

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING February 2023

Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood



Welcome to this, our 12th Annual Report for our Tenants and Residents Association.

The past year has been a pretty quiet one for us. Gone are the days when we had loads of people wanting – and able - to do loads of things. Many of our active founding members from 2011 are of an age or stage where they, quite rightly, feel that they must let others do the heavy lifting. It doesn't mean that they don't care, for they surely do.

We only held one business meeting in the year, and that was a year ago. We then had a very jolly Christmas Social at the Harbour Chapel and it was lovely to see some new faces.

PROJECT UPDATE

East Beach

The East Beach regeneration works, completed in September 2020, continue to reward us for all that hard work. Whilst the sand does do a bit of coming and going there is, at least, a lot of sand and a lot more people using the beach.



Biowall

The Biowall groyne has been fun to watch but has not colonized as quickly as perhaps we had hoped. At one point early in the year, it really did look as though we would need to add the boards atop the wall to stop sand migrating south but nature hoovered out the sand in heavy storm and we could relax.

Kelp Management

Joan Johnson has been brilliant this year at keeping an eye on the beach. Mechanical kelp removal is expensive and environmentally unfriendly but is essential to manage the flies and smell that come from rotting weed. Interestingly this year, two huge dumps were effectively removed by the sea itself before contractors moved in and the new 'bay' profile created by the breakwaters, helps to keep the kelp mounds away from most homes. We did have several weeks where swimming was horrible and that was a shame but, on balance, the system of alerts and conversation with ELC, work well.

Beach Cleans

Susan Mowatt and family continue to beach clean as do a number of other local residents who we see out periodically harvesting litter. Sue was also instrumental in pushing SEPA to investigate plastic waste found on the beach in April – thought to have blown from construction sites. A huge thanks to them and to the team who joined the Cross Border Coastal Clean up in March.



East Beach received a Keep Scotland Beautiful Seaside Award this year and that is entirely thanks to the work of our member volunteers. It's quite an achievement and this is our 10th year.

Sea Wall and Promenade

ELC continue to monitor the structure of the sea wall and the breakwaters certainly seem to have had a protective effect. We haven't had any road collapses this year! We had hoped to tidy up the public space and manage the planters but the handful of volunteers that we have ran out of steam so nothing happened. It probably should, though, so a project to think about as part of our road management plan.



Safer Streets Project

The proposal for a trial to change the road layout to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists is with Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership. We had hoped that a trial might start in March but this now seems unlikely as ELC have not engaged at all. We'll stick with it and hope to see some action this year.

Creel Loaders

Brian Cox and Alasdair Swan have kept the hedge in order and it is looking good, still well liked by visitors.



Fishermen's Monument

Alasdair Swan and Ian Dane have kept to the plan to have the monument limewashed by

apprentices from the Ridge on an annual basis. The group seeks grant aid for this... and its worth it!



Noticeboard

Mike Shaw keeps our noticeboard up to date and puts the flags up and down. He's great at this!

Estate Inspection Reports

We used to prepare a weighty tome listing the infrastructure defects that we wanted ELC to address. Kenny Maule has grasped new technology and has led the charge, logging defects directly with ELC.

CAPP Liaison + Neighbourhood Watch

We are represented by Mike Shaw at the periodic Community and Police Partnership meetings. We are now, also, registered, with Neighbourhood Watch.

Flood Resilience

Kenny Maule has been our lead on this and his notifications to Shore Dwellers of swells, choppiness, splashiness and other excitements, have proved invaluable. Again, our very real thanks to Kenny. If you want to be on the mailing list, let Kenny know. maule320@gmail.com

Planning Matters + Heritage Preserved

The new family house on the **Amusement Arcade** site nearing completion. Plans are agreed for the reinstatement of the Common Good border next to the footpath. The timber fence is, we are led to believe, a temporary measure pending a new planning application for a revised boundary treatment.

The **Coastguard Garage** is complete and we expect it to be let as a holiday home shortly. Concerns over parking remain and will have to be monitored.



An application for conversion of the **The Assembly Rooms** to a single family home was warmly welcomed and Fiona McMiken is now one of our new DSHNG members. Works are underway with a planned completion this year.

GROUP ADMIN

The elected committee for 2022/2023 was:

Chair

Vice Chair

Treasurer

Secretary

Web Manager +Tenants' Rep

Pippa Swan

Mike Shaw

Brian Cox

(none – PS to act)

Tanya Jepson

Member (Flood Resilience/Estate Inspection Lead)

Member (Beach maintenance)

Kenny Maule

Joan Johnson

A big thank you to Tanya Jepson who has been looking after our Facebook and website pages. The photos on Facebook are particularly lovely! The sites can carry any relevant neighbourhood news – just keep us posted.

<https://www.facebook.com/DunbarsEastBeach/>

<https://ourlocality.org/dunbarshoreandharbour/>

THE COMING YEAR

DSHNG has now been in existence for 12 years and most of the office bearers and named 'doers' have been active all of that time. We have achieved a great deal but it is clear from this report and from any watchful walk around the neighbourhood that there is still much more that might be done if we are to pursue our ambition to make things better for everybody beside the sea.



Our neighbourhood will be asked to contribute to **Dunbar's Local Place Plan**. This will be our opportunity to have our say about how we see our area developing in the next 10 years or so. It is important, and I urge you all to share your views when you get

an invitation to come to the drop in sessions in March and/or to complete the questionnaires.

Our 2023 AGM and Open Meeting offers an opportunity to identify our priorities for the coming year but they can only be addressed by volunteers. From a total membership roll of more than 80 residents, the current active membership is small, increasingly aged and increasingly reluctant to take on more.

We have found that there are few limits to what can be achieved when we work together and there is strength in numbers. It is therefore essential that we endeavour to find new voices and new energy if we wish to persist as a force that can effect positive change in the place in which we all live.



Pippa Swan
Chair

14th February for AGM 16th February 2023