

Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday, 17th December 2013 held in the Burgh Halls

Present: Chair – Bruce McCallum (BM), Lyn Aitken (LA), Aileen Boyle (AB), Clive Dyson (CD), Brenda Galloway (BG), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Ron Smith (RS), David Tait (DT), Jack Thompson (JT), Verena Throp (VT), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK). Inspector Jocelyn O'Connor, Constable Brian Reid.

Apologies: Councillor Martyn Day (MD), Councillor Tom Conn (TC).

Community Policing in Linlithgow: Inspector O'Connor outlined the current plans for police public counter provision as follows:

- ❖ Until the holidays are over the manning of the public counter will be restricted.
- ❖ After the New Year the public counter will be manned Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm.
- ❖ Once the new Partnership Centre is open in the late spring/summer of 2014 there will be a police desk at front reception. It will be possible to make diary appointments with the community police team and an interview room will be available for more private consultation. The emergency "all hours" telephone will be relocated.

Inspector O'Connor described the challenges faced by Police Scotland specifically with regard to community policing in the new "G" Division into which Linlithgow falls. Response officers will not in future be based in Linlithgow. The exact structure of G Division community policing will become clearer by March 2014. Inspector O'Connor confirmed that a community police officer will attend the majority of future Community Council meetings to report on relevant issues and answer questions.

Inspector O'Connor reported that there had been an overall reduction in crime in Linlithgow. Specific initiatives were a more robust approach to licensing and a focus on garden shed break-ins. Additionally, officers will be tasked to enforce the campaign against violence with a sergeant and six officers being mobile and ready to attend problems wherever they occur. Over the holiday period there will be a focus on road safety, specifically drink-driving during the evening and the morning after. Hospital A & E will receive cover as necessary.

JK raised the issue that there appears to be an increase in problems associated with antisocial parking in the High Street and particularly pavement parking and parking in bus lay-bys. Inspector O'Connor and Constable Reid confirmed that there was currently no parking warden allocated to Linlithgow. The enforcement of parking restrictions (unless a contravention of the law) will in future be the responsibility of the Local Authority. The Community Council to write to West Lothian Council to determine the current policy and enforcement of parking restrictions.

Action AB

DT asked for information on the future of the Linlithgow Police Station building once the police had moved to the partnership centre. The answer was that Linlithgow Police Station is now a part of the Police Scotland estate. The future of the asset will therefore be

determined based upon national requirements. The unique location of Linlithgow means that the current building may be used by specialist teams or it may be disposed of.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the inaugural meeting of 26th November, previously circulated, were corrected to attend to two errors.

1. The quorum for a meeting of the Community Council is four members and not five as minuted.
2. Up to 4 members may be co-opted and not five members as minuted.

Once corrected, the minutes were unanimously approved as a true record of the inaugural meeting of Tuesday 26th November 2013.

The minutes of the Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council meeting of 26th November 2013 were unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting.

1. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes

2. Development and Planning

JK reported no development and planning issues since the previous meeting. The primary action on the planning forum was the response to the Linlithgow Civic Trust draft vision statement. It is anticipated that this statement becomes the vehicle by which the Local Development Plan is audited and commented upon. The Development and Planning Group of the Community Council is being consulted through the planning forum.

4. Health and Social Provision

CD advised that the group had met on 16th November and notes of the meeting would be circulated. It had been decided to provide information on www.llbcc.org.uk for example:

- Times of buses to St John's Hospital
- St John's Hospital Newsletter

It was reported that the Linlithgow Group Medical Practice (LGMP) is constrained by lack of space in Peel House and that many diagnostic and intervention procedures which could be done locally have to be undertaken elsewhere. It was agreed that specific questions would be put to LGMP using the Buchanan Report as background.

VT will attend future CHCP meetings on behalf of the Community Council. The group acknowledge that their focus to date has been on health issues but the importance of social provision is acknowledged and will be addressed.

Action VT

5. Housing and Social Housing

IK referred to a meeting with Jim McEwan Development Manager Housing, WLC, and Grant Walker, WLC on 13th November 2013. IK will circulate notes of the meeting.

Action IK

CD stated that the Community Development Trust could be used as a useful vehicle for maximising the use of local authority owned assets in Linlithgow. TK confirmed that there were no plans to construct council housing in the Linlithgow Ward as part of the current round of council house building. TK reminded the Community Council that if the current restraint clause of the current Local Development Plan is retained then Linlithgow is in danger of stagnating. Members of the Community Council confirmed the view that further development of Linlithgow in terms of infrastructure and housing is essential. TK advised the Community Council to make their voice heard to rid the proposed Local Development Plan of any clause implying constraint to development in Linlithgow.

JK stated that he was disappointed to see that land owned by West Lothian Council which could usefully be used for council housing was currently being advertised for sale, specifically referring to the Rivals Green site. TK advised the Community Council to make their views known.

Action AB

6. Youth Facilities, Youth Groups and Education

There was no report from this group.

7. Communications Group

DT reported that the aim of the group was to have the Community Council mentioned as often as possible citing the recent articles in the Black Bitch magazine and the coverage of the Advent Fayre in the Gazette. DT is inviting copy from the Planning Forum for the next Black Bitch issue. The copy deadline is 15th January. It is intended to obtain feedback from the community through the proposed Black Bitch website. CD suggested that this could be a survey on the web conducted through Survey Monkey or similar. CD will obtain a quotation for undertaking such a survey.

Action CD

8. Events

Various views were expressed regarding ways in which the Advent Fayre could be further enhanced including:

- Intermingling stalls such that the Fayre is seen as one event rather than, as perceived currently as, the Burgh Hall's event, voluntary sector event in The Cross and a farmers market.
- Revisit the public address system and contribution to the event.

- TK advised that the contribution from West Lothian Council is in the form of a grant and that if the Community Council wish to enhance the event through commercial activity then there would be no objection to that.
- A small subgroup of two or three people is to form with TK to consider the Christmas lights for 2014.

Action JK

The Events working group will meet early in 2014 to consider and plan for the events in 2014.

Action JK

9. Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill Consultation

BG introduced the consultation document and briefly outlined the main points from the note previously circulated highlighting the proposed power of the Community Council to request a transfer of publically owned assets. It was agreed that a small sub-group be formed comprising BG, MV and DT to answer those questions which have relevance to L&LBCC.

Action BG

10. Secretary's Report

Items requiring decisions

- *Disabled Parking Bays* – the Community Council has no objection to the proposal. DT stated that the proposed disabled parking bays at the sports club car park are already in place but are rarely used.
- *Perambulation of Linlithgow Marches project* – request for funding from LLBCC. RS outlined funds already received and those requested from other organisations. It was unanimously agreed that the project was very worthy of support and that an application for a special project grant should be made specifically for the heritage information boards. RS will supply details to support the application. In the event that the application fails CD proposed, seconded by JK, that the Community Council commit £250 from its own funds for the project. This decision to be communicated to Linlithgow Civic Trust.

Action RS/AB

- *WLC Community Planning Partnership – Single Outcome Agreement*

Action MV

- *Draft Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments* – The guidance is intended to be followed by commercial renewable energy developers, and will be of value to community councils in receipt of funds or in discussions with such developers. L&LBCC is not engaged, nor likely to be engaged with such development. However, Alan Brown of Transition Linlithgow should be made aware.

Action AB

Community Council Information

AB has received the following which may be of interest to members of the community Council. In the future it may be possible to have a dedicated area of the website for such information that is only available to community Council members. In the interim it was agreed that such information will be included in a monthly update provided by the Secretary at the meetings. If any individual members would like details circulated – please email secretary@lbcc.org.uk

Action AB

- Copy of the Insurance document
- Notes from a recent Training event run by WLC on 9 December:
 - Overview of WLC;
 - Role Descriptions;
 - Overview of Scheme; Roles & Code of Conduct and
 - Summary of Chair & Enabling Chair roles
- Legal Liability Guidance document provided by WLC

It was agreed that other information such as that below be posted to the appropriate working group convenor or to all members as appropriate, as well as including in the Secretary's monthly update at the LLBCC meetings:

Action AB

- West Lothian Council is holding its budget setting meeting on 19 December at 3 pm. This is open to the public and the agenda is available on the WLC website
- Community Resilience in Action Video Clip – a scenario run by volunteers and led by the Community Council worked with the emergency services to respond in an exercise scenario in which 2 local teenagers had gone missing.
- Cutting Edge document – 22 pages of updates on what's happening across WLC in local communities. Next edition is due in January 2014.
- Grand opening of Kidzeco in Livingston (not for profit organisation)
- West Lothian Financial Inclusion Network – Launch of New Energy Advice Service to West Lothian Residents
- West Lothian Community Greenspace 2 page Newsletter

11. Treasurer's Report

IK reported that after all Advent Fayre expenses were paid the savings account stood at £5.57 and the current account at £622.26.

12. AOB

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 21.15.

John Kelly
Minute Secretary
28th November 2013

Note 1. Diary Dates

The dates of Community Council meetings for 2014 are:

2014

28th January
25th February
25th March
29th April - AGM

2014

27th May
24th June
26th August
23rd September

2014

28th October
25th November
16th December