

Monthly Newsletter

DUNBAR AND EAST LINTON
AREA PARTNERSHIP

March 2026



Making Life Better

We move into Spring and as March draws to a close we look forward to another year when the four communities will work with East Lothian Council through our Area Partnership.



This edition of the newsletter again covers some of the projects that our members are working on and brings you news of the challenges that the Council is addressing for us.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- 25 April – Dunbar High Street Histories Day
11:00 to 16:00

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DELAP Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting confirmed Allison Cosgrove as Chair of the Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership for the coming year. She will continue to be supported by Stevie McKinlay, Communities Manager, and Rocio Cartaya Pombo who provides our administrative support.

Rocio had produced an excellent summary of the Area Partnership's activities and support over the last two years, and the presentations were delivered by Allison and Stevie. Recognition was given to the reality that it is the efforts of the Area Partnership members that deliver such worthwhile outcomes.

On a personal basis, the Area Partnership paid tribute to Katy Pollock and Gill Wilson, both of whom have been tireless supporters of the Area Partnership over many years. They will be missed.

It was with sadness that we learned that Home Start East Lothian and the Bleachingfield Management Committee had stepped down from the Area Partnership, but the meeting was delighted to welcome thespace as a new community member. thespace has so many objectives that align perfectly with the Area Plan, and the Area Partnership looks forward to supporting the vision of thespace.

It's Going To Be

An Ambitious & Unique Community Based Social Enterprise

thespace Dunbar will be a bold, groundbreaking and multi-generational Action, Learning and Enterprise space that will provide a diverse range of high quality facilities and activities, all powered by youth for the whole community: theSpace Dunbar will have a social purpose, economic self-reliance and environmental sustainability.



Following the successful recruitment to the Service Manager post for the new Community Wellbeing Service, Ed Hendrikson has taken up his new role effective from Monday 9 March 2026. This will allow Communities and Partnerships to keep up the momentum in the previously approved realignment and integration of services, merging Connected Communities with Sports, Countryside and Leisure.

Dunbar Dallistories

This was a hugely popular event last year and it will be repeated at the end of April. It promotes the story of Dunbar's town centre both in years gone by and as it stands today. There will be much to entertain visitors, from talks in the Town House to walking tours of our closes and harbours, and the High Street will be full of things for people to see and do.

For fuller details please keep your eyes on <https://ourdunbar.com>

Dunbar Civic Week

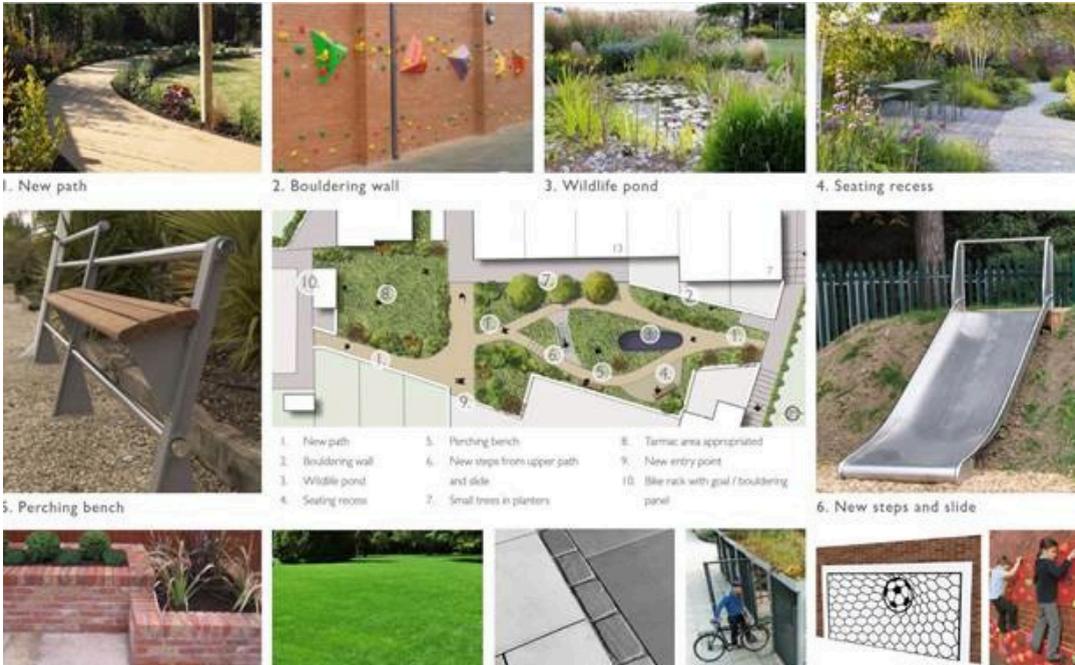


The annual event to celebrate the town of Dunbar will move to a later date than has been customary. A new committee has lively and imaginative ideas to reshape an event that may also have a name change. Some popular events from past times may well be introduced. There will be more to follow on this subject when further details emerge.

We are very grateful to those busy people in our community who give up their personal time to organise this event for the town's people, and especially their children.

Colvin Street

A concrete area between Cromwell Haven, Lamer Street, Colvin Street and Writers Court will be transformed under plans by Dunbar Shore & Harbour Neighbourhood Group, a member of DELAP. The area will be softened by careful planting, meeting an objective of our Environment action plan, and funds are in place to produce a new bike store to improve facilities for Active Travel, which is another DELAP objective. Workshops are being organised to introduce local residents to the skills of willow planting.



The above represents the original vision. What actually emerges has been adjusted after consultation with all those involved, and after taking account of the available funds that are available for the project.

Vacant properties

An important element of DELAP's Housing action plan is to get vacant properties back into circulation as quickly as possible. We are therefore delighted to learn that East Lothian Council is to appoint an Empty Homes Officer to bring vacant properties back into use.

Dunbar Art Route

The 2025 event was an unqualified success, loved by all who attended. Artists across the town opened up their homes as shown below. It was proof that our Town of Culture is a reality.

The great news is that the **Art Route is returning to Dunbar in 2026**. Let's get excited about this year's contents.



Sea Defences

As if the problems reported in the February newsletter were not challenging enough, there followed two further sink holes on Lamer Street by Dunbar's East Beach, into one of which a lorry sank. Fortunately, it was recovered without mishap, but the whole episode has confirmed the local belief that the sea wall needs to be completely rebuilt to maintain the safety of the town. A G Thomson has done a sterling job of shoring up the East Beach wall while East Lothian Council is making every effort to raise the funds to provide a long-term sea defence.



Roads

Work is expected in the coming weeks to improve the part of Dunbar High Street that runs from the West Portdown to Abbeyland.

The closure and diversion at Queen's Road is not a road improvement but is the rectification of a problem discovered by Scottish Water.

Warning against scams

Two members of Dunpender Community Council attended a talk by the Community Police to East Lothian U3A on how to look out for scams, how to spot if someone is trying to scam you and what to do if you feel you have been scammed.

A useful booklet is available from the Police on this topic, which is essential as we all move to more online activities.

A purple poster for VCEL (Voluntary Community Enterprise Ltd) seeking trustees. The text is as follows:

VCEL – Trustees wanted

Trustees Wanted
Help Shape the Next Phase of VCEL's Development

About VCEL
VCEL is the third sector interface for East Lothian, supporting volunteers, community organisations, and partnerships across the area. We play a key role in strengthening communities, tackling inequality, and delivering impactful services such as Community First and Youth Retaining.

Why We're Recruiting
As we move into our next phase, VCEL is undertaking a programme of organisational change and development to ensure we remain:
• Responsive to increasing and changing demand
• Focused on our partnerships across health, social, and communities
• Sustainable and effective for the future

Who We're Looking For
We are looking for people who:
• Care about communities and reducing inequality
• Can think strategically and contribute to decision-making
• Bring skills, experience, or insight that will strengthen our board
• Have a passion for:
• Health and social care
• Community development or poverty work
• HR, organisational change, or welfare development
• Governance, legal, or regulatory environments

Why Join Us?
• Be part of a forward-thinking organisation at a key point of change
• Contribute to work that improves lives and strengthens communities
• Use your skills and experience to make a lasting local impact
• Join a supportive and committed board

No Previous Trustee Experience Needed. We'll provide support and induction to help you succeed.

We'd love to hear from you. For an informed conversation, please contact:
Marianne Allan
marianne@voluntarystreetscotthian.org.uk
To apply: Please contact
truce@voluntarystreetscotthian.org.uk for an application form.

VCEL
Voluntary Community Enterprise Ltd
East Lothian

2026/2027 grants

Please encourage all of the third sector organisations whom you come into contact with to apply for grants from DELAP if they have a worthy and exciting project to tell us about. The DELAP budget for grants remains **unchanged at £45,000** for 2026/2027.

THANK YOU FOR READING