

# Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group



## Minutes of Open Meeting

7 March 2017, Methodist Church Hall, Dunbar

### *Attendees:*

Colin Barnes	Ian Dane	Owen	Mike Shaw
Teresa Barnes	Allan Green	Macdonald	Alisdair Swan
Mark Cavanagh	Jan Green	Kenny Maule	Pippa Swan
Emily Cornwall	Kevin Heffernan	Robert Ramsay	
Brian Cox		Cathie Ramsey	

### *Apologies:*

Joan Johnson  
Tom Norris  
Carol Norris

Councillor Norman Hampshire joined the Meeting whilst Area Partnership matters were being discussed.

---

The Chair, Pippa Swan, welcomed Allan and Jan Green to the meeting and outlined the function of the Group and its aims.

## **1.0 Minutes of the AGM and Open Meeting of 7 January 2017**

1.01 Amendments  
none

1.02 Action Items  
AGM Item 2: signature of Annual Accounts outstanding. (Signed by Chair and Treasurer at this meeting.)

1.03 Open Meeting Item 2.1.8: Pippa Swan, as chair, wrote to East Lothian Council (ELC) seeking a decision re adopting the "Creel Loaders" site by the Council. A decision was given on 16 February 2017 (see item 3.03 of these Minutes).

- 1.04 Open Meeting Item 4.2: Pippa Swan has, since the last meeting, written to ELC regarding the Assembly Rooms development and will circulate copies of her report to Members.

*Action: Pippa Swan*

## **2.0 Area Partnership**

- 2.01 The Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership is seeking suggestions from organizations such as the DSHNG and the general public as to improvements to be implemented in the next financial year beginning in April 2017.
- 2.02 Pippa Swan, Chair of the Area Partnership, explained that the Scottish Government wanted communities to become involved in what local authorities should or could be doing for the benefit of the communities. The Area Partnership therefore included representatives from local councillors, day centres, schools, trade associations, etc., and will be ongoing until 2023.
- 2.03 Funding of £100,000 is available for men and machinery and £50,000 for specific projects. The sooner bids are made, the more chance of schemes being agreed. Ideas can include extension to work already within the ELC responsibilities such as roads, footpaths, landscaping or sport facilities but can also be for items outwith ELC responsibility.
- 2.04 In discussion, the meeting identified the following for consideration:
- 2.04.1 maintenance of the coastal footpath recently upgraded by ELC as far as “The Rocks” and/or extending restoration of the footpath towards Belhaven;
  - 2.04.2 provision of lockup for privately owned bicycles in the DSHNG area – site to be identified;
  - 2.04.3 maintenance of the restored Town House garden;
  - 2.04.4 condition survey and repair programme for public seating throughout the town;
  - 2.04.5 subject to the agreement of the present custodians (Su Nuttgens and Lesleymay Miller), the Area Partnership to take over responsibility for the maintenance of the Beach garden or, as suggested by Brian Cox, at least to remove the couch grass which requires deep digging;  
*Action: Colin Barnes to contact the custodians for their views.*
  - 2.04.6 maintenance of planting to the perimeter of the play area at East Beach;
  - 2.04.7 identifying derelict areas of ground such as at the junction of Silver Street and Church Street where owners are unknown or cannot be contacted with a view to such sites being tidied or safely fenced (Councillor Hampshire advised that ELC have powers after due notice, to tidy derelict area particularly if they pose a hazard and seek

reimbursement from the owners: however, this can become a long drawn out procedure);

- 2.05 If Members think of any other items which might be eligible for consideration, they are asked to send an email with details to [shore\\_harbour@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shore_harbour@yahoo.co.uk).
- 2.06 Kevin Heffernan drew attention to the lack of facilities for the visual arts in Dunbar as a result of which an art class which he runs has to meet in North Berwick although members come from as far afield as St Abbs. Various venues in Dunbar and West Barns had been considered, including the Methodist Church Hall where the meeting was being held, but without avail. Kevin had received support from Councillor Veitch and the meeting appreciated the need for suitable facilities which help combat social isolation. If Members know of or learn of premises which might be suitable or can be altered to provide suitable facilities, they are asked to communicate directly with Kevin by email at [scotty45@web.de](mailto:scotty45@web.de)

### **3.0 Project Update**

- 3.01 East Beach Regeneration  
Kenny Maule reported that at the AGM of Scottish Natural Heritage, held this year at West Barns, he had been invited to present his paper on coastal erosion with particular reference to Dunbar's East Beach and this had been well received. SNH have firmly supported DSHNG's efforts in respect of this project.

#### Pipe Mattress

Plans are ongoing re mattress design. Councillor Hampshire advised that ELC engineer, Dave Northcott, was now concerned that the mattress may not withstand the wave forces as adjacent in-situ concrete had been lifted out of place in recent storm tides. Rock armour is now being considered. This is 3 – 6 ton boulders to each side of the pipe. Concern had been expressed previously that rock armour may prove to be a kelp fly trap and no final decision has been taken.

#### Groyne

Designs are still in development.

#### New Sewer Pipe – East Links

This matter is of extreme concern. Pippa Swan discovered quite by chance that there is a proposal to install a new, larger diameter sewer pipe along the whole of East Links beach, from Golf House Road to the pumping station at Woodbush Brae, to accommodate increased waste flows following completion of the housing at Queen's Road and the land opposite the Deer Park. Norman Hampshire confirmed that this was not a matter for ELC (who knew nothing of the detail). Scottish Water are statutory undertakers and can effectively route services where they wish.

The meeting asked Councillor Hampshire to convey to the ELC and Scottish Water the group's concern at Scottish Water's proposals and the serious impact the work when carried out would have on the whole of Dunbar but particularly on the shore and harbour residents. Concern should also be raised about the possible long term negative impact on East Links where there must be very real risk that the pipe installation would lead to the same degradation that has affected East Beach.

DSHNG, through Councillor Hampshire, requested that an early meeting be arranged to brief the group on the proposed new drainage system as well as the possible need for modifications to present proposals for the existing drain line.

Norman Hampshire will liaise with Pippa Swan in arranging a briefing meeting as soon as possible. Meanwhile ELC engineers are seeking agreements with Scottish Water on all aspects of drainage affecting East Beach.

Action: ***Pippa Swan to follow up***

### 3.02 Victoria Street Hub Project

Kenny Maule confirmed that the history panels and central panel had been positioned on 14 February 2017 as planned and very good feedback had been received.

Planning permission for the paving element of the project having been received, P & K Landscape commenced paving work on 6 March and hope to complete within one week. The Marshalls stone paving to be used will match those used on the "Creel Loaders" site thus bringing the two DSHNG projects together.

### 3.03 Dunbar Harbour Gateway Project

Ian Dane reported that, as agreed at the last meeting, the five-year grant for the advertisement display as against the 10 years requested to had been queried with ELC planning.

In a letter dated 20th February, ELC planning explained that the standard timescale of five years was applied within conservation areas and our application had not been considered to be an exception.

A further application should be made before the present consent expires on 15 December 2021 but if the information board continues to be viewed as visually acceptable then the Council is likely to support any future proposal. This advice, which would be a guide for other DSHNG projects requiring advertisement consent is noted. Norman Hampshire confirmed that, in practice, ELC Planning would only pursue a follow up application if the signage became dilapidated or unsightly.

Kevin Heffernan confirmed that, to meet Viridor's request for a press release without further delay, such a release had been circulated and the various publications will be monitored for relevant publicity.

Brian Cox reported that, following on Pippa Swan contacting Councillor Hampshire, ELC Strategic Asset and Capital Plan Management had written on 14 February 2017 confirming that ELC will adopt this project.

Councillor Hampshire was thanked for his assistance in expediting this decision.

The only outstanding item to complete this project is the finalisation of the information board details, its manufacture and installation. This will be progressed in the coming month.

#### **4.0 Projects for 2017**

##### **4.01 Estate Inspection**

Pippa Swan took the names of volunteers for carrying out the annual estate inspection and will issue inspection packs and maps in due course.

If problems are found during the inspections relating to the Dunbar Harbour Trust property, Alasdair Swan would appreciate being advised so that such items can be inserted in the Trust's own maintenance programme.

#### **5.0 Matters Arising**

5.01 If members have any queries or information relating to matters referred to in these minutes, please contact the joint secretaries [Ian Dane on (01368) 862568 or Colin Barnes by email [cib@bcs.org](mailto:cib@bcs.org)].

#### **6.0 Forthcoming Meetings**

The next open meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 April 2017 at 7pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Victoria Street. Everyone is welcome.

---

#### *Circulation:*

DSHNG Members

Dunbar Community Council

Dunbar Trades Association

Sue Cairns [ELTRP]