

Monthly Newsletter

**DUNBAR AND EAST LINTON
AREA PARTNERSHIP**



October 2025



Making Life Better

What a display of democracy we have seen over the last few weeks! So many people volunteered to become Community Councillors that Dunbar held its first Community Council Election for twenty-five years, and there was an encouraging turnout of people who voted for the new Community Council. We wish it every success, with its new blood and new ideas.



organised by a wonderful group of volunteers and represents a really exciting new annual event in the area.

Dunbar Art Roots

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October is the Dunbar Art Root Open Studios event where 47 artists will be exhibiting across 29 venues across Dunbar and West Barns. It has been



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Dunbar Art Root Open Studios – 18/19 October
 - <https://www.dunbarartroute.co.uk/>
- Pumpkin Festival all month at East Links Family Park
- Halloween Ball at the Harbour Chapel – 31 October

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Changes in the Area Partnership membership



After decades of service between them, eight of the existing Dunbar Community Councillors leave office this month. Among them are Pippa Swan and George Robertson who were both distinguished Chairs of the Area Partnership in their time. Not in the picture is Gill Wilson who also leaves the Community Council after many years, having actively participated in the town's affairs with a particular interest in Health and Social Care.

Dunbar will now be appointing new representatives to the Area Partnership, and we will be sad to lose Pam Shields who plays such an important part in the Area with her work in the Debt Advisory Service and Rena Kellar who ran Dunbar Civic Week for us.

With the establishment of the new Community Councils in the other three parts of DELAP we will learn what other changes might be made to our DELAP membership over the next month.

AREA PLAN

The regular review of our Area Plan moves on this month to Housing.

Following our recent workshop, you can read more about this subject later on in this newsletter

Roads

Work is to start shortly on the resurfacing of Spott Road in Dunbar.

Amenities

The work at the Lamer Street playpark has now been completed and has received much praise. This has been a partnership between David Maxwell of Dunbar Shore 7 Harbour Neighbourhood Group and the Council.



The clearance at Stenton has also made a big difference this month. There does look as if there are some structural defects with the nearby wall!



Transport and Active Travel



We are delighted to see that work is under way to gain access to the Dunbar Station platform from the south side. This will enable many of our residents to walk or cycle to the train.

We are also grateful to members of our Rotary Club who look after the floral displays at the station.



Litter Management

The residents at Newtonlees now have a litter bin in place which has been funded by the Community. This will now be operated by East Lothian Council and is an example of partnership in action.

Parking Charges

There is no update, while we await the Council's decision.

GRANTS

30th September was the cut-off date for the current grant applications. The Scrutiny Group will meet before the award decisions are made at the November Business Meeting.

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 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.

Dunbar Music Festival

Our thanks go to the Music Festival's organising committee for another remarkable event. The musicians spanned all of the generations and there was a musical genre for all.

The Battle of the Bands was as fiercely fought as ever.

While the Festival provides great joy and musical pleasure, it also is a very positive contributor to our hospitality industry.



Housing



An Area Partnership Workshop was held in Bleachingfield on 14th October, led by Rebecca Pringle and Hannah Crowe. The session was both interesting and stimulating and additional actions will be added to the next version of our Area Plan if approved at the November Business Meeting.

Some of the main messages included:

- Specific sites for housing development will not be made public until the end of 2025.
- The Void process has been greatly improved by the Council which will improve the number of available Council Houses at any given time.
- There is a problem with the number of vacant owned properties in Dunbar.
- There is an Affordable Housing Emergency in the County – and homelessness continues to be an issue in Dunbar and through out East Lothian.
- The Council face the challenge of needing to improve energy efficiency in Council Housing and providing upgrades to Kitchens, Bathrooms, Windows and Doors while also funding the development of new Council Housing. How does the community think the Council should prioritise these?

THANK YOU FOR READING!