



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting
on Tuesday 15th December 2015 in the Burgh Halls at 7.30pm.**

Present: Chair Martin Crook (MC), John Kelly (JK), Aileen Boyle (AB), Lyn Aitken (LA), Ron Smith (RS), Verena Throp (VT), Gill Fawcitt (GF), Scott Oliver (SO), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor David Tait (DT), Police Scotland – PC Neil Gordon

Apologies: Ian Kelly (IK), Fiona Low (FL)

No declarations of interest at the start.

1. Minutes of previous meeting on 24th November. These were approved and proposed by JK and seconded by RS.
2. Actions from previous meetings not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Number	Owner	Action detail	Update at December 15 meeting
05/005	AB	Discussions about the governance of the sub-groups to be carried forward to September meeting. AB to check completion of governance form from all sub-groups and engage where there are any gaps.	Completion of sub-groups has been undertaken however as per action number – a template is required for the Advent Fayre group. Carry forward to Jan 16 meeting where Advent Fayre is to be an agenda item,
08/011	MC	Footpath at Cricket Ground – LA advised that a car had travelled from the car park past the cricket ground into town. There were families in the area and although no-one was injured – there is concern about the dangers of this. Options for resolution could include signage and bollards. It was agreed that MC would contact TK about this. September update – MC spoke to TK. He has spoken to a WLC officer and discuss options eg bollards. Police Scotland interested in the outcome. Carry forward to October as TK on holiday	TK advised that he has visited the area and there are 3 or 4 places where cars could get through. There is a further site visit scheduled for Monday 21 Dec. It is noted that the bollards to the Sports Club appear to be down. A further update will be given at January meeting. PC Gordon will also review the situation. Carry forward to January 2016
09/001	AB	Invite Lorraine Gillies to the November meeting of LLBCC to discuss the Linlithgow Planning Partnership	Lorraine Gillies has accepted an invitation to the 23 rd February 16 meeting. Item closed.
09/002	MC	Contact WLC about any activity on traffic regulation orders or reviews of the High Street	Carry forward to November. Carry forward to December. Carry forward to 26 th January 16 meeting.
09/006	IK	Check if £50 available in budget to support	This item has been completed. Action

		Verena's attendance at conference	closed.
11/01	MC	TK discussed the Vennel car park and MC took an action to check that the old signs had been removed. (Action 11/01 – TK/MC)	Old signs have been removed. MC noted that there is no mention of no charge for disabled. TK to check what the previous arrangement was. C/F to 26 Jan 16
11/02	JK	TK also asked who runs the Advent Fayre – is it a separate standalone committee or LLBCC. JK advised that it is a committee with a separate bank account but there is no separate constitution. Governance arrangements to be detailed. TK has offered to be involved	A post implementation review of the Advent Fayre is to take place and an agenda item will be included in January meeting to discuss this.
11/03	SO	Use of Facebook to publicise December meeting and invite new members to LLBCC approved. SO to reach out to LLBCC members for words and DT suggested a rota system for content.	SO advised that posters have been put up and linked with SN. A film of the Advent Fayre is now available. This will become a regular activity for the Communications groups so this specific action will close.
11/04	TK	AB raised a concern raised by a member of the community about the lack of support to people in their houses when individuals have left hospital. It is believed that is known that there is a challenge in LLBCC area but there is no challenge in Livingston. One concern raised to AB is that carers are not paid for travel therefore using carers from Livingston is not a viable solution to the lack of resource in LLBCC area. TK will look into this situation re 'in house' care options and challenges	This action is to be carried forward.
11/05	TK	IK noted that parking for visitors and out patients during the week is a real problem at St John's – the same problem does not exist during the weekend. IK asked what WLC are doing about this	This action is to be carried forward to January 2016.

3. Reports from working groups

Planning & Development –JK talked through the previously circulated planning report and there followed a extensive debate lasting approx. 45 minutes about planning process, engagement and LLBCC as a statutory consultee. Key points are summarised below: At the time of the Main Issues Report JK believed there was a weighting and scoring exercise carried out for potential development sites and that it would be interesting to know whether Preston Farm was viable. DT advised that Deanburn residents have engaged a solicitor who has 14 pages on why it should not have been included in the local development plan. Public consultation by Cala is due in February 16. It was noted by WLC that it will take a while for objections to the Local Development Plan to be available on the WLC website. There is a 5 step plan which includes a stage where WLC can “seek to negotiate”.

Steven McLucas advised that they would review objections and any unresolved objections would be submitted to the Scottish Government for Examination. However it was noted that JK and MV attended a meeting at WLC on the day of the LLBCC meeting to listen to a debate on a motion requiring officers to negotiate. Provost Kerr noted that it could not be debated and therefore the debate did not occur. The process for this seemed unclear at the time and it was noted that there were other people at the meeting who had raised a petition. LLBCC members were not aware of “petitions” in the process. It was noted by TK that ‘petitions’ do not give any more advantage to other objections. JK noted that the we had objected to Local Development Plan; provided a Plan for the Future and a summary of 73 questionnaires which supported the Plan for the Future by a 93%vote. However to date – no interaction or information had been received or discussed by WLC with LLBCC. This does not seem appropriate when LLBCC is a statutory consultee on planning. JK advised that LLBCC had objected to the LDP but it does not seem appropriate that as a statutory consultee, one letter of objection from a CC is given the same weighting as an individual letter of complaint from one resident. It was noted that advice from officers was given to the other CC who presented the ‘petition” which was directed to the WLC Policy & Scrutiny panel. DT to check if the motion was given clearance by officers (**Action – 12/001 – DT**). However TK advised that if the motion had been allowed to proceed – another party could have put in an amendment. There is an opportunity within the regulations for Planning officers to liaise with CCs – although it is not advised at the final proposed Development Plan Stage. At Main Issues Report stage – Planning Officers should have done a consultation. LLBCC has previously invited officers to meet and although meetings took place before the Local Development Plan was out there was no opportunity at these meetings for discussion – the meeting was an opportunity for WLC to present its views but not to receive or to discuss Community opinion.

MC says LLBCC wants to be heard by WLC. There is a statutory period for consultation. TK suggested writing to Fiona McBrierty formally asking if possible for an update on representation from LLBCC and Planning Forum (**Action 12/002 – JK**). TK advised that he had received a note from Fiona McBrierty to advise that it is unlikely that any new representations will make any changes to the Local Development Plan prior to submission to Parliament. RS advised that there may still be options available when it gets to the Reporter. If the Reporter holds a hearing – we can attend. JK noted that the Linlithgow Gazette had contacted him that day about the WLC meeting and he would need to link back with them.

Health & Social

Key highlights from previously circulated report: LA advised that Ian Buchanan is now a non voting member on the Integration Joint Board for strategy and this is good news. There is concern that there is a lack of voluntary sector representatives on the board and there should be more included. It is noted that there is a proposal that WLC area is divided into an East and West grouping but LA and with support from LLBCC is proposing a change to the groupings so that Linlithgow is with Winchburgh, Uphall and Broxburn and should be separate from Livingston. In terms of care at home – there is a strategy for people to remain in their own homes where this is possible however there may be prioritisation for critical cases or where substantial care needs are required. It is noted that Care in the Community is going to be a feature of a future ‘drop in’ session.

Police Scotland

PC Neil Gordon was welcomed to his first meeting and it is anticipated that he will be the regular attender from Police Scotland to LLBCC meetings. He reported that since October 15 – there have been 16 reports of housebreaking including sheds. Leaflets have been handed out to advise people about the dangers of keeping doors unlocked. It was noted that the congestion at Preston Road with the 2 primary schools is a concern. However there are limitations as to what Police Scotland can do relating to this challenge. The Festive Campaign – Operation Snowflake is about to commence. LA noted a concern about the recycling bins at Sainsburys supermarket were overflowing and there was a concern about vermin. TK queries whether WLC empty the bins. **(Action 12/003 – TK to investigate responsibility of WLC re this)**

TK queried about LLBCC's response to McGowans Fish Van. LLBCC is opposed but we missed the deadline for submissions although Planning were notified of our intention to comment. TK advised it was refused under delegated powers but it is up for appeal.

AOB

MC queried about the Advent Fayre Funds. Original agreement was that £900 which was half of the balance would be donated. There is still some debate about Stuart Ness sanctioning costs but then passing invoices made out to WLC to LLBCC. It was confirmed that it had previously been agreed that any invoices for WLC should be paid by WLC. This will be discussed in more detail at the agenda item in January 2016.

Treasurer's Report – IK was not at the meeting but a copy of the accounts is on the website.

No separate reports from Chair and Secretary.

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm. Aileen Boyle - Secretary - LLBCC