

Report on Dunpender Community Council affairs relating directly to Tynninghame

22 January 2024

Daniel Wight, Community Councillor

Local Place Plan. A draft LPP is being developed on the basis of responses to the online questionnaire. It will recommend planning strategy for the Dunpender area and will be circulated to local community organisations for comment in the next month. A community consultation to discuss the draft plan is planned for Tue. 12th March. at 7 pm in the Community Hall, East Linton. The LPP will be revised in the light of this consultation and then submitted to East Lothian Council.

Footpaths. The ELC Amenities Team have started work on the core path from Tynninghame to Binning Wood. They have dismantled a low wall, cleared overgrowth along the field edge, and only remain to install two pedestrian gates in and out of the Estate's 'fallow field'. They have these gates which were supplied by Drew Ramsay who is due to invoice TVHC.

Community resilience. Ian Young of DCC attended the ELC Resilience Workshop on 2nd November to discuss emergency planning for severe weather incidents and other emergencies. Ian will be the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for DCC. It was agreed that it is unnecessary to develop a lengthy resilience plan for the East Linton area. Local communities have adequate contact systems in place and promoting being a Good Neighbour is the best way forward.

Preston Road. ELC are unable to fund the single carriageway plan for Preston Road around Preston Kirk. DCC have asked Ian Lennox (ELC – Roads) to provide costings so that an application can be made to the Ian Findlay Path Fund.

Tynninghame café license. DCC received several letters of objection from Tynninghame residents to the application for a drinks license to apply until 10pm every day. It was noted that Dave Wakefield has stated that he does not intend to change the current opening hours and will close at 5pm. DCC agreed to object to the current application and suggest that the license is limited to 5pm. I was asked to submit this objection on behalf of DCC.

Station. Cllr Jardine consulted Peter Forsyth (ELC) about the lack of signs showing where the station carpark is. The issue is currently with the roads department. Network Rail did not install them as this was not in the planning application. Robert Russell (DCC) has now made two signs himself and installed them on Haddington Road.

New wind farm. Belltown Power have an application for a new wind farm on Newland Hill, Lammermuirs. While DCC members were, in principle, in favour of wind farms there were questions over the location of this one. It would involve 17 turbines, 15 to have max height 200m and 2 to have max height 180m, battery storage, associated access and infrastructure. The turbines would be twice the height of existing turbines and would have aviation lights. They would dominate the skyline and be visible from East Linton.

Furthermore, the access route would include a temporary slip road from the northbound carriageway of the A1 to the east of East Linton for turbine transport. It would involve the creation of new roads through fields and woodland, widening of existing roads, creation of turning circles and new bridges. Access roads would remain in place for the 40-year lifetime of the project and for decommissioning. HGV construction traffic will take a separate route and at peak construction an estimated 130 two way trips a day by HGV vehicles are expected.

There was a discussion over the conflict between protecting our current environment vs the need to address climate change and whether this was the correct location for these turbines.

Cllr Jardine highlighted an upcoming meeting of East Lammermuir Community Council concerning the number and scale of renewable energy projects proposed in the local area, either determined by ELC or the Scottish Government.

Linda Shaw Smith (DCC) will draft a document detailing concerns of Whittinghame residents to inform DCC's response to the application.