

# North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership

**This is the 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter for the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership...**

The North Berwick Coastal (NBC) Area Partnership has met 6 times since it was set up in May 2014. During this time the Partnership has begun exploring some of the broad key issues which impact on this local community so we can begin to focus in on the real differences we want to make. Some of these have included:

- tackling poverty & inequality within the ward – including inequalities related to how varying groups can access services, facilities and support;
- the lack of affordable housing in the area;
- opportunities for young people;
- our growing older population - the challenges and opportunities;
- improving the management of and access to coastal and green spaces;
- maintaining local services and building a sustainable local economy.

As part of the process of developing our Area Plan for the ward community representatives and service providers will be investigating these issues (and others) in more depth to identify and prioritise the actions we want to take.

## Appointing a local Chairperson

North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership is now inviting interested people from across the ward to nominate themselves for the position of Chairperson of the Partnership.

When the NBC Area Partnership was first formed David Small, the Director of East Lothian's Health & Social Care Partnership, was asked to take on the role of Chairperson on an interim basis. This was a way of the East Lothian Partnership showing its commitment to supporting the Area Partnership while it found its feet, consolidated its membership and became familiar with the new role it was being asked to play as a ward wide consultative and planning group.

Now that the Partnership is well established and working on producing an Area Plan for the ward, the members agree that the time has come to appoint an independent chairperson from the local community. This is a voluntary position open to North Berwick Coastal residents aged 16 and over who would like to contribute to the development of community planning in this ward. It will be a new role (and may well be challenging at the outset) however for the right person – someone with strong local connections and the drive and passion to make a difference in their local area – it will also provide an exciting opportunity to play an important leadership role in their community.

Making the transition to a community based Chairperson should not however be seen as a sign that the East Lothian Partnership is reducing its support for the Area Partnership. East Lothian Council has recently created 4 new staff posts specifically to help develop and deliver on Area Partnership priorities (more info over the page) and the assistance already provided by the Local Community Planning team will remain in place.

For more information or to request an application pack please contact the NBC Area Partnership at [NBC-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:NBC-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk) or call 01620 827707.

**Nominations close on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015**

## Newsletter May 2015

The North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership brings together Community Councils, Tenants and Residents groups, Parent Councils, Elected Members and representatives from community groups and networks across the ward to identify local priorities and plan for the action needed to deliver change.

The main focus for the Partnership at present is developing our Area Plan for the ward. This will be a 10 year strategic plan identifying the outcomes we want to see for this area and the things that will need to be done, locally and by public service providers, to ensure we get there. This plan will also determine how we allocate this ward's share of the £1 250 000 East Lothian Council has devolved to Area Partnerships this financial year to deliver on local priorities.

We will be consulting widely on this plan after the summer.

Nomination are now  
being sought for the  
position of

**CHAIRPERSON**  
of the  
**NORTH BERWICK  
COASTAL AREA  
PARTNERSHIP**

Local residents looking  
for a chance to make a  
real difference in their  
community are  
encouraged to apply.

## Beach Wheelchairs

The Beach Wheel Chair project will provide disabled adults and children with special adapted wheelchairs so they can access the beach at North Berwick. The Beach Wheelchair Project team, in collaboration with North Berwick Community Centre and the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership carried out a consultation exercise to gauge interest and assess the viability



of the project. There was also a 'come and try day' on the beach in February. 113 people completed the survey earlier in the year and over 85% stated that either they, their child or a person they care for would be likely to use these Beach

Wheelchairs if they were available. The results from the survey have supported further development of the project and a successful funding application along with generous donations from local people and groups will help buy the wheelchairs. The wheelchairs will hopefully be available for hire soon from a beach hut near the Harbour, once planning has been approved.

### Improving Broadband availability in rural areas

Partnership members have been working with representatives from other rural communities to demonstrate the demand for improved Broadband availability in the east of the county.

While existing roll-out plans should see superfast broadband becoming available in most towns and larger villages by the end of 2017, many rural and remote areas of the ward are unlikely to see significant improvements without further local action.

Earlier this year we undertook a survey across rural premises to establish interest in developing alternatives to commercial broadband provision in these areas. We received over 500 responses, covering 1516 users or potential users, from areas where the average upload speed was below 2Mbps. 99% said they would be interested in having access to superfast broadband in the future.

This has given us the evidence to begin working with Community Broadband Scotland, who can provide project support and funding for alternative infrastructure to local areas unlikely to benefit from exciting plans. We hope to be able to provide communities with a further update on this in June.

## Area Managers

In April 2015 East Lothian Council appointed 4 Area Managers to work with Area Partnerships and help deliver on the priorities identified in their Area Plans.

The Area Manager for the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership is Sandra King. Sandra will also be working with the Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership.

Here Sandra introduces herself...

*'I've demonstrated my commitment to working with communities over the past 30 years. I began my career at the Scottish Tourist Board in marketing and volunteered with Lothian Association of Youth Clubs to promote their activities. This led me into youth work at the Red School Youth Centre in Prestonpans. When raising my children I was a member of the Steering group which campaigned for the First Step Community Project in Musselburgh. I established a forum for parents through CHANGES Community Mental Health Project and then worked with Midlothian Voluntary Action developing healthy living projects to address health inequalities. After completing my degree in Community Education at University of Edinburgh I joined East Lothian Council as a Community Development Officer working in Port Seton and for the past 4 years in the North Berwick Coastal Ward. I've had a leading role in promoting inclusion through the North Berwick Area 'Support from the Start' Group and Dementia Friendly East Lothian. I have a track record of partnership working which has led to many successful projects. I believe that Area Partnerships can make a significant impact on individuals and their communities and am delighted to play a key role in working together to help make life that much better for everyone.'*

Sandra King can be contacted on 01620 893056 or via email at [sking1@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sking1@eastlothian.gov.uk)

North Berwick Coastal  
Area Partnership

The North Berwick Coastal (NBC) Area Partnership is one of 6 Area Partnerships across East Lothian operating as the local voice of the East Lothian Partnership to deliver local community planning. You can contact NBC Area Partnership at [NBC-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:NBC-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk) or on 01620 827707. You can find the meeting dates and minutes for the Partnership at

[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/committee/111/east\\_lothian\\_partnership-north\\_berwick\\_coastal\\_area\\_partnership](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/committee/111/east_lothian_partnership-north_berwick_coastal_area_partnership)

For information on Area Partnerships in other parts of East Lothian: [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/EastLothianPartnership](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/EastLothianPartnership)