

# Dunbar Shore and Harbour Neighbourhood Group



Minutes of

## Open Meeting

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Harbour Chapel Dunbar

### Attendees (To be confirmed!)

- Pippa Swan
- Alasdair Swan
- Mike Shaw
- John Foot
- Cilla Foot
- Rob v Nues
- Sheila Sim
- Kenny Maule
- Lawren Fraser
- Eric Robertson
- Ian Dane
- Brian Cox
- Fiona Veitch
- Ewan McIntyre
- Barbara Royle
- Val Foster
- Fiona Smith
- Louey Glen
- Lee Porter
- Cathie Ramsay
- Joanna Best
- Liz Curtis

### Apologies

- Gill Last
- Teresa Barnes
- Elaine McGregor
- Andrew + Sally White
- Dave Maxfield (Max)
- Elaine Lister
- Fiona McMicken
- Rena Keller
- Jan and Allan Green

### item OPEN MEETING

### action

#### 1.00 Minutes of Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

##### 1.01 Amendments

Nil

Accepted as true record, with thanks to Elaine Lister for her work.

##### 1.02 Action Update

All action items have been attended to.

#### 2.00 Project Update

##### 2.01 Sea Defences

We had hoped that Councillor Norman Hampshire would have been able to join us to update on the Sea Defence project in person but in his absence, Pippa Swan gave the news that she had.

DSHNG have been advised that the East Beach Sea Defences remain an ELC priority and our area has been put top of the list for consideration in the upcoming coastal defence review to be run by Royal Haskoning DHV. ELC recognise that the sea wall will not fare well in another winter and it is hoped that cash can be found to at least reinstate the existing breakwaters before the end of the year.

PS to chase.

PS

##### 2.02 Kelp Management

Louey Glen, Alasdair Swan and Sally White are working via WhatsApp to monitor the kelp build ups and consequential fly/smell issues to report same to ELC.

There have been no kelp uplifts, which is a shame, as we all still feel that if the kelp is harvested from the beach by Forth Resource Management (who use it for fertiliser) as soon as it is dropped in quantity, the nuisance and environmental risk will be massively reduced.

The group will continue to monitor and work with ELC to ensure that the risk of fly infestation is removed.

#### 2.03 East Beach Seating Area and Planters

Lawren Fraser was warmly applauded (literally!) for all of her hard work to get the East Beach Seating Area looking so good! Painted seating and planters, creels for decoration, signage, a bin and newly planted planters have all made a massive difference and people are genuinely loving the new look.

The next step is to get the existing large planters along the sea wall refreshed and planted. They will be painted and the soil replaced before new plants. Lawren will also look to creating some simple seating that can be interspersed with the planters. All will be positioned to trial traffic management/parking/pedestrian movement patterns that can feed into the bigger sea front project (the OOB project).

Sally White and Lee Porter volunteered to help Lawren out with this next phase of work.

Mike Shaw has obtained a price of £150 to manufacture and fit a stainless steel handrail to allow people to more easily access the seating area. PS will write out to members to see if they might be willing to make a contribution to this and to the cost of materials and plants for the seafront planters. If just 20 of us put in £10 each, for instance, the costs would be met and we will try to do this first, before accepting a very generous offer from a single resident to meet the whole of the costs.

**PS**

#### 2.04 East Beach Flagpole

Mike Shaw (with an undisclosed friend!) did a wonderful job in repairing the flagpole at the Playgarden. It had to be lowered to the ground and re-rope, with repairs to the finial, to make it look as good as does now. Mike then re-erected the pole and flew last year's East Beach Seaside Award flag, which will be replaced shortly.

We all thanked Mike really warmly for doing this.... a huge effort that makes a brilliant difference.

#### 2.05 Playground Upgrade

Max (David Maxfield) has done an enormous amount of work in costing up options to have the edging replaced to the play areas at the Playgarden. His sketches and costings were shared. We are possibly looking at a cost of £20k+ to make good the edgings.

Max contacted ELC's Jennifer Lothian (Playpark Lead) with his workings and asked if there was any cash for this. The answer was 'no' - not for this year.

There was some discussion and the group agreed that now that the worst of the rotted edgings had been removed and the garden tidied, it was looking reasonable. We will put try to work with ELC to get the garden upgraded next year.

We will consider a plan of action later in the year.

**Carry  
forward**

Max was thanked for all of his hard work, which we all recognised, must have taken a huge amount of time.

- 2.06 Safer Streets  
No action to date.
- 2.07 Colvin St/Writers Court Upgrade  
Fiona Veitch and Ewan McIntyre spoke to this. Ewan, an architect, and Fiona (the talented co-owner/manager of the Harbour Chapel) have offered to lead a project to form a plan for the upgrade of the whole of the Colvin St flats/Writer's Court housing, looking particularly at the paths and public open spaces that form such an important link between High St and the harbours.
- Funding is available to pay for professional input into the formulation of designed and costed works but applications for funding need to be made before the end of the month. There was unanimous and excited support for this idea. Ewan McIntyre was asked to take this forward, with other volunteers from the group. **EMcI**
- 2.08 Finger Post/Signage Upgrade  
Kenny Maule repainted all the signs with the wonderful John Band, several years ago. They are now in a poor state of repair. It was agreed that we a scheme to replace them with new signs, possibly in a more resilient material would be good. Kenny Maule, supported by other group members, will put a project together on this in due course. **KM**
- 2.09 Creel Loaders  
The hedge at the Creel Loaders was massively reduced by Lee Porter and Alasdair Swan and the 'greenness' is emerging. It still needs to be tidied and shaped but is looking much better and more properly frames the Creel Loaders. Alasdair will plan to tidy the hedge in due course, hopefully with the help of Lee and any other volunteers to clear the debris. **AS**
- 2.10 Fishermen's Monument  
Ian Dane has been wonderful at monitoring the annual limewashing of the Fishermen's Monument, work carried out by apprentices at the Ridge and paid for by Dunbar Harbour Trust (DHT).
- The monument is tidy again and Ian appreciated the work that Dunbar Harbour Trust had put into trying to keep the common ground in front of the monument free of fishermen's cast off/stored equipment.
- 3.00 Admin**
- 3.01 Facebook Page  
Gill Last and Pippa Swan have been posting with the most 'likes' coming from photos of Lawren's work at East Beach. It would be good to keep the content fresh and up to date with material relevant to residents in the Shore/Harbour area.
- 3.02 Website  
The website has not been updated since 2022 and work is required on this. Pippa will try to liaise, again, with Sheila Sim. **PS/SS**
- 4.00 Area Partnership Link**
- 4.01 Neighbourhood Projects  
DSHNG should be able to get really good support from Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership as we are 'core members' of same and Alasdair Swan is Vice Chair of DELAP. Support from DELAP could be very important for any upgrade works to the Colvin St/Writer's Court area, for instance. AS will keep us advised.
- 5.00 AOB**
- 5.01 2024 Seaside Awards

East Beach has received a Keep Scotland Beautiful Seaside Award again this year, largely due to the work of DSHNG who demonstrably show a commitment to keeping the area as attractive as it can be....often with real challenges!

Re-instituting regular beach cleans was discussed, with warm appreciation for all the work that Susan Mowatt and her family had done over the past years. PS will contact Sue to see how she would feel about Lawren Fraser organising monthly beach cleans over the summer.

**PS**

**6.00 Meetings**

**7.01 Future Meetings + Payment**

It was agreed that we would meet again in September for a catch up and in early December for a social.

Fiona and Ewan have kindly offered to let us continue to use the Harbour Chapel – which we all enjoy so much - and it was agreed that they should receive £250 of the £275 ELC annual allowance for our 5 annual meetings as a token gesture towards the cost of room hire.

**PS/FV**

PS to liaise with Fiona Veitch to agree dates.

Minutes by Pippa Swan

Circulated to:  
Members