

## Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership

### August 2025 Newsletter

**Making life better**

#### Welcome:

Our schools are back, and we hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy our fine summer. We include in this month's newsletter some ways we are helping our children to fully participate in and enjoy life in the Area. We are keen that no-one should miss out on the exciting experiences available to them. These will help to shape their lives for the future.



However, as usual, there is action on many fronts, and we include some of our plans for the coming weeks in this newsletter.

#### Dates for your diary:

- Stenton, Spott and District Flower Show – 23<sup>rd</sup> August
- Dunbar Flower Show - The 2025 event will be held in **Belhaven and Spott Parish Church Hall** on Saturday, September 13, 1.30-4pm.

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

## Health & Wellbeing:

enjoy leisure, an independent charitable organisation, with East Lothian Council's support, but mainly with the help of our community, is working actively on a project to bring a Changing Places toilet into the Leisure Centre. This will form part of the DELAP action plan to improve the health & wellbeing of our community, especially those with special needs. The swimming pool is a great asset for all of us.



The picture above is illustrative of the type of facility that might be available. We believe that we have sourced the necessary funding and are now progressing the final plans before a decision can be made.

This Changing Places facility will also be readily available to visitors to our High Street.



Thanks to the support of Dunbar Community Council (a DELAP member) and Community Windpower Ltd's community benefit grant, our Area's First Responders have been able to procure five new defibrillators for us. Speed is of the essence when someone has suffered a heart attack, and these defibrillators need to be close to the point of need. Our First Responders have found the best locations for us, and the Area Partnership was able to help by arranging for EDF at Torness to fit the kits free of charge for us. We are very grateful for this community help from a company that is so important to DELAP.

## Housing workshop:

There will be a workshop to explore what the Area Partnership can contribute towards moving the Housing Agenda in the right direction to be held in Bleachingfield on Tuesday 14 October at 3 o'clock for two hours. This will give us a chance to assess how we can turn our Area Plan into meaningful action at local level. The workshop will be open to the public.

## Roads:

The traffic disruption in East Linton has come to an end and the village now benefits from improved pavement and road surfaces. Well done to the Roads Team.

The pavement improvements on Spott Road in Dunbar will soon be followed by an extension of the resurfacing of the road itself.



The carriageway repairs on the A1087 Belhaven Road are part of the Roads programme for the year – (a DELAP project).

The disruption in Pine Street, caused by a problem experienced by Scottish Water, has continued but we are hopeful that the work should be completed soon.

## Amenities:

Our Amenities Team has helped the Dunbar Shore & Harbour Neighbourhood Group to look after the planting of the seafront at Lamer Street. Most of the work of planting and maintenance is done by local volunteers, but the Amenities Team has always been willing to help where necessary. Consideration is being given to the merits of moving the boxes away from the sea wall during the winter to protect them from the worst of the storms.



It is worthy of note, at a time when there is a shortage of resources and money, that projects such as these can be delivered at zero cost through the goodwill and effort of the local people.

The Council is undertaking improvements to the Lamer Street Play Park – a project led and inspired by Max (David Maxwell) of the Dunbar Shore & Harbour Neighbourhood Group.

### **Grants:**

The second tranche of Area Partnership grants will be awarded in November.

In the meantime, there is over £18,000 of grant funding, provided by Community Windpower Ltd, available for small grants in the Dunbar Area. These Community Benefits are targeted to support the maximum number of third sector organisations in the town. Applications can be made through –

<https://dunbarcommunitycouncil.org.uk/files/2021/01/Community-Windpower-Application-Form.pdf>

### **Area Plan:**

The Area Plan was formally approved by the East Lothian Partnership Governance Group on 15<sup>th</sup> August. It will be used to inform the Local Improvement Plan that the Council is now working on.

The Area Partnership has been asked by the Governance Body to assess the risks associated with the Plan and to consider its sustainability.

### **Parking charges:**

The decision as to whether to stop or continue with the process to introduce parking charges into Dunbar has been deferred from August to October.

We have been told that the Stantec proposal will be significantly different from what we have seen to date, but no further details are available.

The community position is unchanged. There is a huge majority that want no parking charges in the town.

The Area Partnership has a part to play in the coming months to understand any changed proposals and to take the view of the community forward. Particular attention will be paid to the time allowed for free parking on the High Street, whether any streets want to pay for residents' permits, (the Council having agreed not to impose residents' parking where it is not required by the residents), and evidence of effective enforcement of the existing traffic management regulations.

### **Valencia's landfill site:**

An Area Liaison meeting received confirmation that Valencia will stop receiving waste material at the end of September 2025. Lorries will continue to arrive over the coming months with soil deposits, but there will be no litter problems associated with these deliveries.

There may be amendments proposed for Valencia's restoration agreement, and these will be subject to planning permission. The land belongs to Valencia who have the right to develop it as they wish (subject to planning permission). As there is a connection to the National Grid on site, developments are likely to be related to renewable energy. This will continue to be a subject of interest for the Area Partnership for many years to come.

Meanwhile, the worst of Scotland's waste material is to be transported to England, as the Scottish Government has banned the use of landfill sites from the end of 2025.

### **Community projects**

The Area Partnership is keen to acknowledge and support community projects that bring people together.



North Wall Arts has now developed from an initiative with The Rotary Club. There are exhibits from Community Groups and Schools as well as local artists Jay Kirkland and Wendy Robertson Fyfe. Jay's 'All Weathers' is a study, through collage, of unique photo-

portraits of Dunbar Harbour's working folk. Wendy's photography 'Under The Waterline' weaves aliveness of the unseen; of sea, boat and story. Many volunteers have been involved in creating this event, a true connecting project.



The Pearl project is another community project that has brought people together this summer, people often with no prior connection with the harbour, people who had never met one another before, people learning new skills. Great bonds and new friendships have formed as the team works to restore a Norfolk Oyster. What a beautiful job they have all done together.



## Community Council Elections:

The four Community Council elections take place in September, and all four community councils would benefit from a full complement of Councillors. The Community Council representatives also form a critical part of the Area Partnership membership. We hope

that there will be a positive response to the call for new Community Councillors for there is an interesting time ahead.

There are many subjects that will affect the area we live in, not least the development of the renewable energy projects, the closure of Torness in a few years, the parking charges proposals and the future use of our iconic public buildings. We need a strong team to represent the community views on these and many other matters.





**The sun shines on the righteous, especially in Oldhamstocks:**



- and on their friends...



- at the Annual Flower Show

