

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

Minutes of the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership Meeting Tuesday 29th April 2025, 7-9 pm North Berwick Community Centre & TEAMS

Voting Members present:	Substitute members present:
Zena Trendell, Gullane Area Community Council (ZT)	
Liz Forsyth, Aberlady Community Association (LF)	Sadia Ward, Aberlady Community Association (SWard)
Lorna Scott, Gullane Village Association (LS)	Rachel Wallace, Gullane Village Association (RW)
Carole Glover, North Berwick Coastal Community Connections (CG)	
Kathy Duncan, Sustaining North Berwick (KD)	Jeremy Gass, Sustaining North Berwick (JG)
Kirsty Towler, NB Heritage (KT)	
Alan Fraser, Gullane Area Community Council (AF)	
Glyn Taylor, Gullane School Parent Partnership Committee (GT)	
Janice MacLeod, Support from the Start (JM)	
Simon Paterson-Brown, Dirleton Community Association (SPB)	
Alex Hutchison, North Berwick - In Bloom Groups (AH)	
Brett Walker, Chair On The Move (BW)	

Others in attendance:

Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager (DH)
 Shirley Gillie, Unified Business Support – ELC (SG)
 Lucy Higginson, ELC (LH)
 Jackie Shuttleworth, Fringe By The Sea (JS)

Apologies:

Hilary Smith, Chair (HS)
 Frank Neate, Gullane Area Community Council (FN)
 Fred McClintock, Dirleton Village Association (FMc)
 Nicky Fox, NB Community Centre Management Committee (NF)
 Katie Reid, Support from The Start (KR)
 Robin Grant, North Berwick Coastal Area Health & Social Care Charity (RG)
 Laura Chant, Population Health Project Manager – NHS Lothian (LChant)
 Cllr Carol McFarlane, Elected Member East Lothian Council (CM)
 Simon Metzner, NB District Assoc of Churches (SM)
 Mitch Stevenson, VCEL (MS)
 Kenny Miller, North Berwick Community Council (KM)
 Sharon Wellwood, North Berwick High School Parent Council (SWellwood)
 Tim Harding, Lime Grove Association (TH)
 Joyce Surfleet, North Berwick Day Centre (JS)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS, DECISIONS <i>Actions</i>	FAO
1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies		
	<p>DH welcomed everyone and explained the HS was unable to attend the meeting and ZT had kindly agreed to Chair the meeting tonight.</p> <p>ZT welcomed everyone to the meeting. Round the table introductions were made.</p>	
2. Minutes Previous Meeting		
	<p>The Minutes from the meeting held on the 25.2.25 were agreed and accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting. BW proposed these minutes but DH confirmed as we were not quorate tonight and email would be sent to all Members.</p>	
3. Declaration Of Interest		
	<p>This is a standing item on the agenda. Please declare any conflict of interest when voting. DH advised that if anyone was in any doubt if their vote or input to discussion created a conflict of interest, please advise.</p>	
4. Matters Arising		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defibrillators - DH advised there is no further update for developing a ward wide servicing and maintenance programme for community owned and managed defibrillators. It is hoped that this proposal will be taken forward at the next H&WA meeting. Date TBC Local Place Plans – ZT advised HS had contacted ELC since the last meeting but has had no response and will chase this up. HS aspiration is that we can include as much as possible from the Local Place Plans into the NBC Area Plan. More details will be provided once an update has been received from ELC. AF asked what HS was confirming. DH and ZT explained that Community Councils and Village Associations had experienced difficulty in having their plans accepted. There was ambiguity as to what was acceptable. KT confirmed that North Berwick Community Council Local Place Plan had been accepted and was now available on line. KT suggested that those that were having difficulty with having their plans accepted contact Planning Aid Scotland. DH offered to share contact details as needed. 	
5. Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) update		
	<p>LH gave a presentation and update which DH will share with everyone. LH asked if there is anything missing or any improvements that she could make? LH is keen for everyone to use the resource packs which are helpful to start conversations with groups. She respectfully asked that Members please be mindful of deadlines.</p> <p>DH confirmed that all settlements have produced Local Place Plans and HS will use these to identify themes like Health etc. HS will use colour codes so individual communities are able to identify where comments and priorities came from. These will be used to inform the basis of the 2025-20230 NBC Area Plan. A lot of work done by everyone round the table.</p> <p>DH hoped that the above Community Consultations could be utilised in the production of the LOIP. LH thought that his was a great idea.</p>	

	<p>SWard of Aberlady Community Association confirmed there is additional relevant information that isn't in the Local Place Plan that she could send on if useful.</p> <p>ZT advised HS was mindful of consultation fatigue amongst communities.</p>	
6. Aberlady Village Hall update		
	<p>LF gave a presentation and update on the Aberlady Village Hall. LF took time to highlight the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to hall and ownership • Difficulties of old building heating • Roof replacement and solar panels • Stage height and safety issues • kitchen and toilets no longer fit for purpose • Income • Constitution <p>She went on to advise that the above elements of refurbishment had been looked at individually over the years, and a patchwork approach had been used. It was acknowledged that a comprehensive overview and a schedule of coordinated refurbishment was required. LF went on to highlight how well the hall was used and how the community wish to retain its current ambiance as much as possible. It is hoped that new blood can be attracted to the hall committee.</p>	
7. Sustainable Tourism – Sustaining North Berwick		
	<p>ZT introduced JG who gave a presentation on behalf of Sustaining North Berwick - Towards a Sustainable Tourism Strategy. Paper copies were available to everyone. Members raised a number of questions around the content and context of the paper. They queried the definition of tourism. Is it those that stay overnight in the Coastal Ward that this paper aims its intention at, or does it also relate to those who come for the day.</p> <p>Members were supportive of the paper. They however believed that its purpose should be more clearly stated. The issues that affect the villages and settlements surrounding North Berwick should also be considered before the Partnership would be in a position to agree and endorse the content.</p>	
8. Sub Group updates		
	<p>Children & Youth Network JM advised they recently had a meeting which was very inspiring and engaging. JM said that the focus of the work at present continued to be the Children's Activity Fund (CAF), which she hoped would benefit low income families again this summer, and throughout the year. Next meeting September.</p> <p>On The Move Traffic Circulation: St Margarets and St Andrew Street, North Berwick - Road Services said that this would need to be modelled. Could result in more traffic in Forth Street, Beach Road and High Street.</p> <p>Coastal Area Car Parks: Monica Patterson had passed this to Peter Forsyth, Growth & Sustainability.</p> <p>Community Bus Fund: Completely cut by Scottish Government and Diana Murray ELC Transport Manager indicated that our NB Town Centre Bus would not go forward.</p>	

	<p>121 Bus Service: Now running along Grange Road and Pilgrims Way with more frequent buses. A nine bus schedule weekdays and Saturdays. Six on a Sunday.</p> <p>Gilsland-Kingston Quiet Route: Road Services have given the 'go ahead' to do design work on this scheme.</p> <p>Digital Speed Devices: +3 School Hazard Signs. DH to pass on to Keith Scott. The hazards at NB Schools Campus are not switched on. In NB only the DSD near the Rec on Dunbar Road is fully functioning. Haddington Road, Dirleton Avenue, Tantallon Road are not fully functioning and Aberlady, west approach is completely defunct.</p> <p>20 MPH extension at Haddington Road: No further progress yet, but agreed it will go ahead.</p> <p>Accessibility Audit. ELC consultant Stantec is currently doing visualisations for the main crossing points in NB. Minor (but important) works e.g. dropped kerbs have been logged digitally for NB and can be done ad hoc when work team in area.</p> <p>East End of High Street. Statutory notice had been published in Courier for the Experimental Order. Objection window open until 1st October 2025.</p> <p>Gullane-Drem Core Path: Long history and growing and substantial support for the scheme from community and Council officials. <i>As meeting not quorate, members couldn't vote on a motion of support.</i></p> <p>Coastal Path (Bass Rock Path): The work funded by the AP had been undertaken – way markers are in place and judging from the desire lines the path was being well used. The small Remembering Together Feather statue is in place on a rock. A perfect setting. ELC has erected an interpretation board at the Hawes Road start.</p> <p>BW is hoping to arrange a meeting with the landowner/farmer for the stretch to The Drift and then to Tantallon Castle road end. He would also like to meet again with the Captain of Glen Golf Club for permission for some fencing and kissing gates, already well discussed with him.</p> <p>Proposed Public Toilets, NB Station: NB Community Council and NBCDC have been making good progress with a view to gaining funding. KM, Chair of NBCC and NBCDC had been rapidly moving this along and was due to meet next week with ELC engineers for technical advice and commitment of ELC to servicing - if community could raise the capital cost.</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing HS will give an update at the next meeting.</p>	
9. Community Councils updates		
	<p>Gullane Community Council AF advised that the Drem community were seeking to reduce the speed limit through the village from 30mph to 20mph. A Member of the Community Council is currently going door to door seeking the views of the residents in support of the proposal.</p> <p>Success. Scottish Water have confirmed waste water now at capacity. DH wanted to acknowledge and thank FN for all his hard work. He went on to say that FN had dedicated himself to pursuing the issue, and gathering evidence to highlight the levels of untreated sewage entering Aberlady Bay. AF added that FN had been working on the pollution issue in Aberlady Bay for over 10 years.</p>	
10. Village & Community Associations updates		
	Aberlady Village Association	

LF provided the report below prior to the meeting
Notes from Aberlady April 2025

Aberlady Community Association

Work continues on the disposition and registration of the Village Hall title for the SCIO. We are hoping this can be completed before our AGM in June so that immediately after the AGM we can have the first meeting of the SCIO and complete the process of reorganisation.

The Spring Newsletter has been delivered to all residents of Aberlady.

Amenities Update

It is hoped that the toilets at the Nature Reserve will be completed soon. Two new benches and bike racks have been installed on the playing field. Bike racks have also been installed at the Pleasance play park and discussions for another on Sea Green are taking place.

The two new defibrillators which were recently budgeted for have been installed at agreed residential locations in Meadowside and Glenpeffer.

Village Hall

A group of volunteers has now painted the small hall and a company cleaned the windows and carpet without charge. We are hoping now to rent it out to small groups to increase our rental income.

The main hall continues to attract a reasonable level of bookings. Recent slots have been filled with new groups including The Aberlady Singers and Callanetics classes. A new bin has been located at the Village Hall to collect aluminium for recycling. This will raise funds for the hall.

Aberlady Community Flock

At the end of February the village welcomed six sheep to a local field. Four of the sheep are expecting lambs in April. This is a community initiative to establish wildlife-friendly grazing and sustainable local agriculture. Anyone is welcome to be involved and the group is working closely with the children in the Primary School.

Aberlady in Bloom

The Spring planting, although now over, created welcome displays of daffodils and tulips in various locations round the village. We are planning a thorough overhaul of the flower tubs replacing the compost and looking at planting summer bedding. The team regularly meet in the Memorial Garden to tidy and maintain the flower beds. The tubs at the Pavilion have been planted with small lilac shrubs. We are giving consideration (not for the first time) to upgrade a derelict walled area in Back Lane. Using pallets it is thought we could create a colourful hanging garden. All the boxes in the Community Garden have been allocated to residents this year.

Coffin Lane

A team of volunteers turned out to resurface the lane to try to eliminate it from large puddles. The team did some path edge de-turfing and this will be seeded with a native wildflower mix.

Postman's Walk

A fence has been erected beside the house which accommodates the path. This still allows a narrow access by foot to the path. There is no vehicle access to the field

behind the house which there has been in the past. There are on going discussions about this with the Luffness Estate.

Aberlady Primary School

Plans are well under way for the 2025 Gala. The parade takes place on Saturday 7th June.

The Gala Week comes to a close on Sunday 15th June. The Kirkin' Sunday service will be followed by a Community Lunch hosted by Aberlady Community Association. The school recently hosted a concert with a Scottish theme for the senior citizens of Aberlady.

Aberlady Community Connections

This group continue to meet twice a month courtesy of The Old Aberlady Inn and The Leddie. Coffee tea and scones are provided

Aberlady Resilience Planning

Ian Malcolm has again taken on the role of Resilience Coordinator for the village. A workshop has been arranged with representation from ACA , ELC and ELCAN.

Aberlady Craft Group

This group will be celebrating their 27th year of creativity with an Open weekend (Saturday 17th -Sunday 18th May) in the Bake House Gallery.

Other Events

Kids Clothes Swap

Aberlady Annual Plant Sale

Aberlady Open Studios

Aberlady Spring Market

Ladies Swish Event

Gullane Village Association

LS provided the report below after the meeting

GULLANE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION REPORT – April 2025

- The GVA hosted its Annual Family Fun Easter event on Easter Saturday with crafting & café indoors and fun activities outdoors. Although tickets are sold to families, in order to keep it affordable for all the GVA contribute to the cost of the event.
- The incredibly successful Gullane Food & Drink Festival including the Recreation Hall hosting 10 of the events & some trustees volunteered before & throughout the week's events.
- Our 13th Gullane Newsletter will soon be going to the printers for distribution in May. Extra pages have had to be added for this edition as so many local organisations and groups want to highlight their achievements & summer events. With donations it still remains free & delivered to all households.
- The GVA are now working with ELC to try to secure the future of the Recreation Hall for the community. Discussions with staff from the Scottish Land Fund and Development Trust Association Scotland are assisting trustees with this complex process.
- The Strathclyde Masters student who worked with the GVA to consult with the community on the feasibility of taking on ownership of the

	Recreation Hall are finalising their findings, and this will prove invaluable data going forward for the GVA.																																																																																																																																																										
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	<p>DH explained the budget spend for 2024/2025 and the new budget allocation for 2025/2026.</p> <table><tr><td colspan="5">NORTH BERWICK COASTAL AREA PARTNERSHIP 2024/2025 BUDGET PRIORITIES <small>cro</small></td></tr><tr><td colspan="5">Budget Allocation 2024/2025</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>R</td><td>G</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Roads</td><td>General £45K</td><td>Holiday Hunger</td><td>Paid</td></tr><tr><td>Project</td><td>£50,000.00</td><td>£45,000.00</td><td>£3,000.00</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Fringe By The Sea</td><td></td><td>£2,500.00</td><td></td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>GVA - Big Belly Bins</td><td></td><td>£2,000.00</td><td></td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>Aberlady Comm Ass - Public Toilet Maintenance</td><td></td><td>£314.00</td><td></td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>Dirleton Heritage Lighting Project</td><td>£50,000.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Gullane Community Ass Village Hall - Enhancing Accessibility - Chair Lift</td><td></td><td>£10,000.00</td><td></td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>North Berwick In Bloom & Glorious Gullane Bloomers - Renew plants</td><td></td><td>£4,000.00</td><td></td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>ELOSCN - Holiday Hunter Nov 24</td><td></td><td></td><td>£1,000.00</td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>North Berwick Youth Project - Holiday Hunger Nov 24</td><td></td><td></td><td>£1,000.00</td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>Kindness Cooperative - holiday hunger 2024</td><td></td><td></td><td>£1,000.00</td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>North Berwick Community Council - Defibrillator maintenance</td><td></td><td>£1,800.00</td><td></td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>Aberlady Community Association - Aberlady Conservation & history Society - Aberlady Interpretation Panels</td><td></td><td>£1,246.00</td><td></td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>Aberlady Community Association - Public Access Defibrillator</td><td></td><td>£1,880.00</td><td></td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>Aberlady Community Association - New Cooker</td><td></td><td>£3,754.00</td><td></td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>NBCA H&SCC - REAL FRIENDS</td><td></td><td>£12,500.00</td><td></td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>Health & Wellbeing Ass - Small grant fund</td><td></td><td>£2,000.00</td><td></td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>NBC H&W Association - Youth Bursary Awards</td><td></td><td>£3,006.00</td><td></td><td>PAID</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>£50,000</td><td>£45,000</td><td>£3,000.00</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>BALANCE</td><td>£0.00</td><td>£0.00</td><td>£0.00</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><td colspan="5">NORTH BERWICK COASTAL AREA PARTNERSHIP 2025/2026 BUDGET PRIORITIES Budget Allocation 2025/2026</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>R</td><td>G</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Roads</td><td>General</td><td>Holiday Hunger</td><td>Paid</td></tr><tr><td>Project</td><td>£50,000.00</td><td>£45,000.00</td><td>£3,000.00</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Fringe By The Sea - Increasing FBTS Accessibility</td><td></td><td>£5,060.00</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>£</td><td>£5,060</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>BALANCE</td><td>£50,000.00</td><td>£39,940.00</td><td>£3,000.00</td><td></td></tr></table>				NORTH BERWICK COASTAL AREA PARTNERSHIP 2024/2025 BUDGET PRIORITIES <small>cro</small>					Budget Allocation 2024/2025						R	G				Roads	General £45K	Holiday Hunger	Paid	Project	£50,000.00	£45,000.00	£3,000.00		Fringe By The Sea		£2,500.00		PAID	GVA - Big Belly Bins		£2,000.00		PAID	Aberlady Comm Ass - Public Toilet Maintenance		£314.00		PAID	Dirleton Heritage Lighting Project	£50,000.00				Gullane Community Ass Village Hall - Enhancing Accessibility - Chair Lift		£10,000.00		PAID	North Berwick In Bloom & Glorious Gullane Bloomers - Renew plants		£4,000.00		PAID	ELOSCN - Holiday Hunter Nov 24			£1,000.00	PAID	North Berwick Youth Project - Holiday Hunger Nov 24			£1,000.00	PAID	Kindness Cooperative - holiday hunger 2024			£1,000.00	PAID	North Berwick Community Council - Defibrillator maintenance		£1,800.00		PAID	Aberlady Community Association - Aberlady Conservation & history Society - Aberlady Interpretation Panels		£1,246.00		PAID	Aberlady Community Association - Public Access Defibrillator		£1,880.00		PAID	Aberlady Community Association - New Cooker		£3,754.00		PAID	NBCA H&SCC - REAL FRIENDS		£12,500.00		PAID	Health & Wellbeing Ass - Small grant fund		£2,000.00		PAID	NBC H&W Association - Youth Bursary Awards		£3,006.00		PAID	TOTAL	£50,000	£45,000	£3,000.00		BALANCE	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		NORTH BERWICK COASTAL AREA PARTNERSHIP 2025/2026 BUDGET PRIORITIES Budget Allocation 2025/2026						R	G				Roads	General	Holiday Hunger	Paid	Project	£50,000.00	£45,000.00	£3,000.00		Fringe By The Sea - Increasing FBTS Accessibility		£5,060.00			TOTAL	£	£5,060			BALANCE	£50,000.00	£39,940.00	£3,000.00		
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