

EAST LAMMERMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT STENTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

**PRESENT:** Chris Bruce (Chair, Oldhamstocks), Colin Bloomfield (Treasurer, Stenton) Kelvin D'Arcy Burt (Secretary, Stenton), Anne Lyall (Spott), Wendy Smillie (Oldhamstocks) Sarah McLeary (Architect), Cllr Lyn Jardine (Dunbar & East Linton), Mitchell Stephenson (Community Engagement Officer VCEL), Helen Taylor-Brown (local resident), Suzie Fletcher (Innerwick - remote attendance)

**APOLOGIES:** David Mumford (Innerwick), Cllr Donna Collins (Dunbar & East Linton)

Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> March meeting accepted.

Matters arising not elsewhere on Agenda

- KP-H narrative - no update.
- Spott Rd/A1 junction - No response from BEAR. LJ to contact Alan Stubbs.
- Community Council website/social media - PB has said that he would continue managing social media for a monthly fee which he would donate to Richmond's Hope. Opinions asked for on options. An application could be made to Community Benefits fund to pay for someone to take on role. CBr
- Google prices have increased. Discussion needed around what is best way forward, could ask PB to look at this and then decide what services are really needed. Other option was to ask Scottish Tech to have a look at it. SF said she could chat with someone about this role. CBr/CB
- Spott new representative - someone possibly going to contact CBr direct.

Local Place Plan

LPP to be submitted to East Lothian Council mid-May.

SMcL full final draft document and maps done. Consultation report (70 pages), survey report (30 pages, action plan document (40 pages) and maps (10/11 pages). Struggled with how to weave ideas of energy development into the Plan. All groups who participated and developers who donated cash have been acknowledged. The more pragmatic and realistic the Plan is, the more chance of the aims, goals etc happening. Getting across the A1 and railway has its own section and a further chat may be needed about crossing points, what is there now and what the idea is for the future.

Concerns about employability and training, The Ridge may be able to help with this. Maps are reproduction of those sent to residents, anything not clear on maps let Sarah know as soon as possible.

Email responses about the maps have not been incorporated yet. If anyone not in favour of anything included in the maps, have a look and remove it. This doesn't mean there is an objection to it happening but to the principal of it being included in the LPP.

Oldhamstocks map distributed, 13 objections to one item which will be removed. OCA have said it is the East Lammermuir Plan therefore want ELCC to make any decisions regarding this item. LJ/CBr/WS to have a chat about Oldhamstocks.

There has been a good response from the council, SMcL has spoken with several Officers who have been helpful.

Following the Innerwick meeting 7 volunteers joined the biodiversity group offering a good mix of knowledge and experience, could ask them what they would like included in relevant sections of LPP.

Issues have been raised regarding traffic management and that the community should be consulted on how this would be handled. Fred Olsen has an agreement to text residents when something is to happen, providing a telephone contact number, it was thought this should be the practice undertaken by all developers.

Innerwick housing proposal - SF/SMcL no comments seen about this. Felt it important landowners were coming forward, a clear wish on their part to discuss anything regarding housing. SF to be updated on her return.

SMcL was thanked for her hard work in producing the LPP.

CBr suggested launching the finished document to local constituted bodies and the developers who have contributed financially towards producing it. It would be better to hold 2 separate meetings and dates suggested were Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June (local groups) and Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June (developers/people affected by developments). Any urgent business scheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> June ELCC meeting could be dealt with either online or an EGM. Spott village hall - 11<sup>th</sup> June meeting, Innerwick village hall backup if Spott not available. **AL to check hall diary availability.**

CBr to compose invite for distribution to local groups - **KDB** (Stenton), **AL** (Spott), **WS/CBr** (Oldhamstocks), **SF** (Innerwick). Extend invite to other community councils, Chair of AELCC, DELAP, MS.

AL said that the community association had queried parish boundaries, specifically the Pinkertons. SF said she thought on the Electoral roll the Pinkertons were included in Spott but for everything else included in Innerwick. **SF to check boundaries.**

#### Demand Responsive Transport Bus Trial

- 140 journeys have been made, 112 people have a registered account and 106 have used the app.

#### Community Benefits - East Lothian

- Nothing extra to report. Registered with OSCR. Smaller group meeting held earlier, ELCC responsible for previously listed benefits. If any new developments occur, then new community benefits available, discussion needed on how to interface with East Lothian fund or local Innerwick Parish Welfare. **CBr**

#### Treasurers Report

- Balance £3,292.86 includes last year's meeting costs. Local priorities and admin money through £2,102.84 distribute equally among the villages. Fred Olsen funding is for community benefits and should go to community projects. Has different impact on villages, Spott depends on it, Oldhamstocks less so. Innerwick & Oldhamstocks could put this towards village hall projects. Look at rules on this. **CBr/CB**
- IN terms of LPP costs, when SSE money through will pay SMcL's latest bill.
- CBr has a verbal yes from RES, has written to the other developers again for support with LPP.

## Police Report

- Linn Rocks - to be discussed at next Dunpender CC meeting. LJ

## Local Energy Infrastructure Developments

- Eastern Green Link - subject to final OFGEM consultation. Write in support of proposed community benefit, but advise that overall we do not like the plan. CBr
- Pitcox BESS - substation - Information sent to residents. KDB to attend upcoming meeting. Because of size, the council will be asked to submit a response to Energy Consents Unit, which can be commented on. Access to the land is an issue, if the plan is to flatten the land, then the substation will not be seen. There could be an issue with traffic moving soil. **KDB to raise this point.**
- FOR grid connection for CR1 - is road to be dug up to replace cable? Connection is through a field so no need to dig up. 5/6 properties affected by traffic from Thistly Cross roundabout. **KDB to clarify how power is brought in.**
- Branxton substation - Will not go to planning next month due to environmental impact update.
- Berwick Bank - SSE Compulsory Purchase Order Public enquiry starts 22<sup>nd</sup> April.
- Lawfield BESS - RES attended Oldhamstocks CA meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Talked positively about community benefits but impression was this will be on a very small scale. Unsure whether they have taken into account how many other developers would use the same access point. The haul road is Scottish Power Energy Network's and not sure if RES have approached SP about sharing the road. Lawfield farmer has said it's nothing to do with him! CBr
- Sustaining Dunbar approached about a part time community liaison post and given outline job description for which they have calculated a 3-day post at £23,000 pa including on-costs. SSE contacted with proposal; optimistic something will happen. CBr

## Liaison Meetings

- Viridor - complaint about smell passed to Jacqueline Bell, people also submitting complaints. Donna Collins and David Mumford are on this. Re-opened cells cause smell. CBr communicates with person in London. There are issues with other Valencia sites.
- Tarmac - chase up meeting. LJ
- Area Partnership - meeting 15<sup>th</sup> May, AGM results circulated. AL
- AELCC - presentation about battery storage - Scottish Fire & Rescue Service representative advised only guidance around battery storage was produced in England, no guidance in Scotland. RES have a Glasgow-based 24-hour safety facility linked to smaller battery storage units, temperatures observed, if too high are turned off, would only go in if fire broke out. Writing standard procedures on how to deal with a fire. There are 7 Battery Storage applications in East Lammermuir, only 2 have contacted the Fire Service.
- Torness visit with Energy Minister 17<sup>th</sup> April. LJ
- AELCC - working on Code of Conduct. Could adapt or may be asked to adopt if sent out to all community councils. CBr
- DELAP Health & Wellbeing - **WS to attend next meeting.**
- Belhaven - recent IJB decision to close - site was not fit for purpose and upgrades weren't sufficient. The land belongs to NHS Lothian, requested that land not be put up for sale. Intense meeting with the IJB recognised the site's relationship with staff and locals. Only 48 nursing beds in Dunbar now.

Suggestion to work with local housing developers to provide an assisted living facility, could look at this as a health & social care partnership. Travel to Haddington hospitals is difficult, more discussion needed regarding transport. As yet nothing heard back from NHS Lothian. **SF**

- LJ is a member of IJB board that made the decision to close Belhaven. Board were presented with a package to achieve budget and Belhaven was part of the overall situation. It was made very clear that the community must have a say in what happens with the site and she would be happy to meet people to discuss how to move forward. This could be incorporated in the LPP but it needs to be a very clear ask from the community as a collective. Opportunity to provide something which is going to meet future needs of Dunbar and East Lothian. Assurance needed that whatever happens in meantime is measured and well thought through. **LJ**

#### Local Updates

- Innerwick Post Office closure - some progress, not a done deal. How to move forward to have access to services in area is under discussion. **SF to speak with DM**
- Visit to the outdoor centre and relocation, looking to submit community buy out. **CBr to speak with SF**

#### Correspondence

- Dunbar BOS - community buy out proposed through Sustaining Dunbar - need to show certain percentage of population support this. **CBr**
- EL Partnership event at QMU 20<sup>th</sup> April postponed. Need to register again to attend. **CBr**
- Crystal Rig CLG Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April at Innerwick - **CB** to attend.

Next meeting Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June - LPP launch with local groups. Draft invite to local community councils who will in turn invite locals. **CBr**  
**AL** to confirm if this meeting can be held in Spott village hall.

MCJ  
21.4.24