

# Almond Neighbourhood Network

NOTE OF MEETING – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021, online via Teams

## **PRESENT**

## **ORGANISATION**

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Percy Fekete	Almond Neighbourhood Network Rep- NW LCPP / Almond Community Safety Panel
Bert Scott	Almond Community Safety Panel
Georgina Wylie	Cramond & Barnton Community Council
Ian Williamson	Cramond & Barnton Community council
Rod Alexander	Davidsons Mains & Silverknowes Association
Paul Vaughan	Gateside Tenants & Residents Association
David Buchanan	Kirkliston Community Council
Pauline Nicol-Bowie	Muirhouse Millennium Centre LIFT (Low Income Families Together) Project
Chris Thomas	Muirhouse Youth Development Group
Keith Giblett	Queensferry & District Community Council (Chair)
Graeme McKinley	Queensferry & District Community Council
Anne Mitchell	Queensferry & District Community Council
Fiona MacLeod	Queensferry Parish Church
Judy Wightman	Ratho & District Community Council
Liz McIntosh	Voluntary Sector Forum / Queensferry Care in the Community
Cllr Norman Work	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Louise Young	City of Edinburgh Council

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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Evelyn Kilmurry	CEC NW Locality Manager
Helen Bourquin	CEC NW Lifelong Learning Service Manager
Elaine Lennon	CEC NW Lifelong Learning Development Officer

## **APOLOGIES:**

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Cllr Graham Hutchison	City of Edinburgh Council
Lorna Stewart	Craigroyson Primary School
Pauline Walker	Royal High School

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>INPUT/DISCUSSION</u>	<u>DECISIONS / ACTIONS</u>
<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>	Keith welcomed the group and reminded members of Teams protocol.	
<b>2. Minute of previous meeting and any matters arising</b>	<p>The minute was proposed by Percy Feketey and seconded by Judy Wightman.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <p><b>Q - Are schools members of the NN?</b></p> <p>Evelyn explained that core membership of the NN could include Community Organisations, Community Councils, Voluntary &amp; Third Sector groups and Elected Members. It was explained that schools, libraries etc are 'Network Guests' who might be invited to support discussion and have input into partnership actions, rather than 'Network Members', but that School Parent Councils could be members as they represented a community group.</p> <p>Community Councils gave examples of how they linked with schools and parent councils and it was agreed to circulate more detail on the membership list.</p>	Circulate clarity on NN membership
<b>3. Almond NN "theme"</b>	<p>Evelyn explained that, following the presentation on the revised North West Locality Improvement Plan (LIP) at previous meeting, there was some interest in agreeing a focus on one or more of the priorities important to the communities of Almond.</p> <p>Health &amp; Wellbeing / Social Isolation was identified as the main issue the Network agreed this should be tackled, and that lockdown had exacerbated these issues to local people of all ages.</p> <p>It was agreed that there were several organisations and community groups doing good work that could be built on.</p> <p>Liz explained that the Almond and Western Voluntary Sector Forum (VSF) as part of the Western NN were currently carrying out a scoping exercise to get better picture of what is available in the area and where there may be gaps. Their aim was to produce a leaflet (which may be paper based recognising that these have a</p>	

	<p>short shelf life, or online) to get contacts out to wider communities and info on what is available to support local people.</p> <p>It was agreed that a similar exercise would be useful in Almond and could build on the current Directory of Services that QCCC produces, and to try to widen the age group.</p> <p>It was agreed that the above was a starting point and that any work of this group must dovetail into existing mental health and other support services. It must also be aware of the need to scope support for young people.</p> <p><b>Q - How do we reach people before crisis point?</b> Pauline explained that her project (Muirhouse Millennium Centre LIFT (Low Income Families Together) for example worked with many families in need of health support due to in and out of work poverty, food poverty and also mental health, and that she was keen to work with partners where appropriate. She also invited any members to visit their newly refurbished Centre to see the project at any time when allowed.</p> <p>Recognise that there were many informal groups that have sprung up during COVID to support friends and neighbours and we need to try to take stock of these and any that might continue. Members were saddened to hear that the Almond Mains Initiative had had to close and agreed that this is a clear example of gap in provision.</p> <p>It was agreed to invite Lead of the LIP health &amp; wellbeing subgroup, Mike Massaro Mallinson, as well as Public Health Practitioner and iThrive contacts, to next meeting and request update on work of this group and how it might positively impact on and be aided by Almond NN</p> <p>Agreed way forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz to continue with her revision of the Directory and to bring it to this group when completed</li> <li>• Once above is able to be shared, Helen and Elaine to draft a questionnaire to be sent to this group then go out to mailing list. This would request info to be categorised by age as well as adult services.</li> <li>• Subgroup will be pulled together to work on this with support from CEC</li> <li>• A leaflet of some kind might be produced with the information gathered. Keith mentioned that the Network's members might be able to assist in distribution if leaflet was produced.</li> </ul>	<p>Invite Mike &amp; others to next meeting</p> <p>Please contact Elaine or Helen if willing to be part of a subgroup</p>
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<p><b>4. Desire for members to be listened to and heard by Officers and Partners</b></p>	<p>It was felt that this has had a positive start with the sharing of local council contacts and wider structure organigrams, and that this was a work in progress, however:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members need reassurance that any communication with Key Officers will be seen as important and in recognition that any question is normally asked on behalf of the local communities that they represent</li> <li>• <b>Q - Still not entirely clear on relationship of NN and LCPP (Locality Community Planning Partnership). Do decisions we make eg Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP) or Community Grants Fund (CGF) need to be ratified by LCPP?</b> Evelyn explained that decisions about the Community Grants Fund did not need to go to LCPP and that this group is authorised to make these decisions. Decisions about the NEP spend currently sit with this group although the process is being reviewed going forwards</li> <li>• <b>Q - What is Percy's role as Rep from this group on the LCPP? What information is he reporting, and how long does this role last?</b> Percy stated that he shares any relevant info or discussion items with LCPP and vice versa, but that much of the discussion at LCPP to date has been on the LIP. It was agreed that clarity on this role would be useful and also recognition that current Rep's timeframe may be coming to an end. Evelyn to clarify role and timeframes for re-election.</li> </ul>	<p>Role and length of role of NN Rep on LCPP to be circulated.</p>
<p><b>5. Funding streams</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NEPs 2021/22</b> A list of current, completed and project bank NEP projects for Transport &amp; Housing funds were shared.</li> </ul> <p>Evelyn explained that officers are considering how to improve the NEP process recognising some of the challenges in the current system and that it is intended to engage with Network members citywide in the future to ask how best to identify and prioritise project proposals, as well as what has worked and not worked in the past.</p> <p>She agreed that some projects on hold would undoubtedly have increased in estimated cost (such as the Gateside drainage project) due to COVID and other time delays and explained that, where significant, these projects could come back to the Network to discuss further.</p> <p><b><u>HRA NEP Projects</u></b> Evelyn explained that there remained a balance of £155k for 2020/21 in the HRA budget, and that the NEP project list which had been circulated showed projects which had been completed, projects that</p>	

	<p>had been previously agreed for spend and were ongoing and those that were proposals and had not been agreed for spend yet.</p> <p><b>Q – Are the ‘ongoing HRA projects’ which in total are estimated at £72,300 (but may incur additional spend) to come out of the £155k pot?</b> Evelyn explained that the £155k was additional available funding on top of the £72,300 spend which had already been committed and that these projects are already ‘paid for’ to that estimated value.</p> <p><b><u>Roads and Footpaths NEP Projects</u></b> Evelyn explained that the focus for Roads team for now is to make sure that previously agreed projects are delivered and that no decisions had been reached by the service on any additional budgets to that which had already been agreed.</p> <p><b>Q- Most of the projects have very broad timescales against them and approximate costs. Can the Network be provided with more specific costs for those projects already underway or an idea if the projects will cost significantly more than the estimate and timescales for delivery?</b></p> <p>Evelyn agreed to try to get a further estimate of costs for ongoing roads projects and any additional information, in particular the Kirkliston Bowling Club and the Stirling Road projects which will be sent to David / Paul</p> <p><b><u>Capital Roads and Maintenance Programmes</u></b></p> <p><b>Q – How is maintenance for local footpaths being prioritised and tackled in light of the deterioration during lockdown?</b> NEP funding is not for maintenance projects, and that these issues could be raised through the usual Community Council reporting channels either online or via emails in Key Contacts sheet</p> <p><b>Q – How can we as NN have any say in the Capital Roads Programmes now that Transport Teams are not responsible to Locality Manager?</b> Evelyn explained that Transport teams are still responsible in taking forward neighbourhood schemes as in the previous structure. Keith advised that it may be appropriate for the Managers responsible for these budget to be invited to attend a special meeting which would be separate from the Network meeting to discuss the way forward,</p>	<p>More accurate estimates to be sent to David &amp; Paul</p> <p>Clarification on NEP transport, and HRA NEP contacts to be circulated</p> <p>Transport Managers responsible for Capital and NEP budgets could be invited to future meeting</p>
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<b>6. Contacts and Organigram</b>	<p>A list of key CEC contacts was circulated and welcomed by members.</p> <p><b>Q – There seem to be fewer services directly under the responsibility of the North West Locality? For example, are there no Roads staff locally anymore?</b> Evelyn explained that there had been a CEC realignment of services in the Transport and Environment Service Team. These services, although no longer managed at locality level, still provided their services at a local level. Key contacts are in the list circulated.</p> <p><b>Q – The direction of travel, as reported at a previous meeting, appeared to be of devolved decision making and budgets, but now seem to be heading back to centralisation?</b> Evelyn assured that it is a different way of managing these teams rather than centralising.</p> <p>Evelyn asked for any queries about NEPs or additional information could be sent to her in the first instance <a href="mailto:evelyn.kilmurry@edinburgh.gov.uk">evelyn.kilmurry@edinburgh.gov.uk</a></p>	
<b>7. Chairperson</b>	<p>It was proposed (Percy) and seconded (Rod) that Keith remain Chair for now. Helen added that Cllr Hutchison was also willing to take on this role if required. Cllr Young advised that she had previously thought that it had to be an Elected Member to chair the Network but appreciated that it could be chaired by any member with the support of the Network.</p> <p>With preference that the role was filled by a Community Group, it was agreed that Keith would remain Chair for now, and that the workload could be shared where necessary.</p>	
<b>8. A.O.C.B,</b>	<p>There was no additional business and Keith closed the meeting.</p>	
<b>9. Date of next meeting</b>	<p>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 6pm.</p> <p>Please send any agenda items to Keith at <a href="mailto:giblett@btinternet.com">giblett@btinternet.com</a> before 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021.</p>	