Inaugural Gathering of the Forth Neighbourhood Network

Monday 3rd June 2019, West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre

Groups & Organisations Present:

B. McVay MBE	:	West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre
S. Dimelow	:	Living Well North Edinburgh
A. Fisher	:	The Old Kirk & Muirhouse Parish Church
C. Boston	:	Wardie Church
W. Black	:	West Pilton West Granton Community Council
D. Anderson	:	Pilton Community Health Project
A. Shallangwa	:	Ama-zing Harmonies
M. Fenning	:	Prentice Centre
A. O'Neill	:	North Edinburgh Childcare
Cllr Bird	:	City of Edinburgh Council
B. Atkinson	:	Trinity Community Council
M. Wilson	:	Stepping Stones – North Edinburgh
G. Betts	:	Spartans Community Football Academy
K. Nicol	:	Muirhouse Youth Development Group
H. Yang	:	Volunteer Edinburgh
D. Pickering	:	Granton Information Centre
G. Scott	:	Granton Baptist Church
L. Forsyth	:	Granton & District Community Council
Cllr Gordon	:	City of Edinburgh Council
C. Pickering	:	Granton Information Centre
Cllr Campbell	:	City of Edinburgh Council
A. Anderson	:	Trinity Community Council
J. Halliday	:	Community Renewal
S. Marshall	:	Community Renewal
B. Gonzalze	:	Living in Harmony
J. Calder	:	CIRCLE
W. Brown	:	Community Enterprise

F. Marinello	:	Granton & District Community Council
J. Crabb	:	Trinity Community Council
H. Hirani	:	The Old Kirk & Muirhouse Parish Church

Also in attendance:

Peter Strong	:	CEC North West Locality Manager
Scott Donkin	:	CEC NW Lifelong Learning Service Manager
Dave Sinclair	:	CEC NW Transport & Environment Manager
George Norval	:	CEC NW Housing Operations Manager
Sue Cameron	:	CEC NW Lifelong Learning Development Officer
Pauline Fordyce	:	CEC NW Lifelong Learning Development Officer

Introduction:

The following slides are the points Peter covered on the night, along with additional information.

The discussion has identified some very useful points to be considered and could help to develop the network in terms of how it might operate going forward.

Links are provided where more information or other documents might be helpful.

Peter welcomed those that had managed to make it along to the newly established Neighbourhood Networks. He explained that the purpose of these gatherings, was to invite all known community groups and voluntary organisations from across the network areas to give them greater opportunity to get involved in this new way of working and highlighted that this was the very first step in the road ahead that will help to develop the Neighbourhood Network. He added that whilst there were interested people present, over 100 individuals had viewed the invitation and none had asked to be removed from any further information. It was suggested this provides a positive platform on which the network could be developed and encourage more participation as it moves forward.

What is tonight about?

The session will cover:

- Community Planning
- Neighbourhood Networks
- Next Steps

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The key areas of the session were outlined and Peter asked that any questions could be kept to the end of the presentation as it could be that some might be answered as we move along – although there was a bit of presenting information, the main point of the evening was to discuss what people wanted to get out of the NN so it worked for them.

What is Community Planning?

Community planning is about how public bodies work together, and with local communities, to design and deliver better services that make a real difference to people's lives, especially those that need the services most.

Scottish Government

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Peter provided some background to Community Planning and, how it links to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Community Planning aims to bring together statutory agencies, third sector and communities to work together to identify and improve circumstances for communities, but especially those people furthest removed from achieving positive opportunity. Whether that be around health, access to employment, physical environment, learning, safety, involvement in decision making etc.

Peter stressed that whilst there is a legislative requirement to undertake Community Planning, all partners are fully committed to the process and are actively seeking to be involved. To make the NN work for everyone there needs to be trust between the service providing partners and community organisations.

Across the North West locality, it is known that there are higher levels of poverty and inequality in some areas than others however, the commitment from the Edinburgh Partnership is that the development of the Neighbourhood Networks needs to ensure that we can identify and tackle issues across all areas. Therefore, based on the old Neighbourhood Partnership boundaries, four Neighbourhood Networks will be established.

Continuing with what is Community Planning, Peter highlighted that (left hand box) the Neighbourhood Networks should not be a platform for individuals or organisations to raise single issue items e.g. pot holes, concerns with CEC service performance, Police responses to specific incidents etc. It should also not be regarded as a platform to raise individual issues or complaints about specific services as each partner will have their own systems for dealing with this.

The box on the left highlighted the type of discussions and areas for development that should form part of the Community Planning process. Peter spoke through each of the examples to highlight how things could be developed as a result of working closer together, promoting common issues and concerns and then sharing available resources to create improvements.

• Community priorities for improvements:

Peter highlighted that the Council (as one partner) have committed funds in the past to support local priorities for investment which weren't city-wide priorities, and that these decisions had been taken through the (now defunct) Neighbourhood Partnerships. Discussions are underway to continue that commitment to strengthening influence and prioritising capital investment at a local level, and the Council was keen to see if other funds for physical improvements could be decided by those involved with the networks;

• Crime trends and other community priorities:

Work with the police to better understand where known issues are taking place, help build intelligence and create priority areas for action e.g. trends around housebreaking, anti-social behaviour etc. Peter indicated that the Police currently attend Community Council meetings and there is potential for this to be built on in terms of widening connections etc through the networks.

- Access to health services:

When undertaking wider consultation around the development of the Locality Improvement Plan, Health services and improved access, particularly to GP services was highlighted as a key concern across the locality. This type of engagement highlights that whilst the network should not be a forum for individual issues, it does provide a platform to highlight common issues, potentially affecting large numbers of communities that should then be addressed.

- Employment, further education and relevant training:

This can affect all parts of the locality in different ways and it is important that we can work together with as many relevant organisations as possible to provide opportunities for people to access positive outcomes. The networks can help identify new initiatives or issues across the locality and ensure key providers such as colleges can inform communities of opportunities.

- Listening to communities and improving services:

Networks must provide greater opportunities for wider engagement to ensure services are aware of issues that may be affecting large parts of the community. With reducing budgets and resources, services can no longer rely on data and be located far away from the issues and make decisions, they must engage with communities to ensure the services developed or redesigned are fit for purpose.

- Tackle Poverty and Inequality

This is the overall aim of Community Planning and by working better together, co-designing services and adapting to local issues:- communities, organisations and statutory services will help tackle some of the wider issues preventing some members of our community achieving more positive outcomes in life.

Community Planning in Action!

- **Russell Place footway resurfacing, W Pilton Park fencing, fencing/bin stores throughout Forth**
- **Bonfire related crime and ASB**
- **MCR Pathways at Craigroyston HS**
- **Review GP appointments**
- **YouthTalk**
- **Dads Rock Granton playgroup, Pilton Community Health Project creche, Stepping Stones mentoring programme, Madelvic History Group Pearls of Wisdom**

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Peter indicated that Community Planning has been underway in Edinburgh for some time and the previous Neighbourhood Partnerships were the local iteration. Through the Neighbourhood Partnerships and other working groups these examples showed how Community Planning could result in positive local outcomes.

The first bullet point relates to how funding has been prioritised locally to improve physical space and create community improvements. The funding was provided by the City of Edinburgh Council to support Neighbourhood Environment Projects and had two distinct funding sources. The first was provided to support capital projects relating to roads and footpaths and the other was provided via the Housing Revenue Account (CEC Tenant Rents) which was more restricted to improvements in Council housing estates. Discussions are underway to continue these funds to support local priority setting making with networks agreeing projects etc.

The second bullet point highlighted joint working involving a number of agencies and departments to prevent any escalation of the issues experienced in communities in North West during bonfire season 2017. Joint initiatives and resources aimed to prevent anti-social levels of activity and there was work undertaken to engage with large numbers of young people via schools and youth work activity. This meant that 2018 was a well-managed experience and all communities had a safer bonfire season.

Bullet point three relates to some of the outcomes from the development of the [Locality Improvement Plan](#) (Item 7 in link) referred to earlier where Peter went on to explain that whilst all GP surgeries are essentially private contracts, across North West all GP practices had agreed to work closer together to look at appointments practice with a view to identifying what works well to both improve patient experience and to reduce the levels of missed appointments.

Bullet point four highlighted Community Planning in action whereby the process should follow the principles of engage, listen, design, plan and deliver. YouthTalk follows these principles where as many young people (agreed age group) are encouraged to promote their views and concerns around activities and facilities and anything else they feel affects them in their community. This leads to a more detailed dialogue with services, the community and decision makers where young people identify where positive change could happen. These are then established as pledges and are then delivered by the relevant agencies. In Western this had been supported by identifying funding to take young people's priorities forward.

The final bullet point provided a brief overview of the type of projects and events that can be funded via the Community Grants Fund. This is provided by the City of Edinburgh Council and was managed through the previous Neighbourhood Partnerships. The Council has continued its commitment to the grant and has agreed it should now be managed through Neighbourhood Networks.

The point of all of the examples is that they wouldn't have happened without local Community Planning.

Who needs to be involved?

The participation of and with communities lies at the heart of community planning, and apply in the development, design and delivery of plans as well as in the review, revision and reporting. The 2015 Act and this guidance make it clear that consultation is no longer enough and that Community Planning Partnerships and (community planning) partners must act to secure the participation of communities throughout.
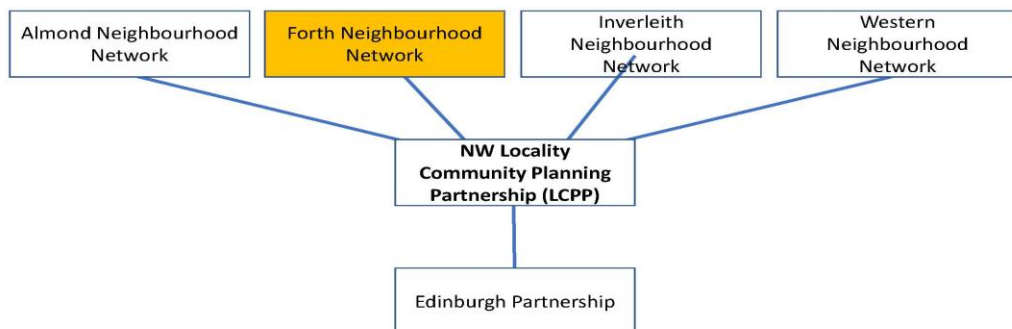
Scottish Government – Community Planning Guidance

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Peter explained that alongside the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Scottish Government provide guidance to support how aspects of the act should be interpreted or followed. The slide highlighted the references to how communities should be involved and the Edinburgh Partnership have instructed those responsible for helping to develop the delivery of Community Planning to ensure that community involvement is as wide as possible. Peter was keen to reiterate that the guidance provided clarity that any local organisation whether formally constituted or not could get involved, and that the statutory agencies involved are not just doing it because they have to, but are committed to working with wider communities, including local voluntary organisations and the 3rd sector.

Community Planning NW - Edinburgh

Almond Neighbourhood Network | Forth Neighbourhood Network | Inverleith Neighbourhood Network | Western Neighbourhood Network

NW Locality Community Planning Partnership (LCPP)

Edinburgh Partnership

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The structure – every process requires structure and it was highlighted that the Neighbourhood Networks link to the Edinburgh Partnership via the to be established Locality Community Planning Partnership (LCPP). Peter had highlighted previously that the Locality would have four Neighbourhood Networks and each would be represented in different ways at the LCPP. (More about this in the next slide). Peter added that the structure has been deliberately inverted to ensure the process recognises the importance of the networks and the role they have in promoting the views of communities in the process, and that the Edinburgh Partnership deliberately hadn't been prescriptive about how Neighbourhood Networks should operate.

Edinburgh Partnership – This is the Community Planning Partnership for the city and involves a wide range of statutory agencies at senior manager level and oversees the delivery of a city wide Local Outcomes Improvement Plan or Community Plan. The main aims of the Community Plan are to ensure people have enough money to live on, access to work learning and training opportunities, and a good place to live.

The Edinburgh Partnership also has three strategic groups that work at a city-wide level to support the delivery of:

- Community Learning & Development Plan;
- Children's Services Plan;
- Community Safety Plan.

Community Planning NW - Edinburgh
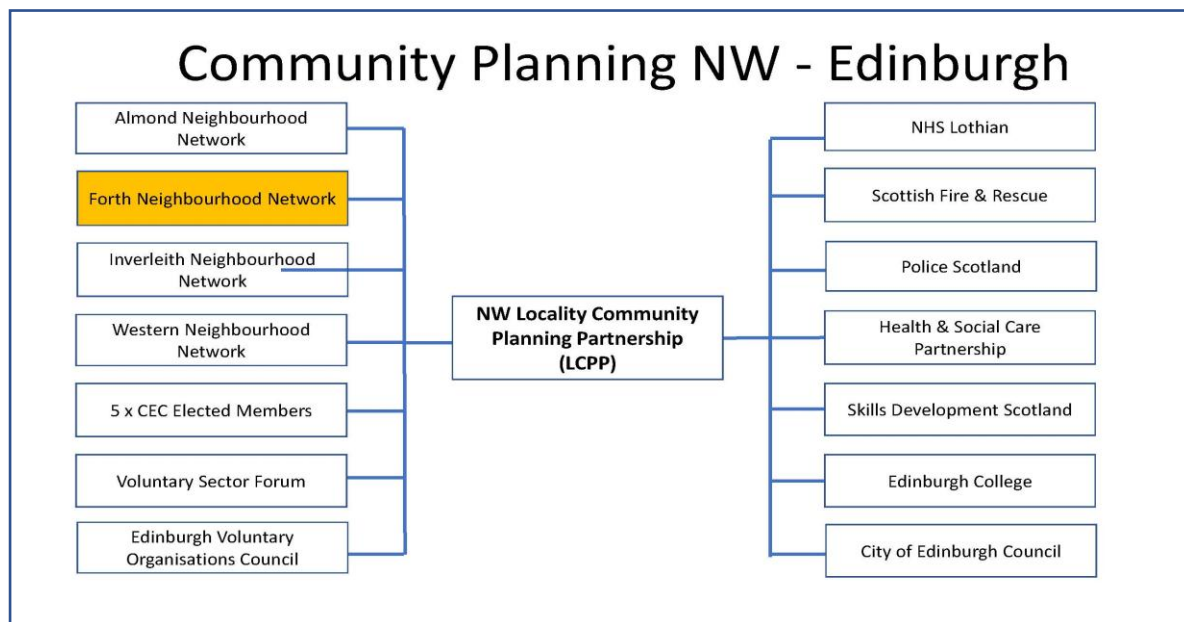
The North West Locality Community Planning Partnership (LCPP) will involve a range of organisations and community based organisation.

The column on the right hand side of the slide provides information about the statutory services to be involved. One representative from each.

The left hand column provides information around the 'community' or representative organisations to be involved. This includes 1 community representative from each of the networks, 2 third sector representatives from each of the two voluntary sector forums in North and West of the locality, 1 elected member from each of the Council wards and a representative from the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC).

The LCPP has yet to meet and the Edinburgh Partnership agreed that it wouldn't meet until such time that the community representative aspect had been completed. The Edinburgh Partnership has asked that one of the first tasks for the LCPP is to review the Locality Improvement Plan with a view to making it more robust in terms of outcomes and delivery.

Peter indicated that the slides had provided a very quick overview of how Community Planning works and the purpose of establishing Neighbourhood Networks and understood that it was a lot to take in.

The meeting then moved to open discussion around the presentation and how the network could be developed and how it should work. This took place with everyone involved initially before moving to 3 groups. Peter added that there were over 100 people who had also viewed the invitation and it was important that any discussion is circulated to the wider network mailing list, highlighting the suggestions or concerns etc put forward at the gathering.

General points raised at the end of the presentation:

Q.   What is the point of Community Councils if community organisations can simply bypass them with concerns etc and take those straight to the Neighbourhood Networks.

A.   Community Councils roles will not change in terms of the statutory functions they engage with. As mentioned during the presentation, the Edinburgh Partnership wishes to cast the net wider to gather as many views and inputs to the community planning agenda as possible. Previously, Community Councils were identified as the representative bodies involved with the old Neighbourhood Partnership's but there is potential for some organisations not wishing to get involved with Community Councils and might prefer to get involved in the Neighbourhood Networks. It could also be viewed that this might also provide an opportunity for Community Councils to tap into the other organisations that come along to get them more involved with the Community Councils.

Q.   With the process around nominations etc potentially being complex, it would have helped to have hard copies available.

A.   All of the information around the process will be circulated to everyone therefore no one is being asked to make any decisions this evening. Recognised that there is a lot to take in and it is hoped that once the information from this evening is circulated, it will help break things down a bit.

Q.   Will networks remain open in terms of organisations and groups that might want to get involved.

A. The intention of the Edinburgh Partnership is to involve any group or organisation that might wish to be involved. It will be for the Neighbourhood Networks themselves to grow the network and develop it so that it meets the needs of the specific area it serves.

Q. How often will it meet and with this in mind, will there be 'virtual' development processes involving the revised Locality Improvement Plan (LIP).

A. The LIP has gone through different bodies with a number of versions created. Lots of background data and information around the development of the LIP still exists and the Locality Community Planning Partnership might want to pick it apart and rebuild it to make it more manageable and deliverable. This might then involve seeking wider views again around the priorities etc but difficult to answer at this stage. In terms of frequency of 'meetings':- again, this will be determined by the network itself and it is hoped that this can form part of the discussion in groups. The Edinburgh Partnership has recognised that the networks should be developed more by those involved at grass roots level and the only stipulation they have put forward is that the networks meet at least once per year.

Q. Can it be that a Community Councillor is the Neighbourhood Network representative on the Locality Community Planning Partnership.

A. Yes

Q. Voluntary Sector representative, how many.

A. The holding position from the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC) is that any organisation that is currently a member of the Voluntary Sector Forums, will continue to be represented from there – 2 representatives from the Forth & Inverleith Forum and 2 from the Almond & Western Forum. All other organisations will be included in the nomination process that will be circulated this week and seeks one community representative for each of the four Neighbourhood Networks.

Q. How has EVOC been represented to date.

A. EVOC are represented at the Edinburgh Partnership and have had representation on the Locality Leadership Teams which has been made up of partner senior officers. The EVOC representative is a staff member.

Q. What kind of decisions will the Locality Community Planning Partnership (LCPP) be taking.

A. This is likely to evolve over time. The LCPP hasn't met yet as it was felt the Neighbourhood Networks should be given time to get started first. The main point the Edinburgh Partnership has asked at this point is to review the Locality Improvement Plans. Neighbourhood Networks have some clarity at this point in terms of decision making where it has been agreed by the Council that the existing Community Grant Fund will be decided at Neighbourhood Network level. Discussions are also underway around other Council capital projects funding. The Edinburgh Partnership has also been asked to look at what other resources might be made available to support the delivery of Community Planning and also potentially funds and resources at local level.

Q. If the membership is 5 elected members, 4 Voluntary sector Forum reps, it could be that it's all third sector representing the networks.

A. Elected members would not be regarded as third sector representatives. If nominations come in from community organisations and the wider membership vote for them then yes, it could be all voluntary sector representation. However, whoever is the agreed

representative, they should then be representing the views of all of the network and the communities they support etc.

Q.	Can you still attend the Neighbourhood Network if you are a member of the Voluntary Sector Forum.

A.	Yes

Q.	Is it not the case that the it will be a Community Councillor that will represent the Neighbourhood Networks on the Locality Community Planning Partnership.

A.	Not necessarily, the nomination and voting process has defined that it is any group or organisation not involved with Voluntary Sector Forums that can be the representative.

The discussion moved into the 3 groups and included the draft remit of Neighbourhood Networks suggested by the Edinburgh Partnership:

- **Promote issues you feel could be tackled or improved through partnership working;**
- **Help to influence the Locality Improvement Plan and the City LOIP;**
- **Participate in decision making around grants and other funds**
- **Act as a body for local consultations;**
- **Share information and promote best practice**

Group 1 – With Sue Cameron and Pauline Fordyce

1.	Attendance/Involving Others/Developing the Network:

- The planning consultation processes usually start well, however it was felt too much structure makes it too technical and mechanical which then stifles the community development and actions. All agreed there were difficulties with local committees and keeping momentum.
- People felt there was too many meetings eg. Voluntary sector and community council members do not have the staff time and resources to attend all meetings.
- Capacity issues were highlighted. Eg. There are less council staff now and also the voluntary sector in the North has been hit by the Health & Social Care cuts. How can we deliver more for less?
- EVOC does not reach or represent all voluntary groups.
- The network will require time and resource if it is to work.
- Older people issues are not recognised or highlighted in the LIP
- The community councils may feel undermined by the new network. There are potential pros and cons.
- Anyone can be accountable. Each rep in the network represents a group, they are usually voted in and delegated to represent the views of their organisation or group.
- If the partnership model didn't work first time why do we have to go back to the beginning?
- Not bogged down in formal bureaucratic meeting styles
- Document and share achievements – create a catalogue of good practice for others to learn from and stop reinventing things that have worked well before
- Activities developed to tackle the issues must be reported back and shared with the wider community
- We want real results in the community
- 6 main priorities, don't make things too complicated
- Use a community development approach to support greater involvement of communities

2. Meeting format:

- Thematic Network Meetings - it was suggested this be a way to bring groups together to discuss issues. However, what about the follow up, what happens in between, who moves the action and community development forward? Who is accountable and has the resources? Many voluntary orgs are under threat or have time limited budgets.
- Meetings must be relevant if people are to get involved. Open public meetings could be a way forward, this happened in the past and worked.
- YouthTalk for adults was suggested as the format works for young people.
- Some orgs are pushed to the limit in terms of what they can take on.
- The new locality partnership network could meet 3-4 times a year. But we would have to ensure it fits in with the time lines of other Partnership City Wide Committees. Is not meeting for meetings sake.
- How does it work elsewhere, if everywhere has to do Community Planning, learn from others.
- Better venues/WPNC was too noisy bad acoustics.
- Need to identify resources available

3. Communication/Consultation:

- Most people don't feel consulted and when they are they do they never hear about the progress or how their views affect change and deliver real outcomes and improvements on the ground.
- Go to where the community is to engage and consult them such as older people event.
- Communication was mentioned how we can get the word out to let groups and orgs. Know about the new neighbourhood network meetings.
- Good pieces of consultation/Engagement work has happened in the area. The CAN report was welcomed, the older peoples event in the RWCC last year 2018. The consultation of the Living in Harmony group (PCHP)
- Do we know if any of these findings were used to shape/influence delivery?
- Consultation burn out! Nothing changes….
- How can we afford to get information and publicity translated or the word out to groups who don't have English as their first language? Translation Serves are expensive. ESL groups were mentioned and information could be distributed through these networks.
- People friendly meetings which are informative and relevant to the communities' interests
- Consult the community in a meaningful way
- More Community engagement
- Improved communication not cancelling meeting last minute and papers not sent out in time to read in preparation for meeting

4. Funding / Decision Making

- Community Grant Funds up to £5000 is small, however but could be overseen by the new partnership network.
- Participatory budgeting has been used in other areas to engage partners and ensure local groups/ orgs feel engaged in delivering serves locally.

Group 2 – With Peter Strong

1. <u>Attendance/Involving Others/Developing the Network:</u>

- What's going to be different this time – how will the community voice be listened to?
- Will there be different reps from the statutory partners at each LCPP, or will 1 rep cover all 4?
- How will these partners contribute to NN's?
- Should voluntary sector organisations empower and support their service users so they can attend NNs, rather than paid workers speaking for them – general support for this view; perhaps the organisations could gather service users' views before attending the NN
- Registered Tenants Organisations should be supported and strengthened to have an influence with their housing providers
- How does the Scottish Government's commitment to Placemaking principles feed into NNs?
- Will NN get support from other partners as well as the Council? – NN can't be seen as a Council-run structure
- Aim is to get all partners involved in the LCPP to discuss priorities and the LIP
- How do you get the views of all the community and voluntary partners?
- How do you break down hierarchies and barriers? – perhaps get a facilitator in for the first couple of sessions – this was successful when Total Craigroyston started
- How do you make the moral authority of the NN real, stop it just being a talking shop and enable it to hold officials and services to account?
- Are NNs in opposition to community councils or can they be mutually beneficial?
- How can the NN raise awareness of services and opportunities, so that members are supported in seeing the bigger picture rather than focusing on individual issues?
- What about cross-NN issues? eg Pennywell Road is an artificial division

2. <u>Meeting format:</u>

- NN needs to meet regularly to keep momentum – say every 2 months? But it's an opportunity to try different methods than just sitting round a table. Particularly is there a better way to get service users' voices heard eg by recordings, via social media?
- Will NN meetings be public meetings?

3. <u>Communication/Consultation:</u>

- Should the NN community organisation rep to the LCPP chair the NN?
- How will reporting back from NN and LCPP meetings work?
- Will it be up to Edinburgh Partnership to decide whether to take on board views of NNs?
- How will Edinburgh Partnership and LCPP report back to NNs?
- Could NN have a role in ensuring that community benefits are delivered from Waterfront development?
- How can the NN tackle poverty and inequality – how can it hold all its members to account for their organisation's role in tackling this?
- How do you engage people's interest to attend for general priorities rather than specific local issues which can generate lots of interest and energy?
- How is information shared within and between community and voluntary organisations

4. Funding / Decision Making

- Will there be a chance to completely review the LIP, or will it just be amendments to the existing one?
- When will the NN be able to take decisions about devolved budgets?
- What can be decided at NN level?
- Voluntary sector organisations can't be involved in grant funding decision making where they are applying for grant
- Should NNs challenge the level and scope of funding which has been identified as devolved to NNs?
- Can community organisations carry out some work funded from environmental budgets? There needs to be more imagination in how this money is used
- Is there a timescale for financial decision making?
- Could some of the devolved NN budgets be divided on a geographical basis eg by community council, with the rest going on LIP priorities?
- Does having financial decision making at NN level take away the need for the LCPP?

Group 3 – With Dave Sinclair

1. Attendance/Involving Others/Developing the Network:

- NN need to be outcome focused, people who invest their time in attending need to feel that it's worthwhile and serves a purpose. Too often things are written up and go nowhere. Need administrators who are determined to see actions completed. Responsibility very important.
- The NN should have the authority to bring appropriate service to account.
- Place making involving private public and voluntary membership was really important.
- So how do we get to where we need to be?
- Further meeting for 'blue-sky' thinking, but who takes this forward?
- NN should have a number of aspirational objectives.
- NN cannot become fragmented, and allowed to drift into sub groups within. Needs to be strong voices in membership, regular attendance and with a worthwhile experience for all. Comm Councils must also be active to complement NN.

2. Meeting format:

- What are the timescales for regular meetings? What's the minimum (1 per year clarified as minimum)
- Best start by meeting once per month, have the finger on the pulse, and eye on the prize
- Every quarter, we should have a themed event, with clear requests/ suggestions/ recommendation made to LCPP prior to their meeting.
- Group agreed that we must find a happy medium that suits most. However, a local implementation plan as a first Agenda item is hugely important.
- How do we know what we are achieving? How to we measure success?
- Whoever is Chair, we'd like the Chair to have delegated authority to invite further members
- NN should be a forum for important business, but there has to be another hook in encouraging involvement. We need to have an array of information sharing portals web pages/ blogs/ community diaries. There must be interest generated in the benefits of

reading or becoming involved in local objectives. How we pull all these things together will be difficult.

- NN must be enjoyable, welcoming, and relevant. Members must leave pre- conceptions and personal opinions at the door. Must be open minded and respectful.
- Leave your strong 'dogma ' at the door
- Unreasonable, inappropriate comments unwelcome, discussed the benefits of a NN charter which reinforced the values and ambitions of NN.

3. Communication/Consultation:

- We need better communication given the potential size of membership. Lots of good things happening within the wards, but it's not joined up nor well-advertised. The NN should be the vehicle by which all successful working is shared and highlighted. General view that CEC could take on that role.
- NEN
- LCPP also has a role in building trust, and ensuring that NN get all sufficient support and training available. NN should be encouraged as a consultation body, similar to Comm Councils

4. Funding / Decision Making

- NN must be rigidly structured, with commitment, responsibility and some clout. Will there be an internal funding opportunity with enhanced budgets? Are NN to be the point of CG or NEP assessment?
- We need to be able to influence LIP outcomes - wholly agreed round table. LIP has lost its way a bit, NN could provide greater focus.

Next Steps

Peter hoped that in the coming months, the Networks will evolve and it is likely that lots of suggestions will come from all four Networks as the meet in the next couple of weeks. All of the discussion, presentation and narrative will be circulated back out to those included on the Network invite list. Peter indicated that every effort has been made to include groups known to us and it would be appreciated if those involved could also help identify other groups that should be involved. Again, it is likely this will build over time.

The immediate action required is that of identifying the community Network representative to the Locality Community Planning Partnership and begin to identify how we work with communities and groups to create the networks in a way that responds to the challenges presented as part of the discussion.

Nomination packs will be circulated to all invited community groups in the last week of May for any nominations to be returned by the end of June. The pack will include details about the process but essentially, if there is more than one nomination, the process will move to an election and all community organisations will be asked to vote for a rep, with the one with the most votes being selected to represent Almond community groups on the North West Locality Community Planning Partnership. If required, voting will take place from 5th July to 16th August with the successful nominee being reported shortly afterwards.

The aim is that LCPPs will meet towards end Aug / start Sept.

Peter closed the session by thanking those that came along for their time and contributions to what had been a very positive session with a great deal of useful feedback.