



Gullane Area Community Council

Thursday 29th September 2022 at 7pm at the Church Hall, Dirleton

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendance: Malcolm Duck (MD - Chair), Hayden Edwards (HE - acting Secretary), Frank Neate (FN), Nicky Black (NB), Karen Chapman (KC), Phill Coll (PC), Gordon McLelland (GM), Martin White (MW), Cllrs Findlay, Allen and McFarlane.

Apologies: Simon Paterson Brown, Rebecca Hughes, David Tait, Ruth Butterworth, Dorothy Arthur (DA).

2. Minutes of previous meeting, held on 25 August 22 - see copy on our website at <http://www.gaddabout.org.uk/meetings/minutes/>

Proposed by NB, Seconded by FN.

3. Matters arising and actions from last meeting

1. Yellow lines Aberlady

Yellow lines have now been completed on the problem bend in Aberlady. Hayden gave an update on the potential for a 2nd pedestrian crossing in Aberlady. Options have been presented and a meeting is to be arranged to investigate and present to wider community groups in Aberlady prior to coming back for a discussion at GACC.

2. Traffic coning of villages during golf tournaments

No further update on why this coning was in place from the Councillors present.

4. Digital Speed Devices - GM

Funding could be made available from OTM group. Application has been made to NBCAP for 2 of these and awaiting response at next meeting. Cost is approx. £11,000. Hope to get them installed early in 2023. David Crawley (Fentoun Owners Association) made points to question whether or not these would be effective. GM explained logic and will press ahead with application.

5. Cala Feed back

GM and DA met Cala. Speed bump distance an issue and Cala to remove issues identified in spacing. Additional speed bumps to be installed in estate. Cala repeated their intention that land to the west of the Saltcoats site will be subject to another 20 homes – planning not applied for yet. A football pitch could also be built but the community need to approve. If it is not approved Cala intend to build houses on the location. Contractor building the social housing to start June 2023.

6. Local Priorities – encourage applications

An application has been made by Aberlady in Bloom for 2 mobile planters. No other sources of funding have been offered. For now this has been rejected but consideration at next meeting to be made around whether the effort associated with the project could count towards the cost of the project. There is also an amount still in the LPF where further applications could be considered and/or we could use for fuller funding of applications.

7. Treasurer's Report

Presented by KC. Online banking now set up.

8. Police Report

Received. Not a huge amount of detail. Request for someone from Police to appear at meeting (repeated request). Idea to collate 3 areas where we would like Police to focus on over a 6 weeks period and for the Police to update on these areas.

9. Village Reports

Gullane – NB trying to engage regarding post box capacity not being sufficient. Request for map of defibrillators to be on GACC website

Aberlady – Letter published in Courier. FN updated meeting. *(copy of article attached to minutes)*

Dirleton – Nothing to report.

Drem – Nothing to report.

West Fenton – Nothing to report.

10. Website and Communications

PC been upping activity on social media. Engaged with over 3,500 people through this channel. MD thanked PC for the work he had done on the communications.

11. Planning

Thanks noted from residents of Hawthorns for GACC's support on the rejection of the planning application lodged by the developers. No sign of appeal yet on this. MW updated meeting on existing activity since last meeting – mainly routine applications.

12. North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (NBCAP)

NBCAP meeting hadn't been held – awaiting next meeting. OTM Group update by (GM) – meeting regarding charging for parking in North Berwick. Consultation to be published on website. GM encouraged everyone to read and comment, as this is far reaching in terms of time period of restrictions and zone covered.



Gullane Area Community Council

Serving the communities of Gullane, Aberlady,
Dirleton, Drem and surrounding rural areas



13. Any other business.

Cllr Allen – 3/10/22 – 7.30pm St Andrew Blackadder Church – Energy Scotland meeting to help people on grants, ideas for energy savings etc.

Cllr McFarlane – started surgeries, details of which have been passed to PC.

Alison Brown – volunteer centre in East Lothian. Highlighted – community health and wellbeing fund, EL climate action network, mental health first aid training. Details to be sent to PC for website and promotion.

MD – service commemorating the Queen 30/9/22.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 27th October 22 - 7pm , Gullane Recreational Hall

New ELC Ward Councilors:

Jeremy Findlay – Conservative; Carol McFarlane – Labor; Liz Allen – SNP

COPY OF COURIER ARTICLE – FRANK NEATE

In last week's Courier you quoted concerns raised at meeting of local residents and Scottish Water about Gullane Waste Water Treatment Works discharges into Aberlady Bay.

Despite evidence to contrary, during the meeting SW continued to assert that the GWWTW had the hydraulic capacity to accommodate the developments scheduled in the 2016 East Lothian Local development plan.

SW's confidence in this assertion is predicated on SEPA's judgement that the GWWTW is operating within its statutory discharge licence conditions.

SEPA's judgement in turn is predicated on the data supplied by SW to SEPA confirming there were few if any unauthorised discharges from the GWWTW Combined Sewage Overflow.

There can be no dispute about the validity of these assertions but confidence in the inferred conclusion is misguided.

GWWTW CSO's overflows during dry weather are the main indicator of the works' hydraulic capacity shortfall as well as a breach of the discharge licence.

The CSO weir overflows when the influent to the works exceeds 81 l/s.

When the influent reaches this value, a sensor in the input channel initiates a control computer routine that screens and removes the sewage debris from the carrier water before the untreated effluent is discharged into the bay.

The operation of this screen is a function of the SCADA system (System Control and Data Acquisition) that also records the time, date and duration of the input weir's overflow incident in the SCADA database.

An overflow in dry weather is classified, as an unauthorised breach of the licence conditions and therefore SW are legally obliged to notify SEPA of each incident.

During the meeting, SW confirmed that between 1/7/21 and 4/9/21 there were 179 overflows and 1001 between 1/1/17 and 11/5/20. SW also had to admit that the control room staff had no procedures on how to correlate the time of each overflow with the rainfall data or when to notify SEPA of those that occurred during dry weather.

The 179 discharges over 65 days is 2.8/day: the maximum authorised discharges i.e. during periods of heavy rainfall is 10/year.

SW and SEPA comments in the Courier article infer that both agencies were aware of consequences of this technical "oversight": As the SW assertion was based on a flawed premise it is a flawed assertion.

The existing evidence highlights other "oversights" in SW's misinterpretation of SEPA's procedures on sewage treatment issues, but this is not the forum to discuss them.