



**LIBERTON/GILMERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
MONDAY 03 DECEMBER 2012**

**'YOUR Neighbourhood Partnership'
Event Outcomes and Commitments**

AGENDA ITEM: 5.1

1. PURPOSE OF PAPER

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to promote potential commitments against the suggested actions as identified at the 'YOUR Neighbourhood Partnership' event held on 27th September 2012.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The event held on 27th September was intended to involve individuals and organisations in helping to identify what works well and more importantly where the Partnership can be strengthened.
- 2.2 It was encouraging to note from the session that there appears to be a majority view that the Partnership appears to be working fairly well, particularly through the sub structure groups and the diversity of its membership. The development of the Local Community Plan and its associated action plan would appear to provide a real focus to the work of the Partnership.
- 2.3 Opportunities to influence local spending was highlighted in terms of working well and potential to be strengthened further with the Neighbourhood Environment Programme cited as a valuable example of allowing residents to influence where local spend should take place.
- 2.4 Community engagement was also highlighted as being well supported with information and themed events also proving popular with residents and local groups however, it was suggested through all of the groups that greater emphasis must be placed on communication at all levels using new media and more conventional methods.
- 2.5 The paper attached provides the Partnership with the key aspects put forward by the discussion groups and highlights where action is underway, suggested action and items that require greater discussion and approval.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Partnership is asked to note the content of this report and to discuss the proposed actions attached.

SARAH BURNS

South Neighbourhood Manager
December 2012

Theme	Communication
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The E-Link was suggested as a positive communication tool but there were concerns raised that it only reaches a very small number of the wider community and more need to be done to communicate better; • A door to door newsletter would be a better communication tool which can include feedback tear offs; • We need to better use schools to engage and communicate with the community; • We need to investigate other communication methods that are not just electronic; • Communication across a wider scale needs to be looked at. Is there an argument for a local newspaper or are there alternatives? • Service providers need to feed more information in to assist with disseminating information outwards. There are always changes in the community, staff changes in projects etc and these need to be made known; • Go back to basic advertising e.g. posters, leaflets etc; • Volunteers can help to deliver local communications e.g. community newspaper; • Communications need to be improved, text your opinion, Facebook, postcards round doors, surveys of local residents to follow up quality of service etc;
Current Known Activity	<p>The Partnership can communicate currently via Twitter, Facebook, a dedicated website, the CEC website and via an electronic E-Newsletter (The Link). The Partnership Support Officer also provides updates and information via Neighbourhood Forums and the Community Council. Community based outlets e.g. libraries and community centres also provide information.</p> <p>The Health Inequalities Group are also exploring improved communications as a key action that will seek to introduce touch screen technology, improved referral processes and human contact/buddying for our most vulnerable residents.</p>
Future Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate opportunities to involve local schools to help promote relevant opportunities e.g. links to the community plan, parenting etc; • Increase the use of more traditional methods to promote the LGNP meetings and include key agenda items to encourage participation, especially when developing themed events;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage with existing services to develop better links and to remind them of and build on the resources available to help promote services, changes, activities and events;
Future Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a door to door newsletter to provide an opportunity to increase awareness of other communication tools e.g Social Media and allow for feedback on the work of the LGNP

Theme	Community Participation
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do others engage large numbers e.g. Liberton Association. We must learn from them and others; • We need to focus more on 'Community'. Help with gatherings, events etc to bring more people together; • Find better ways to survey/include more people as we need to better understand local opinion/issues better. The Edinburgh People's Survey is only a fraction of the neighbourhood; • Attempts to consult the community are often tokenistic; • Develop more service based road shows which are inclusive to all in the community; • Information must be two way. Services only know so much and rely on information to rectify issues. If residents provide more information, its likely things can be resolved quicker; • Holyrood School needs to be more involved; • Make people more aware of the local heritage • Important that local people's views are represented e.g. Liberton Association meetings work well; • If we can increase representation from community/residents groups where there is more influence in terms of decision making and local service provision, it may provide an incentive for more local people to get involved; • We need to address how we engage with less empowered people and community involvement overall strengthened;
Current Known Activity	<p>A Partnership Support Officer has responsibility for supporting the development of Neighbourhood Forums and information provision to other local groups. There are 3 Neighbourhood Forums, 1 Community Association and 1 Community Council. In addition there are approximately 6 recognised residents/tenants organisations Each year, the Neighbourhood Forums and Community Council are invited to a 'gathering', an informal opportunity to come together. This has no set agenda at present.</p> <p>The LGNP has held a number of engagement events and activities, many linked to themes, budget settings etc. The Community Plan development process involved 1,600 people and regular feedback is provided via the E-Link and website.</p> <p>Local Parks Friends Groups have been established and are supported also.</p> <p>Every effort has been made to ensure local consultations are robust however it is acknowledged that there needs to be a greater emphasis placed on ensuring community consultations are meaningful and can in fact influence decisions;</p> <p>The Edinburgh People's Survey involves 500 local people from a representational sample of the community. This influences Council and Partners future service provision.</p>

Future Activity

- To encourage groups/organisations to think about developing gatherings and events through the Community Grants;
- To engage over 2,000 local young people in the review of local facilities and activities;
- To develop a service based road show in each of the high schools aimed at school leavers to target resources and information;
- CEC officers are currently developing a Consultation Framework which will ensure minimum standards will apply in terms of future consultations;
- The Neighbourhood Team will seek to ensure that wherever possible, future agenda items/themes will involve opportunities for the Partnership and those present to influence outcomes;

Theme	Partnership Meetings
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership meetings tend not to be as effective sometimes with poor acoustics and often not very inviting for the wider public. They concentrate on business which is not relevant for the wider community; • Hold Partnership meetings during the day and be more flexible about timings of community engagement events to ensure greater participation; • Night meetings put people off because of perceptions of feeling unsafe; • Partnership meetings should be about decisions, not just information cascade; • There is sometimes a lack of follow up or information from actions highlighted at previous Partnership meetings; • Timing of meetings is important to ensure we don't exclude older people / people with children / disabled people; • People can't participate at Partnership meetings, the agenda needs to be shortened and presentations limited to shorter time to allow for greater discussion and more input from the community; • NP meetings on a thematic basis e.g. environment, playgrounds, housing. They need to be outcome focussed; • Important that local people influence decision making process;
Current Known Activity	<p>Since its introduction, the LGNP has always held formal meetings in the evening. This has also moved from the Faith Mission to the Libertus Centre. Acoustics in each venue is problematic. It is known that formal Partnership meetings tend not to engage with large numbers of residents. It is necessary for the Partnership to meet and make decisions about certain things however, it is recognised that this may be of no interest to the community.</p>
Future Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LGNP will hold formal meetings at alternate times e.g. daytime and evening; • The LGNP will hold a minimum of 2 themed meetings each year in line with known activity / issues etc • The South Neighbourhood Team commits to ensuring that all outcomes from meetings and events are made available within 10 days of the event/meeting; • The Neighbourhood Team will seek to ensure that wherever possible, future agenda items/themes will involve opportunities for the Partnership and those present to influence outcomes;

Theme	Funding & Resources
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be greater access to budgets / funding to allow for local decision making; • Decentralise third party grant funding to the NP's; • Decentralise decision making from the centre e.g. changes to local services to the NP's; • Make the most of existing networks / resources throughout the community;
Current Known Activity	<p>The LGNP currently decides on the Community Grants Scheme and the Neighbourhood Environment Programme. In the interests of engagement, transparency and influencing, the LGNP currently supports this through delegated authority to separate groups, each involving the community.</p> <p>It is not known if there are any plans to provide further funding to the LGNP for local dissemination.</p> <p>The Partnership sub structure proves to be a valuable resource and for the best part, all agencies involved have supported a wide range of initiatives utilising existing resources.</p>
Suggested Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LGNP through its Convener ensures that the desire for decentralised budgets to allow for greater local influencing is reported into the city wide Partnership review. • The South Neighbourhood Team will identify processes to engage with the community where there is influencing possibilities associated with changes to local services; • The South Neighbourhood Team to ensure all agencies operating in the neighbourhood are aware of the Community Plan priorities and to identify where new working arrangements can be influenced to help meet the outcomes associated with the priorities;
Future Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Convener will highlight the desire for more decentralised decision making to the Neighbourhood Partnership Review Group;