

East Lammermuir Community Council

Meeting 27th April 2026 at 19.00 Stenton Village Hall

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

Apologies Cllr. Lyn Jardine

In attendance; Beth Landon, Jo Demer

1. Appointment of Minute Secretary

- Agreed, with welcome to Jo Demer

2. Apologies

3. Minutes of meetings held

- Monday 2nd March Approved with no amendments
- Minutes for community benefit funding from CR4 meeting will be finalised at Monday 4th May within ELEBT funding

4. Order of business to review and agree

- Discussion about how to make the most of the items and best order.
- Triage of items needing urgent decisions, what needs to be on the agenda or could be emailed to the committee. ACTION Chris, who will say when it has been re-ordered before meeting

5. Matters arising not elsewhere on agenda

- New Powers For Scotland's Community Councils - seemed more work for volunteers DECISION overall No – we won't get involved at present.
- Next CC meeting, 8 June; several people unable to attend, but we will still be quorate. ACTION Beth/Jo to generate agenda
- Chris has been invited to speak at the Highlands and Islands conference of people in industry, and those from the community attending.
- Scottish Borders Area Community Council Convention on the impact on communities of major energy infrastructure. A meeting was held in Moffat that ELCC were not invited to, as our survey indicated that we should not sign the Unified Statement. Discussion of Alternate Statement and next steps – to follow our hustings questions (see below)
- Awaiting more responses from candidates after emailed Hustings questions prior to May Parliamentary election. Responses so far from two candidates and those are on the ELCC website ACTION Chris/ Jo
- Newlands Hill Windfarm Public Inquiry Pre-examination meeting 6 March 10.00 Teams- Kelvin watched online. Chris contributed remotely. Inquiry likely to be in October 2026, lots of activity over email in between times.
- An initial meeting with the four CC chairs of extended area (CCCC, ELCC, DCC, and WBCCO regarding the first EGL1 funding round for four community councils working together was helpful to consider potential panelists, possible ideas for mutual benefit and to consider how we collaborate on this project and beyond.
- Renewing Local Democracy proposal- So much extra information from the free text boxes in the recent energy survey that community sessions are needed to allow discussion. Really for listening and dialogue, maybe with an external facilitator. Five meetings ongoing but

can ELCC be positive about where the money is going to, important for clarity - Lennox.
Colin - could be funded from the East Lammermuir Community Benefits Trust rather than the ELCBFund. Chris - important to get a proposal in and try to secure the funds but make sure committee has had a good look at the design of the events ALL

- Weather alerts – an offer from Jo for social media to add value to Met Office warnings locally. Gratefully accepted.

6. Any other items of business for the agenda - none

7. Treasurer's Report

- Scope of Administrator role - there are funds available to do more tasks. Community Councillors are very happy to support a more active administrative role than we have had to date.
Crystal Rig 4 Benefits – progress with CRIV legal agreement is under way. Discussions have led to a draft agreement with Kevin Burns (FOR) and FOR legal advisors (Morton Fraser MacRoberts). CBI will contact our legal adviser for advice. Currently, the proposals include East Lothian Community Benefits as a beneficiary.
The Community Council budget stands at £7,131,16 as of 26.4.26. This includes £2628.00 from ELC - annual Local Priorities money for the 4 villages (£524.25 each) plus an admin allowance for ELCC.
- ELCC end of year accounts documentation (to 31/3/26) have been sent to our accountant. The meeting agreed to allocate a gift card to our ELCC accountant, as this service has been provided free of charge for many years.
- Year end for ELC Benefit Trust is also 31st March. Relevant information has been sent to the appropriate accountants for completion of annual accounts.
- Suzie and Lennox security details have finally now been accepted, enabling filing of our annual confirmation statement for Companies House. When Colin is back from holidays, we will attempt to sign up Caroline as a Trustee and Director of relevant organisations, as most of Companies House software issues seem to have been resolved.
- Our annual confirmation statement for ELCBenefit Trust has been drafted and submitted to OSCR
- There have been a lot of last minute grant applications coming in this week prior to 30 April deadline
- We are waiting on Foundation Scotland sharing NNG applications on the Portal
- Innerwick Village Hall update. Monthly contractors bills for the Hall refurb are being paid from ELCBF Ltd. £93.3k spent to date.

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

- Crystal Rig repower – ELC Planning Committee 5 May – ELCC able to have five minutes say
 - Council is still objecting on some points. ELCC put in lots of comments, mainly about the access road which is the Council's primary reason to object.
 - The planning system does not serve our situation well when several projects use one access road. That needs addressing and could be raised. Action - Chris Bruce to attend, and to address these points;
 - We need a road that is fit for purpose. Do it once and do it properly. It needs to be wide enough, but not to attract speedsters.
 - Chris to tell the meeting what it is like from a community perspective, while he has the chance.
 - From Beth - CR access road Biodiversity officer commented that re-landscaping/biodiversity should be for the whole of access route not just at the

pinch points. Access officer asked for a review of access issues along the right of way opposite Innerwick Junction known locally as Posties Walk at Dryburn, North of the A1 / A few comments through social media and Community Traffic and Transport Forum (CTTF) that changes to the access road have resulted in a gate being locked and access blocked for local people with no communication or engagement from contractor. Needs more information/conditions in the planning application to stop this. Action - Chris to create draft for use in future planning applications where relevant.

- Following meeting with Lianne and Suzanne from SPEN, re the 20% community benefits totalling £800k to be spent during the life of the construction project (proposed finish in 2029), it was to do two workshops (one on becoming a SCIO, as unconstituted groups may not apply and the other with all of the CC's with Social Investment Scotland about the setup. In order to give time for these and for criteria to be in, it was agreed to move first round from July 2026, with aim for deadlines to be September/October 2026
- Energy Projects Partnership Manager Beth Landon
 - Berwick Bank - have their planning permission in principle. More detailed second Substation application detail has been submitted to ELC. Height for the buildings has been reduced somewhat. Buildings will be Bottle green after community engagement meeting last year. Won't be permanently lit, landscaping plans with a car park off the Market Road and a community field space
 - Biodiversity Advisory Group saw landscaping plans. Short turn around to comment to Council. Suzie to correspond with Gary Donlin from SSE to suggest their reps go into Innerwick school and show the drawings and get responses? Action Beth/Suzie
 - 'Introduction to Jo' for Thursday bulletin - Action Beth/Jo
 - Link in the weekly bulletin for any comments about Beth's role as she has been in place for a year now. Looking for feedback. Action Link to be shared - Beth
 - Approved upgrade to Mailchimp needed to continue to send out bulletin emails £172.92 per year from Beth's ELEP budget. More functionality available with the upgrade. Jo to assist Beth to create the weekly bulletins.
 - Plan to highlight what the CTTF and Biodiversity advisory groups do, on the website. Action Beth and Jo
 - Energy developments public meeting was supposed to be held on 6th May, but difficulties due to election next day. Just two large meetings with developers this year? Next one is in September anyway, so maybe the new Innerwick hall will be ready to host?
 - Alternative venue possibility- Innerwick school hall Action - Suzie to find school hall capacity
- Pre-election Paul McLennan has asked about a collaboration between energy partnership East Lammermuir and the East Lothian energy forum

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

- Next steps for 4 local priorities; workshop reports now published
- Approach to Community Transport – role of LiftandGo
- Appointment of Community Development Officer
- Appointment of Warm Homes Officer
- Updated proposal from SPEN re EGL1 benefits
- Other areas of priority – how we talk about these
- Traffic and Travel Group/Lorries in our Lanes meeting 18 May (Beth)- flyers delivered to most impacted areas. People need to book space to attend. Action - posters handed out ALL

- Presentations from EGL, CR4, Branxton, Berwick Bank with questions. Hoping for one person from ELC.
- BEAR Scotland - Tommy Deans attended a CTF meeting last summer about safety along A1. Signage about the energy projects to show one way loop (no right turns on or off A1). All approved - Transport Scotland funding it initially, will be clawed back from energy projects.
- Reporting portal - donations from the energy project developers are being used to build this into the energy developments website. Anything related to the construction, lorries turning right, mud on road, access blocked. Submit short report, can add photos. Will produce a report in one place. Opportunity for the committee to test run it before it goes live. CTF have put in a few suggestions. ACTION Beth will show at the Lorries in our Lanes meeting, and will also send a general report to ELC about recurring issues once live.
 - DECISION: ELCC to be the data controller for this reporting portal.
 - Question about how long data will be stored for? DECISION two years.
- Access issue flagged on the other side of the Innerwick junction. ELC Access Officer is actively challenging the closure of the Public Right of Way.
- Feedback about adjusting times on the three (four) way traffic lights on the Bilsdean slip road Action- Beth
- What is happening on the A1? Layby upgrades and wind socks by BEAR Scotland. Extra wind socks led by Cllr Donna Collins [BEAR](#)

10. Community Benefits (Chris Bruce)

- "Regional" Community Benefits Fund of £800k for Dunbar, West Barns, Co'path & Cove and ELCC - Chris and Suzie attended a meeting with Lianne Williams from SPEN Community Benefits, along with Dunbar & West Barns CC Chairs.
 - Proposed Panel ideally should not have anyone on it who will ever apply for a grant, no ELCC members, collect bids in from constituted bodies, workshop offer to explain about this. Community transport needs to become a constituted body. ACTION Lianne Offered to convene a workshop to talk about the new fund; we should attend and share ELCCs experience and impart our knowledge. ALL
 - NNG funds agreed for the first year of both the community dev officer and warm homes project officer, both employers have now applied to EGL1 for years 2 and 3. Community supporting this.
 - Thanks today to East Lothian Climate Hub for being willing to host the Community Development Officer post and going the extra mile to make it work. Recruitment drive starting, to approve the job description - ACTION Suzie and Chris (before 11th May, Lennox, (backup Caroline). Will be advertised soon.

11. Liaison Meetings and Roles – updates

- Biodiversity Community Liaison Group (30 March)
- Torness 1 April (Lennox, Beth)
- Viridor Liaison (28 April, Christy)
- Valencia Liaison (Christy)
- Tarmac Liaison 10 December (Christy)
- Area Partnership 23 March Elections & Area Plan (Anne)
- Association of East Lothian Community Councils 27 April (Tonight!)(Chris)
- Community And Police Partnership (Kelvin)

12. Correspondence (all circulated previously under separate cover)

- National Shared Ownership Strategy for the Climate Action Hub Programme (Bobby Pembleton, ELCAN)- Bobby has met his consultant about the huge offshore wind farms. He should come to a future ELCC meeting. Action - Chris/ Jo to invite him for 27 July

- Online meeting on Weds 29th 1-2pm Local Power Plan - Action - Beth to send round details. Jo is attending

13. Local Updates

- Outdoor theatre- contacts needed for all villages to send details on - Colin. Information to go out everywhere at the same time, will be first come first served, August Sunday 16th Pirates of Penzance. Questions about parking and event capacity. Action Kelvin. Thoughts about putting on transport , and including Co'path & Cove Action?
- Innerwick: Community Council members. Hall refurbishment- open session at the end of March. A few committee members saw inside.
- Oldhamstocks: progress with village hall build- "Solid but slower than anticipated"
- Stenton; traffic and active travel management/bicycle racks. Safe walking meeting with people on Thursday 30th April for a walk around the village. ELC will then help with a plan and possible funding avenues. "Progressing"

- **Dates of Meetings 2026** – MONDAYS at 19.00 in the village hall

4 May 2026	<i>Funding decision making meetings Online – 6pm & 7.30pm</i>
08 June 2026	Innerwick (Old Schoolhouse)
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)

Meeting ended at 21:30