

EAST LAMMERMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT INNERWICK VILLAGE HALL ON 13TH JANUARY 2025

PRESENT: Chris Bruce (Chair - Oldhamstocks), Colin Bloomfield (Treasurer - Stenton), Kelvin D'Arcy Burt (Secretary - Stenton), Anne Lyall (Spott), Rev Suzie Fletcher (Innerwick Rep), Cllr Lyn Jardine (East Linton & Dunbar), Graeme Marsden (Project Manager, East Lothian Link), Helen Taylor Brown (ELCBF), Mitch Stephenson (Community Engagement Partner VCEL)

APOLOGIES: Wendy Smillie (Oldhamstocks), Lennox Webb (Spott)

CBr welcomed all to the first meeting of 2025. Point raised that DM is still on the circulation list for ELCC. CBr clarified his name has been removed from list, but he is still included in some messages as he was still a Trustee/Director of the other ELCBT/F organisations.

GM was invited to explain his role. He is the link between East Lothian Council and developers in the East Lammermuir area, overseeing planning, traffic, biodiversity and other matters for which the council is responsible. Professional background is town planning and energy development. He is working closely with CBr regarding the East Lammermuir LPP and meets various council members regularly. He was asked if he was aware of transport issues and said he has met with Tommy Deans (BEAR Scotland) and Richard Miller (ELC Roads) and will be having monthly meetings with them and the Transport Scotland representative. He is working on a temporary housing analysis with Paul McLellan re the temporary work force regarding Eastern Green Link 1 and Branxton and will look to see if there is a need for public sector involvement. PMcL has been working with SEN covering the energy developments in the North of Scotland, quantifying the number of additional workers in the area which could be as many as 5/6000. Learning from that work shows that the influx of workers affects the wider area and questions remain about what Dunbar and East Lammermuir's role would be in providing accommodation for the several hundred workers expected to be needed here.

SF advised GM of the Lorries in our Lanes meeting on 29th January (Innerwick) organised by SPEN, will update him on this. SF felt things were a little behind on the safety audit, CBr thought a proposal for a formal Road Safety Audit had been produced on Cockburnspath to Spott roundabouts and sent to SPEN/SSE reps to seek their support. GM suggested a quality audit be done by lead developers at the same time to look at developments and unknown travel movements.

AL asked about potential building on a field near Spott, GM said he was in conversation with planning about it. AL said she'd heard the field might be used for temporary housing, what would happen to the land when the development was finished. GM said that there were no known plans and nothing had been submitted to the Council about this.

4) Minutes of ELCC meeting held 3rd December accepted.

5) Matters arising not elsewhere on agenda

- Belhaven Community Garden letter of support – group contacted to ask what information to include in the letter, awaiting response. **SF**
- LHEES Report – East Lothian Heat Network feasibility study – work starts 14th January, finalise scope by end of week. Study will focus on proposed Edinburgh heat highway. Edinburgh City Council has requested heat to go to 5 parts of the city, increasing the possibility of the proposal gaining traction.
- In terms of the promise of funding for the Feasibility Study from CWPEnergy, still awaiting exchange of letters. CBr reminded the committee of the current position with respect to community benefits from CWPEnergy; Aikengal 1 – get nothing in East Lammermuir. Aikengal 2 – will pay for Oldhamstocks village hall. Aikengal IIA – this money will go through E Lothian Community Benefits SCIO. ELCC said they are able to support this process - but cannot incur any financial responsibility, awaiting letter stating the cash will come through E Lothian CB not ELCC. **CBr**
- LPP Feedback from Developers – LJ said 2 developers had come back to her (FO/Belltown). Another meeting to be arranged with developers, put item on agenda regarding the contribution from each developer. This would be done through East Lammermuir Energy Developments Steering Group, on which FOR are represented. **CBr**

7) Treasurers Report

- ELCC balance at bank £3861.69.

8) Police Report

- Circulated earlier. No comments.

9) Local Updates

- **INNERWICK** - Outdoor centre not for sale, East Lothian Council can't sell it on the open market, so it may be possible for a community to obtain this some other way. Accommodation could be possible for transient energy project workers. Development there for a café and shop too. Letter has been submitted by IPWA regarding possible community buy out, expressed an interest.
- **Hall refurbishment** - Quantity surveyor wants to chat, in process of obtaining second commercial estimate. **SF**
- If the hall is unavailable during the Hall refurbishment and IPWA don't get go the go ahead for outdoor centre, what would the options be for community meetings including ELCC? School hall is an option, but the council would charge for use. **SF**
- Head is leaving Innerwick Primary School at Easter
- **OLDHAMSTOCKS** - Planning application submitted regarding a property in village, core path runs through the site, not mentioned in application. **CBr has submitted response from ELCC regarding this.**
- Oldhamstocks Church - final service 26th January. Local residents have bought building with purpose of holding community events. Oldhamstocks Church Trust Company registered at Companies House. **SF**
- **SPOTT** - 20mph request, meeting 14th January, questionnaire to be circulated locally. Alan Stubbs (ELC) to be contacted re white line painting. **AL**
- Clemency to ask tradesman to re-look at Spott Hall windows. CBr Attending next meeting of Spott CA.

- Richard Miller – dealing with bridge repairs?
- **STENTON** – residents concern about speeding issues over the Xmas period. **CBI/KDB**
- No information yet provided from the traffic strip survey, these surveys sometimes carried out by a developer and council not aware. **KDB**

10) Progressing Our LPP

- Active Travel – Morag Haddow (ELC) meeting with SEStran S/East Scotland 23rd January. **CBr to attend**
- Biodiversity – Online meeting 20th January. LLP sets out a notion of eco systems, opinion is someone should be employed to undertake this work, overseen by the biodiversity group. **CBr to attend**
- Supported Bus Services Tender – ELCC able to say what kind of service they would like. EVE rep suggested they would be submitting something around an on-demand response service. **CBr to leave this with LJ**
- Engaging local people in community benefits discussions – HTB has list of contacts/organisations to approach inviting a group representative to attend a meeting. HTB felt a generic request would not work, better to say looking for ideas of what people want for their village, would then go away and think about this and come to next meeting armed with suggestions. CBr said want people to think beyond their local surroundings and future-proof our arrangements.
- Meeting suggested for 10th March (Innerwick School), one off session, aiming at around 30 attendees. **HTB to produce new flyer**

11) Local Energy Infrastructure Developments (see eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk)

- Post of Local Place Energy Projects Co-ordinator to be re-advertised end of January. Post was offered in December but preferred candidate turned it down. Job advert has been re-written and salary increased. Now called Energy Projects Programme Manager, to better reflect the level of responsibility. Interviews to be held end of February at a different venue ie local hotel/town house/golf club. **CBr**
- East Lammermuir Energy Developments Steering Group – CBr, GM, Debbie McNicol (SPEN), Ciara Jamieson (SSE), Rachel Searle (Foundation Scotland), Kirsty Ryder (Fred. Olsen Renewables) supporting traffic group/biodiversity/ active travel – meeting 14th January and monthly thereafter. **CBr to attend**
- Lorries in our Lanes meeting – 29th January, Innerwick **SF**

12) Liaison Meetings & Roles

- Torness - making positive noises about hydrogen, could give consequent heat to heat network, raise hydrogen point at 25th March meeting. **KDB to attend**
- Viridor - 21st January - site visit late February (24th) KDB/AL/SF/CB/MS interested in attending. **CBr to advise Viridor**
- Valencia - Public meeting on 13th February at Dunbar Town House. LJ was promised a site visit, please raise this at meeting. **CPH to attend**
- Tarmac - meeting 4th December, will take on cycle path upkeep ie. verge cutting. **LJ**
- Area Partnership - Money for footpath and bridge over the burn and Dunbar battlefield trip funded, no funding for countryside rangers. High Street development plans discussed. Directory of East Linton & Dunbar trade association to be sent to all community councils. A “Success of DELAP” event is to be held in the spring. Area Plan still to be drafted. **AL**

KDB asked about roads money. Road money less clear, council decide where it is spent.
LJ

- Valencia – meeting 13th February.
- Association of East Lothian Community Councils - code of conduct. Key element - if a decision about a complaint can't be reached locally, should be referred to a higher level. At some point, ELCC may want to adopt the code of conduct, another review ongoing.

CBr

- Community & Police Partnership – meeting 13th February. **Any issues send to KDB**

13) Correspondence

- NESO (National Energy System Operator) – responsible at UK national level on deciding where to place future wind farms. Current experience locally suggested something should be submitted in writing, deadline 21st January. If had time over again, would ask for location and number of related developments information and a public enquiry process be involved. Draft response to be drawn up and sent round before 20th - please read and comment as necessary. **CBr**
- Community Benefits from Net Zero consultation deadline 11th April, no figure given for offshore wind or other technologies. ELCC Meeting 3rd March, if people could look at this and report back before then, would give time to draft something. **All**
- Planning committee 14th January have invited ELCC to talk about CR solar proposed Planning Conditions. ECU will make the decision whether it is consented and built. ELCC have written to them saying we support it but requested engagement about biodiversity and traffic measures for a regular liaison with community council, residents, councillors and others working in area. Current condition too weak; propose take out “inform” and replace with “engage”. Habitation management condition has been improved and requires plans to take account of plans for other nearby developments. On date of meeting, CBr will be in Edinburgh but plans on dialling in, will give info to LJ in case it is called in early. LJ said she is limited in what she can contribute to the meeting. **CBr passed written statement to SF to read out if he cannot join the meeting**
- CR1 Repower – FOR have asked to come and talk about it. Springfield solar may also ask to come and talk again, they should be directed to Oldhamstocks Community Association. **CBr to send yes response to FOR**
- First Point East Lothian? – Veterans letter. LJ responded along with some colleagues. MS/VCEL colleagues not contacted. Ambiguous letter asked if community council could help. It was felt local veterans would present in crisis individually for help/funding. How to respond - offer local knowledge/signposting/ask for more information on what they are looking for, and advise that no-one on the community council was familiar with the existing service. **CBr**
- Exercise on Referral Service – Enjoy Leisure offered funded assessments/bespoke exercise programmes from weight reduction team, with limited hours available. Business case being developed to keep scheme going, question raised if it would be worth submitting application to the ELCBF meeting in May. It would be a more coherent application if made through Enjoy and health & social care partnership. It was suggested Audrey (Enjoy Leisure) and Janice (Hanvidge) engage in discussion. As a Integration Joint Board member LJ said she would encourage this. Link worker contract awarded to Thistle Foundation so get them involved. Anticipate bid coming in in due course. **CBr**

AOB

- Next DELAP meeting – **SF to attend/AL to speak with WS about attending**

Next meeting - Monday, 3rd March Spott village hall.

MCJ

17.1.24