

Almond Neighbourhood Network

NOTE OF MEETING: -

Tuesday 9th December 2019, Roseberry Hall, Queensferry

Present

Andrew Mather
Percy Feketey
David Buchanan
Paul Vaughan
Diane Williams
Rod Alexander
Charlotte Cowe
Bert Scott
Fiona Chandler
Ainan Groat
Zoe Reid

Organisation

Cramond & Barton Community council
Almond Neighbourhood Network Rep
Kirkliston Community Council
Gateside Residents & Tenants
Cramond Kirk
Davidsons Mains & Silverknowes Association
Davidsons Mains & Silverknowes Association
Almond Community Safety Panel
Greenferry Gardeners
Muirhouse Housing Association
The Wellbeing space Anxiety Management Course

In attendance:

Helen Bourquin
Pauline Fordyce

CEC NW Lifelong Learning Service Manager
CEC NW Lifelong Learning Development Officer

Apologies:

Peter Strong
Scott Donkin

CEC NW Locality Manager
CEC NW Lifelong Learning Service Manager

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>INPUT/DISCUSSION</u>	<u>DECISIONS / ACTIONS</u>
1. Welcome and Introductions	<p>Helen apologised on behalf of both Peter S and Scott D who were unable to make the meeting today at very short notice. It was noted by a couple of people at the meeting that most people around the table had not been to the Inaugural Gathering of the Almond Neighbourhood Network (ANN) meeting on the wed 15th of May 2019. They also highlighted that they thought it too big a time gap between both meetings.</p>	
2. Neighbourhood Network Representative Update	<p>- Percy Feketey, Almond NN Rep on the NW Locality Community Planning Partnership. (LCPP)</p> <p>Percy read out his report, he was nominated in November as the Almond NN rep and the NW LCPP meets monthly. The role of the LCPP was to oversee the NW Locality Improvement Plan. The last meeting was very well attended. In addition to current list of reps. Edinburgh College will also send a rep.</p> <p>Percy was asked if he could send out his next report in advance of the next NW ANN meeting</p> <p>As some people were not at the Inaugural Gathering meeting Helen summarised the purpose of the Neighbourhood Networks and explained that the changes had been introduced by the Edinburgh Partnership Board after a review of governance structures around Community Planning with a view to making the structures less complex and more inclusive. The Community Council reps at the meeting made it clear they thought the previous Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) structures were very effective in Almond.</p> <p>Helen explained The Edinburgh Partnership Board is made up of strategic manager representatives from a range of partners including NHS, Health and Social Care, Police, Fire and rescue service, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC), City of Edinburgh Council, Skills Development Scotland (SDS), many of whom are also represented on the LCPP. The Council is an equal partner. <i>More information about the Edinburgh Partnership, Neighbourhood Networks and minutes of the LCPP can be found on the <u>Edinburgh Partnership website</u>.</i></p> <p>The aim of the new Neighbourhood Networks is to be more inclusive and involve more local groups and organisations to engage in community planning decision making and to influence the outcomes of the NW Locality Improvement Plan, to make it more meaningful to communities and deliver better services to improve the lives of local people.</p>	<p>NN Representative Update to be circulated with agenda for future meetings</p>

	<p>Helen highlighted that each of the Neighbourhood Networks are being asked to develop their own models and ways of working or structures in recognition that each neighbourhood network has different characteristics and priorities. For example, Forth NN have suggested using themes to focus the meetings. And their next meeting will focus on Food poverty. The NN meetings and processes are supported by CEC Locality Lifelong Learning staff.</p>	
<p>3. Almond Neighbourhood Community Grants Fund</p>	<p>Helen presented two community grant applications which she read out and asked the meeting if they could approve the as the Almond NN reps. This was an interim measure until a structure was agreed by the NN to approve grant applications. One grant was asking for £1,071 and the other for £991. The consensus was people did not want to make any decisions today, as people felt there was no clear process and others said they did not know enough about the CEC community grants to make an informed decision.</p> <p>Helen explained the Community Grants were received and assessed on a rolling process. She read out guidance and criteria for the applications. It was requested that this was circulated to everyone. Applications are still received and administered by CEC staff Elaine Lennon.</p> <p>Helen said that the Almond NN could decide on a process to approve grant applications e.g. putting together sub group. However, it is nearly the end of the financial year and the funding should be allocated by 31st March 2020. There is approx. a balance of £3,574 for the Almond area. No decision was made about the Almond NN community grant sub group.</p> <p>As timeline is tight and the remaining community budget needs to be spent, it was asked if Elaine Lennon could issue a deadline for the next grant applications to ensure they are approved and processed before the end of March 2020.</p>	<p>Circulate Community Grant guidance and criteria to NN members</p> <p>Deadline to be issued for applications</p>
<p>4. Neighbourhood Environmental Projects</p>	<p>Each year the NP has an allocation of funding which can be spent on neighbourhood environmental projects put forward by local people e.g. Community Councils.</p> <p>Helen handed out photographs featuring examples of local improvements in the last year. Paul V from the Gateside Residents group gave examples of how the decisions allocation has worked in the past.</p> <p>Helen explained that, like the Community grants, the allocation of funding could also be decided upon in a process agreed by the NNs.</p>	

5. Developing the network - Group Discussion	<p>The general feeling was that people felt very frustrated, some people felt they did not understand what was required of them or how it could work without a clear role or structure, examples or clarity of who they are representing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process lacks clarity. • Some people felt the old NP worked well in the area. And was preventative, accountable. • At least 2 people left the meeting saying they did not want to be part of the New NN. • The Community Councils had clout in the old NP but this has now been devolved to the Neighbourhood Networks. • There needs to be structure, accountability and must be manageable. • How can all groups be represented? • Some people said the CEC needs a governance review as people feel the services are poor and getting worse. • It was thought very difficult for the NN rep to represent the views of all community groups on the Neighbourhood Network? • Neighbourhood Networks clearly needs support as the CEC is reducing its services and staff how can this be provided? 	
6. Date of next meeting	To be circulated	