



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting on
Tuesday 13th December 2016 in the Burgh Halls at 7.30pm.**

Present: Chair John Kelly (JK), Fraser Falconer (FF), Maire McCormack (MM), Scott Oliver (SO), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor David Tait (DT), Police Scotland – Andrew Murray (AM) and Neil Drummond (ND), Paul Couper - West Lothian Council, Craig Turnbull - Gazette and 1 member of the public.

Apologies: Martin Crook (MC), Pamela Barnes (PB), Ian Kelly (IK), Fiona Low (FL), Des Martin (DM), Ron Smith (RS)

Declarations of interest: no new declarations of interest noted.

(1) Minutes of previous meeting on Tuesday 22nd November 2016. These were approved.

(2) Actions from previous meetings not covered elsewhere on the agenda

| Ref: | Action and By whom | Current status |
|---------|--------------------|--|
| 1602/02 | Town Coat of Arms | The Cost of Arms has been received. Arrangements for the formal handing over of the Arms have yet to be made. Item carried forward to January meeting. |

(3) Matters arising from the previous minutes - item 5 (b) Speeding on St Ninians Road. TK had met on site with Gordon Brown (West Lothian Council) and Neil Hunter (Police) to investigate. It was decided that in the light of the negligible number of incidents/accidents in this location that traffic calming was not required. Speeding by individuals was acknowledged as was the case on entry to the town at Mains Road and Blackness Road.

(4) Spotlight Sessions

4a. Air Quality Management Area. Paul Couper introduced the topic stating that in light of an assessment of air quality in Linlithgow, West Lothian Council was required to declare in April 2016, an Air Quality Management Area for the exceedances of both NO₂ and the PM₁₀ particulates annual mean air quality objective. A steering group has been set up and first met in October 2016. Its task is to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and liaise with local organisations with the objective of collecting ideas on how the air quality in Linlithgow might be improved. The next meeting of the steering group is 16th January 2017. It would be useful if the ideas were available to the steering group by that date when the ideas will be screened for viability.

New monitoring equipment has been installed in the air monitoring station on the High St which will monitor particles down to 2.5 microns. Monitoring takes place every 15 minutes, 24 hours per day. The current data for 2016 shows that PM₁₀ annual mean concentrations to be below the air quality objective and NO₂ annual mean concentrations to be around the air quality objective. There have been 5 exceedances of the 1 hour NO₂ air quality objective. This data will need to be ratified at the end of the year and may change. Cold, still weather is conducive to the highest recording of pollution levels. In Linlithgow cars are the main contributor to pollution followed by light vans and then HGV's and buses.

In the discussion which followed the presentation the following points were made:

- The steering group is comprised of professionally relevant West Lothian Council officers. The point was made that this group should have representation from the Community Council and Linlithgow Bid as an absolute minimum. Pamela Barnes to be asked if she would represent the Community Council if invited to join the steering group.

- It was recommended that a traffic survey be undertaken. This could be undertaken by Linlithgow Bid or as an action of the steering group. However it is undertaken there should be coordination between the Linlithgow Bid and the steering group. The survey should focus on the entrances and exits to/from the town.
- MM stated that Paris was so polluted that public transport was made free for a week to encourage a shift from private to public transport. Free public transport might be considered for Linlithgow.
- Other ideas mentioned included; an all ways junction at M9 J3, encouragement for the use of electric vehicles, an enforcement officer based in Linlithgow to ticket those who sit with an engine idling, reduce or programme pedestrian crossings, double yellow lines throughout the High St to reduce single yellow parking and subsequent congestion.

Pamela Barnes asked to coordinate the collection of ideas.

(5) Working Group Updates

- **Planning** – JK referred to the previously circulated planning report and highlighted the following points:
 - **Weekly Planning List**
 - 0537/FUL/16 Erection of 32 houses and associated access road. Land adjacent Willowdean, Bridgend. Planning permission approved by delegated powers.
 - 0791/MS/16 Erection of 6 five bedroom houses at GM Carpets, Falkirk Road. To be decided; previously granted in principle 0502/P/14

Further information required on Linlithgow Academy capacity, particularly given the reason for the refusal the conversion of the Procurator Fiscals office into 6 flats.
 - **Edinburgh airport flightpath consultation:** The situation with regard to Edinburgh Airport is complex:
 - There are 3 concurrent consultations, “lets go further” consultation on the airspace change programme, the Edinburgh Airport masterplan, and the proposal for a noise management board. There appear to be disconnects in the chronological sequence of the actions proposed in the plans. JK to write to Edinburgh Airport.
 - Early in 2017 Edinburgh Airport will come forward with proposals for flightpaths as “lines on the map” which will be put out to the public as the next stage of the airspace change consultation programme.
 - JK to pursue the two linked issues of “airspace change” and “noise management”.

(5) Police Scotland Update – AM gave a brief summary of police activity over the past month specifically the problem of counterfeit money; AM circulated an example of a Bank of England £20 note. There had been break-in at Golf Poser on the Mill Road industrial estate; CCTV was being examined.

(7) Any Other Business and questions from the floor - the following points were raised.

- MM raised the use of glyphosate by West Lothian Council stating that many other local authorities had discontinued its use. The phrase “acceptable risk” had been used and MM asked:
 - what level of risk was acceptable.
 - if (according to a report) it posed no risk then why not use it widely, why reduce its usage.

TK asked if it were toxic, why it was not banned nationally.

A paper is to be discussed at the WLC Environment Policy and Scrutiny Panel on Thursday 15th December. The paper is available at the following link: <https://lbcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Use-of-Glyphosate.pdf>

- There was no other business or questions from the floor.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

John Kelly
15th December 2016