

Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership

**Newsletter
May 2015**

Welcome to the 1st newsletter for the Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership...

The Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership provides a forum for local communities to be better able to influence decisions and the way services are provided in their area on a ward wide basis. The Dunbar and East Linton ward covers the communities of Dunbar, East Linton, West Barnes, Stenton, Spott, Innerwick, Oldhamstocks and the rural areas in-between, and the Partnership brings together Community Councils, Tenants groups, Parent Councils, Elected Members and representatives from local community groups and networks to identify local priorities and plan for the action needed to deliver change.

The key task for the Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership at the moment however, is to develop an 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.

Some of the key themes we are looking at include: improving opportunities for active travel across the ward and linking these to public transport options; High Street improvements in town and village centres; safety on rural roads; strengthening our local economy; protecting and enhancing our natural assets; improving sources of community information and reducing social isolation. We are working on the Plan at the moment and will be putting it out for wider consultation after the summer.

Recruiting a local Chairperson

The Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership is now inviting interested people from across the ward to nominate themselves for the position of Chairperson of the Partnership.

Shortly after the Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership was formed in June 2014 Morag Ferguson, East Lothian Council's Service Manager for Legal and Procurement, was asked to take on the role of Chairperson on an interim basis. This was a way for the East Lothian Partnership to show 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 established and beginning work on the production of an Area Plan for the ward, the time has come to appoint an independent chairperson from the local community. This is a voluntary position open to residents of the Dunbar and East Linton ward aged 16 and over who would like to contribute to the development of community planning in this area. It is 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 Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership at D&EL-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk or call 01620 827822. **Nominations close on the 1st June 2015**

Nominations are now being sought for the position of

CHAIRPERSON
of the
**DUNBAR & EAST
LINTON AREA
PARTNERSHIP**

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

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 there are existing roll-out plans which should see superfast broadband becoming available in most towns and larger villages by the end of 2017, there are many rural and remote areas of the ward that 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. Over 500 responses were received, covering 1516 broadband users or potential users, from areas where the average upload speed was well below 2Mbps. 99% stated 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 existing plans. We hope to be able to provide communities with a further update on this in June.



Young people take the lead...

In June the Area Partnership's youth members from Dunbar Grammar School Pupil Council will host a special open meeting to bring a young person's perspective to some of the themes and concerns that have been raised in Partnership discussions.

They will also be taking the opportunity to present the results of a survey they recently carried out with 1st – 3rd year pupils which focused on what could be done to improve social and recreational opportunities for young people across the catchment area.

As well as offering their own ideas and recommendations they are inviting a range of different groups and services working with children and young people in the area to talk about what they see as the key challenges and opportunities for making the Dunbar area an even better place to grow up in. The Pupil Council will then lead discussions to identify practical actions we can start taking forward.

This meeting will take place at **6:30pm on 3rd June at Dunbar Grammar School** and people from across the ward are invited to come along and see how they can help improve the area for local children and young people.

Dunbar & East Linton
Area Partnership

The Dunbar & East Linton 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 the Area Partnership at D&EL-AP@eastlothian.gov.uk or on 01620 827822 or find out more, including meeting dates and minutes, at

www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/committee/112/east_lothian_partnership-dunbar_and_east_linton_area_partnership

For information on Area Partnerships in other parts of East Lothian: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/EastLothianPartnership

Area Managers

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

The Area Manager for the Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership is Stuart Gibb. Stuart will also be working with the Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership.

Here Stuart introduces himself...

'I have worked in Local Government for over 30 years, the last 19 with East Lothian Council. During my time here I have held a number of senior posts such as Billing Manager - with responsibility for Council Tax, Business Rates and other revenues and for the last 10 years I have been Contact Centre Manager. There I was responsible for setting up, developing and managing the operation of the Council's Contact Centre in Macmerry. During my time in this post I led the management of projects that introduced nearly 20 new services and resulted in significant improvements to the delivery of Council Services. I also worked very closely with many colleagues, not just at East

Lothian Council but also other organisations such as Police Scotland and NHS Lothian, and I believe that this network of contacts, and my experience of successfully delivering services, will be extremely useful in my new role.

Since taking up this job I have been meeting with many of the members and groups involved in Area Partnerships, something I have found incredibly interesting and useful in helping me to see and experience the excellent work that they are doing for, and within, their respective communities. I am very excited to take on this new post as I believe the opportunity to be so closely involved in making real and significant improvements to the lives of the individuals and the communities in which they live is a great honour.'

Stuart Gibb can be contacted on 01620 827893 or 07974 300278 and via email at sgibb@eastlothian.gov.uk