

NOTES FROM STEERING GROUP MEETING 10/06/2020

Those present: Rosie Harrison, Tim Hetherington, Colin McWhannell, Jo Gibb

Refresh and Re-launch of East Linton Melting Pot

1. What works, what isn't working, what could be done differently?

- Need better clarity of what E.L Melting Pot is (e.g a group which is a thinking place to make things happen)
- Need better clarity of aims
- Need focus: what can we realistically do, and who will take it on board. Thin down the number of issues to 2/3 topics.
- To help choose the issues: learn from activities that have worked earlier and what has been key to their success e.g the tree plant:
 - direct, simple action
 - empowering
 - has relevance
(ie that people who are busy can easily take part in and identify with).
- Once we have agreed our focus areas, present these to the group.
- Should we become a separate entity to Sustaining Dunbar? It was agreed that we would prefer to stay as an affiliated member of Sustaining Dunbar – many benefits, eg their experience, pool our energy and resources (eg sharing constitutions, insurance, treasurer, project scopes, information/knowledge), ability to apply for funding. To be reviewed if they are reluctant to apply for further funding on our behalf in future or if being an affiliated member reduces our chances for getting funding.

2. How to better engage the E.L Melting Pot group

- Ask people to do things – use skills of someone who is persuasive to engage and get people to take on roles
- Make sure and make it clear how the projects and getting involved can provide benefits e.g work experience....
- Build a website which gives the information needed: eg aims, what we are doing, why, past activities, current activities, what we are hoping to do...
- Create a regular more colourful, engaging newsletter
- Launch new name at the same time as website: a new brand

3. How to better engage with the community

- IT can be a barrier to entry for some. Need face to face conversations with people and groups
- Have a E.L Melting Pot representative on the community council (Colin)

- Try to get a young person on the steering group: *advertise for this through ELDA* (and for anyone else who would like to get involved) e.g could be good work experience, and give young people a voice

4. Change of name

It was agreed to change our name Climate Action East Linton.

5. Basic group rules

We will agree these as part of the steering group, and then inform the wider group.

Please can you send Jo suggested basic rules on how we should function as a group, which Jo will collate and check within the steering group. Current suggestions to date:

- Statement of intent: to be inclusive of all aspects of the community
- For decisions: based on majority rules; *do we need to be clear what types of decisions are made by steering group and which types of decisions where we consult with wider group?*
- Respectful of others' opinions
- Non judgemental (climate change issues are fraught with people feeling judged for not doing enough, so being clear that we are all on a journey and making changes where we are able)
- A-political
- Sub groups to function autonomously?

Priority focus areas

Possible criteria by which to choose focus areas and future projects/activities:

- Involves the wider community
- Simple and direct
- Empowering
- Relevant
- Has an impact
- Helps build resilience: social, economic and environmental
- It is a given that under the 'Fixing it for the Future' project the repair café, skills workshops and climate conversations will take place. Funding for this is secured and Rosie is in place to organise and lead on these activities – as soon as lockdown eases different elements of the project can start to begin
- Knowledge sharing / focus groups seems to be of importance to many people. *Question never asked last night: will the climate conversations be the core to this, or do we feel we*

also need monthly meetings offered to the whole group – similar to before based on topic / adapted?

- Lobbying: suggested that a representative from each group across East Lothian e.g Climate Action East Linton, Repair Café East Linton, and all other groups which are part of East Lothian Climate Action Network, work together to identify issues / draft sample letters to decision makers : MPs, MSPs, council ...
- Suggested areas of focus based on document 'priorities for Melting Pot 2020':
 - Working locally (including hubs, cycling – making working from home healthier, energy use etc)
 - Possible biodiversity / trees / wildspaces
- It was agreed to take some time to reflect on these suggested areas of focus:
 - Check surveys and areas of interest from the community
 - Check against criteria above
 - Check what is going on locally and make sure we would not be recreating wheels