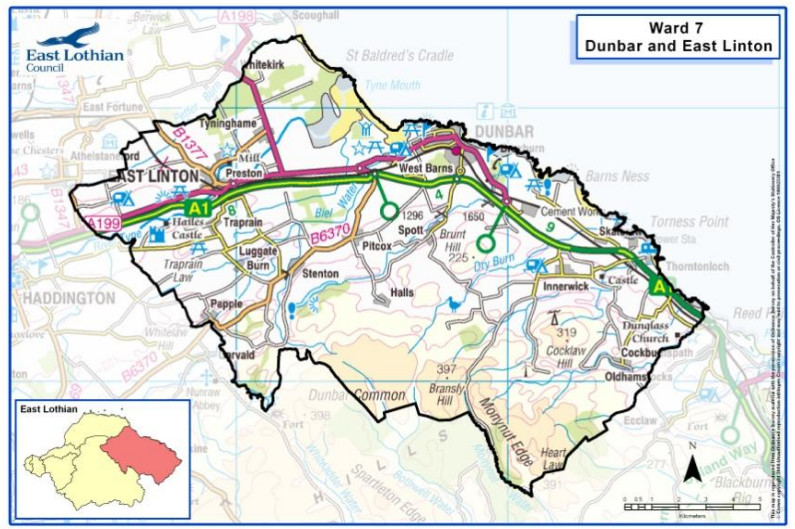


Dunbar & District Local Community Plan 2010 - 2012

A SNAPSHOT VIEW



Local Community Planning in Dunbar and District



The Dunbar and District Local Community Planning area lies at the eastern end of East Lothian, defined by the boundaries of the East Lothian Council multi-member ward of Dunbar and East Linton.

The area includes the settlements of Dunbar, East Linton, West Barns, Innerwick, Spott, Stenton, Oldhamstocks, and Tynninghame.

An estimated 12760 people live across Dunbar and District. That is 13% of the population of East Lothian.

Dunbar and District Local Area Forum (LAF)

The Dunbar and District LAF is at the centre of local community planning across the Dunbar and East Linton ward. This forward looking planning Forum comes together up to 4 times a year to identify and examine key issues in this locality. Local community groups, businesses, voluntary sector organisations, public services and individuals can all become part of the Local Area Forum and contribute to the process.

Local Community Planning Officers

Local Community Planning Officers provide a focus for co-ordinating activities and monitoring progress. In many cases they will kick-start initiatives identified in the plan by bringing together short life task groups - made up of service providers, local groups and individuals. Once established these task groups take the lead on local actions, creating opportunities for people to become involved in projects that interest them. Local Community Planning Officers can also support existing local groups to take forward ideas that contribute to local outcomes.

To get involved in any of the initiatives included in this plan, or if you have ideas for new projects, contact the Local Community Planning Officers on 01875 615415 or email Dunbar&DistrictLCP@eastlothian.gov.uk



What is a Local Community Plan?

Community Planning is all about communities, organisations and service providers working together to ensure that services meet the needs of the people who use them or who are affected by them. It aims to bring real improvements to the quality of people's lives.

Creating a Local Community Plan involves developing a shared vision for the future of the area and identifying what needs to be done locally to make this a reality.

This Plan will help guide Local Community Planning activities across Dunbar and District by:-

- focusing attention on agreed priorities and outcomes
- bringing existing groups together and forming new networks to take work forward
- influencing the delivery of public services locally and informing policy developments and planning

A VISION FOR DUNBAR AND DISTRICT

The Dunbar and District area will be a well connected welcoming place, made up of diverse and sustainable local neighbourhoods which each provide opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy healthy active lives within a well maintained and attractive natural and built environment

The initiatives in this plan are organised under 5 Local Outcomes that we believe will help achieve this vision:-

1. Volunteer groups have access to support and training that will strengthen their service capacity
2. Local services and facilities are retained and developed so that they meet the health and social needs of local communities
3. Local Communities are recognised as attractive, diverse and welcoming places that value the natural environment and have unique identities for local people and visitors to enjoy
4. Children and young people have access to services and activities which are relevant to their social, recreational and educational needs
5. Our communities are well informed and engaged with decisions that matter in their local area

Developing this plan...

To prepare this Local Community Plan we have consulted with individuals and local groups covering a wide range of ages, interests and experiences. We have also involved organisations and businesses that provide services to these communities.

Starting with the key priorities identified as central to the future of East Lothian, we asked how relevant they were locally and also what was most important in making somewhere a good place to live. The priorities identified through this process shaped a vision for Dunbar and the surrounding district.

The consultation also identified a range of ideas about how the community could be improved which led to the initiatives included in this plan. They are grouped under 5 outcomes which sum up the differences we want to make by working together.

In developing this plan we have tried to be realistic about what can be done and focussed on actions which are –

- achievable locally by communities, organisations and service providers working together
- likely to have the most impact on creating the safe, sustainable, attractive and well resourced local area that the community aspires to.

Find out more...

- Go to www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk – there you can find out more about Community Planning in your area
- For a full copy of the Dunbar and District Local Community Plan call 01875 615415 or download it from www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk

Versions of this leaflet are available on request on audiotape, in Braille or in your own language. ☎ 01620 827199



LOCAL OUTCOME 1

Volunteer groups have access to support and training that will strengthen their service capacity

A culture of volunteering is well established across the Dunbar and district area and the specific needs of local volunteers and voluntary organisations was explored at a Forum event in June 2010. This outcome will recognise the good work already being done in the area while also enhancing and improving the services that are currently in place.

What will make a difference?

- Holding a Volunteers fair to attract new volunteers and highlight the range of local activities underway
- Celebrating the success of local volunteers through a 'hall of fame' event
- Providing training and promoting access to training and capacity building opportunities
- Improving networks to communicate information and exchange ideas
- Increasing the number of volunteers who participate in Community Engagement activities
- Developing an "Accredited Volunteers Pathway" for the District which can help small groups recognise the contribution of their volunteers
- Linking with national and local initiatives (such as Volunteers Week and the Inspiring Volunteering Awards)

LOCAL OUTCOME 2

Local services and facilities are retained and developed so that they meet the health and social needs of local communities

Initial consultations in the area demonstrated local concern about access to facilities and services that supported health and well-being within the community – from medical (GP and hospital) services, to sports, leisure and social facilities (sports centres, village halls, cinemas) and amenities encouraging active healthy lifestyles.

What will make a difference?

- Further consultation with local people on their needs in relation to medical health care provisions and work with service providers to ensure local voices are heard
- Mapping local provisions available in specific areas of the District (village halls, sports and leisure facilities, school facilities available to the public, mobile libraries and post offices, food and fish vans, travelling cinema) to identify gaps and areas for improvement.
- Working with local villages to develop spaces that can act as 'social hubs' and help bring people together
- Working with local groups to improve knowledge of the services and activities that they already provide and to enhance their provisions in response to identified needs
- Supporting the development of a 'community sports hub' in the area
- Working with local groups to support "grow your own" initiatives
- Working with local sports and community facilities providers Improve local people's use of the outdoors as a physical exercise option



LOCAL OUTCOME 3

Local communities are recognised as attractive, diverse and welcoming places that value the natural environment and have unique identities for local people and visitors to enjoy

The Dunbar and District area already has a unique identity, but it is recognised that more needs to be done to protect its natural heritage and promote its distinct character. Access to, maintaining and enhancing the natural beauty of the local area linking with the local environment and sustainability issues were identified as being important by local people in every consultation event held.

What would make a difference?

- Explore the options for developing a "growers group", with a view to developing a local social enterprise to "buy back" produce to fund the following years activities

- Encourage tourism to the local area by working with partners to promote both indoor and outdoor activities
- Work with Brand Dunbar to explore options for a tourism manager and promote the local identity
- Work with partners to develop and deliver a "Woodlands art" project and an "outdoor museum"
- Work with communities to adopt and promote the "Dog Watch" scheme
- Work with local employment agencies and small businesses to promote access to work related training
- Work with and support local agencies to develop social enterprise to stimulate the local economy
- Work with, support and promote the activities of Sustaining and Connect Dunbar
- Set up reporting/communication mechanisms with other service providers and departments to improve local recycling efforts, resolving parking and traffic issues

LOCAL OUTCOME 4

Children and young people services and activities relevant to their social, recreational and educational needs

There are an estimated 3000 children and young people under the age of 21 living across the Dunbar and District area. In consultations both adults and young people expressed concerns that there was not enough for young people to do outwith school hours. In developing this plan it was seen as important to link the focus on activities for children and young people to the outcomes identified as important for the community as a whole, and this continues to shape the initiatives developing under this outcome.

What will make a difference?

- Increasing local knowledge of the variety of local facilities and organisations providing activities and services for children and young people in the area
- Increasing access to local activities and overcoming barriers to participation including potentially working with Play Scotland, mobile services and the Bike club
- Working with young people to identify gaps and develop responses to meet these needs
- Working with local groups to develop children's sessions encouraging fishing from the Harbour, fruit gathering and outdoor arts projects
- Working with the volunteer task group to develop and promote volunteering activities and opportunities for young people

We also recognise that given the current economic climate, additional support is going to be required to help young people to make a positive transition from school to the workforce/adult world. As competition for limited jobs and training places becomes more intense, we will all need to become more creative in how we support young people through this transition if the conventional routes of employment and/or further education are not available to them.



LOCAL OUTCOME 5

Our communities are well informed and engaged with decisions that matter in their local area

Public Services across East Lothian – including the Council, the Police, Health Services, Emergency Services, educational institutions and more – are committed to continually improving the way their services are delivered in ways that respond to the needs and priorities of the communities they serve.

All too often however when it comes to letting them know what is important locally it falls to the same small numbers of people to represent the views of everyone.

Local Community Planning can support initiatives and provide opportunities for people to get involved in ways that suit them and their lifestyle.

What will make a difference?

- Making it easier for local people to stay informed about what is going on in their area through newsletters, noticeboards an on-line calendar and social networking media
- Increasing the range, and number, of local people engaged with influencing decisions that affect them and their communities through using a range of methods, events and approached to consultation
- Helping local groups reach out further into the community by providing training and resources