

East Lammermuir Community Council

Meeting 8 June 2026 at 19.00 Online

Minute

Present: Chris Bruce, Suzie Fletcher, Caroline Anderson, Lennox Webb

Apologies: Cllr. Lyn Jardine, Cllr. Donna Collins, Kelvin D'Arcy-Burt, Colin Bloomfield, Anne Lyall

In attendance: Beth Landon, Jo Demer

1. Welcome

- The meeting had been moved online from being in person at Innerwick Old Schoolhouse due to illness. Chris B thanked the committee for their flexibility.

2. Minutes of meetings held

- Monday 27th April Approved with no outstanding amendments

3. Matters arising not elsewhere on agenda

- **Unified Energy Infrastructure Statement:** regarding major energy infrastructure, there were no new updates on the initiative. Beth L met with Paul McLennan MSP, who indicated that while there is planning happening around energy infrastructure, communication remains poor when trying to engage the National Energy System Operator (NESO). Potentially invite NESO to the East Lothian Energy Forum (ACTION Beth/ Paul McL).

Suzie F can circulate for information from Bob Hope - Chair of Eccles, Leitholm & Birgham Community (from South of Scotland Convention) around organising future meetings. This is from Scottish Borders Council interactions and campaign groups, but to include other Community Councils.

- Suzie has also been contacted by EGL1 and for ideas about places to photograph around ELCC regarding the energy infrastructure for publications.
- **Highlands & Islands Green Energy conference:** Thursday 11th June, Chris Bruce part of panel discussion about meaningful community engagement. The event appears to be dominated by industry attendees but with some community/public sector keynote voices. ACTION Chris to circulate the agenda and possible online viewing details.
- **Renewing Local Democracy Proposal:** Previously agreed to potentially fund the proposal via the Benefits Trust, provided all members had the opportunity to review and shape it. It was decided to add this to the agenda for the next meeting. ACTION Jo

4. Local Updates

- **Spott:** none
- **Stenton:** Tickets for outdoor theatre [Pirates of Penzance](#) at Stenton Sunday 16th August, now on sale. Also, mystery filming in Stenton on Wednesday 10th.
- **Oldhamstocks: The Springfield Solar Farm project is moving to Public Legal Inquiry (PLI).** Those present discussed their participation in the PLI process. The community council will align its public

inquiry response strategy for the Springfield solar farm with local groups from Oldhamstocks and SORELL, and delegate coordination of ELCC response to Chris Bruce and Caroline Anderson (ACTION), choosing not to engage separate legal representation (DECISION).

- **Innerwick:** Hall work is progressing with another open session tentatively planned before the next Soup & Pudding club Weds 24th, last one before summer break. Invite for people to attend. Suzie also mentioned that Innerwick Old school house is not on the ELC list of buildings in the Dunbar area (some of which may be considered for community buyout/asset transfer under Community Empowerment Act). She is seeking to have the Old Schoolhouse added to the list.
 - Query re Active Travel discussions about Safer Routes to School given a few concerns near Innerwick, perhaps interim signage would help? Suzie caught Kirsten from Dunbar CC, Norman Hampshire and Dan Robertson WalkWheelCycle Trust (was Sustrans) near Dunbar Primary school at Countess Road crossing sharing a few ideas. Ongoing concerns about crossing fast road route for school children from near Thurston Manor into the village are to be discussed with Morag Haddow, ELC.
- **Road closures and communication challenges** - Difficult to keep up with road closures and the updates on social media/weekly bulletins as the frequent changes are a challenge. Jo D raised query how best to post updates about TTROs, or changes to already issued posts

Caroline A expressed frustration with the lack of timely notification from Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) about Oldhamstocks road closures, discussing the possibility of requesting that SPEN fund physical mailings or postcards for major closures, as current methods are failing to reach the wider public effectively and in good time. ACTION Beth raise with SPEN

Solutions - Yellow signs are great, the quarterly newsletter does have a lot of detail. Perhaps besides signposting for the weekly bulletin, people could sign up for just traffic updates? Not currently within the weekly bulletin, although specific updates which fall between the weekly bulletins are targeted based on updates requested. Agree to explore these options further with SPEN; Action for Beth

5. Update to ELCC Privacy Policy

- Data policy and contact revisions approved. DECISION The committee approved the updated data privacy policy, removing specific developer references, designating "secretary@elcc.scot" as the primary contact, and integrating the East Lothian Council's data breach procedures. ACTION Jo (check with Secretary)
 - Beth L had asked for a Privacy Policy link for the new reporting portal in relation to wider data than just grant applications. Three primary data user groups: submitting queries, registering for bulletins, and applying for grants.
 - Data Retention and Consent: Chris B confirmed the previously agreed-upon data retention periods: 7 years for successful grant applicants and 2 years for unsuccessful ones. Reporting portal - two years, unless the applicant provides further reports.
 - The group discussed the implications of sharing personal data with third-party fund administrators, such as CWP Energy. Chris B questioned whether the administrator's privacy policy would govern data use once shared, needs checking further?

- o Data Breach Policy – Check with East Lothian Council about their action and support. ACTION Jo

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

Energy Projects Partnership Manager Beth Landon

- **Reporting Portal Progress:** Thanks for feedback, along with suggestions from the Community Traffic and Travel Forum (CTTF) about the user front end. The next stage involves active energy project contacts road-testing the back-end system before the portal goes live.
- **FAQs:** Regarding monitoring of planning conditions, specifically construction traffic and biodiversity - has been launched on the [ELCC website](#) including where to find contacts.
- **Lorries in Our Lanes (LOIL)** May 18th meeting had 20 attendees, with a leaflet drop funded by Branxton substation. Better attendance than the last one, but not as well attended as some, will be discussed at CTTF (ACTION Beth) Thoughts on how to improve attendance? Presentations are available on the EL Energy Developments website, in the [Document Library | East Lammermuir Developments](#)
- **Access Path:** The closure of the path near Innerwick Junction - The council and the community, and others, have requested that Prysmian provide banksmen to manage construction traffic. Debbie McNicol (EGL1/Branxton) is currently applying internal pressure to ensure this is implemented. Path is now closed, but discussions are ongoing.
- **SPEN Vehicle Signage:** SPEN is rolling out project-specific [vehicle signage](#), with colour-coded stickers for EGL1 (pink convertor stations and blue cable routes) and Branxton (green) projects. The design and implementation process used for this will be replicated at the Co. Durham end of the EGL, representing a positive outcome originating from the CTTF.
- **Planning**
 - o **Berwick Bank Offshore Phasing:** Berwick Bank is seeking a variation to phase the discharge of offshore planning conditions. Has been in the weekly Bulletin, comments by 18th June. There is local opposition around the potential seabird impacts. DECISION to encourage individual submissions from the public, but not from ELCC.
 - o **Berwick Bank Onshore Substation:** The details of matters specified in planning conditions for onshore works are being submitted in three phases, the substation application being the 2nd of these. Chris B reiterating concerns regarding the omission of heat capture from the converter station and making it available locally. ACTION The group agreed that Chris would submit a refined version of the previous comments, also focusing on 'fencing and drainage' to ELC. Chris to speak at the planning committee on June 24th. Questions remain.
 - o **Dunbar BESS Updates:** Beth L shared that the Dunbar BESS project is expected to start in the third quarter of the year (post meeting update: this is now due to start Q2 2027). Detailed plans regarding traffic and access are yet to be submitted. Chris B suggested requesting that the developers implement communication lessons learned from Fred. Olsen project, such as providing text alerts for traffic movements from Thistly Cross roundabout. ACTION Beth. Option to include Cath O'Brien -West Barns CC in a conversation about access.

- **EGL1 Park & Ride:** Approved at Spott Road Industrial Estate, Dunbar subject to conditions. The developers have reached out to Beth regarding potential links to community biodiversity projects. Suggestion of additional engagement with Dunbar CC, as it will significantly impact traffic on Spott Road. ACTION Beth to discuss with the contractor Metlen. Potential for 200 cars at 7am and 4pm along this route.

7. Progressing our Local Place Plan (Update from Beth Landon)

- **Next steps for 4 local priorities**

- **Warm Homes Initiative Launch:** Ellen Abbi has been appointed to deliver this project in East Lammermuir. Residents should register their initial interest via [a form](#), also FAQs on the [website](#). A project launch is scheduled for Tues June 30th from 7-9 PM at Innerwick Outdoor centre. All households in East Lammermuir are encouraged to register interest.
- **Biodiversity and River Catchment Project:** Jenny Gries is the new River Catchment Projects Officer for Sustaining Dunbar, who has a remit for East Lammermuir. Her initial focus is building relationships with landowners and identifying suitable projects, following the completion of mapping work.
- **Active Travel Feasibility Study:** A delay in finalising the active travel feasibility study, as the consultants identified 'engineering challenges' that affect the project's cost and deliverability. Beth is coordinating with council representatives regarding safety issues on the A1, access north of A1 the Innerwick junction, and National Cycle Network issues.
- **Community Transport Expansion:** "LiftanGo" DRT Demand Responsive Transport service modelling work has been commissioned to expand the pilot from 2024. Possible expansion including Cockburnspath area, Dunbar and potentially its Tree Scheme estate. Chris Bruce raised concerns about the service's historical geographical limits imposed by the council. Need to look at scope of the service, noting that the four communities—Dunbar, West Barns, Co'path & Cove, and East Lammermuir are included in the 20% regional funding allocation of the EGL1 community benefits.
- **Community Development Officer Recruitment:** Deadline for the Community Development Officer role is 15th of June. Interviews later in June. DECISION Interview panel agreed, Chris B will represent ELCC.
- **Energy Forum** Beth has been invited to speak at MSP Paul McLennan's Energy Forum for East Lothian scheduled for Friday 25th September. Showcasing local developments in East Lammermuir. Not finalised yet.
- **UK-wide All Energy Conference:** Beth L provided highlights from the conference in Glasgow, noting that [Belltown Power](#) offers a universal 1% shared ownership model across all projects. Additionally, GB Energy plans to publish a range of financial products (such as loans) to support communities with shared ownership opportunities later in the summer.

8. Community Benefits

- **ELCB/Foundation Scotland**

- **Funding for Salary Positions?:** Query from Colin B regarding support for salaried positions and having information about other funding sources available on the website. Recommendation of linking to Funding Scotland, the SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations) search engine and Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL Funding, which are the same two on Dunbar CC website. Suzie highlighted that VCEL has a monthly Funding Update bulletin via email. ACTION?
- **EGL1 Fund Administration and Governance:** Suzie F summarized recent meetings regarding the £800,000 regional fund. Importance of good collaborative working, sharing ELCC's experience, and the need for clear feedback from funded projects.

Upcoming event on Monday 15th June. SPEN has brought in Social Investment Scotland (SIS) to facilitate a workshop between the 4 CCs and other local representatives about defining the fund's criteria. DECISION ELCC postcard delayed until after the workshop to avoid confusion. Draft covering statement to introduce what they are asking. The postcards will attempt to glean community views about the EGL1 fund but could do with re-writing. (ACTION online Beth, Suzie)

However, clarity is needed about the £4 Million fund, with its 80% ELCC/20% 4 CCs split and how projects might be shared proportionally across regions, or for investments in human services (such as social prescribing at GP surgeries in Dunbar).

- Chris B mentioned the proposed "Distributing Differently" session with Foundation Scotland for East Lammermuir to explore how to distribute various community benefit funds, including the Fred Olsen and NnG wind farm funds and EGL1, perhaps in future Berwick Bank. And then with four CC, and perhaps wider with East Lothian (ACTION Beth and Suzie).
- DECISION Suzie suggested that Foundation Scotland administrator NL could be considered as a member of the EGL1 funding panel due to her strong local knowledge of the area (depending on final decision of administrator of fund) and with relevant permissions.
- **Berwick Bank Community Benefits:** Need the FS Distributing Differently session first before looking at any funds from this project. Too early to finalize a strategy, but the future substation transfer to the national grid, and the wider wind farm project, will present a significant funding opportunity that requires early planning with SSE.

9. Liaison Meetings & Roles

- **Biodiversity Community Liaison Group Review:** The Chair of the Biodiversity Community Liaison Group, Jason Ormiston has notified that review of the group's Terms of Reference is due. DECISION Chris B and Beth L will liaise on this and represent ELCC's views in the review
- **DELAP** notes to be sent out afterwards ACTION Jo. ELC Amenities team looking for projects. DELAP next workshop will be community transport so can ELCC survey results be shared? ACTION Anne

10. Correspondence

- **East Lothian Climate Action Network ELCAN Invite:** Chris B proposed inviting Bobby Pembleton from the ELCAN hopefully to 27th July, to discuss his research - National Shared Ownership Strategy for the Climate Action Hub Programme - agreed (ACTION Chris/Jo)

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

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 21:55