



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting
on
Tuesday 26th September 2017 in the Burgh Halls at 19.30.**

Present: Chair Martin Crook (MC), Pamela Barnes (PB), Fraser Falconer (FF), Sue Friel (SF), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), CJ Lambe (CJL), Des Martin (DM), Scott Oliver (SO), Ron Smith (RS), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Councillor David Tait (DT), Craig Turnbull - Gazette and 15 members of the public.

Apologies: Fiona Low (FL), Maire McCormack (MMcC), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Mike Vickers (MV), Police Scotland –Neill Drummond (ND), Police Scotland – Andrew Murray (AM), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK),

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 22nd August 2017. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting proposed SO and seconded CJL

2. Actions from the June meetings.

- a. Extra parking at County Buildings to replace that at the Vennel used by film crew in August was not possible.
- b. CJL to attend peace garden meetings
- c. A Notice of Community Council meetings is displayed in the Burgh Halls reception.
- d. Objection to “extension” of West Port House - letter sent.

3. Pedal for Scotland feedback. MC introduced the feedback session by referring to the issues raised with Pedal for Scotland following the 2016 event. MC stated that in his view the event is supported by the majority of residents although the strength of the support is diminishing by a failure of Pedal for Scotland to deal with a number of issues. The balance is shifting. Many of the following points are a repeat of those made previously although some actions such as the temporary traffic lights at the Low Port roundabout were helpful. The points raised after the 2017 event are in no particular order as follows:

1. The spreading of tacks on the route was reported by participant cyclists but no action was taken to clean up the road such that subsequently a number of cars and other road users suffered punctures.
2. The information appearing in various media (website, Gazette, Facebook) was inconsistent leading to confusion regarding which routes were to be closed and which were not. Some descriptions on the Pedal for Scotland website were misleading such that roads marked as closed were open. It was suggested that a definitive large scale map be printed in Gazette and/or Black Bitch.
3. Signage on roads prior to the event was confusing perhaps resulting from signs being put up in the wrong place.
4. Apparent confusion amongst participants regarding status of traffic lights at road junctions and pedestrian crossings. Many reports of participant cyclists ignoring red lights. Some cyclists overtaking stationary cyclists at red lights.
5. Displacement of traffic onto minor roads leading to high levels of traffic on lanes with a number of drivers being lost.
6. Reports of non-participant cyclists [and possibly some participant cyclists?] using minor roads off the official route adding to traffic problems on these roads.
7. The tennis club took the initiative to sign the appropriate approaches to the tennis tournament but should they bear the cost/inconvenience. Pedal for Scotland could be more helpful.
8. Closing the road at Linlithgow Bridge meant that the approach to the town from the west was completely shut.

9. Visitors to the town were turned away with no help regarding alternative routes to their destination.
10. Many businesses were shut for the day or closed early including cafés.
11. Early closing of roads meant that people returning from a night out late Saturday or early Sunday morning were inconvenienced.
12. Advice to residents to move cars to a location off the route could not apply to many elderly or disabled drivers.
13. Mixing the children's event with the adult event led to the very slow being mixed with the very fast. The children's event should be revisited.
14. Linlithgow suffers each year. Should there be a number of routes such that Linlithgow suffers say one year in four.
15. What is the benefit to the Linlithgow community?
16. The Council makes a decision regarding road closure based on a police recommendation. The police decisions are made in Glasgow by people without local knowledge.

MC closed the discussion by stating that a large number of points had been made and therefore a further survey was unnecessary. The problem is getting to the less mobile or elderly to ascertain what their problems are. In summary the major problem of the event is that the town is shut down for far too long, much longer than any local event requiring a road closure such as the Marches, Gala Day or Advent Fayre. A debrief with Pedal for Scotland is planned for 24th October.

4. Annet House. 200 people have signed an online petition objecting to the sale of Annet House. Annet House (a category B listed building) is owned by the Council and leased to the museum. The question posed was should Annet House be retained for use by the Community. The decision to sell Annet House was initiated through a cost planning exercise for the Partnership Centre which predicted a necessary contribution from the sale of Annet House of £400,000. TC stated that this action was considered sufficient to block a purchase by the Community under the Community Empowerment Act. Questions included:

- a. Would the National Trust be interested in taking over the building?
- b. Can the garden be retained for public use?
- c. What is the commercial rent that the museum currently pays to West Lothian Council?
- d. If there were counter proposals for Annet House would West Lothian Council be interested?
- e. If the Community could afford to take on Annet House what would it be used for?
- f. What options have been considered?
- g. What would be the permitted uses of the building?
- h. The two key questions are what is West Lothian Council's vision? & what is the Linlithgow community vision for the building?

JK raised the issue of the hypothecation of receipts from asset sales which is currently against West Lothian Council policy. In JK's view the receipt from Annet House cannot be hypothecated towards the build cost of the Partnership Centre. The issue of asset sales was previously addressed by the Community Council in 2014 which asked that West Lothian Council notify the Community Council of impending asset sales in Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge. An email received stated that there is no legal obligation on WLC to provide advance notification to community councils when surplus property is to be marketed for sale or for lease and therefore WLC will not do so.

4. Defibrillators. CJL explained that what we are talking about is strictly an automated external defibrillator (AED). There is a national database of location of AED's but this shows none in Linlithgow. There are 14 in the town but none of these are available 24/7. 1st responders have access to them. It would be ideal if one were available centrally. Sainsbury have one but Tesco do not. A 999 call results in the caller being sent no more than 300 metres to the nearest AED. A location requires space for a cabinet costing £475 and an electric supply (13v). CCTV coverage would be necessary to deter vandalism/theft. JK suggested a central location at the old phone boxes adjacent to Paul Rolfe. Another suggestion would be affixing the cabinet to the wall of the Partnership Centre. No action was confirmed.

5. Police Report. No Police report.

6. Planning Report. JK referred to the written Planning Report.

- a. **Templars Court** - the insurance issue has been resolved; McCarthy and Stone now own the adjacent property and intend to undertake structural repairs. The ground conditions on the site of the front building are such that the original planned building can no longer be constructed. McCarthy and Stone will be discussing options with the residents and West Lothian Council planning department.
- b. **Disabled Ramp at Linlithgow Post Office.** The Planning application 0007/FUL/13 made by WLC Property Services was subsequently withdrawn. A member of the public explained that she had to ring the bell and wait for some time until someone brought a portable ramp to the door. A visit to the Post Office was not easy. DT said that he would action this topic. **Action DT**
- c. **Vennel Consultation.** The Vennel consultation closed on 8th September. The letter sent to West Lothian Council which was previously circulated is available at <https://lbcc.org.uk/community-matters/vennel-redevelopment> A link to the letter sent by the Civic Trust is available at the same location.
- d. **Clarendon Farm.** On 7 August 2017 Gladman Developments Ltd submitted a Proposal of Application Notice which starts a 12 week period of public consultation. Gladman have announced that a public exhibition will be held 4pm to 7.30pm on Tuesday 31st October at Low Port Centre.
- e. **Edinburgh Airport.** JK attended the inaugural meeting of the Edinburgh Airport Noise Management Board on 7th September. The application made by Edinburgh Airport to the CAA has been put on hold pending CAA investigation of routes from Glasgow and Prestwick airports.
- f. **Planning Forum website.** The Linlithgow Planning Forum was established by the Community Council in 2013 to facilitate the exchange of views between those organisations in Linlithgow who have an interest in planning matters. The Planning Forum is constituted as a sub-group of the Community Council. It was suggested that all web based material on planning matters would be transferred to a new Linlithgow Planning Forum website. This was proposed by PB and seconded by SF. SF raised the point that after 4 years of operation the Constitution of the Planning Forum should be re-examined. No decision was made and the matter to be carried forward to a future meeting. **Action JK**

7. Secretary's Report.

- a. **Town Charrette.** Scottish Government has launched a new Making Places funding. This initiative has grown from the previous Scottish Government Charrette grant scheme. The closing date for funding is 13th October 2017. More information can be found at: <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/making-places-initiative-2017-2018-prospectus-form/>. The funding is for 50% of the projected cost. A Charrette is only practical with the agreement of West Lothian Council who would be required to make an "in-kind" contribution. It was suggested that both BID's and LCDD might also be also be willing to participate. A decision to investigate further and make an application. **Action JK**
- b. **Low emissions zones consultation.** Transport Scotland have launched the Scottish Government's Building Scotland's Low Emission Zones consultation. The consultation is available here <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/transport-scotland/building-scotlands-low-emission-zones/> and closes 28th November 2017. **Action PB/SF**
- c. **Election of all West Lothian Community Councils.** 15 nominations were received by the closing date for the 18 available places. All nominees have been elected to the Community Council. The inaugural meeting of the new 4 year term will be on Tuesday 28th November.
- d. **All other matters in the Report.** For information only.

8. Treasurer's Report. IK submitted a written report.

9. AOB MC asked for topics for future meetings.

9. Next meeting. Tuesday 24th October at 7.30pm in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed 21.09

John Kelly
Secretary
27th September 2017