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# **PRESTONGRANGE MUSEUM & THE PRESTONPANS TAPESTRY**

# Summary of engagement undertaken to date

* 91 survey responses
* 12 stakeholder interviews
* 12 responses from local schools to bespoke education questionnaire
* Attendance at Re-Enactment Event in September 2015
* Two-day trip to Prestonpans to undertake engagement with the Red Roof Youth Centre, Prestonpans Community Centre and Prestonpans Community Council. Questionnaires also dropped off at the local library
* Meetings with East Lothian officers and councillors to discuss the partnership.

# Preliminary Survey Results

91 people have responded to our survey, distributed both online and at engagement events. Of those, 52% of respondents have seen the Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry.

## Visitation to Prestongrange Industrial Heritage Museum

* A majority (65%) of respondents have visited the Prestongrange Industrial Heritage; 22% have not heard of it
* 57% of respondents know about it because they live nearby
* A majority of visitors go to the museum less than once a year and 65% get there by car
* Reasons for visiting: 71% said they visit for general leisure; other reasons for visiting include going to learn about the museum collections/site (44%), attend an event (24%) or to see a *particular* exhibition

## Public Priorities

For the new museum, the biggest priorities were:

* For an engaging display revealing the history of the local area
* For the Prestonpans Tapestry displayed in its entirety and revealing the full story of the battle
* And for high quality visitor facilities such as café, shop and toilets.

Heritage Priorities

There is a particularly high demand for local history, with less interest in industrial history - appetite for social history, archaeological history and battle history are on par.

## Activities and Events

There is a strong interest for event days and festivals (74%) and re-enactments (66%). Approximately 50% of people were interested in guided tours, outdoor activities, talks and lectures, family and children’s activities and markets.

Survey responses have indicated a significant appetite for local history, which suggests that a holistic approach should be taken towards interpretation in the new museum. It can be a place that tells the story of the area, with the Bath House focusing on the battle story, but with the site as a whole encompassing a number of different stories.

# Stakeholder Interviews

Early engagement has been important to gather early thoughts and comments from stakeholders and communicate that the project is in development, given previous history with potential developments on the site, and

Twelve stakeholder interviews have taken place face-to-face and over the phone. Further interviews are planned for the first couple of weeks in January.

## Wider Context

* Developing this project in the context of what happens at Cockenzie Power Station is important
* This project could complement other local attractions and is in a good location near major routes
* As part of the East Lothian Visitor Attractions Group, museum could work collaboratively with other local attractions to attract people to the region – focus with the group is on the wide variety on offer in East Lothian
* Important to attract the John Muir market, e.g. through better signage
* Need to encourage community access through Cuthill Park and create connections between the railway station and the site.

## Interpretation and Exhibition

* A couple of stakeholders mentioned creating an ‘authentic’ experience
* Must not lose the industrial heritage and mining story from the site – this is very important to the local community
* There is a huge history connected to the local area - so much more than the Battle - and the site should reflect that
* Got to be family- and child-orientated, interactive and a learning experience
* Tactile handling and memory boxes and good for children with special educational needs
* Some believe the battle stories and mining stories can work together (“good to have things on the one site”): others are less sure about how this will sit comfortable together
* Distance from the battlefield could be an issue but film and technology can be used to make the link
* Suggested activities: battle re-enactments, nature trails, storytelling area, guided walks, creative activities.

## General

* General support for development at Prestongrange Museum
* Must tie in with the Area Plan e.g. employment opportunities, health and wellbeing (such as connecting pathways through Cuthill Park), appropriate for young families and people with a disability / dementia
* Don’t advertise enough – lots to shout about in the local area
* Need to be clear about the market for battle visitors – and make sure that the site remains relevant for local people
* Anything that provides opportunities for young people in terms of employment and training is welcomed

## Stakeholders Consulted

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| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Method of engagement** |
| Peter Ford | Chair of Preston, Seton and Gosford Area Trust | Telephone interview |
| Alison Brodie | Drummohr Holiday Park | Telephone interview |
| Sandra King | East Lothian Council: Area Partnership for Preston, Seton and Gosford | Telephone interview |
| Esther Wilson | East Lothian Council: Cockenzie Community Forum | Telephone interview |
| Susan Smith | East Lothian Council: Economic Development Unit | Telephone interview |
| Margaret McDonald | East Lothian Council: Prestonpans Community Centre | Face-to-face meeting |
| Pauline Jaffrey | East Lothian Life | Telephone interview |
| Colin Forbes | East Lothian Works | Telephone interview |
| George Findlater | Historic Environment Scotland | Telephone interview |
| Anne McMeekin | National Museum of Scotland | Telephone interview |
| Various | Prestonpans Community Council | Attended council meeting |
| Librarian | Prestonpans Library | Delivered questionnaires for display |
| Lori Tragheim | Red Roof Youth Centre | Face-to-face meeting |
| Rob Garner | Scottish Natural Heritage (John Muir Way) | Telephone interview |



## Contacted with Request to Circulate Survey Link / Awaiting Response

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| **Name** | **Organisation** |
| Andrew Crummy | Artist |
| Pauline Grandison | Coalfields Regeneration Trust |
| Veronica Wild and Wilma Porteous | East Lothian Council: Museums |
| Jonathan Brown | East Lothian Council: Tourism |
| Zoe Inglis | Friends of Cuthill Park |
| waukin@battleofprestonpans1745.org | Prestonpans Arts Festival |
| Tim Porteous | Storyteller |
| Linda McNeill | Strive |
| Anne Taylor / Carol Black | The Gothenburg |

# Schools Survey

Ten schools in the local area have responded to our schools survey:

* St Gabriel's Roman Catholic Primary School
* Wallyford Primary School
* Sandersons Wynd Primary School
* Prestonpans Infant School
* Longniddry Primary School
* Musselburgh Grammar School x 3 responses
* Ross High School
* Dunbar Grammar
* North Berwick High School
* Dalkeith High School

Of these, seven have visited Prestongrange Museum. One of the five who had not visited did not know about the museum. Three of the schools have visited the Prestonpans Tapestry on a school trip.

Most schools visit attractions in Edinburgh for school trips, followed by the Scottish Seabird Centre and John Muir’s Birthplace, attracting an equal number of visits.

History and cross-curricular activities are the most popular curriculum areas to be supported with a class trip. Local history is deemed most important, following by social history, industrial history, battle history, then archaeological history.

A third of schools are happy to pay upwards of £5 per child for a high quality school visit. The main barriers to school trips are cost, coach hire and timing.

It is important to schools that a Learning Officer leads the school activities, although self-guided activities are also considered to be important.

## Key Quotes

* “Cost of travel is the biggest barrier. Prestongrange is great because we can walk there.”
* “As the art dept we don't tend to take the pupils out to historical sites however if you had the tapestry that would be something we would serious consider doing the paperwork for!”
* “We have to have a quality experience if we are to pay the coach fee to return each year.”
* “The Tapestry is wonderful and a Home in East Lothian would bring so many benefits - not just to schools.”

# Surveying at the Re-Enactment Event – September 2015

## Event and Logistics

* Attendance was disappointing on both days due to road closures for the marathon the same weekend
* Survey respondents (mostly holiday makers) commented on the inadequate advertising – some come every year but had not been able to find information on this year’s event
* The event has potentially international appeal: a North American lecturer commented that he had heard of the event in the USA and that it was “big over there.” A stall holder also noted that most of his market for collectible 1745 figurines was in North America
* The event has national appeal: advertising through re-enactment groups was relatively strong and there were actors from Leicester and Newcastle present

## Ideas from the Public for the New Development

* “They used to do a Prestonpans Festival which was fantastic – they should do that again”
* “There are great trails, like the cliff paths” which they felt should feature / be promoted in the new development
* Enthusiasm for the site was strong – we only handed out a maximum of 10 flyers as refusal rate was low (the remainder have been left with the Baroness for distribution)

# Next steps

* Meeting with Helen Harper, East Lothian Council: Community Development
* Workshop with staff and volunteers at Prestongrange Museum
* Second attendance at Prestonpans Community Council
* Follow-up with Nicola Watson at Musselburgh Grammar School re creation of a pilot education activity prior to the HLF submission
* Stronger push on the online survey, as more surveys are required for a meaningful response:
  + Prestongrange Museum re-opens in Easter 2016 – museum staff and volunteers could support surveying
  + Attendance at local event / festival in spring
* Review of the Local Development Plan when it is released in early 2016, to ensure that the project ties in with the wider local objectives
* Circulation of press release announcing partnership between the Trust and East Lothian Council to all stakeholders in engagement list (and further email updates as project progresses).