

**Minutes of the meeting of the Fa’side Area Partnership**

**12th November 2024 7.00pm -9.00pm, a Teams meeting**

**Chair**

Quorum 12

1. Chair Bill Axon (BA)

**Members and substitute members present:**

1. Debbie Middlemass, Vice Chair (DM)
2. Alan Bell, Recharge (AB)
3. Loreen Pardoe, Ross High Parent Teacher Council (LP)
4. Russell McLarty, FaCTS Chair (RMcL)
5. Carla Allan, VCEL (CA)
6. Alan Lauder, Macmerry & Gladsmuir CC (AL)
7. David Todd, Macmerry & Gladsmuir CC (DT)
8. Cllr Colin McGinn Elected Member, ELC (CMcG)
9. Cllr Lee- Anne Menzies, Elected Member, ELC (LAM)
10. Cllr Fiona Dugdale, Elected Member, ELC (FD)
11. Cllr Kenny McLeod, Elected Member, ELC (KMc)

**Others in attendance**

Andy Cheshire, Connected Communities Manager - Fa’side, ELC (AC)

Tracey Redpath, CDO, Connected Communities – Fa’side, ELC (TR)

Angela Lamont, EDO, Community Wealth Building – Development (AL)

Ruth Davie, Pennypit Trust (RD)

Jude Henderson, CDO, Connected Communities – Fa’side, ELC (JH)

Caroline Rodgers, ELC (CR)

Carol Finneron, Pencaitland CC (CF)

Rachael Redpath, Windygoul PS (RR)

Donald Grant, Co-opted member (DG)

Lorna Bellany, NHS (LB)

Rosanne Woods, Chair of the Health, and Wellbeing Group (RW)

**Apologies**

Neil Ellis, Tranent and Elphinstone CC (NE)

Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Elected Member, ELC (SA)

Kathryn-Jane James, Support from the Start (KJJ)

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|  | **Key discussion points** |  |
|  | **Welcome**  BA thanked everyone for coming this evening. |  |
|  | **Apologies**  Apologies are noted above. |  |
|  | **Declaration of interest from agenda items**  LAM noted declaration of interest on trustee in Fa’side Community Kitchen.  AB declared interest in two applications – D Fie Foe Productions and Recharge. |  |
|  | **Community Wealth Building (Angela Lamont, CWB Officer)**  AL introduced herself and noted Community Wealth Building (CWB) as subject of presentation.  The presentation covered the meaning of CWB, the pillars of CWB and what’s happening with CWB in East Lothian. CWB is a new economic model to address the divide between rich and poor. It is being adopted by the Scottish Government as the economic model of choice. It is about wealth generation as opposed to wealth extraction – profits and wealth being kept within communities as opposed to delivering profits for corporate businesses and shareholders.  It relies on anchor organisations – large public sector organisations that have employment and retention potential. They would tend to hold land and assets. In East Lothian we have East Lothian Council, NHS East Lothian, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh College and VCEL.  AL explained that CWB will focus on fair employment, progressive procurement and socially just use of land/assets.AL explained the strategic context nationally and for East Lothian – in how it fits into the Local Economic Strategy, the Poverty Plan and the Local Development Plan 2.  The pillars of CWB were explained and these are Fair Employment, Socially Just use of Land and Assets, Local Financial Power, Progressive Procurement, A Plural Society and Climate Change.  Presentation concluded with no questions from group. |  |
|  | **Approval of Minutes**  BA went through the minutes of the 10th of September 2024.  No objections.  Approved by **CA**  Seconded by **AB** |  |
|  | **Matters Arising**  **Historic – Lighthouse Project.** Still with SD. ***Matter ongoing. AC to provide update in January’s meeting.***  **Historic – Fa’side Community Kitchen.** Still in search of a community chairperson. TR noted FCK is looking for a number of trustees at the moment. ***Matter ongoing. Now with TR.***  **Historic –** Letter of thanks from SD to Andrew Hogarth**.** ***AC to include in report for next meeting.***  **Fa’side Young Formers** – Outstanding regarding face-to-face meeting in Recharge’s building. Pushed back due to young people sitting exams and was not revisited. AC to liaise with AB and report back. ***Matter ongoing.***  **PCDT Summer evaluation video –** AC unable to circulate due to file size. TR to circulate Youtube link to members.  **Positive stories of young people/changing the narrative –** AC and AB met with **Community Police Officer, Neil Whittingham**. AC encouraged members to share examples of positive stories by forwarding these to AB. ***Matter ongoing.***  **Pencaitland Speed sign & Roads update** – AC provided cost update, which amounts to £4613.14.  AC raised concerns with Roads regarding the approach around budget and will circle back once a response is received.  **East Lothian Partnership** - self assessment – AC to share with partnership  **Planning Aid Scotland** - action plan – TR to share with partnership | AC  TR  AC  AC  TR  AB  AC  TR  TR  AC |
|  | Connected Communities Team update   * 1. Managers update - (attached) AC   2. Tracey’s Officer update – (attached) TR  1. **AC’s report:**   AC mentioned presentation delivered by Emma Brown at the last meeting which has been circulated among members, regarding a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).  AC informed the partnership that the governance group for the East Lothian Partnership gave approval to produce a new 10-year EL plan (LOIP), to be drafted by end of 2025. AC offered to share timeline if members are interested. Next stage will be to complete an Integrated Impact assessment and a Children Rights and Wellbeing assessment, which is currently being discussed with VCEL and Families Together East Lothian.  AC offered to also share the East Lothian Partnership self-assessment.  BA requested clarification as to whether AC’s update meant there had been a change from what was reported at last meeting and if the timescale had been extended. BA noted it was expected to be April.  AC confirmed there has indeed been a change and deadline has now moved to the end of next year.  BA mentioned that the April deadline was a concern for the partnership and expressed his agreement with the change.  CR noted that the decision was taken based on feedback from Area Partnerships and others. CR thanked the partnership for the feedback.  AC mentioned the change of platform for the meetings from Zoom to Teams, the reason being that it is of essence moving forward that the partnership meetings be recorded. This is to ensure accurate minuting due to new administration support.  AC welcomed JH to the meeting and the team, who is the new Community Development Officer (CDO). AC mentioned JH is still coming to the end of the induction phase. AC noted some of his CDO responsibilities will now lay with TR.  AC has been supporting Zahra Hussain in developing a procedural guidance document for Community Asset Transfer.  Community facilities – AC informed that TR is now head of establishment for all facilities in Fa’side.  Festive provision – The team will be engaged in this project between now and Christmas Day.  Handover from SD still ongoing. AC and SD meeting current week.  BA welcomed JH to the partnership.  JH thanked the members and gave a brief introduction of herself.  JH expressed interest on ongoing youth work being carried out.   1. **TR’s report**   Festive provision—referrals opened for Christmas provision. Provision available: Christmas dinner, Cash for Kids present, New Years dinner. Schools and health visitors have been asked to refer families (those in receipt of free school meals), and there are plans to go to other organisations who are working in the community.  FCK—Christmas Day Deliveries from FCK—socially isolated individuals who will get Christmas dinner and a present delivered (soup, main meal and dessert). Individuals will also get a visit from Santa or the Elf.  TR offered to share referral form with members that would like to refer someone.  FCK looking for volunteers for a couple of hours on Christmas morning to help with the bags.  FCK is extending opening hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays allowing people to come in at 10:30am, starting on day of meeting (12/11/2024). TR reports 12 people showed. Great to see individuals enjoying their toast and cups of tea prior to getting their lunch.  FaCTS subgroup**—**Planning Aid Scotlandand FaCTS sub-group have four events planned locally to consult on a Walking action plan which they have been successful in securing funding for. Event at Recharge being held which will focus on young people and asking their opinions on walking in Fa’side. Other events to take place at Fraser Centre, Macmerry and Pencaitland.  Planning Aid Scotland will produce an action plan for the area on short and long-term plans. TR to share information on these events post meeting.  FaCTS meeting at end of November being postponed to January due to clashing with Climate Hub’s gathering on the same date (28/11/24).  Anti-social behaviour**—**Calls to the police are down, however there are still concerns of young people graffitiing bus stops. Conversations ongoing on how to address issue. D Fie Foe have been successful in securing funding to work with Ultras group to address some of this antisocial behaviour. | AC |
|  | **Consultation Hub –** no discussion unless groups seeking information.  AC mentioned TR and himself have been involved in the Tranent Greenspace project. AC encouraged members to give input.  TR shared there will be a consultation at Tranent Library on Saturday 30/11/2024. |  |
|  | **Subgroup/network updates**   * 1. Fa’side Climate, Transport and Sustainability (FaCTS) – Attached (TR).   RM having technical issues and unable to run through the report. TR presenting instead.  **Local action plan** which was mentioned previously (see item 6 b).  **Tree Town proposal—**aims to regenerate tree coverage on Fa’side. RM now chair with Natural Connections (The Heugh) which will take the lead of this project. TR currently supporting them to write funding application in order to move the project forward.  RM elaborated on this application and shared positive possible impact of 10-year program through Future Woodland Scotland for urban forests. Securing funding would mean staff could be employed to drive the project. RM stated the aim is to get 1000 people involved in planting these trees. RM thanked TR for her work with FaCTS.  Macmerry Miners—successful in securing funding through FaCTS for eco-friendly hand driers.  TR reminded the members that there is funding still available through FaCTS and reiterated that next meeting is now scheduled for January 16th 2025.   * **BA introduced Caroline Rodgers (Head of Communities) to the meeting. BA apologised for the late introduction.**    1. Fa’side Health and Well Being – Attached (RW)   RW noted the group met two weeks ago where they received a presentation from CA on the VCEL Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.  **Subgroup funding update—**successful applications from FCK, Dementia Friendly Tranent, New Beginnings, Roots & Fruits, Macmerry Miners, Tranent Hockey Club. Money still available for funding. TR updated the remaining funding is roughly £3,500.  A note from TR at this meeting on the proposed ‘Fa’side Communities Day 2025’ – more to be revealed about this in January.   * 1. Fa’side Young Formers – Recharge – Attached (AB)   Residential to Aviemore in the Summer went well. The same group met with EL Works about a potential funding stream and how to make it more young person friendly.  Saltire Awards—one young person has the maximum award of 500 hours.  Successful Race Night at the Bowling club in Tranent—raised £360.  Younger group (now named ‘Youth reps) – Community mapping exercise completed that looked at needs and wants in the community. This has been shared with both Cllr Dugdale and Paul Reynolds (Headteacher from Ross High)  AB highlighted Paul Reynolds had got back to the group within the week noting their concerns and what the school could do to influence these.  Halloween Party for first years as well as linking in with FCK.  Christmas bake sale—date TBC.  AB mentioned a request from the Children and Young Person Subgroup. £4,000 had been devolved from the AP and £500 already distributed. The request is for £3,500 to be used for a pilot project, details provided below.  AB raised issues stemming from Covid that are still affecting young people, particularly concerning anxiety and social skills. A focus to be had on the P6 group. Targeted group work programmes that can be evaluated and used for future planning children and youth work. Partnership project with Families Together East Lothian, ELC Arts, ELC Connected Communities, Choose Play, Recharge, Active Schools, Mental Health Youth Worker and ELC Education.  AC all seven head teachers have brought these issues up before. C&YP agreed that choosing one age group would be beneficial.  LAM noted that it is essential that all individuals withing the age group targeted are reached by the program due to the lack of engagement, particularly for young people whose parents are not involved.  LP made a point on the complexity of identifying issues in young people and where they stem from.  No objections to AB’s proposal. | NOTE  NOTE  NOTE  NOTE  NOTE |
|  | **Third Sector update – Carla Allan**   * 1. Community Engagement Partner update (attached).   2. October 2024 funding update, please click [here](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmailchi.mp%2Fd15fb6d64834%2Fvcel-monthly-funding-update-august-2024%3Fe%3Def9989d7f0&data=05%7C02%7Cacheshire3%40eastlothian.gov.uk%7C7b67c78aea6f4dff1caa08dcc741b523%7C85e771afe90a4487b4071322ba02cc82%7C0%7C0%7C638604332221016109%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qdNfFNIEKW2rAdRR2EQudFLdFaofmeqc9O6Adf946%2B8%3D&reserved=0) if interested in finding out more.   3. Latest East Lothian Third Sector update, please click [here](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.volunteereastlothian.org.uk%2Fall-news%2Feast-lothian-third-sector-update-13082024&data=05%7C02%7Cacheshire3%40eastlothian.gov.uk%7C7b67c78aea6f4dff1caa08dcc741b523%7C85e771afe90a4487b4071322ba02cc82%7C0%7C0%7C638604332221030199%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yL%2F1dzwySlgtaNspqPaQj6Uey1hrTjqZpKy2U6wby6c%3D&reserved=0) to find out more.   CA shared great East Lothian Means Business Conference. Fantastic event which showed understanding of what’s happening in the community, especially in terms of Community Wealth Building.  Fa’side Women and Girls Group Event. CA expressed how wonderful the event was and the great work that has been done.  Community Mental Health and Wellbeing fund—still open. Contact has been made with a number of organisations in Fa’side. CA encouraged members to refer organisations that could benefit from this.  CA promoted Third Sector annual conference at Royal Musselburgh which took place on Thursday 14/11/2024. |  |
|  | **Budget update**  BA—regarding the £15.000 allocated to Centre Stage for the purpose of buying a sound system for the Loch Centre. They no longer require this funding so they will return the funds to the partnership. Once the money has come back, recommendations will be sought for that money to be spent in January.  BA handed over to AC.  AC reported on budget after last meeting, with a total of £5.475 remaining in the general budget, prior to discussing applications at November’s meeting.  H&WB sub-group—AC informed that the subgroup has £3.731,40 from the initial £10.000.  Overall, we are well on course to spend the total £45,000 allocated within the General budget.  TR shared that some applications should come in soon through Health and Wellbeing and FaCTS subgroups.  Amenities—request to do planting on the main Tranent roundabout by colleagues from Amenities. The funding would be used to buy and plant bulbs which would blossom in the summer. The quote for this - £14,310 + VAT.  CF shared concern that some of the flowers are not ideal for biodiversity as similar project in Pencaitland. CF did mention that the cost was very reasonable after they had looked to do similar planting in Pencaitland.  AC shared that the email from colleagues in Amenities did mention it would benefit biodiversity. Point also made on high priced of bulbs.  DT seeking clarification on which roundabout AC was referring to and unsure how the tree would work in this setting, particularly around visibility issues on the roundabout. Seeking clarification also on cost and upkeeping involved for this tree. Questioning who is to take on the maintenance.  AC confirmed it is the roundabout at the bottom of Church Street.  LAM shared positive views on the bulbs. LAM made a point that worse visibility might mean drivers will approach it more carefully.  FD agreed that the tree should not cause visibility issues.  DM querying the amount of water required for the growth of a tree as the roundabout is so busy and upkeeping it safely might prove challenging.  AC to seek clarification on these issues, particularly on maintenance.  No objections to the project being funded.  Funding applications—BA asked how much is left in the budget and the total of funding all three applications.  **POST MEETING NOTE:**  ***The AP has an Amenities resource and not a financial budget. As such AC has had to respond to colleagues in Amenities to inform that although we are supportive as a partnership, we are unable to fund the purchase of the bulbs.***  AC clarified there is £5,475 left in the budget, and the total requested from the three funding applications is £6,926.  FCK—TR declared she is a trustee within FCK and assured the members they have researched blast chillers and are requesting funding for the cheapest one on the market.  DT noted that there is enough funding left on the H&WB subgroup which could be used to fully fund all three applications.  BA raised concerns that this would undermine the principle of the money being allocated to the subgroup and their autonomy to spend it, however it can be done were the partnership to decide these applications are more important. Noted future applications coming soon through H&WB.  DM noted money being returned from Centre Stage.  BA explained this could be used and discussed in the future for a large-scale project (to run power to the Band Stand in Polson Park, but these costs have since doubled). Clarity is still being sought before a decision is made.  CF noted that the partnership should be focusing on applications that have already been submitted and not possible future ones. CF queried other funding opportunities for the current three applications.  TR shared that D Fie Foe have already secured £14,000 for their project. The lack of funding from the partnership would mean that D Fie Doe would have to outsource the remaining £3,000 and risk losing the £14,000 they have already secured. The timeline is tight for this.  LP noted that D Fie Foe had already been designated as a priority and wondered if “large screen hire” which is still to be confirmed could be worked around and sourced somewhere else.  RW questioning if any part of any of the three applications would fit in for H&WB funding. TR noted they would not.  TR suggested partially funding D Fie Foe and considering funding for the remaining amount in the future.  FD noted FCK on a H&WB application form. TR clarified it is on the wrong form.  CA seeking clarification on cost of workshops. TR noted these are essential to ensure engagement form young people and to be able to offer activities that allow them to make a film. CA offered that D Fie Foe borrow VCELs large screen.  AC shared that the diversity and nature of these activities is engaging for this group of young people that have otherwise been known to cause antisocial behaviour. AC also noted that the final goal is to engage and get this group of young people to respect their local community.  AB noted that regardless of Recharge being fully or partially awarded, the resource could be created and the project could go ahead. The reduction in funding would however affect the number of sessions that can be carried out.  **No objections to funding all three applications.**  Recharge and FCK to be funded in full. D Fie Foe to be funded minus the amount for renting the screen (£1,100). The remainder of the money will be taken from the £15,000 being returned to the partnership from Centre Stage. | NOTE  ALL  NOTE  NOTE  AC  NOTE |
|  | **A.O.C.B.**  No other business. |  |
|  | **Date of future Area Partnership Meetings**   |  | | --- | | Tuesday 21 January 2025  Tuesday, 25 March 2025  Tuesday, 24 June 2025  Tuesday, 23 September 2025  Tuesday, 25 November 2025 | | ALL |