

EAST LINTON MELTING POT

MINUTES 26/11/18

THOSE PRESENT Jo Gibb, Roisin Calvert-Elliott, Karen Buist, Madeleine Scott, Allison Cosgrove, David Affleck, Jennifer Lothian (Sustainable Energy and Climate Change officer, East Lothian Council)

EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL Jennifer Lothian has been in the role of Sustainable Energy and Climate Change officer since April. She has been coordinating the East Lothian climate change strategy based on the feedback from the consultation, from which an action plan will follow regarding mitigation and adaptation. There will be other consultations in the future. Part of her role is to look at how East Lothian council can work in partnership with communities. She's very happy to support us where possible.

ON-LINE COMMUNICATION It was agreed that using WhatsApp as a method of communication doesn't work (too many people felt inundated with messages).

New methods of communication which will be trialled:

- Email for sharing important information (minutes of meetings, agendas etc)
- Email for sub-groups working on specific initiatives/projects
- Facebook – a facebook group to be set up (more likely to reach more people, and people can dip in and out of it as they wish).

To be used to promote meetings, events, help share key information to keep us all informed (with emphasis on local information as well as global)

- Trial the use of Instagram to reach younger people
- Explore whether we can be linked into the East Linton website to explain the purpose of the group and share upcoming events
- Continue to use ELDA and Dunpender news to share any news from the group and promote any upcoming meetings/events (a small paragraph about our group has gone out in the recent editions of both).

MEETINGS

The purpose of meetings was discussed. It was suggested that meetings are used to:

- Keep up to date with what's going on in the group
- Agree any actions needed

- Have non-structured time within it for just chatting, having climate conversations (could use similar format to the Climate Cafe used in North Berwick)

Meetings to be seen as something that people can opt in and out of and try to engage as many people as possible. They could potentially be held at the Mart (Mart has offered the use of their cafe for meetings) / alternate between different businesses locally.

NEXT STEPS FOR IDEAS/INITIATIVES AROUND EAST LINTON

Consultation within East Linton

- It was suggested that as many people as possible attend the next meeting and review/shortlist the list of suggested ideas/initiatives for East Linton
- Shortlist of ideas to then be passed to a wider consultation around the village (post through people's doors?) 'what do you want to see for East Linton?'. Households to rate each idea. Aberlady has done a similar consultation, Jennifer Lothian to see if she can get further information on this.
- It was suggested to explore how other groups/societies within East Linton can support and get involved with the different ideas and initiatives

Update on toy swap and toy/equipment library

- Madeleine has booked the Community Hall for Toy swap on Saturday 16th February
- Karen has investigated use of storage options for toy/children's equipment library. The Mart has responded positively to the idea of storage at their premises
- To explore existing models of toy libraries to learn best practice

Understanding recycling better

Allison Cosgrove is organising a trip to the *recycling depot* on a Tuesday (date to be confirmed so she can finalise according to dates which would work for people interested). Up to 15 people can attend. If anyone is interested please let us know.

Can also look online at the you tube video 'where waste goes'

Other ideas and initiatives

- *Car sharing* was seen as important by the group. Trip Share on the East Lothian website might be an option or use of doodle poll

- Explore whether there is an option of the *Gala day* having a sustainability theme. Madeleine suggested exploring having a STEM ambassador with a stall aimed at children.
- Having a space for *mending/repairing items*. Could explore if could work in conjunction with the Men in Sheds initiative who meet at the Mart
- Exploring the possibility of having a *stall within the Mart* in the future

Keeping the bigger picture in mind for any initiatives

The bigger picture regarding climate change / ongoing updates and new strategies should be kept in mind when planning any initiatives

- Reference Sustaining Dunbar's action plan and how we fit into that/can link with that
- David Affleck (and anyone else willing) can update on key information/policy changes in the wider environment - post to Facebook group
- Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN) can help us link to other groups that have successful projects so we can learn best practice for particular projects/initiatives.

LINKING WITH THE SCHOOL

Sarah Nathan has emailed Gill Gardner at the school to let her know about the group setting up and to work with/involve the school.

Allison will follow up with the chair of the PTA, and Madeleine will follow up with Gill. Madeleine also to explore whether we can link with the After School Club.

It was advised that it's easier to engage with a school if there is a particular project in mind.

KEEPING LINKED WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Jo has met with the minister David Scott at Prestonkirk who is very happy to support where possible. Jo to keep attending Sustaining Dunbar meetings, Allison to link in with Sustaining North Berwick.

CREATING A NETWORK MAP To make best use of the expertise, skills, and networks of the group we started listing any expertise / skills that might be useful to the group and any people or organisations they know that could be helpful. This can be added to by those who weren't able to be part of the meeting.

SUGGESTED DATE FOR NEXT MEET UP: Monday 14th January - to review and shortlist ideas/initiatives for East Linton

ACTION TO TAKE

- Jo Gibb to set up Facebook group
- Jo Gibb to write small paragraph to be used by the East Linton website to be sent to Alastair
- Jo Gibb to explore if anyone interested in attending a visit to the recycling depot and let Allison know.
- Jo Gibb to type up the network and expertise/skills map and encourage those not present to add to it.
- Madeleine Scott to explore setting up Instagram account
- Madeleine Scott to explore having a STEM ambassador with a stall at the next Gala day
- Madeleine Scott to follow up with Gill Gardner about linking with the school for future initiatives / supporting school in their initiatives. Madeleine also to see if we can engage with the After School Club.
- Allison Cosgrove to let chair of PTA know about the East Linton Melting Pot and explore options for linking up.
- Allison Cosgrove to link in with the Sustaining North Berwick group
- Karen Buist to explore further with the Mart on use of storage for the toy library
- Jennifer Lothian to get further information from the Aberlady group on how they did their community consultation