



Welcome message from Councillor Child

Welcome to the second edition of the Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) newsletter. There's been lots of activity in the past few months including the Community Council Induction, £eith Decides, Students in the Community and my very first live Twitter Q&A, all of which you will hear more about!

Spring is also the beginning of a new financial year. Our Community Grants Funds (CGF) are full and welcoming applications. This edition explains more about NP funding and how it supports local activity.

2014 is a big year for NPs as it sees the end of the current NP local community plans and the launch of our refreshed plans and priorities in Autumn. You can shape your local community plans by getting involved, do get in touch using the contact information provided, for your area.

I hope you enjoy reading and if you have any feedback, please let us know.

Councillor Maureen Child
Convener, Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

Imagine your perfect neighbourhood – what would the future look like?

Every day, neighbourhoods are changing and improving. Working together, NPs are communities (through Community Councils), Health, Fire, Police, voluntary sector and local ward councillors supporting local people to make a difference to their area.

As our city's experts, play your part. Do it now! By listening to local matters we can plan services around what you feel we should be doing to improve your area. Working with others helps to get it right together

Get involved by attending a NP or community council meeting, visit your Council neighbourhood office, send a tweet, email or speak to your local councillor, and let them know what you think.

Email

neighbourhood.partnerships@edinburgh.gov.uk

Web www.edinburghnp.org.uk

Or come and talk to us at one of our many events –
www.edinburghnp.org.uk/events



Got a bright idea? We can help

Community Grants Fund

The NP Community Grants Fund is a small grant scheme provided by the Council and managed through the NP. Grants are available for local community groups to fund projects and activities in their local area that contribute to delivering the local community plan priorities.

Applications are welcome all year and are discussed and approved by the NP. Community grants have been used to fund a range of projects and activities across the city including employability initiatives, computer skills classes, health eating initiatives, galas, community gardens and much more.

To apply for a grant or find out more, visit www.edinburghnp.org.uk/about-nps/funding



Leith Decides

The fourth annual Leith Decides took place on Saturday 15 February 2014 in the Leith Community Education Centre.

Leith NP uses a Participatory Budgeting (PB) approach to allocate a proportion of their Community Grants Fund annually. PB directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending of a defined budget. A total of £22,885 from the 2013/14 fund was awarded by the NP to 26 projects to support local activity.

How does it work?

Leith Decides engages anyone who lives, works or studies in the Leith NP area to vote on local projects. This year, 1,035 Leithers scored 42 projects through postal voting, in libraries and on the day.

Four weeks before the event, scoring opened and all the applicants were invited to take part in a poster competition in McDonald Road and Leith Libraries. This provided as many people as possible the opportunity to influence the funding allocation as they may not have been able to attend on the day. Postal voting was also available for the second year.

In addition to funding, the community groups have reported that Leith Decides has 'enabled them to make new contacts'. One group said that Leith NP have made a positive impact to the morale of their group and applicants also reported that it was a great opportunity to network, raise awareness of their projects and recruit volunteers.

To find out more, contact Loraine Duckworth, Partnership Development Officer, Services for Communities (<mailto:loraine.duckworth@edinburgh.gov.uk>)

Students in the Community

The fourth annual 'Students in the Community' event was held on Wednesday 29 January 2014. Hosted by Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA), the event was held in the Debating Hall, Teviot Row House.

'Students in the Community' is South Central's annual PB event. This year, £6,000 of Community Grants Funding was allocated by the NP to the event. In addition, for the first time, South Central NP devolved the decision making of award allocation solely to the results of the evening.

Last year's winning project was The Shrub Project, who were awarded a grant to kick-start their 'Re-use and Repair' service which is open to students, staff, alumni and the wider community. As a result of the grant, they have established premises on Guthrie Street and anecdotal evidence suggests this has reduced the amount of dumping on the streets at the end of term.



How does it work?

This year, 6 projects applied and were judged by 60 people from across South Central NP area including students, local groups, community councils, police and elected members.

For Students in the Community, projects do not have to apply in advance; instead, they arrive on the evening and discuss their idea in facilitated workshops before pitching to the whole audience. Votes are cast in order to select the most preferred proposals.

This year, the first four most popular projects were provided funding. This included a community festival, a confidential support and advice service run by students, a cultural exchange festival and a programme of economics workshops delivered to schools by students.

Added benefits of the event include it provides an opportunity for other exciting connections to be made between students and local groups. EUSA will continue to highlight opportunities for students to connect with the community and local groups by promoting the Community Grant Fund, linking students with volunteering projects through EUSA Volunteering and supporting the societies that are active in the community.

To participate in the next event or find out more, contact Margaret Campbell, Partnership Development Officer, Services for Communities (<mailto:margaret.campbell@edinburgh.gov.uk>)

Community Funding Support Programme

In addition to the Community Grants Fund, NPs support community groups to access funding in many ways.

The Community Funding Support Programme delivers a range of activities including Meet the Funders marketplace events, How to Apply for a Grant workshops and access to monthly funding bulletins and a comprehensive funding booklet.

Meet the Funders

Meet the Funders is a free marketplace event hosted by the NPs several times during the year.

Exhibitors are invited from funding agencies over the UK and previous exhibitors have included Bank of Scotland Foundation, Sport Scotland and The Big Lottery.

The event offers groups the opportunity to speak to funders about their projects, network with other community groups and have a range of organisations in one place.

The next Meet the Funders takes place on Thursday 1 May 2014, 1pm-4pm, Assembly Rooms, George Street. All welcome and no need to book!

How to Apply for a Grant workshop

The free workshops are held across the City to support community groups to apply for grant funding to deliver local projects in their neighbourhood.

The workshops provide practical advice and guidance to applicants to improve their skills in the application process. Activities include drafting and assessing mock applications, and exercises that promote the range of funding opportunities that are available to them.

Feedback from the workshop participants has been positive and they have said that the sessions have 'useful', 'enjoyable' and have helped them to understand the application process better.

Places must be booked in advance. For more details and dates for upcoming workshops visit www.edinburghnp.org.uk

For further information about all the activity in the Community Funding Support Programme contact Maureen Thompson, Policy Assistant, Services for Communities (Maureen.Thompson@edinburgh.gov.uk) or visit www.edinburghnp.org.uk/about-nps/funding

Around the town

Events happening in the City

Community Council Induction

Over 100 community councillors attended two induction events in January and March 2014.

The induction provided an introduction to the roles and responsibilities of community councils including statutory responsibilities associated with planning and licensing. Attendees heard presentations from the Council's Planning Service, Committee Services and an update on the work of Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Opportunities for networking and discussion generated some lively discussion and members were asked for ideas to develop a future development and support programme. Initial ideas include further sessions on Data Protection, Community Engagement and Neighbourhood Partnerships. Two future sessions on Planning are already scheduled in May and June based on this feedback.



The first event was [live tweeted](#) and filmed. Video footage of the presentations, guidance notes and other induction materials are available from www.edinburghnp.org.uk/community-councils and can be used by community councils and other groups as a valuable resource.



Dementia Friendly Approach – Almond NP

Almond and Western NP's Joint Health and Community Care Sub Group is currently working with local partners and providers towards creating a 'dementia friendly approach' in West Edinburgh.

In response to feedback from the community in Cramond, they are hosting a drop in advice session for dementia sufferers and their carers' in the local area in Cramond Kirk on Tuesday 10 June 2014.

This event supports the multi agency citywide dementia campaign launched in November by the Health and Wellbeing Convener, Councillor Ricky Henderson, together with Helen Hay, Regional Manager, Alzheimer Scotland.



Celebrating Craigmillar

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Craigmillar Festival, the statue of Dr Helen Crummy was unveiled in March outside the East Neighbourhood Centre.

The project was delivered by Portobello & Craigmillar NP Environment Forum and Craigmillar Castle Regeneration Group.

Unveiled by Edinburgh art patron, Richard Demarco, the sculpture is only one of three public statues in the city to honour women. It also incorporates work by local children and adults in Craigmillar.



Health Focus

Promoting health and wellbeing in the City



Hope Triangle Health Project

Supported by the Pentlands NP Health, Environmental and Community Safety Sub Groups, this project was the direct result of the loss of young people from suicide, predominately males, in the Oxfangs area.

The aims of the project were as follows:

- To create a space that would encourage reflection and calm.
- To disseminate mental health and well being information.
- Assist with change in cognitive thoughts and behaviour.
- Assist to strengthen and support community volunteering.
- Put environmental activity at the heart of the mental health recovery process.

Learning about the impact outdoor spaces can have on local people's lives through stories, meeting new people and experiencing outdoor hands-on activities around the Hope Triangle.

Since the project started there have been four art therapy workshops attended by 94 participants, three joinery workshops attended by 40 local young males and three community planting events.

Future projects include hedge laying sessions, facilitated by Scottish National Trust, joinery workshops targeting young local females, art therapy workshops and the ongoing development of paths by the Community Services Team for Justice.

Broomhouse Health Strategy Group

20 years ago three local women's groups' organised a Community Health Day in Broomhouse as they felt there was not enough happening locally to support the health and wellbeing of local residents. This led to the setting up of Broomhouse Health Strategy Group (BHSG) and its volunteer-run fruit and vegetable shop.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of volunteering, BHSG held a street party with the support of a Community Grant from the South West NP.

Bringing the community together over 230 local people attended the street party. Held in Broomhouse Market, there was a live DJ and a range of free activities for all the family, from helping to create a piece of Anniversary Art, to fun fruit activities and sports taster sessions in Broomhouse Grove.

North Neighbourhood Health Fairs

Health fairs were held in Forth and Inverleith NPs to promote access to local health opportunities, provide information on healthy lifestyles and specifically on how to increase physical activity. They were also an opportunity for local people to tell NPs what they think the local health priorities are.

The events involved Edinburgh Leisure, Sustrans, NHS Lothian & Pilton Community Health Project amongst others.

Over 100 people participated, tasting healthy snacks and trying out physical activities, and local organisations were on hand to provide information and advice to improve general health. Free blood pressure checks were also on offer and this resulted in some people being advised to see their GPs.



DO IT NOW!

Refreshing our communications

In response to your feedback from the NP review in 2013, we have been busy looking at how to refresh our communications approach. This involves reviewing our branding and we will shortly unveil our new look.



In January 2014, we introduced our NP Twitter account, @Edin_NPs, which now has over 200 followers, and we recently hosted our first live Q&A session with Councillor Maureen Child (as pictured below).



To further increase our online presence, we have created our first Pinterest board; 'In your neighbourhood' which can be viewed at www.pinterest.com/edinburghcc/in-your-neighbourhood/

The Pinterest board allows us to display our engagement activity visually and share images. If you have photos from a NP supported community event you can follow and share with us online or email them to us to be added to the collection.



#askNPs

The NP twitter account, [@Edin_NPs](https://twitter.com/Edin_NPs), was launched on Monday 13 January 2014. By introducing the account, @Edin_NPs aims to:

- Raise awareness of the role of NPs
- Increase community participation through online dialogue
- Promote NP success

On Tuesday 25th March, @Edin_NPs held a live Twitter Q&A with Councillor Maureen Child. Using #askNPs, participants were invited to submit questions to pose to Councillor Child in advance via email or twitter; in addition to tweeting question live on the day.

Topics discussed included Community Councils, Planning and Youth Engagement. The full discussion is available as a [timeline to view](#) and an evaluation including of all the questions and answers is available from www.edinburghnp.org.uk.

Further live discussions are being planned to focus on key themes that are being delivered through NPs and extended to members of the NP Boards, which include partners from Health, Fire, Police, community councils and voluntary sector representatives.

NP website

Thank you for all the responses received from the NP website survey. We are currently collating the feedback to inform the redesign proposal and next steps so keep visiting the site to see changes take place on www.edinburghnp.org.uk

Tell us what you think so far

For the second edition of the newsletter we are trying out a new style – what do you think?

If you have a suggestion or comment on how we can improve communications, contact Saty Kaur, Senior Partnership & Communications Officer
(Saty.Kaur@edinburgh.gov.uk)



Dates for your diary

May

Thurs 1 – Meet the Funders

Tues 6 – Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

Wed 7 – Almond NP meeting

Thurs 8 – Pentlands NP Health and Wellbeing Sub Group

Sun 11 – Grange Fair, Newington Library

Tues 13 – Craigentinny & Duddingston NP meeting / 'Action Together' South Central & Liberton Gilmerton NP event

Fri 16 – South West NP Transport & Environment Forum / Leith NP Community Conference

Wed 21 – Pentlands NP Funding Panel

Wed 28 – Portobello & Craigmillar NP meeting

More dates can be found at

www.edinburghnp.org.uk/events

or follow us on Twitter for up to date info on events [@Edin_NPs](https://twitter.com/Edin_NPs)

June

Mon 2 – Pentlands NP Community Safety Sub Group

Tues 3 – South West NP meeting

Sat 7 – City Centre NP community day / Meadows Festival

Sun 8 – Meadows Festival

Tues 10 – Pentlands NP / Almond and Western NP Dementia Awareness Day

Wed 11 – South West NP Funding Panel

Thurs 12 – City Centre NP

Sat 14 – Pentlands NP Local Community Plan public consultation

Monday 16 – South Central NP meeting

Wed 18 – Liberton Gilmerton NP meeting

Fri 20 – Liberton Gilmerton NP 'Sports Fest'

Mon 23 – Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee / Leith NP meeting / South West NP Community Safety Sub Group

Your news and events

The third edition of the NP newsletter will be available from end June. If you have a story or event that you would like to share with us, email neighbourhood.partnerships@edinburgh.gov.uk or contact Saty Kaur on 0131 469 5281 to discuss.



HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

ترجمہ کے لئے ہمارے آوازوں کے ساتھ ترجمہ کرنے کا
بِسْمَعِنَا نُوَفِّرُ التَّرْجُمَةَ MOZEMY PRZETŁUMACZYĆ 很乐意翻译

You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats if you ask us. Please contact Interpretation and Translation Service (ITS) on 0131 242 8181 and quote reference number 14-0100.

ITS can also give information on community language translations. You can get more copies of this document by calling 0131 469 5281