

Participation Request Outcome Improvement Plan			
Community Body, and lead contact	Gorebridge Community Cares Ellen Scott		
Department and lead member of staff	Communities Team	Communities Officer	Gillian Cousin
What is the outcome the community body want to improve?	"Involved in discussions from the very beginning about the siting of a new high school for Gorebridge"		
Why does the community body want to be involved in the improvement process?	"We believe that it is of paramount importance that the local community should be consulted on this, not when the plans have already been drawn up and the decision making process has been made and consultation is merely a paper exercise, but a meaningful dialogue between equals – Midlothian Council and the local community."		
What knowledge, expertise or experience will the group bring to the improvement process?	"Our group has extensive experience in working with the community. We were the lead organisation in the Gorebridge Community Action Plan 2015-2020, which was later adopted by Midlothian Council as its new Gorebridge Neighbourhood Plan. The Chair worked at the University of Edinburgh for 23 years as a Senior Administrative Officer and was the Secretary to the University Ethical Review Committee for many years, so has experience not only of educational issues, but also decision making processes involved. The Chair is also a member of Developing Midlothian's Young Workforce. Other Trustees, have great experience in working in primary schools, retired matron of NHS unit, a geologist and other important skills which give them the ability to become involved in this consultation process."		
How will the group be involved in the improvement process?	"We will contribute by: Attending meetings and taking part in discussions Working with Officers from Midlothian Council disseminating information to the community, through our successful Facebook page and community noticeboards, calling public meetings if required, asking the local community what their opinions are, raising concerns and solutions with the Officers."		
When, with whom and how will the group have an opportunity to inform the decision making process?	Education and Planning will link in with Gorebridge Futures (Neighbourhood Plan) to discuss the siting of a new High School in Gorebridge with the local community. A variety of local groups are represented at the neighbourhood planning meetings including Gorebridge Community Cares, Gorebridge Community Council and Gorebridge Community Development Trust. It was discussed and agreed that NHS, whilst they agreed to the Participation Request, would no longer be involved in these immediate discussions as NHS Lothian have no long term plans for further primary care provision in the Gorebridge area.		
What are the realistic timescales for completing the outcome improvement process?	It is anticipated that there will be a new high school in Gorebridge by 2024. A date for all interested parties to meet has been scheduled for February 2018 and it is anticipated that these discussions will continue indefinitely until the new school is operational.		

Date received	16/06/17	Date acknowledged	20/06/17	Validation Date	11/08/17	Date agreed	12/12/17
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