

Monthly Newsletter

DUNBAR AND EAST LINTON
AREA PARTNERSHIP



September 2025



Making Life Better

We have seen changes in the membership of DELAP over the summer, and there will be more changes in the coming weeks following the Community Council elections.

Our latest business meeting reviewed the amount of activity undertaken by members and, whatever the changes in personnel, the show must go on, and DELAP has an important part to play in bringing our four communities together. We hope that this becomes clear when you read some of the stories below.



**Festival of
Recovery
returns and
spreads to
second town**

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Festival of Recovery — The Ridge, 19-22 September
- Craft and Food market — Lauderdale Park, 21 September
- Dunbar Music Festival — 26-28 September
- Housing Workshop (public) — Bleachingfield, 14 October, 3 PM

Health and Wellbeing



Dunbar Day Centre

The Day Centre operates to its capacity, and it is recognised that the staff and volunteers have the highest standards, in frequently challenging condi-

tions. When it became clear that the freezers in the Day Centre were at the end of their life, the community was able to see this as a local priority and procure two brand new freezers for the Centre.

Walkfest

Congratulations to the organisers of Walkfest. Walking is recognised as a highly effective way to stay healthy, and it was fun to see so many people getting involved.



Big Picnic

Thanks go to Helen Harper and all the other volunteers who helped to make the Big Picnics so successful this summer.

This initiative was appreciated by the many families who took advantage of the opportunity to get out of the house and engage in positive activities.

MOVING FORWARD



Lorna Bunney's Dunbar Dementia Group recognised that caring for loved ones is a massive commitment, but those subsequently bereaved can miss the companionship they have enjoyed as members of Dunbar dementia Network SCIO.

The charity now supports the Moving Forward group which enjoys meetings and outings together. Thanks to an East Lothian Community Rail Partnership grant, travel to and from Edinburgh was arranged for the group where they enjoyed tea at the Balmoral Hotel.

AREA PLAN

The DELAP Area Plan has been published and continues to be reviewed at business meetings. East Lothian Council asked the Area Partnership to consider what risks there may be to the delivery of this plan. This analysis was started at the recent business meeting, members are now contributing their thoughts, and a final risk assessment document will be ratified at the next meeting.



Roads

Work to improve our roads and pathways this autumn includes:

- New pathway to **Dunbar Primary School**
- Resurfacing at **Bayswell Park**.
- Resurfacing at **A1087 Belhaven Road**

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 Bridge Centre project, funded by DELAP, this year, gets under way this month. The programme runs one day per week for ten weeks, to help students gain confidence and self esteem to secure better attainment levels.

30 September is the cut-off date for the next grant applications.

Community Council Elections



Every effort has been made to advertise the forthcoming Community Council Elections and hopefully there will be an encouraging number of people putting themselves forward as candidates.

Let's hope that all four Community Councils continue to thrive, as there is much still on our agenda.

The change in Community Councillors may mean further changes to the membership of DELAP.

East Lothian Community Benefits SCIO AGM

The four community members from the Dunbar & East Linton area all attended the Annual General Meeting.

The charity's aim is to attract community benefit monies to East Lothian, to spend those monies wisely and fairly, and to build a future for coming generations in East Lothian.

PARKING CHARGES

East Lothian Council members will consider the Stantec report in October, so no further details are expected before then.

CHANGE AT THE RIDGE

We were grateful for the support of Katie Woods who has now moved on from The Ridge.

We welcomed Heather Blackwood in her place at our last meeting.

Community Learning and Development

- **Working Rite** is an established charity that aims to give young people support and structure in their lives with a view to allowing them to secure gainful employment in due course. Working Rite is currently helping six young members of our community at the Bleachingfield each week.
 - **Celebration of Young People:** The Council is pulling together material to celebrate the positive achievements and contributions of our young people. One of the outputs of our workshop was the fear that the bad behaviour of a very small minority of young people can so easily cause us to forget the wonderful positives of the many. Hopefully, this initiative will help to restore the balance.
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Police

Your local community police officer, PC Laura Jackson is aware of communities concerns regarding the recent closure of Dunbar Police Station and will be holding varies drop-in sessions throughout the year which is open for anyone to attend and discuss any local issues/concerns.

PC Jackson will be attending at Dunbar Garden Centre on **Tuesday the 23rd of September 2025** between 1130hrs and 1330 hrs and at The Dukes, Café, West Barns on **Friday the 24th of October 2025** between 1130hrs and 1330 hrs.

Please take the opportunity to attend to address your concerns or even just to have a blether with your local officer.

Good Neighbour Initiative



Our DELAP member, Pam Shiels has kicked off the ideas of neighbourhood groups working together in a gentle, unstructured way, but with clear objectives as to how they might help one another.

The first objectives centre round defibrillators and first aid training, but the potential good that can be secure through good neighbours is endless.

Good luck, Pam!

Local Economy

September Heritage Fortnight

The event was a great success, not only promoting our heritage, but also the skills that have made it the place it is today.

Our people are still learning these skills, exemplified by 'The Pearl' project where people have learned new skills about boat maintenance.

Permanent Banking Hub

The announcement that a permanent banking hub has been secured on Dunbar High Street will be a boost to our local economy.

Weddings in the Dunbar and East Linton Area

We have some special places in Dunbar for wonderful weddings.

All these weddings help our local economy.



Tourism

East Beach

The sight of our town's East Beach has not been welcoming this summer. Our kelp clearance plan has not been effective and we will be looking at this again this autumn.

The plan is to get our beach back for 2026!



Special Guest from America

We welcome tourists from all over the world and this summer has been no exception. Volunteers show them round the iconic buildings on the High Street and our ancient harbours, and we are very grateful for the work that the Dunbar History Society does in this regard.

Tourists are good for our economy too as, in this case, these visitors enjoyed lunch at The Creel.

The special significance in the Texan gentleman in the smart braces, Nolan Warner, is that he is descended from one of the 10,000 who were marched down to Durham Cathedral after the 1650 Battle of Dunbar. His ancestor was one of the "lucky" ones, being then sold into slavery in Massachusetts.



When Nolan learned that the Scots' Army had been encamped on top of Doon Hill, almost certainly in 1296 and definitely in 1650, the moral of the story was clear. "Next time a Scots' Army is occupying Doon Hill it should wait for the English Army to attack, before leaving its dominant position to come down to get slaughtered!"

THANK YOU FOR READING!
