good connections are often made during small chats/coffee chats at these meetings.</p> <p>On The Move – BW advised there have been two meetings since the last NBC Area Partnership meeting and they have been assured the X5 bus will be restored but not sure when. Happy to attend further meetings if needed on this subject. Free bus passes on 31.1.22 for all under 22 so would be good to have this bus up and running to take young people to Fort Kinnaird for the cinema, shopping and restaurants. CM</p>	

	<p>advised she can't take part in any discussion re buses as her husband works for Lothian buses.</p> <p>BW advised regarding the bike racks at the west end of North Berwick - awaiting a report back from Cycle Forth.</p> <p>BW advised still working on the priorities for the NBC Area Plan.</p> <p>East Scotland Regional frame work disappointed consultation run over 6 weeks over the summer. There is an opportunity to influence the 1.3 billion yet seemed to ignore contributions from local community groups. BW asked if he could get members support for the Partnership to write how disappointed we Are regarding the 6 week time frame over the summer. There were no objections form members.</p> <p>BW asked if Whitekirk had their speed cameras yet. EM advised he met with Keith Scott and had a walk around the Whitekirk village looking at the location points for the speed cameras. Hoping these will be in place before Christmas.</p> <p>Pot holes - Cllr Goodfellow is dealing with these.</p> <p>East End of High Street - NM/DH and various others to discuss proposal.</p> <p>Could ELC enforce law clutter on pavements as this is a hazard for the visual impaired and buggies etc. BW asked if he could get members support from the Partnership to write to East Lothian Council to enforce the litter law regarding the clutter on the high street. There were no objections from members. DH advised he is happy to help where he can.</p> <p>RP asked regarding the safer routes to school. BW assured members this is still ongoing and very important to everyone.</p> <p>SW to be added to the OTM distribution list.</p> <p>Support from the Start – DH informed the meeting that Jan Gant the family support worker's post has been extended till March 2022. HS confirmed this is brilliant news. J G asked where funding from? DH confirmed North Berwick Trust and ELC. HS confirmed JG does a brilliant job.</p>	
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8. Reports from Village Representatives

	<p>Aberlady Community Association</p> <p>EF updated members on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have started the Aberlady Community Connections with a small group meeting in the local pub once a fortnight. This initiative is based on the North Berwick Community Connections project. • 2 news letters have gone to every household in Aberlady with a further Christmas newsletter going out soon. This initiative is based on Dirleton's newsletter. • Aberlady in Bloom have won the Silver Gilt award which was brilliant and the AGM is on Saturday. Appealing for new volunteers to help. • Looking into Sit & Stroll benches for the residents and notice that some benches need some TLC. Can amenities budget be sought to help with the need to refurbish some of the original benches? DH is happy to meet with EF later to discuss this further but did point out that the amenities budget is for 	
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	<p>men and machines only no capital only man hours. Materials would need to be sought from elsewhere. DH/EF will meet further to discuss options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A calendar for Aberlady has been done again this year and is available for £5 from the village store. This initiative is based on Dirleton’s calendar. • There is only a shelf in the village hall for library books and this is only open on the days that the post office is available. Looking at perhaps other ways to provide books to the community. Telephone boxes have been used in other villages. • There will be a Christmas decoration swap shop which is exciting a week on Saturday in the school. • Pleased that OTM group are looking at the traffic concerns in the village. • KH advised that the Parent Council are looking into an extra crossing in the village as there have been a few near misses. There is a further meeting next Wednesday and KH will feedback to DH/OTM group. <p>Dirleton Village Association No representative at tonight’s meeting but JMc advised that they are looking into the possibility of wf-fi into the Kirk hall from the digital inclusion money. The monthly lunch club meet and some of them are keen to pay with contactless and there is no facility to do this at the moment. Phone signal is really poor. EM suggested maybe worthwhile contacting Lothian Broadband who might be able to help further.</p> <p>Dirleton Good Neighbours No representative at tonight’s meeting.</p> <p>Gullane Village Association LS advised the main focus has been taking over the lease of the former Scout Hall. It has been deep cleaned and has been refurbished. The work has been done mainly by committee members but it has been a huge amount of work to transform it and it really looks great. We had our first major artisan fundraiser last week. It was for local traders showcasing their products. No one had been in the hall for more than two years so everyone was really keen to see the refurbishment. A very successful event. Hoping in the long term that this will also be used as a community café, arts and crafts sessions and would be great to re-establish a youth space. There has also been 3 newsletter funded by the GVA hand delivered to every resident as they recognise that not everyone has access to the internet. You can view this on line GVA Newsletter Christmas 2021.pdf (cdn-website.com). LS would like all groups to use the newsletter. Also keen to encourage digital inclusion for all ages and definitely want to take this forward.</p> <p>Whitekirk Village EM raised a concern about a 2 year long correspondence re British R100 programme. EM asked if DH could speak to someone in ELC to find out exactly what is taking place in the village re traffic lights and cabling. DH will looking into this and feedback. EM has photographs if needed.</p>	
9. General Budget Priorities 2021/2022		
	<p>DH gave an update of the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership finances for 2021/2022</p> <p>A) North Berwick Community Council - Projector £3,500 Members voted 9 YES – no objections – 3 Abstain</p> <p>B) North Berwick In Bloom – purchase of plants £5,000</p>	

	<p>Members voted 12 YES – 1 Conflict – no objections conditions attached</p> <p>C) Aberlady Community Association £3,000 previously allocated and part of the funding was for a community’s day which due to COVID has not been able to happen. Looking to have approval to use the funding to still benefit the community but in different ways from a community’s day.</p> <p>Members voted yes - with one note of concern that this differed from the original proposal.</p>	
10. A.O.C.B		
	<p>JM gave members an update regarding the future of North Berwick Harbour. NB Harbour Trust is a charity run by volunteers who have been managing the harbour since 2008. We have found funding for 2 vital sea wall upgrades and continue to maintain and run improvements projects for this fabulous community asset. We are undergoing a rationalisation of all the space at the harbour as each and every one of the facilities we manage have a waiting list and we want to optimise the space available to as many people as possible. We have a long term plan in the development stage and are listening to as many as possible ideas and suggestions but so far we intend to promote accessibility and community space and to that end the imagined 3 phases would be Increasing the community space by removing cubicles next to harbour side and extending area back about 20-25 metres, protect with wall that will have units for outlets of differing things, an area to sit in, landscaped, beach huts, food outlets etc, a wheelchair lift to access overlook to Old Pier and possible access towards Platcock Rocks. Overall improvement in accessibility around the harbour itself.</p> <p>Second phase would be the replacement sea wall and community units with a first floor of community space that would be flexible for use for most things by most groups from education of visiting school children, meeting rooms pop up anything. It is hoped the SSC would develop the decking further to collaborate with accommodating the hatchery and rowing club.</p> <p>Third phase would be the refurbishment of the Sun Lounge building to provide the economic sustainability for the area.</p> <p>We also will be looking and working with the Bring Back NB Pool folk to incorporate all ideas then engage a consultancy to look at feasibility, costs and economic sustainability as well as environmentally aware development.</p> <p>DH thanked everyone for coming along tonight and stay safe.</p> <p>HS thanked DH for chairing the meeting.</p>	
Dates of Next Meetings	<p>Look at draft dates for 2022</p> <p>25.1.2022</p> <p>22.3.2022</p> <p>03.5.2022</p> <p>21.6.2022</p> <p>30.8.2022</p> <p>15.11.2022</p>	<p>Apologies to nbc-ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</p>