

ELCV AGM

9 am, Thursday 20th December, 2018
Council Chambers, Town House, Haddington

Present; Dave Oldham (Chair), Kate Odling, Dave Quarendon, Mike Sharp, Dick Gill, Jane Campbell, Colin Ballantyne, Peter Wells, Anne Pearson, Abbie Marland, John Laws, Duncan Priddle, John Harrison, Thomas Bower, Chris Gunstone, Morag Cook, Angus Currie, Dave Habgood, Paul Ince, Morag Reeves, Rod Reeves, Rob Brown, Robert Russel, Margaret Allen, John Hardy, Louise Hardy.

Apologies: Katty Baird

Welcome & 2018 Review

ELCV was established in August 2017 by expanding the remit of the Path Wardens to become an umbrella group under which many smaller groups can apply for funding. The first year (extended to Dec 2018) has seen a lot of activity. 10 volunteer groups formed the core at the start with approximately 200 volunteers. Two new groups have joined the ELCV – The Mountain Hare project and the Friends of the River Tyne. There are plans for other groups to join in the near future.

Accounts

ELCV has to submit accounts to OSCR for approval every calendar year. 2017 accounts were examined by an independent auditor and submitted in Dec 2017. The accounts for 2018 will be submitted in early 2019.

In brief ELCV started off with a balance of ~£2200 from the Path Wardens. Over the 2 years there has been an income of slightly more than £10 000 and expenditure of slightly less than £10 000 so there is a balance of ~£2400

Summaries of ongoing projects:

New Path

A new path was made from the North side of Haddington to Blackmains Toll £9000 was given by the Haddington Area Partnership to create this new path.

Butterfly conservation

A collaboration between ELCV, ELC and Butterfly Conservation Scotland (BCS) has worked to move a colony of rare butterflies from Blindwells to a new habitat at Levenhall Links. The project will run over 2 years.

BCS donated £1000 to fund the creation of the new site. The caterpillar and eggs of the butterflies will be transferred in Spring 2019.

BCS have subsequently agreed to become advisers for the development of an ash lagoon into a meadow/wetland area for wildlife.

ELCV Website & Facebook pages

The Facebook page has hundreds of regular postings about the activities of volunteers. The page attracts visitors and members.

The Website contains information about the ELCV and gets about 30 hits per week. Sub sections of the site are accessed to varying degrees with path descriptions, dates pages, minutes and the Aberlady hub project all accessed frequently.

Aberlady Hub Project

An office/meeting place is going to be created on the Aberlady Local Nature reserve so that volunteers can carry out work such as surveys independently. The Hub will be a modified container

sited next to the 2 existing containers. A planning application has been lodged and should get approval by mid January 2019. Approximately £17 000 will be applied for from the Heritage Lottery Fund so that the container can be purchased.

Invasive Species project

The initial stage of this project is to target Giant Hogweed (GH) along the banks for the River Tyne from the A68 to the sea. James Wyllie (ex- NFU president) has been trying to eradicate GH for 25 years and has made great progress. The riparian owners of land have agreed to spray or dig up GH from their land. ELCV are to contribute by spotting the plants and letting the landowners know. The spray used by farmers is Roundup which is the licensed product for GH eradication. SNH has been asked for a £1000 donation to contribute to chemical costs and media coverage. There will be a mid-February meeting with the farmers and a formal launch in Invasives Week (last week of March). Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam are the next 2 invasive species to be tackled.

Appointment of Trustees and Office Bearings

All Trustees and Office Bearers stepped down from their positions. Everyone indicated that they were willing to serve another year.

The re-appointment of the **12 ELCV trustees** (Dave Oldham, Dick Gill, Kate Odling, Dave Quarandon, Abbie Marland, Katty Baird, Peter Wells, Mike Sharp, John Laws, Jane Campbell, Anne Pearson, Colin Ballantyne) were **proposed** by Louise Hardy and **seconded** by Paul Ince. Kate Odling was re-appointed Secretary. **Proposed** by Jane Campbell and **seconded** by Dick Gill. Dick Gill was re-appointed Treasurer. **Proposed** by Dave Oldham and **seconded** by Peter Wells. Dave Oldham was re-appointed Chairperson. **Proposed** by Dave Quarandon and **seconded** by Abbie Marland.