

## East Lammermuir Community Council

### Meeting 2 March 2026 at 19.00 Spott Village Hall

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

**Apologies** Lennox Webb

**In attendance;** Beth Landon, Cllr Lyn Jardine.

#### 1. National Shared Ownership Strategy for the Climate Action Hub Programme (Bobby Pembleton, ELCAN)

Discussion postponed until this work is further defined.

#### 2. Minutes of meeting held Monday 12 January

Approved with Beth's amendments and the removal of Anne Lyall from the list of those present.

#### 3. Matters arising not elsewhere on agenda

##### ● Role of Minute Secretary

- Open for applications, with 3 received so far.
- Closing date agreed for 10<sup>th</sup> March
- Interview panel – Anne excused herself due to a conflict of interest. Suzie to share a list of questions from Co'path and Cove Community Council's recruitment process. Caroline, Chris and Beth agreed to form the interview panel. Interviews to be held Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 6pm for 6:30pm in Spott Village Hall.
- Colin confirmed funds are in place.

##### ● Scottish Borders Area Community Council Convention on the impact on communities of major energy infrastructure (17 January) (*an alternative statement? update on survey*)(Chris/all)

- Paper copy distribution of survey is underway
- Suzie shared at Innerwick Soup and Pudding lunch
- Shared via ELCC Facebook / Innerwick, Spott and Oldhamstocks Facebook groups, OCA and Spott CA email lists and due to go out on the Spott members email list this week.
- About 40 replies so far, with a very wide spread of views, and some need more information.
- Chris received direct emails from people wanting to have more space to have a say. Lots of long responses. Feels like we've touched a nerve.
- Could community benefits be used to fund better local democracy, e.g. an external facilitator? Chris has a call with Angus Hardie (Renew Local Democracy) scheduled to discuss this.
- **Action: Chris and Beth to consider a proposal to fund this work**
- Clarification on how the South of Scotland (S of S) Statement came about has been sought from some residents. Chris had email interaction with Community Councils following convention suggesting amendments to Highland Statement.

The convenor of the S of S convention was only offering a yes or no choice to supporting Highlands Statement. The S of S alternative version originated mainly from 5 CCs in East Lothian, with some Borders CC input; but they are seeking for it to be taken up by the whole S of S area. **Action: Chris to send clarification to Beth to update on the website.**

- Follow-on “round table” event in Scot Parliament 24 February – Energy Minister Gillian Martin arrived and presented a statement and left, people didn’t feel heard.
- **Invitation to visit Dunbar Day Centre (Anne Lyall)**
  - Anne attended this showcase of their work. They were encouraging volunteering. Anne was impressed with the facility.
  - Some residents from East Lammermuir attend this facility, while others go to one in East Linton.
- **Planning Application 25/01466/P from Verdant Leisure (deadline 13 March)**
  - For Thurston Manor to build a shower block and extend the pool.
  - No comments received from residents, so ELCC don’t need to respond
- **Newlands Hill public enquiry meeting (6 March)**
  - ELCC are invited to attend as we submitted comments (neither objecting or supporting, with some concern about the access route)
  - **Chris to attend.**
- **Car parking charges**
  - Community Councils across East Lothian are considering submitting a vote of no confidence in ELC Elected Members over concerns of the handling of this.
  - Lyn left the room for discussion.
  - The concern is that Elected Members didn’t represent community, however they have more to represent, e.g. political party, financial situation, so this may not stand.
  - **Decision: ELCC members present declined the proposal to make a vote of no confidence.**
- **Energy Hustings**
  - A request was received from a community member for an energy developments themed hustings ahead of the May Holyrood election.
  - Sustaining Dunbar are hosting one in Dunbar and questions can be submitted to this.
  - Should ELCC hold our own? Concern about what this would achieve, and whether candidates would attend. Suggestion to circulate list of Qs to candidates by email for responses.
  - 1 or 2 April is last date for MSP candidates registering for list votes.
  - **Action: looking at Survey responses, Chris to pull together list of questions to put to Dunbar organisers and then circulate any not selected for the hustings to candidates by email.**
  - **Action: All village reps to ask their Community Associations for input.**

#### 4. Any other items of business for the agenda

##### Communications on road closures

- Suzie asked to receive notifications.
- **Action: Lyn to look at setting up a rule for notifications to go to Suzie and Beth.**

**Fire in community bakery in Dunbar** – a lot of damage. Could they apply to ELCBF for help to repair? Rules of ELCBF would allow them to apply for funding. No current agreed process for “Emergency Funding”. **Kelvin to lead further work on this.**

## 5. Treasurer’s Report

- The Community Council budget stands at £4561,56 as of 1.3.26.
- Annual Information Commission fees for all 3 organisations have been paid recently, along with Zurich Community Council Insurance.
- Innerwick Village Hall update. All contractors for the Hall refurb work have been verified and are now set up on our banking system. Bills for February will amount to £37,998 once all paid - this includes a deposit of £26k required to order the new cladding for the Hall
- It is still proving impossible to submit the Companies House annual confirmation statement for East Lammermuir Community Benefit Fund Ltd, because of being unable to register some trustees, due to issues with their online system. We continue to face threats of fines if we do not complete it. This is a widespread issue. Colin is not adding new directors until issues are resolved. Caroline is willing to become a director when Colin is ready
- Administration of Community Benefits funds March and May meetings
  - Foundation Scotland (FS) have sent link to panel members for the online portal registration
  - Deadline for applications today
  - FS will issue invitation to meeting and applications to review
  - May meeting – tight turn around between deadline and meeting, all agreed to this. Colin should be available to send out applications for review.

## 6. Community Council Complaints Procedure (previously circulated)

Decision to adopt ELC proposed scheme as Guidance?

- ELCC should have one in place as well as an induction procedure.
- If we adopt then we can access support from ELC in case of a complaint.
- **Decision: All agreed to adopt this procedure.**
- **Action: Chris will circulate again.**

## 7. Local Energy Infrastructure Developments (see [eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk](http://eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk))

- **Crystal Rig repower** – ELC Planning Committee 13 January – postponed, might be on 31 March, TBC
- **Scottish Government Consultation** on raising bar for ECU consideration of energy development proposals deadline 27 March. All agree with general principle for raising the level from 50 MW to enable more local decision making. ELC have to do similar amount of work as a statutory consultee as they do as the decision-making body, but without the associated funding. **Action: Chris to submit a response on behalf of ELCC.**
- **Energy Projects Partnership Manager Beth Landon**
  - Brief update/any issues for discussion
    - Focus recently been on 4 reports from the community ambition workshops.
    - Plan to recruit Development Officer will free Beth up to focus on wider partnership priorities.

- March newsletter is being finalised and will be shared ASAP. **Action Beth: Printed copies to be made available to Village Halls via Chris, Anne, Suzie and Kelvin**
    - Energy Developments (ED) meeting 11<sup>th</sup> March – Morvern North and SPEN presentations (2<sup>nd</sup> wave?) plus a mini workshop on the recommendations from the 4 workshops and input into the 5<sup>th</sup> report looking at overall action plan for the 4 ambitions.
    - Change date of ED public meeting to early June to avoid election? **Action Beth: send a poll round**
  - **Energy Projects Partnership Advisory Group** - not off the ground yet, need someone to convene it
  - **Traffic and Travel Group/Lorries in our Lanes meetings (Beth)**
    - reporting portal – work is underway to build this into the Developments Website, with reports made and option to use the map to identify location.
    - Lorries in our Lanes – aiming to hold the next one at the end of April
- **Future developments** – Thorntonloch/Morven et al (Chris, Beth)  
Beth and Chris have a meeting with ELC and SPEN fixed for 24 March to agree our approach should this become a reality
- **Data Centre proposal at Oxwellmains** – to agree ELCC submission (deadline for comments 6 March) (CB/all)
  - Chris suggested proposing a heat condition for excess heat to come under A1 to Thurston Manor. The proposed data centre is in an existing building, not visually intrusive, relatively small, but don't want to set a precedent for data centres. **Decision: neither support or object, but if approved a condition should be included for capturing waste heat.**
  - Further consideration is needed as to whether data centres should be in scope for the Energy Projects Partnership as data centre applications are clustering around energy developments. **Action: Beth and Chris to discuss with the steering group.**

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

- All 4 ambition reports are in final stages of drafting and work has started on the 5<sup>th</sup> report.
- Members had agreed to ask the Climate Hub to host a development officer post to progress the community ambitions. A proposal has been submitted by East Lothian Climate Hub for NnG funding to host a **Development Officer** for East Lammermuir (1<sup>st</sup> year of funding plus recruitment budget, plan to apply to EGL1 for Y2 and 3)
- **EGL1 community benefits:**
  - A guidance document has been received from SPEN setting out an unexpected 80% / 20% split in this fund
  - £3.2 million for East lam (80%) – for 4 ambitions
  - 20% for 4 CC areas – Dunbar, West Barns, East Lammermuir and Co'path and Cove
  - The guidance document needs to make clear that 80% is East Lammermuir and 20% is the wider area.
  - Local fund (20%) – SPEN to undertake engagement with communities in scope during February and March 26. Beth and Chris have signposted to DELAP area plan and Co'path and Cove LPP process.

- o The process to access these funds remains unclear and is being decided by SPEN rather than aligning with our proposed process.
- o Energy Saving Trust are the interim administrator, but a tender process is underway for a permanent administrator.
- o The EGL1 board is the “expert panel” signing off funding decisions.
- o East Lammermuir could make use of the local panel to preview applications before they are submitted.
- o The guidance document refers to a Development Officer being the first stage to access funds – Beth has clarified this role would work for ELCC and their remit would not be limited to EGL1 funding, so it is fine for NnG funding to match fund.
- o The guidance document is not yet ready to share until the map and the process for applying are clear. **Action: Beth to follow up.**
- **Active Travel** – A1 crossing feasibility work is underway through Walk Wheel Cycle Trust
- **Community Transport**
  - o Survey – 106 responses received. **Action: Beth to analyse results**
  - o Liftango modelling work proposal has been submitted for NnG funding
- **Biodiversity** – Sustaining Dunbar are looking at:
  - o Staff for Rivers project in East Lammermuir, Beth is liaising with them on how this role would fit with DO role
  - o Advisory group, Beth and Chris have discussed with them about at this being the community steering group for the East Lammermuir Biodiversity ambition and how this fits with BCLG (some overlap)
- **Energy Efficiency** – Lothian Heat as development vehicle (MOU with ELC signed at the end of February). A proposal for a Warm Homes Manager has been submitted for consideration by the East Lammermuir Community Benefits Funding Panel. This post-holder would work closely with the Development Officer proposed by the East Lothian Climate Hub.

## 9. Community Benefits (Chris Bruce)

- **Website** – Caroline is updating the community benefits section on the website.  
**Action: Colin to send her information about allocations.**
- **East Lothian Community Benefits (ELCB)/Foundation Scotland (FS)**
  - o Fred Olsen Renewables (FOR) are expecting a proposal from ELCC on Crystal Rig (CR) 4.
  - o Their proposal is for 40% for East Lothian - equivalent to £96,000 annually, index linked over 35 years
  - o With a recommended split as follows: Region Wide Fund 30% = £28,800 / East Lammermuir Community Council 50% = £48,000 / Garvald & Morham Community Council 20% = £19,200
  - o ELCB are happy to handle a regional fund
  - o ELCC’s proposal is for an agreement to be made between FOR and FS on behalf ELCB, with the first 5 years to be spent in East Lammermuir with decision making through the East Lammermuir panel.
  - o The East Lammermuir panel may decide to pass a proportion to ELBC for a regional fund.

- o After that review every 5 years and may have some or all available to East Lothian.
- o **Action: Chris to send draft to Colin to develop and circulate to ELCC before sending to Kevin Burns.**

#### 10. Liaison Meetings and Roles – updates

- Biodiversity Community Liaison Group (30 March)
- Torness Liaison visit 20 January (Lennox, Beth)
- Viridor Liaison (28 April, Christy)
- Valencia Liaison (including Data Centre proposal) 3 February (Chris)
- Tarmac Liaison 10 December (Christy) - discussion around path
- Area Partnership (Anne) – updates in newsletter, AGM in March
- Association of East Lothian Community Councils AGM 14<sup>th</sup> January (Chris) – Malcom Duck is new Chair, complaints procedure, Highlands Statement – most East Lothian CCs have not consulted their communities about renewables so can't sign up to it.
- Community And Police Partnership (Kelvin)

#### 11. Local Updates

**Innerwick:** Community Council members still needed. Hall refurbishment has started.

**Oldhamstocks:** progress with village hall build – just foundations so far, no action on site over last few weeks. Next up – steel!

**Spott** - 20mph request from SCA. Issue of some areas in ELCC area not covered by PWAs e.g. Pinkertons. **Action – to review map and identify. Important for delivery areas (not assigned).**

**Stenton;** traffic and active travel management/bicycle racks – revitalised now, inception meeting and site visit being organised. Bike racks being offered, but currently no appetite for them. A visitors' bike rack may be wanted. To be discussed at SCA meeting.

#### 12. Dates of Meetings 2026 – MONDAYS at 19.00 in the village hall

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 – 5pm</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)