

EAST LAMMERMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
INNERWICK VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2025

PRESENT: Chris Bruce (Chair Oldhamstocks) Kelvin D'Arcy-Burt (Secretary Stenton) Anne Lyall (Spott) Lennox Webb (Spott) Rev Suzie Fletcher (Innerwick) Joanne Legge (Oldhamstocks) Beth Landon (Energy Projects Partnership Manager) Cllr Lyn Jardine (Dunbar & East Linton) Cllr Donna Collins (Dunbar & East Linton) Sharon Young (Community Engagement Partner VCEL) PC Laura Jackson (Community Officer Dunbar)

APOLOGIES: Colin Bloomfield (Treasurer, Stenton)

PC Laura Jackson is the Community PO for Dunbar/East Linton including the Lammermuir area although there is not much anti-social activity there. Her work schedule is Monday to Friday, but she will attend at other times if needed, her attendance tonight was to introduce herself and answer any questions.

PC Jackson sends monthly incident reports to ELCC. Since the last report there has been a quad bike theft which is usually organised crime, local police liaising with officers in the area they think it's been taken to. PC Jackson asked if anyone saw any suspicious activity to report it.

Incidents at Linn Rocks in East Linton have quietened down though there are still issues, unacceptable underage drinking/drugs, those involved have been identified. Kids know police are aware of what they're up to though the majority down there are pretty good. The police carry out regular patrols. Wind farm issues are not in her remit.

PC Jackson was thanked for attending meeting.

4) Minutes of 28th April meeting accepted. **Role of Minute Secretary to be advertised.**

5) Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

- Belhaven Community Garden letter of support submitted - **SF to share.**
- LHEES - feasibility study ready to be presented to the Council advising they apply to the Scottish Government for a grant. Deadline is July/August. **CBr**
- Resilience Planning - need one for each village. Plan given to AL could be adapted for each village. **AL**
- Community Council Membership - Joanne Legge co-opted until October community council elections. A letter will be sent to the CC support team to advise JL will replace WS; contact PB to enable her access to workspace. Representative still needed for Innerwick. **CBr**

6) Any other business - Nothing.

7) Treasurers Report - Not submitted.

Discussion about Spott Hall windows, the SCA have replacement quote. Community councillors need to decide whether to proceed with replacements (AL/LW not able to vote). KDB if replacement windows part of bigger plan of improvement then would approve, if windows must be of a particular specification they would not need to be replaced again in the near future.

CBr said the windows would not improve the carbon footprint much, can't put triple glazing in. LW said the window replacement would contribute to overall hall improvement. Heat pump systems had been looked at, not sure about insulating hall.

AL advised the sub-committee had confirmed to take these matters forward.

CBr if the committee have a strategic approach and will raise funds to carry out work needed to get the hall to a point where it is warm and cheap to run, do the windows take priority or is there other work that should be completed first? If we wait the windows are going to be more expensive to replace. It was felt windows were a priority.

AL said this would be discussed at a meeting in Spott on Monday.

SY will look at community benefit gateway to see what support can be offered and send information through.

KDB asked if the cost of windows been agreed and was told it had not.

CBr/SF/KDB felt more information was needed. Money is there but need to agree it is used for this purpose. Suggestions made for an energy audit/heat loss survey, BL provided a contact.

AL meeting Clemency on Monday and will have a chat with SY after meeting.

8) Progressing our LPP - discussion (Chris/Beth)

Agreed at last meeting to focus on the 4 priority items, all of which were strongly supported at the large community meeting held 19 May.

Results of the vote have been circulated to ELCC committee separately, and Claire Roxburgh (SPEN) is content with this as evidence of these being the 4 initial community priorities.

How to move the 4 priorities on without ELCC having to do all the work. Clare suggested a feasibility study on each item.

BL mentioned scoping work, to ascertain what feasibility work has already been done and where the gaps are.

Mapping and gapping - 4 separate meetings could share knowledge on each of the 4 priorities, what has already been done, where gaps thought to be.

SPEN will fund a Workshop around each of the 4 priorities with the right people attending. This will be funded from their capacity building budget and not out of the community benefits. BL asked those present to help to identify who needs to be at each meeting.

Priority 1; Active Travel network of paths for walking/cycling/prams/horse riders etc that link the 4 villages, Co'path/Dunbar.

A consultant was used who had local knowledge of Spott/Dunbar. Some paths are used already, need to decide where paths should be. The current paths do not always meet Sustrans standards. **AL**

- Stenton - suggest 2/3 new paths but these won't link up with Spott, extension of paths, core path goes through. No one running this but there are people who may be interested in doing so. All agreed the proposed Travel network would include loops for walking etc. LW suggested local history information boards, picnic tables and seating. Signage could link in with biodiversity.
- AL asked about the proposed crossing on A1 and was told decision to be made on which of the 4 suggested in the LPP was most suitable, as part of Active Travel work.
- Spott - safety of the roads used by runners and cyclists, quite a dangerous road. Suggestion that reps from council and traffic group needed to attend groups. Discuss this at community association and see if anyone wants to pick it up. Advise Clare each of the 4 CA's should be asked to nominate a rep. **BL**
JL - Oldhamstocks reps from OCA/SORELL. **CBr/JL to discuss.**
Other suggestions were Morag Hadow and Innerwick primary school children. Nick Morgan (Council paths officer) and a Birnieknowes resident.

Priority 2 Funded, meaningful and effective plan for Biodiversity Net Gain.

Biodiversity liaison group suggestions - farmers, NFU local reps but unsure they'd want to be involved. WS (O'stocks) and Danielle (Innerwick) want to be involved in this.

- Hedgerow work - East Linton workshop held, 60 attended. Hedgerow group representative subsequently going along to biodiversity group.

Priority 3; Public or Community Transport - bus service - need people who use or have run public transport, Kevin Orr (Liftango) noted. CA reps would be good, there must be a cohort of people without transport options/young people who may use the bus in the future - someone from that age group. **CBr**

Priority 4 houses affected by construction work to be brought up to Energy Performance Certificate Band C. Householders will have to think what they want done to their property. Give priority to properties worse affected because of their location. **CBr**

Could contact Be Green for initial discussion. Short term help for people with inadequate heating; would Energy Savings Trust would have any data about grants. Oldhamstocks resident IS interested in attending a session about this with GM/Gemma (Steering Group).

Document for SPEN previously sent round by email - which most people commented on. Need to mandate with approval? Sets out approach to use capacity building budget to commission energy savings trust. Community priorities to get people round table to do mapping exercise and the next steps. All we are doing is proposing what has been circulated. **All present agreed to support the proposal. BL**

What to propose next for these 4 workshops. New agreement to be produced for all 4 as to what happens next, agree to scoping exercise but not presuming going down certain roads - retain control of each step of the process at community level. **BL**

9) Community Benefits

- Consultation on Energy infrastructure UK run by Westminster. Will make a proclamation whether it should be mandatory or guidance. RS/BL have offered to run local workshop for people who attended the 10th March community benefits meeting once this consultation has a framework. Deadline 16th July. Rachel Searle (virtual) advised this would be an informal session, suggested date 14th July, an afternoon session could also be held. **CBr/LW/KDB/LJ possible attendees**
CBr would like to suggest some flexibility with deadline date, happy to ask for some leeway. Next ELCC meeting is 28th July. **BL** to pursue this.

Paul McLellan advised Inchcape comes onshore at Cockenzie and senior people from there and from NnG are interested in discussing a single East Lothian approach to the use of community benefits. PMcL to contact developers to request a meeting to discuss, hoping for a date before summer recess. Is there a way of community benefits coming to East Lothian that meets the requirements of all developers, to work together rather than having to consult each individually.

If there was an arrangement across East Lothian, what would we want to say about it. Public meeting agreed for the first 5 yrs funds to be spent in East Lammermuir

on the 4 projects. Beyond 5 years would review our position and put some cash into the East Lothian fund?

LW suggested each developers appoint a funds administrator who could possibly tie up ideas.

At the moment £4,000,000 allocated to spend within East Lammermuir, on the four priorities outlined earlier in the meeting.

SF - after 5 years revisit without geographical parameters, may be worth looking at.

Agreed it should be simplified going forward, maximum benefit to community by streamlining as much as possible.

KDB asked who specifically would administer for East Lammermuir for the first 3/5 years and what would FS's role be? CBr said the preference was for FS. Would like it simplified so that locally-led decision making can happen.

KDB asked after the 5 years what would the second phase look like and was told it would be reviewed then.

KDB asked if the £4,000,000 was to be spent during this time and was told yes. He asked who would administer funds after this and was told that FS was thought to be a more marketable solution. LW asked if it could be done through ELCC to start with.

Decision making should be local in first instance and then at the end of the 5 yrs what were thoughts on going forward. **CBr**

CBr would like FS to partner with East Lothian Community Benefits SCIO and embrace Cockenzie (not eligible for any of the £4,000,000, but likely other money available) and any and all other beneficiary areas in East Lothian. KDB asked if funds could go to East Lothian to be administered by FS and decisions made by ELCC.

CBr thought yes, restricted funds, decision made through ELCC.

CBr NNG want 20% to go to Fife because development would be visible from Fife.

KDB not happy about this. First 3 years spend majority of funds in East Lammermuir and then widen area.

It was asked if developers required some oversight on how the money is spent.

Rachel said it varied, EGL think OFGEM would be interested in how the money was spent. CBr would like to present, at the developers meeting, what he would like to happen and for them to all agree to it there and then.

RS said it was complex but was impressed how ELCC were dealing with it trying to take a measured and pragmatic approach.

RS said the working paper talked about introducing regulations that do not exist at the moment, FS could be a useful partner in that. Would want to see good arrangements set in place. Would urge push for meeting. Do once for everyone.

RS endorsing this.

NNG funding - ask about this as it is more immediate. EDF (who own NnG) had appointed FS to administer.

Think initially the 80/20% was going to look much looser. Innerwick/East Lammermuir specifically wanted to ask about this 80%, EDF were now keen to see this used in East Lammermuir for the first three years.

Eyemouth/St Abbs have benefitted from funds because of community crossover.

Suggestion was 80% comes south of Fife, what were thoughts about a portion of this going to Borders communities?

RS has a slide to be circulated.

EDF offer is a relatively small amount, £270,000 pa index linked for 25 years. Of the £270,000 estimated 20% going to Fife, so our local communities would have £216,000 index linked. If somewhere around 15/20% of this went to the Borders

15% (£32,400) 20% (£43,200) could be used for a development officer. Eyemouth already benefits from having operations based in the area. The higher amount (20%) would assure East Lammermuir £173,000, the lower amount (15%) would assure £183,600.

RS asked what views were on this. She said if it was felt the additional 80% should flow into East Lammermuir for the first phase she would take this back to NNG as strongly held view. If on balance it could work to direct some of this further south and be used as a catalyst to create a new area fund for Borders this could be helpful.

Led by KDB, the feeling of the meeting was not to support allocation of funds to Berwickshire at this time.

LW asked if ELCC had signed for the money, had the £270,000 been agreed.

RS said FS had signed the contract.

UK Gov Mandation working paper published 2/3 weeks ago.

LW asked if this would supersede 25 year contract and was told it would not.

SF Active Travel and path networks, nothing between Dunbar and Coldingham camping facilities etc.

How to get the housing up to EPC band C is in the East Lothian heating budget. A great investment, would work in Spott/Stenton and then on to Whittingehame. RS asked when the community council would want to look at this again, the next ELCC meeting is 28th July when CB (treasurer) would be in attendance and this would discuss this then.

BL asked everyone to sign up to the Mailchimp list for regular updates.

11) Liaison Meetings

- Torness - Remake Britain meeting - AL attended briefly. In favour of trying to introduce (micro)nuclear. **AL**
- Tarmac - Christy/Roxanne attended. **SF** would welcome opportunity to work with this.
- Valencia - need to get them on side for any possibility of heat from incinerator getting to Innerwick. **CBr**
- Area Partnership - anyone who needs anything in their community pass to **AL**.
- AELCC 18th June - new Council Chief Executive Laurence Rockey to attend. Claire Roxburgh (SPEN) is also a speaker. **CBr** will need to say something about community benefits alongside Cockenzie representative, will base this on discussion recorded under item 10 this evening.

12) Correspondence

- Parking charges consultation Dunbar **LJ**
- East Lothian Open Space Strategy - Biodiversity group not aware of this, churchyards to be included. Green spaces - what should they provide. Coastal strip. Anything we may need to comment on. **JL to look at this**

13) Local Updates

- Innerwick - hope to move in to Outdoor Centre to allow Hall to be refurbished over the next few weeks. Nothing from architect, going to push about this. Water/electricity prices - will request tariff be changed and backdated, when took over mid-April have been charged the council tariff. **SF**

Kerry NNG community benefits person. **SF to get her details.**

- Oldhamstocks - meeting to dissolve OCA later in month, send information to LJ. **CBr**
- Spott - someone has spoken to Norman Hampshire, issue not sorted yet. **AL**
- Stenton - nothing to add **KDB**

Next meeting - Monday 28th July, Oldhamstocks.