# Inaugural Gathering of the Inverleith Neighbourhood Network

**Thursday 30th May 2019, Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre**

**Groups & Organisations Present:**

1. Kevin Brown – FetLor Youth Club
2. Angus Millar – Stockbridge Colonies Residents Association
3. Caro Tulloch - Stockbridge Colonies Residents Association
4. Willie Black – West Pilton West Granton Community Council
5. Rose Pipes – Friends of Rocheid Path
6. Joan Beattie – Stockbridge Inverleith Community Council / Friends of Inverleith Park
7. Mhairi Curran – North Edinburgh Save our Services
8. Barry Mackay – Dean Village Association
9. David Perry – Dean Village Association
10. John Cowie - Stockbridge Inverleith Community Council
11. Jimmy Galloway – Drylaw Telford Community Council
12. Ellen Starkey – The Yard
13. Martin Cassels – St Mary's Cathedral
14. James Warker – St Mary's Cathedral
15. David Goldschmidt – Bridge Family Church
16. Dave Pickering – Granton Information Centre
17. Roy Douglas – Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre
18. Jenny Williams – Drylaw Parish Church
19. Rebecca Clacy-Jones – Flora Stevenson Parent Council
20. Heidi Popovic - Flora Stevenson Parent Council
21. Tina Woolnough – Blackhall Community Trust
22. Cllr Hal Osler
23. Su Millar – Life Care
24. Ryan Girvan – Scran Academy
25. Claire Hunter – Edinburgh Academy
26. Penny Donnelly – Drylaw Telford Community Council
27. Nigel Clark - Stockbridge Inverleith Community Council

**Also in attendance:**

- Peter Strong = CEC North West Locality Manager
- Scott Donkin – CEC NW Lifelong Learning Service Manager
- Helen Bourquin – CEC NW Lifelong Learning Service Manager
- Simon Porteous - CEC NW Housing Manager
- Jacqui Bain – CEC NW Lifelong Learning Development Officer
- Elaine Lennon – 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.

# Inverleith Neighbourhood Network

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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.



- **Single service issues**

- **Individual issues or complaints**

- **Community priorities for improvements**
- **Crime trends and community priorities**
- **Access to health services**
- **Employment, further education and relevant training**
- **Listening to communities and improving services**
- **Tackle poverty and inequality**

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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!

- **Drylaw skatepark, Warriston Path resurfacing, Wester Drylaw Drive footpath resurfacing**
- **Bonfire related crime and ASB**
- **Review GP appointments**
- **YouthTalk**
- **Raeburn Place community road closure, Stockfest, Fet-Lor summer programme, Life Care Dementia Arts Festival**

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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.
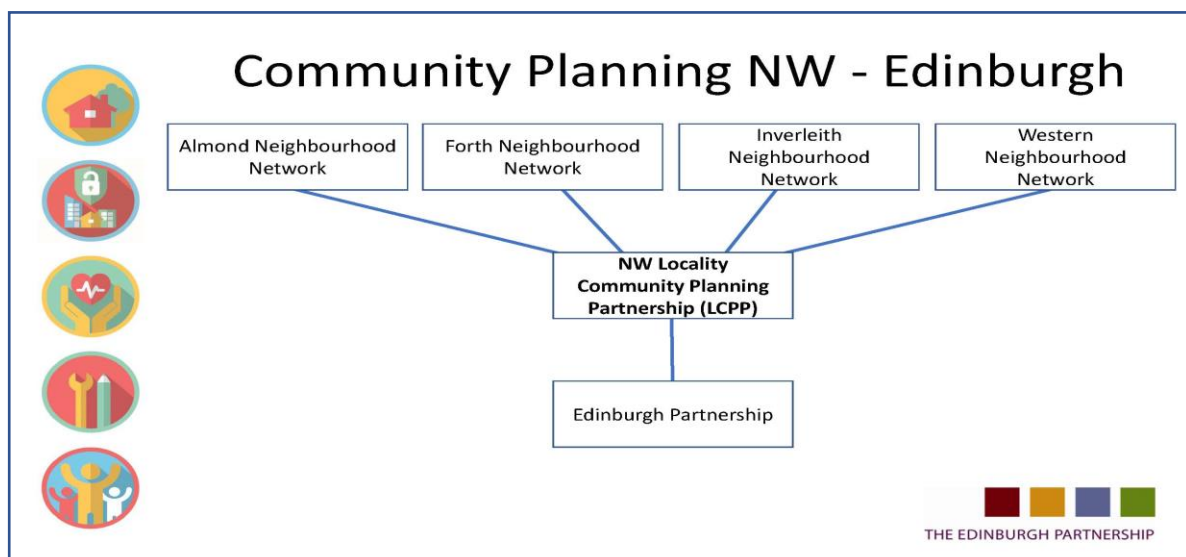


Peter explained that alongside the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Scottish Government provide guidance to support how aspects of the act should be interpreted or followed. The slide highlighted the references to how communities should be involved and the Edinburgh Partnership have instructed 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.
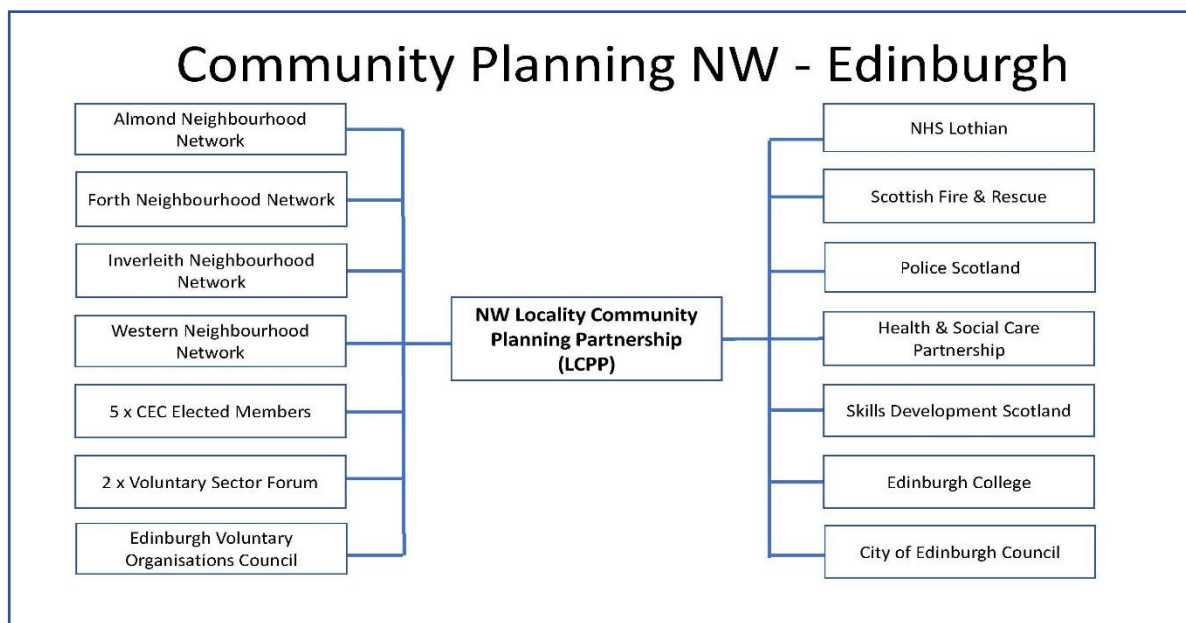


The structure – every process requires structure and it was highlighted that the Neighbourhood Networks link to the Edinburgh Partnership via the to be established Locality Community Planning Partnership (LCPP). Peter had highlighted previously that the Locality would have four Neighbourhood Networks 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

| Left | Centre | Right |
|------|--------|-------|
| Almond Neighbourhood Network | | NHS Lothian |
| Forth Neighbourhood Network | | Scottish Fire & Rescue |
| Inverleith Neighbourhood Network | | Police Scotland |
| Western Neighbourhood Network | NW Locality Community Planning Partnership (LCPP) | Health & Social Care Partnership |
| 5 x CEC Elected Members | | Skills Development Scotland |
| 2 x Voluntary Sector Forum | | Edinburgh College |
| Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council | | City of Edinburgh Council |

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 will be the frequency of Locality Community Planning Partnership (LCCP) meetings?

A.      To be determined by the LCCP when established.

Q.      How will cross boundary issues be managed e.g. one Neighbourhood Network issue going across another?

A.      Good question and something that will need to be considered as we move forward.

Q.      Does the LCCP have money?

A.      As it stands, CEC have committed Community Grant Fund will be determined through the Neighbourhood Networks, further discussion is underway regarding Neighbourhood Environment Programme (capital) funds.

Q.      How do schools/parent council's fit into this.

A.      Schools play a vital role in terms of engaging with young people and it's fair to say, community planning processes to date have struggled to identify better ways to involve the schools – positive step seeing representatives of PTA's at the initial meetings of the Networks.

Q.      What is Edinburgh College

A.      Established following merger of different further education providers e.g. Stevenson College and Telford College. Edinburgh College has proven to be a good partner and is keen to move back to developing learning based activity aimed at the grassroots of our communities.

Q.     Are we involving private schools as they have a significant number of young people on their rolls

A.     A few years back we involved Edinburgh Academy in the YouthTalk process and this was very popular. We need to re-engage with them and others.

Q.     From which direction will the actions emerge from. Will it be the centre pushing out or will it be the other way around

A.     Neighbourhood Networks should provide a platform on which we build greater involvement to better understand the needs of our communities and where we must work together to tackle long standing issues associated with poverty and inequality. The process should therefore be pushing the issues back up from the communities.

Q.     Agree that the Community Planning should be community led, what resources are available to support this, especially where Community Councils are involved

A.     The partners involved in the Edinburgh Partnership are committed to making this process as successful as possible and discussions are underway in terms of what resource might be available to support different aspects of the process going forward. The Council is also looking at what resources might be available, especially to support the development of the Networks.

Q.     How will funding be divided across the networks

A.     Community Grant budget is at present based on population. Neighbourhood Environment Project (Roads and Pavements) budget is evenly split across the localities whilst the Neighbourhood Environment Projects that are funded through the Housing & Revenue Account must be spent on projects linked to Housing land as the account is directly linked to Council rent payments

Q.     In terms of decision making, how will this be managed as it's unlikely Councillors will want to give up their power

A.     Depends largely on what is available to be decided on. CEC administration will continue to make decisions on wider Council budget but where the Council has identified budgets to be decided on locally, this will involve the community at the heart of the decisions

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 Scott Donkin**

1.   Attendance/Involving Others/Developing the Network:

- Concerns that existing community councils could be perceived to be ineffective and therefore taken away
- It was highlighted that Community Councils have statutory functions linked to local consultations
- Community Councils have co-opted members, could this be built on in terms of developing the networks and Community Councils

- Need to find ways to engage those who are isolated for whatever reason
- Need to create a better understanding of what's available across the network area in terms of spaces and resources – more could be done to better use each other's resources e.g. halls and transport
- The network resource should also provide an understanding of how spaces can be used e.g. when does the PPP lease end, for some schools it must be quite soon and this could open up spaces previously difficult to access
- What spaces do our statutory partners have that could be used by the community e.g. Colleges
- Create space for network members and others to share information about what they do
- Must find ways of getting views of older people and our most vulnerable citizens

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

- Thematic gatherings suggested but must be better planned as previous attempt through Neighbourhood Partnerships were not very successful
- Whatever the format, it will need to be of interest to keep people involved or coming along
- Doesn't necessarily always need to involve a meeting. Surveys could be created to capture views of people who might not manage to get along or would prefer to get involved in a different way
- It was suggested that this session was productive as it was informal and provided a good opportunity to get to know others and identify commonalities
- Start with a big gathering – Broughton High School and encourage a means of better understanding of others. Focus on – What can I give and then What do I need!
- Suggested that the network should meet 3 to 4 times per year and move around the neighbourhood to encourage attendance

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

- Needs to involve all sectors of the community and should include printed format on a door to door basis to ensure those that might not access digital or who would prefer different methods can get the information
- Leaflet drops across the locality providing simple information about the network, how to get involved etc
- Use existing materials and websites of all organisations involved to provide information about the network

4. <u>Funding / Decision Making</u>

- Suggested that a grant funding panel should be established to make the process manageable
- Identify opportunities to use Participatory Budgeting as a means of distributing funds ([Include link to Leith model](#))
- Find ways for everyone to have a say on grants and any other funding projects
- Will other statutory agencies such as NHS follow the CEC and make grant decision processes via the Neighbourhood Networks, that way people are identifying at ground level what needs to be supported etc
- Funding from this source could support improved preventative health care and involve community organisations

**Group 2 – With Helen Bourquin**

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

- Need to find a way for different groups to attend i.e. those who wouldn't normally attend
- Huge potential for mixing energy, experience and expertise to get inspired ideas.
- Community Councils find it hard to ascertain the views of all groups so this could be a way of engaging with more people to achieve this
- An example was provided around the Stockbridge Community Development Trust which introduced a gathering a year ago attended by 50 groups. People discussed common concerns /issues and 'Champions ' were identified to start addressing them.  Interested people/groups then become involved behind the champion. E.g. Lifecare is 'Champion' for Dementia so all sorts of strategies and ideas to be developed around making community more inclusive/supportive. Another example was the closing of Raeburn Place on a monthly basis.

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

- Thematic meetings:
  - o Some felt this might exclude some groups while others thought it may be an opportunity to share good practice e.g. supporting the development of friends of parks groups
  - o Groups could bring forward what issues/concerns they have and see if there's common ground or what might resonate with others and see what might be done collectively to address
  - o 2 – 3 issues maximum could be discussed at each meeting
- Keep away from bureaucratic and formal structures and processes
- Community lunches suggested as an option whereby different groups that might not be able to manage an evening e.g. older people, parents with young children can get along, also the time is better during winter

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

- Need a structure and communications strategy that both feeds out to the community as to what was discussed/agreed as well as allowing communication back the way

4. <u>Funding / Decision Making</u>

- Have a specific meeting at which it is publicised that decisions will be made on specific grants, applications etc.  Groups could present their ideas and have their ideas voted on.
- Ideas for spending of funds could be generated at the meetings themselves through discussion
- Some felt funding decisions should not be primary aim of NN rather they should be for discussion about how things should be improved or done differently

**Group 2 – With Simon Porteous**

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

- Need to take into account that it is a diverse area with a wide range of different needs
- Network can be used to share and develop different ideas and to find out what's important to communities
- A networking event might be a good way to get other groups and organisations along and help get them involved
- Tap into existing experience, knowledge and networks e.g. Stockbridge Community Development Trust
- Network needs to create a sense of belonging and a sense of pride

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

- Thematic meetings could involve 2 or 3 different themes for discussion
- Community lunches could help involve people
- Quarterly meetings might be too much of a gap and bi-monthly might be more approriate

3. Communication/Consultation:

- A wide range of communication channels will need to be used including email and social media
- Create an enhanced role for libraries to help engage and communicate
- Establish a community directory

4. Funding / Decision Making

- Need to be clear about how funding decisions will be made
- Organisations might present funding proposals to the wider network
- Decisions should be reached by consensus wherever possible


**Group 3 – With Elaine Lennon / Jacqui Bain**

1. Attendance/Involving Others/Developing the Network:

- Certain, more controversial issues will bring people out
- It's difficult for groups and individuals to understand what's not yet in place
- Networking and connections could be a vital benefit of NNs – need to stress this to everyone
- How do we keep the momentum of participation? – Clear aims / outcomes coordinated (by who?) / understanding of what groups want from NNs and vice versa
- Where are our young people / ethnic minorities / other faith groups? – need to make them feel welcomed
- What resources will be made available to support genuine engagement?

2. Meeting format:

- Should consider rotating the timings – day of week / time of day / venues / set in advance to give group members time to diary in
- Round table discussions best, depending on numbers
- A workshop with LCPP partners to raise awareness of roles / influence etc would be a great start for NNs to understand this – start with presentations from partners to identify eg 2 or 3 key topics for first year
- Thematic groups may be useful but also small working groups to dip into
- Need to fit with 3 themes of Edinburgh Partnership

3. Communication/Consultation:

- Use of social media should help ensure that these conversations continue outwith meetings – WhatsApp / webcasts / social media / recordings?
- Could be useful to share examples of good practice and work taking place eg GP work
- Need to rebuild trust in partners who have not traditionally been involved in local community planning

4. Funding / Decision Making

- Needs to be not overly complicated but transparent and comprehensive

- Need to know what budgets will be devolved – and what resources can we influence
- How will agenda be set for NNs and LCPPs? – clarity of remit needed



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.