



Gullane Area Community Council

Thursday 31 October 2024 Gullane Recreational Hall

1. Welcome and apologies.

Attendance: - Malcolm Duck (MD) Chair, Frank Neate (FN) Ruth Butterworth (Secretary) Simon Paterson Brown (SPB) Zena Trendell (ZT) Martin White (MW) Karen McDougall (KMc) Alan Fraser (AF) (Vice Chair), Rebecca Hughes (RH) Cllr Jeremy Findlay (JF)) Cllr Carol McFarlane (CM) Cllr Liz Allan (LA) 4 members of the public.

Apologies: Alasdair Muir (AM)

MD welcomed everyone

2. Minutes of previous meeting, held on 27/9/24 - see copy on our website at <http://www.gaddabout.org.uk/meetings/minutes/>

The minutes were approved proposed by FN seconded by SPB

3. Declaration of interest

No declarations were made.

4. Matters arising and actions from last meeting.

4.1 Quiet Road issue meeting still to be arranged.

4.2 Speed Wardens

ZT reported some progress, security checks are being carried out

5. Action log

Separate document.

6. North Berwick parking proposals

Proposals have been published online. GMc commented that the response to objections has been appalling. They are acknowledged and stated that this means objector now is happy with proposal and requested to withdraw objections. MD said another example of bad communication and will arrange meeting with CEO.



7. CALA Feedback

AF reported no further progress.

8. Core Path-Gullane to Drem

MD reported progressing well. Meeting on 11/11 with local MSP, Martin Whitfield. Report at next meeting.

9. GACC Organisation/Reports/Roles

NBCAP-FN and AF-MD requested volunteers as substitutes if FN/AF not able to attend.

Cooms etc-ZT

CAAP-ZT

MD will send RB list of all roles

10. LPF

No further applications have been received. SPB reported that the Solar walk looks great. There will be events around this during Edinburgh Science Festival.

11. Treasurer's Report

Has been circulated. £11,000 still held in LPF. New accountant Mike McFee very efficient, accounts have been submitted.

12. Police Report

Meeting was held at the beginning of October, Report has been circulated. Focus around anti-social behaviour and theft. Current focus on fireworks, Halloween and eggs being thrown. ZT will share leaflets re scams and bogus traders.

13. Village Reports

13,1 Aberlady

SW reported that planning application for village hall renovations has been approved. Lot of fundraising now required.

13.2 Dirleton

SPB reported on numbers at Yellowcraigs between April and September. 1015 tents, lower than same period in the past two years. August- 23 overnight parking fines.

New street lights have been installed in Dirleton.



13.3 Drem

No further updates.

13.4 Gullane

Discussion about lack of retail units in Gullane. GMc commented that butcher's unit feeds other units. **MD will chat to butcher in advance of any letters being sent and will report back to next meeting.**

New newsletter has been published.

Artisan Fair this weekend-all welcome (2&3 November)

Belly Bins -slow progress but getting there

Street light issue with clocks changing has been fixed.

Sports Association-some progress re development on sports field. Final design needed, may be applying to LPF.

13.5 West Fenton

No further updates.

14. Website and Comms

ZT updates on a weekly basis to keep everything fresh. ZT will be looking into what can be done to generate more traffic. GMc suggested sharing with individual villages FB pages and posting notices of meetings earlier.

15. Planning

15.1 General.

MW said very quiet, development application in Gullane-garage to be converted to accommodation. Is that going to increase sewage activity? If not CC will not be raising objection. FN asked if it will be classed as a sperate building for Scottish Water?

Given SW's statements about their moratorium on new connections to Gullane Wastewater Treatment Works because of the hydraulic capacity shortfall, questions were raised about increasing the hydraulic load on existing connections. What impact does this have on the Gullane garage planning application?.

FN offered his explanation about the issue.



In their email to the CC dated 8/8/24 SW stated the following "*The Gullane Wastewater Treatment Works is now at capacity and any new housing will require work to be done to the wastewater infrastructure in the works (catchment) area in order to be able to Connect.*

East Lothian Council, as the planning authority are aware of this and we will work closely with them and the development community to come up with sustainable solutions to accommodate any further growth".

A few paragraphs later they finally confirmed, "*The overflows in the Gullane and Aberlady area are not included in our reported annual data to SEPA...*" In previous emails SW had confirmed that there were 1000+ overfills in a 3-year period.

There are several reasons for this politically based omission; Firstly, during meetings with the CC, SW suggested that as CSOs are designed to overflow when it is raining, it must have been raining when the overflow occurred and therefore SW did not have to notify SEPA of the incident. Secondly, there are no procedures in the existing SW generic SCADA (System Control and Data Acquisition) system to facilitate the acknowledgement and then the correlation with the local rainfall data of all overfills.

Note that this is the case with CSO overfills in all SW's networks..

The CEO's of SW, SEPA and ELC as well as Paul McLennan the Housing Minister, should be asked for their opinion on the SW moratorium predicated by the GWwTW hydraulic capacity shortfall. They must be aware that every new connection to the GWwTW since 2017, has exacerbated the frequency and concentration of these illegal discharges into Aberlady Bay. More importantly each one is another breach of the statutory discharge licence conditions

I would suggest that they read and fully understand the objectives of SEPA's Gullane STW discharge licence CAR/L/1001550 especially "**Section 13. Offences**", before offering their opinion.

GMc commented that sewage capacity high, very strong smell from sewage on Gullane Numbers 2&3. HE suggested that the macro picture should be looked at rather than micro. MW suggested drafting a standard letter re extensions and sewage issue. There should be no new connections which puts additional strain on capacity.

JF reported that ELC has objected to Brown Cottage application to demolish and further information has been requested.

RH asked if invitation had been issued to Wemyss Estate re bird hide application. **MD will follow up.**

15.2 Local Place Plans

MD trying to get all together with Robin Edgar ELC, Team Manager, Policy and Strategy. LA said the councillors would like to be involved in this and speak to the relevant people. MD said that



he would like to have an off-watch meeting with CEO regarding culture as communication is still very poor. MD thanked the councillors but CC need to speak to ELC direct.

ZT reported LPP rejected on a number of issues. ZT commented that applicants do not speak planning language which causes problems. ZT had been offered help on mapping. AF agreed he had received 8 pages of objections and is working through them.

MW commented that only two LPPs have been registered Pencaitland and Lammermuir.

SW said Aberlady still on 28-day consultation period. Aberlady has requested information about what next steps are.

RH asked about North Berwick LPP which had incurred a cost of £30K. CMcF said it had been submitted, very slick.

Gullane-MD reported how bad the process seems to be. Gullane Plan rejected again with 8 pages of feedback. The government guidelines are very complex.

15,2 Local Development Plan

Not at that stage yet. **RH-Can you please add wording here**

16. NBCAP

Next meeting on 12/11

17. On the Move Group

Main issues

- Drem to Gullane path
- Quiet path



18. AELCC/Community Benefits

Main issue-community benefits across East Lothian from Wind Farms, not just in areas directly affected. Two are now in operation in Lammermuirs, two on stream for Forth. All local CC have signed up except 4. MD and AF official representatives. It is unlikely that money will start flowing until 2028/29.

19. Tourism Visitor Levy

CMcF-proposal and consultation on ELC website. MD reminded everyone that paper had already been circulated. The Budget does not assist tourism. JF commented that regarding short-term lets a balance had to be found. **MD/JF will have a chat.** In East Lothian not enough 3 star hotels, may frighten tourists/golfers to other areas-feedback from Gullane GC.

20. AOB

SPB-Ongoing mast issue in Dirleton. Coverage very poor at the moment. Billy Agnew very helpful. Dirleton looking into having analysis done and costs of this.

MW expressed his thanks for FN taking over at East Coast Museum. MW still assisting on some technical things.

GMc said that the road between Gullane and Aberlady still in a very poor state.

21. Next meeting

Thursday 28 November 7pm Aberlady Kirk Stables