

Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group



REPORT FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Current Committee

Chair	Pippa Swan
Vice Chair	Mike Shaw
Treasurer	Brian Cox
Secretary	Colin Barnes and Ian Dane
Tenants' Rep	Tanya Jepson
Member	Kenny Maule
Member	Alasdair Swan
Member	Mark Cavanagh
Member	Teresa Barnes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US - 10 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR!

Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group (DSHNG) came into being 10 years ago this year. Established by local residents, our principal aim was to identify and act upon issues that could make the place in which we all live, better for everyone. This has not changed.

We remain a fully constituted Tenant's and Resident's Association and have representation on the East Lothian Tenants' and Residents' Panel (ELTRP). Any person living or working in Dunbar's Shore and Harbour areas, right down to Golf House Road, is welcome to be a member and we currently have in excess of 80 households on the contact list.

THE PAST YEAR

2020 has been a year to remember. Covid19 has prevented us meeting but we have managed to stay in touch and some important things have happened.

East Beach Regeneration

In 2015, after catastrophic storms ripped the sand from East Beach, we set about a project to see its regeneration. Working with ELC, the practical phase of the regeneration trial is complete with 2 new breakwaters and a new 'biowall' groyne. Thanks go to the small but dedicated team of DSHNG members who have stayed close to this project throughout its development and execution – with a special thank you to Mike Shaw who kept the contractors on their toes. The sand is on its way back and the breakwaters have encouraged a completely different group of sea and shore birds to visit. The Biowall is slowly being populated and is the subject of an ongoing study, with Liz Curtis and Tanya Jepson leading the charge.

We remain hugely grateful to Sue Mowatt, friends and family for continuing to litter pick on the beach and round about. It makes a real difference.

All in all a great success, even in these early days!

New Promenade

Behind the scenes, the OOB project for a new promenade and sea wall has advanced. A decision must be taken on whether DSHNG wishes to push on with this ambitious scheme.

Planning Matters

We are delighted that we will shortly have a new family home on the **Amusement Arcade** site and look forward to welcoming new neighbours.

The sale of the **Coastguard Garage** took everyone by surprise when it went on the market in 2019. Three applications have now been submitted for this property and three consents have been granted. If the planning consents are implemented, we will see either a new micro-house, with on site parking, or a holiday let. There has been considerable anxiety over these applications, with particular concern expressed over parking provision but consent has been granted and we will watch with interest to see if fears over obstruction of the roadway materialize. The consents ensure that the building will not fall in to disrepair and this is to be welcomed.

An application for conversion of the **The Assembly Rooms** to flats, made in 2008, was finally turned down last year. DSHNG made considered and detailed neighbour representation that ensured that the green space at the Coastguard Houses was not concreted over. A new application was submitted just before Christmas for the conversion of the property to 4 units in addition to the existing 3 in the block. This application requires the raising of the roof and domestic fenestration that fundamentally changes the character of the building. We remain fully supportive of any innovative scheme that considers the site as a whole but have not supported this piecemeal approach. A decision is to be made by ELC early this year.

Heritage Preserved

We are delighted that both the **Dolphin Inn** and the **Methodist Church** have found new, loving owners who are creating exciting businesses in historic buildings. Both the Dolphin and the Harbour Chapel will be open to visitors this year – once we are all allowed out to play again! DSHNG has actively supported both these initiatives and will continue to do so.

The Ridge have asked for – and been given – support for their plan to convert buildings at **Cossar's Wynd** into a training base. Again, parking was raised as an issue. The Ridge have confirmed that vehicle use will be minimal and no on street parking will be required. The furtherance of this project is dependent upon The Ridge securing the purchase.

Estate Inspection

The Estate Inspection was carried out and the report passed to ELC but nothing has been done by ELC in response to this. The Council has never been brilliantly responsive and Covid19 has made it, arguably, more challenging but there are issues that have been present for years and we need to agree a means by which we can push ELC to address these.

Flood Warden Scheme

Properties that lie close to the shore are considered to be at risk when severe weather strikes. Kenny Maule has provided an excellent 'early warning' service and all houses along the shore have now been leafleted with contact details to enable them to stay in touch for severe weather alerts.

THE COMING YEAR

The coming year will bring more change and challenges.

DSHNG – The next 10 years

The office bearers of DSHNG have been active for a decade and it is now time for change. All of the office holders are standing down and a new committee is needed to bring a fresh view and fresh energy to keep improvements to our neighbourhood going. We have found that there are few limits to what can be achieved when we, as a community, work together.

The current team will support a new committee in anyway that we can and we urge you to consider taking the baton from us – to drive a new agenda that fits your aspirations for what this special place beside the sea should be.

And finally....and very importantly....

Good Neighbours

A really very special thank you goes to Kenny Maule. Kenny joined the Covid19 response team in March 2020 as part of Dunbar Community Council's 'call to arms' when the impact of the Covid19 pandemic struck the most vulnerable of our neighbours during lockdown. He and a team of local residents worked throughout the crisis period – to the end of July – watching out for and responding to calls for assistance. He and his team shopped, delivered prescriptions, assisted with meals and offered friendship and contact – all so quietly and with so much care.

Thank you, too, to Ian Dane and Colin Barnes, our Secretaries for their meticulous minute taking and distribution and to Brian Cox for managing our financial affairs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P.A. Swan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a blue line.

Pippa Swan
Chair
Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group

2nd February 2021