

East Lammermuir Community Council

Meeting Monday 8 December at 19.00 Stenton Village Hall

Draft Minute

Present; Kelvin D'Arcy-Burt, Chris Bruce, Barbara Rowell, Colin Bloomfield, Suzie Fletcher, Caroline Anderson, Anne Lyall.

In attendance; Beth Landon, Sharon Young (VCEL), Cllr Lyn Jardine.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions and thank you to Stenton councillors for the Mince Pies.**
- 2. Apologies for Absence** Lennox Webb, Spott
As Cllr Lynn Jardine was present for a short time, the meeting ran from local councillor concerns (last on agenda) up to cover areas of concern
- 3. Minutes of meeting held 27 October 2025 No amendments – approved.**
- 4. Matters arising not elsewhere on agenda**
 - Role of Minute Secretary
It was suggested that we pursue some secretarial support alongside the new round of benefits administration so that person could be an integral part of ELCC as part of their ongoing work.
Meantime, we were all encouraged to continue to pursue other volunteers
 - Also, with next phase of developments – include prerequisite to employ additional person to work with Beth between the different developers.
- 5. Any other items of business for the agenda.**
- 6. Treasurer's Report (Colin Bloomfield) Current Balance ELCC £4705.76**
- 7. Local Energy Infrastructure Developments (see eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk)**
 - Springfield Solar & BESS – ELC Planning Committee 4 November – ELC Objected, now in waiting period before public enquiry. Oldhamstocks residents are asking ECU the questions about what is next. A query about current tenant farmers at Dunglass Estate was made – and it was confirmed they are now on an annual lease rather than permanent.
 - Energy Projects Partnership Manager Beth Landon
 - Brief update/any issues for discussion
 - Lorries in our Lanes – Meeting run by Community Traffic and Travel – low attendance, communication to be reviewed before next meeting to see if there were fewer people because there is more being communicated in Beth's newsletters or if there wasn't enough publicity about the meeting as only online. (mail drops previously funded and organised by developers)
 - Scottish Power Transmission Branxton; works to build the new substation are still waiting to discharge their planning conditions requirements in full.
 - Cycle crossing Local intel about informal crossing where the path used comes out the southside of A1 at entrance to haul road,. Nick Morgan/ELC Access Officer coming for a

site visit and future contractors should be made aware of requirements as soon as they arrive (Not every path used is corresponding to core path, cycle route, etc)

- Crystal Rig access road – Once CRIV is completely finished, Fred Olsen will make an financial contribution to ELC towards reinstating the road. A separate agreement has been reached with NnG for their financial contribution. ELC will arrange for the restoration works.
- Eastern Green Link;
 - Local resident spotted HGV doing U-Turns on the A1 at Thurston, this was taken up with EGL1 and a warning was issued. If caught again, that contractor will not be allowed on sight. All EGL1 vehicles and HGVs have also now been issued with EGL1 Pink Sticker.
 - Park and Ride – no news at present.
- ELEC Advisory Group - need to get going – acceptance of people working on the ground, can't get bosses to sign up to it...
- The proposed arrangements for community benefits administration for EGL1 as discussed in benefits meeting were agreed by East Lammermuir Community Council
- The proposal is in draft form at present, pending agreement with EGL1.
- Ongoing discussion regarding reps from Active Travel and Biodiversity workshops to join the Funding Local Decision Making Group.
- The arrangements for communication about community benefits administration for NNG as discussed in benefits meeting were agreed by Community Council
- Chair to send out FAQ's sheet after consulting with EGL1 (Clare) ACTION: CBr
- All developers meetings, 2026 proposed dates
 - Wed 11 March (by invitation)
 - Wed 6 May (Public)
 - Wed 23 Sept (by invitation)
- Beth has looked at Budget for steering Group to cover three areas:
 - 1) Technology to report issues - It has been decided that a full reporting portal with new set up costs is not needed as there is another piece of software that will provide what we need to pinpoint complaints and concerns, etc.
 - 2) Newsletter printing and distribution
 - 3) Hall booking fees

NB – So far £2500 has come in out of £10,000 ask of developers

Traffic and Travel Group will meet 9 December

East Lothian Climate Hub will support the Biodiversity Workshop on 9 December to be held in West Barns Village Hall (none available in East Lammermuir that night!)

The Community Transport Workshop will be held 22 January in Stenton

Those expected to participate include Borders Wheels, ELC - Diana Murray, rep of Community Transport Assoc, all interested local residents. Beth looking into putting on a bus to take people to the workshop from other villages.

Workshop report has been received for Active Travel workshop, but not yet for Energy and Heat Workshop. Beth is chasing.
- Torness site tour – 20 January – Beth has arranged for any of ELCC who would like to go on site tour to do so, time tbc. (Now fixed for 10.00 a.m.)

4) Future developments –

Some discussion took place about more potential future energy developments

Another BESS we know about

A huge substation at Thorntonloch and converter station connection for offshore windfarm BP Morven are described in published national documents. Beth had shared the information in her weekly bulletin under the heading NESO Strategic Plan - what

does this mean for us? She approached SPEN – they provided a statement saying that this is all hypothetical at present.

However, Morven is to be built off Aberdeen, the power transported here undersea as DC, will need converted to AC, before plugging into any substation.

Morven has a separate additional onshore application in Co Durham, which they knew about earlier – have done a couple of rounds of engagement already on this in England. In response, a local resident went with Chris Bruce to challenge Martin Whitfield, Douglas Alexander with big questions – trying to work out why we were not informed about this, as an already active and anxious local community. CBr offered a more collaborative approach – our demands – starting with meaningful engagement on site selection process, being drawn up.

These conversations may open the way for a meeting with Laurence Rockey (Chief Exec, East Lothian Council)/ Norman Hampshire.

Beth noted report received very recently from NESO about places in queue for connections being altered which will likely have an impact on proposed applications and connections.

Another recent development is news of a proposed Data Centre near Wester Broomhouse – with others likely to be made public soon.

Once Torness isn't generating there will be power cables underground and this may provide connections for other developments.

Scottish Government Onshore Advisory Group for Community Benefits meets tomorrow morning – Indicative Amounts, Non-disclosure, there's not much point working too hard on all of this until we know what Westminster will put in detail across UK – BESS, Windpower, etc.- for

Updated Scottish Good Practice Guidance on Onshore Community Benefits – anticipate a further consultation in new year, nothing will be finalised until after Scottish Parliamentary elections **Needs to be cross party.**

8. Progressing our Local Place Plan – discussion (Update from Beth Landon)

EGL1 SPEN/NnG community benefits amounting to roughly £5M to support next steps for 4 local priorities, to be spent over a 5 year period.

Focus on next five years in East Lammermuir before a review and widening of benefits for longer term

9. Community Benefits (Chris Bruce)

Update - Proposal for aligning community benefits streams across East Lothian, and our relationship with East Lothian Community Benefits SCIO / Foundation Scotland; discussions continuing.

CBr and SF had initial conversation with Dunbar Harbour Trust about contacts to assist them

10. Liaison Meetings and Roles – updates

- Biodiversity Community Liaison Group (Beth) –no meeting in November or December combined site visit 4 December – EGL1 and Branxton – saw Market Rd, Converter Station site, Branxton Substation – field, Haul road crossings, Banksmen to stop traffic, Birnieknowes
- Torness Liaison 30 October, visit 20 January (Lennox, Beth) – Notes circulated by email
- Viridor Liaison (21 October, Christy)

- Valencia Liaison (Christy) – 10 December
- Tarmac Liaison (Christy)
- Area Partnership (Anne) – Shared list of funding decisions – almost all of which were awarded half or less of what was requested as they were told that was all that was available. She said it did feel as though they were bullied into decisions –
- Some of beneficiaries are Arts Service – Space, Richmond’s Hope – 900
 - o There was also a Workshop on Housing but Anne couldn’t attend – reminder to ask alternate (Beth) in future.
 - o SF mentioned cost savings by Richmond’s Hope change of venue for their service to Dunbar Business Centre
 - o ELC Placemaking Project – Community Hub – further round of consultation anticipated.
- Association of East Lothian Community Councils AGM (Chris) – postponed until 14 January 2026
- Community And Police Partnership (Kelvin)
- Caroline – met Peter on website, able to help
- Last newsletter 2019 – Play on the green, PUT ON NEXT AGENDA
- Community Benefits Gateway – Sharon to circulate information.

11. Correspondence (all circulated previously under separate cover)

Invitation to Community Council Convention on the impact on communities of major energy infrastructure in Scottish Borders Area (17 January) (*Decision on position*) – Bob Hope
 Declaration from Highlands asks for everything to stop and at same time folk complain about curtailment costs of windpower which needs to go somewhere –
 this convention from Highlands being brought to South of Scotland against industrialisation of landscape, unless cumulative impact is properly considered, until National Energy Plan is agreed. Chris Bruce suggested a more nuanced approach is required, and members asked him to draft an alternative statement for the large meeting to consider.

National Shared Ownership Strategy for the Climate Action Hub Programme
 (*Decision on involvement*)

The strategy proposal has now had initial trial funding granted. They are looking for local pilot, awaiting news of our interest or not. Community Ownership claims to have 10-100x more income generation than community benefit; however also massive legal agreements – which could be done on East Lothian level, but could we be pilot. Chris & Beth to continue discussions with ELCAN.

Cemetery Upkeep (*to share*) - *noted*

Community Councillor training (*For potential attendance*) – *no more info at present*

Parking Charges – ELCC are included in Dunbar chair’s speech to East Lothian Council and remain opposed to the current proposal for parking charges. Chris has written letter informing DCC of our views and Suzie did a 20 second blurb for speech for the video for the Council meeting. It was also mentioned that further action may be taken in regards to ELC councillors/local community councils depending on Tuesday’s votes.

12. Local Updates

Innerwick:

Community Council members needed.
Hall refurbishment hope to start January 2026

Oldhamstocks:

progress with replacing the (1952) village hall – demolition today.
Demolition took place - Invoice to be paid soon by CWP
Various Christmas events still happening, though there is no tree in the village.

Spott - 20mph request from SCA (nothing to report)

Stenton-

20mph consultation done, Safe Walking seed money – design phase – have three very different proposal / bids with prices reflected in that, meet with Morag Haddow, ELC Roads, and bring things together...further discussions to come with community, choose contractor and get a design agreed
Active Travel Fund, Walking Scotland report from 14 November workshop recommends 20mph speed limits in all villages in East Lammermuir
Anne enquired about Bike racks – Kelvin and Colin said there is no demand for them in Stenton. Suggested this could be checked again with Active Travel steering group in Stenton.

13. Dates of Meetings 2026 – to be agreed and publicised

MONDAYS at 19.00 in the village hall

12 January 2026	Innerwick	
02 March 2026	Spott	
09 March 6pm	<i>Funding decision making meeting Online – 6pm</i>	
27 April 2026	Stenton	
4 May 2026	<i>Funding decision making meeting Online – 6pm</i>	
08 June 2026	Innerwick	
27 July 2026	Spott	
24 August 2026	Stenton	
26 August 5pm	<i>Funding Decision Making Group online</i>	
5 Oct 2026	East Lammermuir Community Benefits Trust and Fund Ltd. AGM's Stenton	
26 October 2026	Innerwick	
9 Nov 2026	<i>Funding decision making meeting Online</i>	
30 November 2026	Spott (or Oldhamstocks)	