

# **Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership**

**Local Community Plan  
2009 – 2011**



**June 2009**

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## Membership of Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

Cllr Jason Rust (Convener)	Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward
Cllr Elaine Aitken	Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward
Cllr Eric Barry	Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward
Cllr Ronald Cairns	Pentland Hills Ward
Cllr Ricky Henderson	Pentland Hills Ward
Cllr Alastair Paisley	Pentland Hills Ward
Mr Ken Shade	Balerno Community Council
Mr Alex Stewart	Colinton Amenity Association
Mr Graham Dane	Currie Community Council
Mr Norman Tinlin	Fairmilehead Community Council
Ms Peggy Wright	Firrhill Community Council
Mr Steuart Campbell	Longstone Community Council
Mrs Judith Wightman	Ratho Community Council
Insp Sue Wilson	Lothian & Borders Police
Mr Gordon Fisher	Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service
Ms Shulah Allan	Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council

### *Representatives pending:*

NHS Lothian

Wester Hailes Representative Council/Community Council

## **Welcome**

Welcome to the local community plan for the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership. This plan is a significant development in the way that public service planning, development and delivery are changing. It establishes immediate priority areas and outcomes for us to achieve by 2011 within the context of a longer term vision for our community.

Our plan is the result of widespread consultation and input from people who live and work in the area and from organisations with a responsibility to deliver services locally. We have collected data and analysed and mapped existing conditions and future trends.

We are enthusiastic about the work that has been done so far and we would like to thank everyone who has helped shape this plan. More importantly, we are committed long term to local community planning, to deeper and wider involvement, to reshaping local services, and to making a real difference in our community.

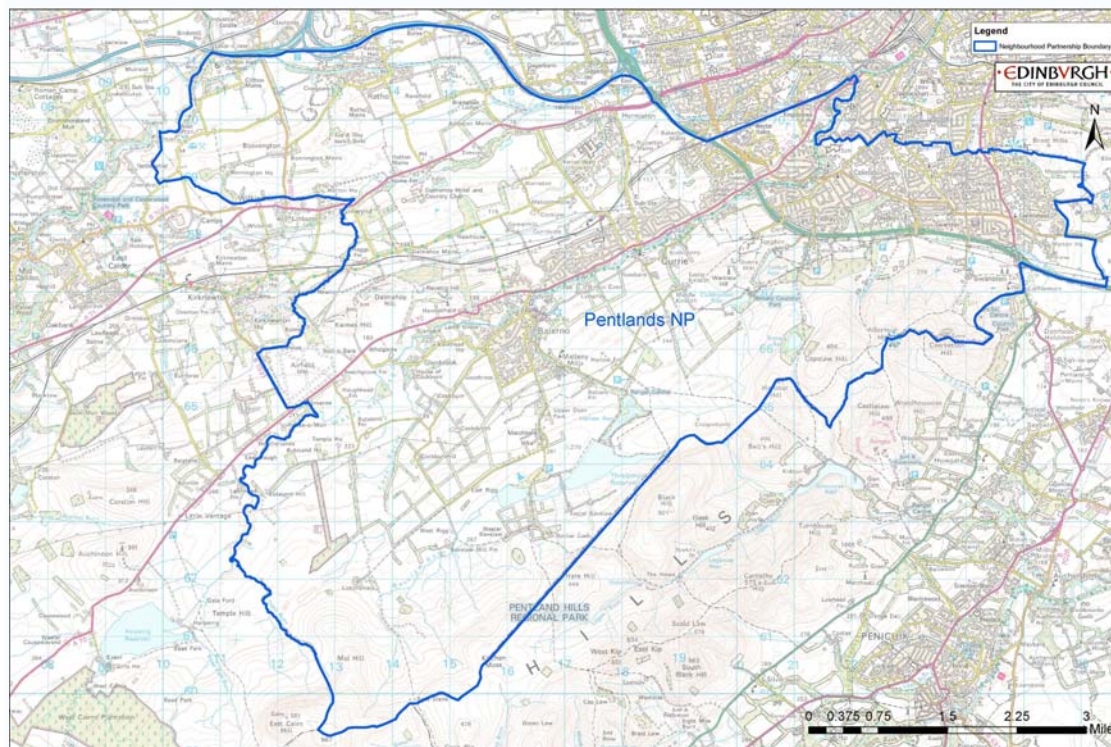
Not all local activities are contained within this plan. The plan focuses on those areas where combined action can produce greater results and real improvements. Accompanying this Local Community Plan is an action plan which details how we shall achieve these outcomes. Partners will also be producing service agreements detailing the level of services that are delivered within Pentlands.

Together we have made a good start along the road to making Pentlands a better place for everyone. If we keep working together, we will reach our goal. As we progress, the plan will constantly be reviewed and refreshed and we want you to play a big part in this. The evolution of the plan over the next four years will be influenced by your views, your concerns and your priorities.

**Councillor Jason Rust  
Convener,  
Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership**



## About the Pentlands Area



The Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership is comprised of the Pentland Hills and Colinton/Fairmilehead wards. It covers the largest geographical area of any of the Partnerships and it ranges from Colinton in the east to Ratho in the west, also covering Oxbgangs, parts of Wester Hailes, Clovenstone, Currie, Juniper Green and Balerno.

The Pentlands Neighbourhood has a population of approximately 48,500 people, ranging in density from three people per hectare in the Pentlands to 14 in Fairmilehead. This diversity is reflected in the housing stock, which includes high-rise blocks, detached houses and everything in between.

The area includes eleven primary schools, three secondary schools and the Heriot Watt University. It also includes part of the Pentland Hills Regional Park, the Redford and Dreghorn Barracks and five golf courses.

The Pentlands Hills Regional Park is the largest green space in the UK ever to be awarded a prestigious Green Flag. It covers 10,000 hectares and includes two country parks, farmland, a military training ground, reservoirs, woodlands and extensive areas of rugged upland terrain.

For the most part, people in the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership area enjoy better health, higher employment and lower crime than other parts of the city (data from the 2001 Census Key Statistics).

The development of this plan has resulted from the gathering of good evidence that has been used both to support and determine the need for change. The evidence data is referred to throughout the plan. Further information on the Pentland Hills and Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward profiles is available at:

[www.edinburghnp.org.uk](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk)

## **What is a Local Community Plan?**

Local Community Plans aim to improve the quality of life for people living in local communities by developing programmes of activities and initiatives which develop and deliver better services. When developing this plan we have recognised the need to help progress the Scottish Government's national priorities and Edinburgh wide plans and strategies. However, this plan also provides the opportunity to make sense of these plans and to tailor them to local priorities and needs.

Below is our vision for the Pentlands area. In fifteen years we would like to see this vision become a reality. Our priorities and programme of activities over the next four years will help to achieve this. While developing this vision we have listened carefully to local peoples' views, ideas and concerns and taken these into account. Community groups have been consulted throughout the process.

## **Our Vision**

In the Year 2024, the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership envisages:

- A community with a sustainable built environment, well kept and fit for purpose, which integrates with a natural environment providing open green spaces and recreational facilities, valued and used by the whole community.
- People across the whole community living in an environment where they feel safe and protected to carry out their normal daily lives.
- A healthy community with inclusive and responsive health care provision made accessible to all local people, and the promotion of healthy living and health equalities as a key principle for improving quality of life.
- Good quality local community facilities and services to benefit the whole community, enhancing community spirit and ownership and improving overall quality of life.
- Economic prosperity across the whole community, with local people having access to good quality education and skills provision and sustainable employment opportunities.
- Good local and reliable public transport, safe and well maintained roads, level pedestrian pathways and cycle paths, which are readily accessible across the whole community.

## **Our Priorities for 2009 to 2011**

The Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership has agreed to the following priorities for action to help achieve our vision:

- 1. Environment and green space**
- 2. Community safety**
- 3. Health**
- 4. Community resources**
- 5. Skills and employment**
- 6. Transport**

The vision and priorities outlined above can only be achieved through working in partnership and the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership recognises that community members are also an important partner in this. We have a commitment to ensure that communities can be active in this process and will ensure that it is inclusive of all communities of interest and equalities groups.

There are four key principles which underpin the way we work. These will be built into all activities and initiatives developed.

- **Civic responsibility**
- **Equalities**
- **Environmental sustainability**
- **Social inclusion**

Five subgroups of the Neighbourhood Partnership will help to take forward the work identified in the Local Community Plan. These are:

- **Community Safety**
- **Environment & Transport**
- **Health & Community**
- **Funding Panel**
- **South West Area Board**

The individual public and voluntary sector organisations within the Neighbourhood Partnership will continue to deliver their day to day services and business. Together we can provide a stronger focus on achieving those outcomes which can only be tackled in partnership and improved through joint working.

## **Consultation**

An essential part of the creation of the Pentlands Neighbourhood Plan was community consultation and participation in its development. Only through community engagement will we be able to test, agree or change the planned action for the Neighbourhood Partnership. We believe that by asking and listening to people we can develop a plan that reflects the needs and desires of those who live, work, study and visit our locality. All our community engagement activities are underpinned by the National Standards for Community Engagement.

Detailed consultation work has been carried out to ensure we have captured the community's concerns and priorities for improvement.

CEC staff visited the community councils, explaining the intention and design of the Local Community Plan and gathering feedback. CEC staff also attended various community events, providing information on Neighbourhood Partnerships and collecting the community's views.

Public workshops conducted alongside the Neighbourhood Partnership Board identified the broad areas of interest, which roughly align with the strategic outcomes identified by the City of Edinburgh Council and the National Outcomes of the Scottish Government.

The Board members representing community councils then undertook to refine the key service areas in consultation with their membership and the wider community. This took place via a detailed questionnaire, which each community council completed and returned. Further workshops and business meetings refined the initial findings, contributing to the actions detailed in the Plan.

Additional research was conducted among specialist interest groups, for example on health and the built environment.

A joint event was held with the local Community Health Partnership to examine health issues in the area from the perspectives of both health professionals and the local community.

Staff from the CEC's Children & Families worked closely with partner agencies to align their own service plan with the Local Community Plan and contribute their expertise to the relevant areas of work.

The South West Housing Area Board contributed views on the built environment and housing matters, including tenancy issues. Walkabouts in the local area with community representatives and service partners helped to identify specific issues and activities.

The Partnership and Information Manager conducted research in conjunction with other service provider partners, establishing what existing data was available as a baseline for assessment of the Partnership's work. This was

done by utilising the findings of the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation to target specific geographies.

From these findings, more detailed priorities emerged and were reviewed by the group in a series of iterations until the core priorities, outcomes and actions were established and agreed.

The results of our consultation showed that the community's key priorities are:

1. Environment and green space
2. Community safety
3. Health
4. Community resources
5. Skills and employment
6. Transport

The intention is that this Local Community Plan will continue to be regularly reviewed and adapted to ensure it continues to meet the community's needs. Continued community engagement will be key to ensure that our Plan remains relevant and effective in achieving our shared goals.

The views of black and minority ethnic groups and the disabled are currently less well represented, and a goal for the coming year is to ensure these groups have the opportunity to have their say. We are working with Score Scotland and other community groups to improve our engagement activities with these minority groups.

We thank everyone who has contributed to the Plan and ask that you continue to work with us throughout the Plan's life, bringing forward your own views and information to help us improve our community.



## Priority 1 - Environment and green space

The Pentlands area contains part of a unique natural resource in the form of the Pentland Hills Regional Park. Its 10,000 hectares are maintained by three local authorities and include two country parks, farmland, a military training ground, reservoirs, woodlands and extensive areas of rugged upland terrain.

The Regional Park and other parks in the area form a wealth of green space, creating an amenity for the local community and the whole of Edinburgh. This resource needs to be carefully managed and protected, ensuring its ongoing maintenance and enabling it to be enjoyed and appreciated by all.

The Edinburgh and the Lothians Structure Plan provides for 70,000 new dwellings in the region by 2015. It aims to protect the green belt in line with national policy and to give priority to developing brownfield land in the city. It also anticipates the expansion of nearby settlements in the Lothians.

The communities in the Pentlands area range from rural hamlets to high density housing. The Pentlands include a number of villages with unique communities and identities. One challenge will be to preserve the character of these communities through ensuring that the built environment is effectively maintained and the natural environment is protected.

Because all communities within the area share the desire to live and work in pleasant surroundings, with clean, well kept buildings and public spaces accessible to all, housing and public buildings must be maintained to a good standard.

### **Local Outcome**

Local people are more satisfied with their environment.

### **Key Action**

Preserve and enhance the unique physical identity of our local area.

### **National Outcome**

We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.

### **Measuring our success:**

- Cleaner streets
- Well-maintained, accessible parks
- Housing fit for purpose
- Walkabout feedback and actions

## Priority 2 - Community Safety

Antisocial behaviour is a problem for all communities. While neighbourhoods within the Pentland Hills and Colinton/Fairmilehead wards experience crime levels that are lower than the Scottish average (based on the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation), this is still an issue of concern for local people. Of particular concern is antisocial behaviour linked to underage drinking.

The fear of crime is equally as real as crime itself. Community perceptions need to be identified and where appropriate challenged. Accurate reporting of crime, a forum where the community can air its concerns and proactive behaviour such as establishing Neighbourhood Watch groups can all reduce the fear of crime and help a community to feel safer.

The Partnership agrees that managing antisocial behaviour and improving people's feelings of safety in the community requires joint working to succeed. The goal of safer communities is shared by the major service providers. Several shared service projects are already well established, for example the teams of police who work in conjunction with local Council offices.

Measures such as improving street lighting and designing community safety measures into the built environment can improve people's feelings of security and reduce or eliminate crime hotspots.

Relevant, attractive youth activities will give our young people more options for spending their time. Existing work such as the Cool Down Crew, operated by the Lothian & Borders Fire and Rescue Service, has been proven to engage young people with behavioural issues and to have lasting effects. The challenge for this Plan will be to build on these existing activities in all areas.

### **Local Outcome**

Reduced antisocial behaviour.

### **Key Action**

Provide activities, support and appropriate venues for young people.

### **National Outcome**

We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.

### **Measuring our success:**

- Reduced crime levels
- Reduced fear of crime (the Edinburgh Household Survey)
- Youth activities to reach and engage the target audience

### Priority 3 - Health

The people in the Pentlands area are healthier than the Scottish average, having a lower level of risk associated with poor health (eg, admission rates for alcohol or drug taking or prescriptions for anxiety, depression or psychosis).

Establishing healthy habits early in life is agreed to be an important long term solution to health needs. Several local community groups are involved in promoting healthy lifestyles in the Neighbourhood, and local schools such as Firrhill High School do particularly good community work in this area.

Provision of health services in the Neighbourhood is generally agreed to be good. However services could be better publicised and more information provided on what is available locally.

This includes locally-delivered services such as NHS services, medical services, CEC support services, home care, Health and Social Care services, and voluntary sector health support services.

Access to health and health-related services, particularly for older people, is a concern which will become increasingly important as the population ages. The transfer of major services from the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary to St Johns Hospital in Livingston causes some segments of the community great difficulty in travelling for treatment or to visit patients, friends or relatives. This issue will continue to be of importance to the community and is expected to feature in future Local Community Plans.

**Local Outcome**

Reduced health inequalities.

**Key Action**

Identify and improve access to local community health providers and services.

**National Outcome**

We live longer, healthier lives.

#### Measuring our success:

- Better awareness of local health services and providers
- Information and advice on healthy lifestyles available to all
- Young people informed and engaged on healthy choices

## Priority 4 - Skills and Employment

Based upon the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation, the Pentlands Neighbourhood has high levels of overall well-being. Currie, for example, is one of the 10per cent “least deprived” areas of Scotland. However there are a few small pockets towards the north east of the area where deprivation ranks amongst the worst 5-15 per cent in Scotland.

Across the Pentlands Neighbourhood there is a lower than average rate of people excluded from the world of work, with fewer members of the working age population being unemployed or not involved in the labour market due to ill health or disability. The Neighbourhood also scores well on education, with higher than average levels of people within education, moving into further education and performing well at school.

The Neighbourhood Partnership is keen that the Pentlands area should continue to build on its successes and increase opportunities, especially for the younger members of the community. Community feedback suggests that additional support for parents to increase their confidence and ability to engage with their children would be of benefit.

There is also interest in developing opportunities for local people to become self-employed and increasing access to learning opportunities for all age groups.

### **Local Outcome**

Increased number of young people moving on to positive destinations after school.

### **Key Action**

Helping our young people attain better results in school and move successfully into work, training or further education.

### **National Outcome**

Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

### **Measuring our success:**

- Community activities based around schools
- School attainment levels
- Destinations after school (further education, training or work)

## Priority 5 - Community Resources

The Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership covers a wide geographic area, with rural and semi-rural communities. Suitable community facilities and services bring many positive results, for example reducing social exclusion and increasing community cohesion. This includes appropriate and affordable housing, well-maintained and accessible roads and footways, and places to meet and share interests.

The population of the Pentlands area is an ageing population, and over the longer term, provision must be made to ensure that appropriate housing and age-related services are available to meet community need. Affordable housing, while less of an issue than in some parts of the city, is still important in the Pentlands, especially in areas such as Oxgangs and Clovenstone. The City's long-term housing strategy includes the building of new affordable homes and public housing.

In the shorter term and within the scope of the Local Community Plan, communities require an awareness and understanding of what facilities are available and for those facilities to be attractive, useful and fit for purpose. By increasing awareness of the facilities currently available, existing venues have the potential to be utilised in better ways, and by more people.

Equally important and tying in to our outcome for Community Safety is the provision of community activities. Reducing social exclusion and giving vulnerable groups such as the elderly or young people relevant, interesting activities and gathering points will help to strengthen our community links.

This area of work has strong links to other priorities, for instance community safety, skills and employment and health. The results of our consultation will influence the development of the Action Plan for other relevant priorities. They have also been fed back to service providers such as Community Learning and Development for inclusion in their own service plans.

### **Local Outcome**

Increased take-up of community activities.

### **Key Action**

Improve awareness of and access to local activities and community facilities.

### **National Outcome**

We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.

### **Measuring our success:**

- Increased usage of community facilities
- Qualitative data from neighbourhood survey
- Increased membership of local groups

## Priority 6 - Transport

By 2024, approximately 150,000 additional people are projected to live in the Edinburgh subregion, with 62,000 additional people living in Edinburgh itself. This growth creates demand for new infrastructure, particularly transport. Of the 310,000 people who work in Edinburgh, around 72,000 commute into the City and this is expected to rise to 100,000 by 2014.

The Pentlands area includes sections of major routes such as the M8 and A720 (City Bypass). Transport in rural areas, especially within the Pentlands ward, offers less access to key services than in other parts of the city. There is a heavy reliance on private car use, with associated effects on the environment and traffic congestion. Use of park & ride sites is increasing rapidly, with 75 per cent of the spaces at Hermiston occupied at peak times in September 2006. A further park & ride site has been opened at Straiton, serving the local community.

Recent changes to bus services have caused concern in the community. The Pentlands has an ageing population which is asset-rich but in some areas cash-poor. Older people or those with health needs who become unable to drive may find themselves increasingly isolated. Access to health providers, community activities and friends and family can become constrained, leading to poor health, strain on finances, stress and social exclusion.

The Scottish Government's National Outcome 10 states: "We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need."

It is acknowledged that public transport providers are independent, commercial companies and do not come under the control of any of the Partnership's member services. However, as a matter of concern to the local community, it has been included in the Local Community Plan and we hope to be able to influence the future development of public transport in our area.

### **Local Outcome**

Improved access to public transport.

### **Key Action**

Campaign for better public transport links with St Johns Hospital.

### **National Outcome**

We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need

### **Measuring our success:**

- "Mobility gap" (the number and type of trips undertaken by an average individual compared to a disadvantaged user)
- More/better use of existing transport services
- Transport planning forms part of regeneration plans

## **The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF)**

The Scottish Government has tasked all public agencies to work in partnership and deliver more focused services to those in most need (the Single Outcome Agreement). The Government has made money available to help us do this and this funding is known as the Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF).

The Edinburgh Partnership is the city-wide body who hold the FSF and decide where it will be spent. The Edinburgh Partnership has agreed that the FSF money will be spent on three key areas of work. These are:

- Early intervention (providing support for vulnerable families, children and young people)
- Reducing health inequalities
- Improving employability

The FSF Progress Report of 30 September 2008 states that:

"The Strategic Partnerships' programmes of activity will focus on the same disadvantaged individuals, groups and areas as the Neighbourhood partnerships and the programmes will be informed by neighbourhood fund priorities as reflected in Local Community Plans".

The amount of FSF awarded to each partnership by the Edinburgh Partnership is based on the proportion of the population who fall within the worse 5% of levels of deprivation within Edinburgh.

For 2009/2010, £144,387 has been allocated to the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership. In addition there is a carry-over of £70,248 from 2208/2009, making a total of £214,635. A sum of £143,171 is allocated for 2010/2011.

The Local Community Plan focuses on identifying how partners can best work together to maximise our outcomes. This means that we want to find ways we can get more value for money for our main service budgets as well. By working more effectively we can fund more activities to help us achieve our outcomes.

### **Further Information and Comments**

For more information and comments on the Local Community Plan, please contact:

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