

Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and OPEN MEETING

Held on 4 February 2020

At McArthur's Store, Victoria Street, Dunbar

Attendees

Colin Barnes
Ian Dane
Mike Shaw
Simon Swift

Teresa Barnes
Kevin Heffernan
Alasdair Swan

Brian Cox
Kenny Maule
Pippa Swan

Apologies

Mark Cavanagh
Jan Green
Ian Scrimgeour

Millie Cornwall
Tanya Jepson

Allan Green
Joan Johnson

Simon Swift, a new member, was welcomed to the meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

1. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN 2019

Pippa Swan, as chair, reported on the Group's activities in the past year. Although there are now some 80 members to whom Minutes of Meetings and other details are circulated, some of whom send comments back to the chair or secretary, attendance at meetings is low and wider participation would be welcome.

Under the revisions to the constitution agreed last year, open meetings are held twice a year but increased when necessary. In 2019 because the Group had no ongoing project of its own to monitor, meetings were confined to the AGM on 5th February with Open Meetings on 2 July and 8th October 2019 and a Committee Meeting on 10th April to sign the revised constitution.

However copies of the **Project Meeting Notes** issued in respect of the **East Beach Regeneration** meetings with East Lothian Council held on 13th February, 13 March, 10 April, 2 May, 10 July, 14 August and 25 November 2019 were also circulated to members to keep them fully informed of progress by ELC in obtaining tenders and the necessary Marine Licence for reinstatement of the groyne and provision of breakwaters in two phases at East Beach. A start in 2019 was not achieved and we are currently awaiting advice from ELC that a contractor has been chosen to carry out the work in 2020. The Group's involvement is limited to matters likely to affect our neighbourhood but Pippa Swan appreciates the support she has received from members attending these meetings.

Elsewhere group activities have included **beach cleaning** undertaken by Susan Mowatt and her family throughout the year. Currently, under a Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, students from

Dunbar Grammar School are collecting rubbish regularly and bags may be seen adjacent to, rather than in, refuse bins. The **RNLI Tombola** run by Mike Shaw and his helpers in the summer was a great success and again raised around £2,000. Brian Cox has kept the hedging at the **Creel Loaders** site looking immaculate and our annual **Estate Inspection 2020** has just been completed. Thanks are due to all who have helped in our efforts to keep our neighbourhood as we would like it to be.

Going forward into 2020, our main concern will again be the implementation of the ELC East Beach Regeneration and its impact on our neighbourhood.

Finally the group is now going into its 10th year with, to a large extent, the same team as when it started in 2011. It is hoped that as we enter a new decade new faces will come forward to take over with fresh ideas.

[A copy of the Annual Report is attached along with these minutes.]

2. RECEIPT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Brian Cox, Honorary Treasurer, tabled the accounts for the period 1 February 2019 to 13 January 2020.

The balance at 31 January 2019 was £2584.22 with an Administration Grant from the ELC of £230 for the year 2019/2020

Expenditure had been minimal covering the room hire for meetings [£75] and planting for the Creel Loaders hedging [£31.90]

The balance at 31 January 2020 is £2708.31 of which £1529 is in a restricted fund earmarked for replacement of swings, ropes, etc. in the play area at Lamer Street.

The accounts were agreed and signed by Pippa Swan as Chair and a copy will be placed in the Minutes File. The treasurer will submit a copy to ELC when applying for this year's administration granted. It was once more pointed out that members incurring costs on behalf of the Group should claim these expenses to justify the ELC grant.

Colin Barnes suggested that part of the unrestricted fund [total of £1179.31] might be spent on a social event, later in 2020, to attract new members and get existing members more involved with the Group's activities. It was suggested that this might link to the completion of the East Beach Works and a plan will be reviewed in due course.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE FOR 2020

The existing committee and officers servers stood down in line with constitutional requirements. Joan Johnson has advised that she would not wish to be considered for a further term due to other commitments.

In the absence of members offering to join the Committee, the present officers and remaining committee members agreed to serve a further year with Kenny Maule filling the vacancy on the Committee. As Tanya Jepson was not present, Pippa Swan will check whether she is will be willing to continue as Tenants Representative. **Action: Pippa**

These proposals were agreed by the members present.

Subject to the above of the committee for 2020 will be:

Chair	Pippa Swan
Vice-Chair	Mike Shaw
Treasurer	Brian Cox
Secretary	Ian Dane & Colin Barnes
Tenants Rep.	Tanya Jepson
Members	Alasdair Swan Mark Cavanagh Teresa Barnes Kenny Maule

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

No amendments having been proposed, Constitution as revised 13 February 2019 stands.

5. CLOSE OF AGM

There being no other matters to be considered, the Chair declared the AGM closed.

OPEN MEETING

1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 8 OCTOBER 2019

1.01 Amendments: None

1.02 Action Items: As reported below.

2. PROJECTS FOR 2020

2.01 East Beach Regeneration

As noted at 2.4 of "Community Information" of Project Meeting Note for 25 November 2019, ELC wish to advise Dunbar Community Council [DCC] and the Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group members as early as possible on the extent of the works and likely impact on the community.

A joint DCC and DSHNG meeting was held at the Town House on 16 December at which ELC's engineer, David Northcott, outlined the scope of Phases 1 and 2 of the contract, identifying 31 May 2020 as the date for completion of Phase 1 (Groyne and South Breakwater) and, possibly, the start of Phase 2 (Northern Breakwater) subject to receipt of the Marine License for Phase 2 by that date. The completion of Phase 1 by this date is critical in that the Marine License for Phase 1 runs out on the 31st May. There is provision in the contract to allow the contractor to leave the site on completion of Phase 1 and return once the Marine License for Phase 2 is received, should that prove necessary. Copies of the RHDHV presentation sheets used by Mr Northcott were to be made available to DCC.

As requested by ELC, DCC and DSHNG prepared and "Questions for Public Consultation - January 2020", copies being issued to all DSHNG members. The intention was that answers would be available in the hope that "DCC and DSHNG would be sufficiently informed to support ELC when they, ELC, held a public information session on 13 January 2020 Bleachingfields".

In practice, the presentation at Bleachingfields was again based on RHDHV presentation sheets because ELC had not discussed the "Questions for Public Consultation" pending formal appointment of the contractor.

As of 4th February, DSHNG still awaits confirmation of the contractor's appointment and an indication from ELC as to when answers to the questions for public consultation will be available, together with confirmation of the program agreed with the contractor for Phase 1. In ELC's own assessment, an application for a Marine License for Phase 2 needs to be submitted by mid February if a delay at the end of May is to be avoided.

Once ELC comes back to Pippa Swan, members will be advised and ELC will be asked to arrange a meeting with all interested DSHNG members to discuss all matters affecting the community.

2.02 Schools Project

Teresa Barnes asked whether it would be possible for schools to be involved in monitoring the progress of the East Beach Regeneration contract as an educational project.

The meeting agreed that this would provide an excellent opportunity for the next generation to become familiar with Dunbar heritage and it was agreed that Teresa Barnes and Pippa Swan will contact the school and education authority. It may be that with an eye on potential future employees, the consultant engineers RHDHV and/or the successful contractor may wish to support this project.

Action: Teresa Barnes to contact DGS. PS to support

2.03 East Beach Seawall Defences

As noted in the Project Meeting Note of 25 November 2019 (Item 3.2), the appointment of RHNDV/OOBE to develop the design of the seawall and promenade was said to be "in hand" but no confirmation of these appointments has been advised to DSHNG.

3 ELC PROPOSAL FOR LONG-TERM PARKING AT COASTGUARD HOUSES

Members will know, from Pippa Swan's email of 23 January 2020 that, contrary to normal practice, ELC are to hold a public drop-in session at the Town House tomorrow, 5th February between 3:30 and 7 p.m. to discuss ELC Planning Application (COASTGUARD SITE: 19/00978/PCL) to develop land owned by ELC at the Coastguard site as a car park which will not be time-limited and with staircase access to Church Street.

The Members are also referred to the article on page 15 of East Lothian Courier dated 30 January 2020 which links this proposal to parking at Abbeylands car park off the High Street where, the Courier says, ELC intend imposing a 90 minute time limit.

Members are encouraged to visit the drop-in session and draw their own conclusions bearing in mind that, as Pippa Swan points out, ELC concluded as recently as 2018 that, apart from station parking, parking provision in Dunbar was adequate. In respect of station parking, the Courier reports that there are ongoing discussions with Network Rail to increase the station car park and provide access from new developments for pedestrians and cyclists to the new southern platform.

4 NEW PREPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AMUSEMENT ARCADE SITE

Mike Shaw reported that the Amusement Arcade site had been sold to a family who propose to develop the site for a single residence. Mike Shaw reminded the meeting that a developer had been trying to develop this site for a number of years and, living in a property on Church Street overlooking the site, he had, as an adjacent owner been heavily involved. The developer's various proposals have all been rejected by ELC planners.

Sketch plans prepared on behalf of the new owners were tabled and examined and, in principle, the proposals are much more preferable than the developer's and may add to the quality of development behind the proposed Seawall and Promenade. The group felt that the right route would be to wait until the formal submission to ELC Planning had been made and examined before lodging a letter of support. may therefore be able to support the new owners' proposals once a planning application has been made and examined.

5 ESTATE INSPECTION REPORT 2020

Following completion of site inspections since November, Pippa Swan had circulated a draft report for comment. The findings, summarised at the meeting, give an impression of the lack of maintenance both by ELC and private owners. Attention was drawn to lamppost UN73 which does not appear on any maps and to the condition of a section of 15th century town boundary wall which may be in danger of collapse. These points will be included in the report to ELC which will now be finalised.

Action: Pippa Swan

Kenny Maule noted that the area around the Victoria Street Hub is being well looked after but it is not known whether this by is ELC Street cleaners or others.

Colin Barnes drew attention to speeding in the 20 mph zone on Church Street while Kevin Heffernan had experienced the opposite - a very slow driver who frequently causes tailbacks in a 60 mph zone. Both were advised that if the vehicle registration number[s] can be obtained the offending vehicle can be served with an ASBO.

6 OTHER PROJECTS IN 2020

As noted above, the only major project involving the group in 2020 is **East Beach Regeneration**. Because this project will run through the summer months, **Beach Cleaning** will be restricted and the application for a **Seaside Award** impractical.

Maintenance of the shrubbery at the Creel Loaders remains a group responsibility as does updating the East Beach Notice Board.

The Group's Facebook pages and website are not being maintained and if a member would be prepared to take this on, please contact Pippa Swan.

The condition of the **Fishermen's Monument** is an ongoing concern. All we have learnt over recent years is that a permanent painted finish to the stonework seems unobtainable. Mike Shaw pointed

out that, traditionally, the fishermen used to apply a coat of limewash annually knowing that it would wear off and a new coat would be required in the following spring. Could we not revert to this method for improving the monument's appearance at least during the summer months?

After discussion, it was agreed that Simon Swift will approach the Ridge organisation to see whether they would be prepared to undertake limewashing annually with the cost of materials being met from Group funds. Simon was sincerely thanked for taking this issue on. He will report back.

Action: Simon Swift

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD REDEVELOPMENT - ONGOING IN 2020

The **Dolphin Hotel** that redevelopment is well underway with extensive refurbishment of the fabric alongside the alterations covered by planning application 19/00586/P.

The derelict site at **Cossars Wynd** has not yet been utilised by the Ridge as a training base.

No details are yet available of the potential development of the **Methodist Church** or **Coastguard Station**.

The proposal to use a window at BeGreen to notify train disruptions referred to at item 6.04 of the Minutes of open meeting held on 8 October 2019 has not been implemented.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Open Meeting is dependent on ELC discussions with the contractor for the East Beach Regeneration Contract as advised at 2.01 above.