

Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership

June 2025 Newsletter

Making life better

Welcome:

June is a month of considerable civic activity and we hope you find encouragement from some of the stories of recent activities and achievements.

Dates for your diary:

- Innerwick Flower Show – 2nd August
- Oldhamstocks Gala – 16th August
- Stenton, Spott and District Flower Show – 23rd August

For fuller details of events please go to <https://ourdunbar.com/events/>

Parking charges:



A Public Meeting in Dunbar heard from our elected representatives about the reasons for proposing to impose parking charges in the town. They, in turn, promised to listen to what they were hearing from the community.

The Area Partnership shares the view expressed in a recent survey that the economic and social damage to the town is not worth the perceived financial gain.

Bee Taylor of Flux and the Dunbar Trades Association told the meeting of the traders' concerns.



Donna Collins listed all of the local businesses that had gone out of business when the Council last tried to introduce parking charges into Dunbar.

Although the meeting was told that there has been no business case produced, nor has a current economic and social impact assessment been carried out, East Lothian Council has been asked to produce these documents to confirm that the proposals have been made with due care. No documents have yet been received.

The Area Partnership acknowledges that it needs to work with East Lothian Council to find less destructive ways of raising the money that is needed to fund our essential services.

Dunbar Civic Week:



Civic Week Queen Rebecca and her attendants braved the weather on Fun Day and travelled to the coronation in style.

New costumes had been created this year by Caroline Nelson who, as the Gracious Lady, crowned the Civic Week Queen.

The younger members of the Court also played a full part in the day.



In addition to presiding over Dunbar's Awards Night, the Royal Court also planted a Mock Orange beside the Sensory Path in Lauderdale Park.



Dunbar Community Awards:

Once again there were many wonderful awards, recognising the unsung achievements of so many volunteers in our community.

The Bowe Cup, awarded to a young person in our town, went to Isla Chisholm who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to supporting young people in Dunbar and making sport more accessible for all. She is a member of the prestigious Young People's Sports Panel, representing Scotland.



The Community Award went to Janet Ainslie of Dunbar Day Centre, recognising her faithful commitment. The citation included the words, "If there were more 'Janets' in the world, what a better place it would be". The citation was read by DELAP member Pam Shields.



West Barns Community Award:

The West Barns Community Council Cup was presented during the Community Council's May meeting to Lewis Brown (17) of Hedderwick in recognition of his international achievements in Taekwondo and kickboxing. He has won championships at Scottish, British, European and World Championships in both disciplines.

Lewis was presented with the cup by 2024 winner, Hazel Gray. Community Council Chair, Andrew Ashton, also presented Lewis with a silver quaich to keep.

Lewis follows in the footsteps of his coach, Brad Robertson (pictured with Lewis) who won the Dunbar Community Council Bowe Cup when he was a teenager.



Roads:

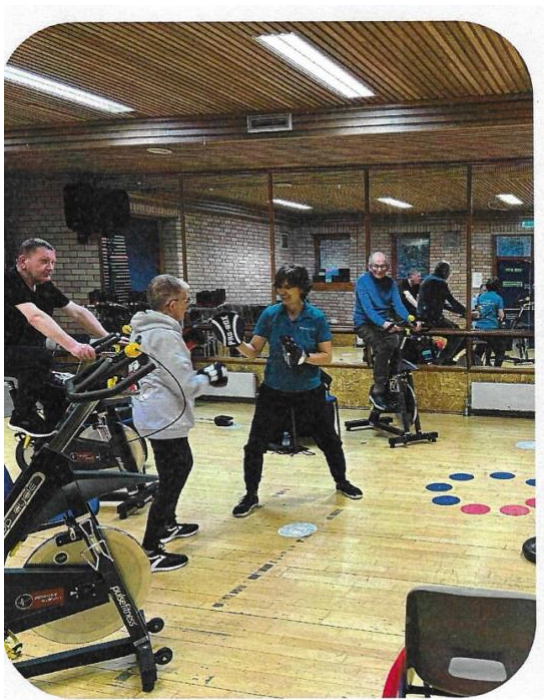
The Roads Team has been very active in East Linton this year. Repairs have been going on at Preston Road and along the High Street to Bridge Street. Work is planned for the Bus stop at The Mart.

We can expect to see some footpath repairs at Spott Road and Countess Road in Dunbar later on this year, and there will be further work on the High Street between the West Port and Abbeylands.

The Area Partnership itself has been asked to prioritise one project out of the five that have been selected by the Roads Team. None of the projects offered were on the Area Partnership's own list of priorities, and we continue to let the Roads Team know where the Area Partnership's priorities lie. In the meantime, the Area Partnership selected the Belhaven Road as the best of the options that had been offered to it.

Health & Wellbeing:

We are delighted to say that East Lammermuir Community Council was able to provide financial support for a link worker in our area and Dunbar Community Council has provided funding to keep the referral programme going so that patients can benefit from the Leisure Centre's supervised exercise sessions.



Amenities:

Our Amenities team is always open to new ideas, but has been hard at work in recent weeks –

- introducing soft landscaping at Forth View, West Barns,



- bulking up the new sensory path at Lauderdale Park,



- introducing new planting at the Newtonlees Cemetery,



- cutting rights of way around Dunbar



Community learning workshop:

The outputs will be published shortly. There is an intention to produce a brochure on the amazing achievements of our young people in the area to counter the negative impact of a very small minority who are responsible for local anti-social behaviour.

Housing workshop:

In September there will be a workshop to explore what the Area Partnership can contribute towards moving the Housing Agenda in the right direction

Grants:

More than half of the £45,000 available to the Area Partnership was awarded by way of grants in June. Details will appear in next month's newsletter after the applicants have been properly notified.

Area Plan:

The Area Plan is being presented to the East Lothian Partnership Governance Group on 21st July for its formal approval.

Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:

A workshop was organised by Emma Brown and Lucy Higginson to explain the process for producing the East Lothian Partnership's latest plan. This session was held on 19th June and was attended by six members of the Area Partnership.

ELC is writing a plan to reduce inequalities and poverty. The Area Partnership is active in this area, providing financial support to make sure that children are not excluded from opportunities through lack of money, and allowing them new opportunities to learn outside the school environment. There are limits to what the Area Partnership can achieve as, correctly, it is not party to the confidential information about individuals' financial circumstances. There are individual third sector members in the Area Partnership who are able to help and do so.

The Area Plan and the Local Place Plan both capture the needs of our community for improvement. These needs are much wider than the alleviation of poverty. East Lothian Council is justly proud that its metrics show that there has been real improvement in the majority of the planned actions in the last East Lothian Plan, but consultation with the members of our community show that there is much work still to be done.

East Linton Gala:

To finish on a high note, well done to all who braved the elements and put on such a fine Gala in East Linton this year. Great fun was had by all!

