

Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, 27th May 2014 held in the Burgh Halls.

Present: Chair- John Kelly (JK), Lyn Aitken (LA), Aileen Boyle (AB), Clive Dyson (CD), Brenda Galloway (BG), Fiona Low (FL), Bruce McCallum (BM), Ron Smith (RS), David Tait (DT), Jack Thompson (JT), Mike Vickers (MV), Police Scotland-Peter Robertson (PR), and 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Ian Kelly (IK), Verena Thorp (VT), Debbie Day (DD), Councillor Tom Conn, Councillor Martyn Day, Councillor Tom Kerr.

- 1. Police Report.** PR updated his report from last month. No new housebreakings have occurred during May. Previous housebreakings are still being investigated. He has been visiting local primary schools at the canal society and at their school. Traffic and parking in the town are fine when Police Scotland are in attendance. He has prepared a police article for Black Bitch magazine. Vandalism at the Low Port School still being investigated. Preparations are in hand for the Marches and Gala Day. Secretary raised a query about noise complaints in Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge as LLBCC has been asked to respond to a policy review by the Scottish Government of the Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 – Part 5. PR explained that the Council has a unit which functions until 3am and they are the first port of call, the police only becoming involved if other elements are involved over and above excessive noise.
- 2. Spotlight session. Alan Brown of Transition Linlithgow** gave a short presentation.
- 3. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council for Tuesday 29th April 2014.** The minutes were unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by CD and seconded by BG. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 4. Outstanding actions from previous meeting**

Action No.	Details of Action	Status
0214/01	Christmas tree illumination project. No report.	Activity is progressing and full update expected at June meeting. C/F action
0214/08	Bands for Advent Fayre	Completed but awaiting cheque clearance
0314/01&02 and 0414/01	School numbers for planning purposes and implications of Winchburgh and Westfield developments	Completed. Updated provided in 6v below.
0314/03	Sale of WLC land in Linlithgow. The reply from Lorraine McGrorty states that Jack Orr has confirmed that there is no legal obligation on the council to provide advance notification to community councils when surplus property is to be marketed for sale or for lease. He has advised that since the establishment of West Lothian Council in 1996, and during his time before that in Lothian Regional Council since 1980, it has never been custom or practice to do this.	Action 0514/01 – JK to chase up response to previous letters to councillors re this.

0314/06	Linlithgow Health Centre. Carol Bebbington, the Primary Care Manager, West Lothian CHCP, stated that the existing premises of Linlithgow Health Centre were developed from the old Cooperative some 25 years ago and is under pressure in terms of capacity and in need of upgrading. The existing premises are not suitable for extension as they are land locked and previous surveys have indicated that the building will not support a third floor. From a review, Linlithgow Health Centre has emerged as a priority for re-provision. This will be progressed through the NHS approval processes for premises development and whilst it is not possible to provide a firm timescale for this at present discussions with West Lothian Council have been initiated to find a suitable site.	Health & Social Care Group to take forward and report as part of their regular updates.
0314/07	Review of the West Lothian Scheme for Community Councils - feedback required to WLC by 16 May. See minute 5 below	Completed – see update below under Secretary’s update
0314/08	Monthly LLBCC meetings – reports from Working Groups to be provided to secretary@llbcc.org.uk by Wednesday 20 May. AB to engage with councillors about the provision of reports for monthly meetings	Completed. AB to monitor response from Councillors about the provision of reports for meetings.
	AB to provide draft agendas for 2014 meetings	Paper provided for discussion at May meeting but due to timings - c/f to June meeting (AB)

5. Reports from Working Groups and discussion.

Councillor Tom Kerr is working on the Christmas Tree Illuminations and will be in contact shortly.

a) Development and Planning. A report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

- (i) Cala Homes have submitted an application for 49 houses at Springfield South with 8 of the houses being affordable units. Various issues discussed including the views of those in Pilgrim’s Hill abutting the field and the possibility of a buffer strip between the two. There is also the question of the road junction as the adjacent one at Springfield road already has a number of accidents. West Lothian policy regarding affordable housing is for the developer to provide serviced plots. Cala say they will build the housing. There’s also the question of Cala’s contribution to the community. After discussion it was moved by DT and seconded by FL that the community council should propose rejection of the application as it is contrary to the local development plan. The road access was unsuitable. The houses should face away from the main road. It would displace

industrial zoning for the site and another site should be designated before Cala's application is accepted. It is a premature application. **JK will circulate a draft letter next week regarding this. (Action 0514.02 - JK)**

- (ii) The proposed development of the site at Kettilstoun Mains. At present a consultation is to be held 5th June 2014 from 1-8pm in the Burgh Halls but no further action required currently from LLBCC. (There is also the question of whether this development is near the historical site of the battle of Linlithgow Bridge.)
 - (iii) Burghmuir appeal by Wallace land and the proposed 200 houses is likely to be held 29th and 30th July. The case officer said that the Reporter will visit Linlithgow unaccompanied and he doesn't want to see anyone. The Reporter wishes to test the housing numbers. West Lothian is not going to meet their housing quota.
 - (iv) The Planning Forum and Local Developmental Plan. The papers for this should be available 5 days before that meeting.
 - (v) School numbers. There will be no transfer of Westfield reservations for Linlithgow Academy to Winchburgh. Planning permission for Westfield runs out in 2015. There would be a further 2 years available if the same applicant wants to use it. At present the Bank is the asset holder and quite a lot of work would need to be done in order to comply with planning before work could begin on 550 houses and flats in the fully detailed scheme.
 - (vi) The issue of notification by West Lothian Council of sales of land it owns to the Community Council. West Lothian Council state that there is no legal obligation to do this. This is not acceptable. A letter regarding this has been sent to the Councillors but no reply received yet but this will be chased up.
- b) Health & Social Provision.** A report was circulated in advance of the meeting. There was a discussion regarding the cost of a flyer and its distribution regarding the consultation on 11th September. LA stated that the NHS is paying the £44 for the hire of the hall and providing teas and coffees. CD proposed the cost of £314 can be met and JT seconded. It although it was acknowledged that a budget for expenditure is required for LLBCC. CD stated that West Lothian does a lot in this area which needs to be publicised. Nick Davies recommended the Community Council join Gateway West Lothian which provide information regarding grants etc. so that funding sources can be accessed. Volunteer Week and encouraging people to volunteer was discussed. JT raised the concern that Winchburgh's new Health Centre has no design brief and is 3 or 4 years away. West Lothian cannot give a brief until 2016-17. Linlithgow is affected by this as the Council prefers to work on Health Centres in groups as being more cost effective. This puts development in Linlithgow further back. Dr Cochrane is retiring and his practice is likely to be taken over within the group practice.
- c) Housing and Social Housing.** There will be an article regarding this in the current issue of the Black Bitch magazine. **Action: DT to circulate article to LLBCC members (0514/03)**
- d) Youth Facilities, Youth Groups and Education.** Verbal report from FL that all the vulnerable students except one have been placed and are delighted with the new programme which starts 2nd June. 5th and 6th Year at the Academy are to be shown a motivational video. The interact group will be set up with Grange Rotary Club.
- e) Communications** DT stated that regular articles from members of the Community Council are being published in the Black Bitch magazine. He wants more photos of the Council so people know who is on the Council and can approach them. CD has held training re the website and has put more photos on the llbcc website. He reminded

members it was important for each working group to have information on the website. DT stated that Black Bitch articles can be uploaded too.

f) **Events** BM advised that Marches, Gala Day, Remembrance Parade, and Advent Fair will all be budgeted. A meeting is being held next week to discuss all the events. It has been acknowledged that "Party at the Palace" have made a donation to the Children's Gala Day. The invitation for two members of the Council to attend the Gala Day was accepted by FL.

6. **Secretary's Report.** Review of establishment of Community Councils has been submitted to West Lothian Council. The Review was largely for West Lothian. MV noted that the contribution from LLBCC was much quoted. It wasn't disputed that the Act gives more power than we actually have. West Lothian Council has accepted the comments, but it is currently anticipated that there may be no material changes to the scheme. LLBCC will await the draft from WLC which is due in Autumn 14. MV advised that the West Lothian Association of Community Councils recent meeting only had 5 representatives out of 42 in attendance although WLACC is supposed to represent all Community Councils in West Lothian.

LLBCC meetings – AB had provided a proposal in advance of the May meeting. This proposal was for future agendas for LLBCCs meetings. Due to timings it was agreed to carry forward to the June meeting. No external spotlight session next month. However views on the Review of noise regime under the Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 – Part 5 will be sought at June meeting with Secretary providing information in advance. DT queried re the Scottish Rural Parliament. What is 'rural'? It is not defined. DT wants to observe and take an interest unless Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge is specifically excluded. AB to send information to him re this.

7. **Treasurer** not present but a report was provided in advance of the meeting. It has been confirmed that a budget will be drafted for this fiscal year. JT queried a couple of items in the AGM accounts and was looking for more granular detail. **Action 0514/04 – (i) JK to link with IK and JT to resolve the query from JT (ii) JK to provide a budget for this fiscal year.**

8. **AOB.** At the recent meeting of the Town Management Group (TMG) Councillor Tom Kerr stated in view of cutbacks more volunteers were needed. Consideration is being given to a campaign of awareness of need to volunteer through Black Bitch magazine and an event to recognise groups and volunteers.

Nick Davies from the floor commented that Lothian Buses will withdraw Ingliston Park and Ride at the end of this week. Only the trams will be available and no bus discount for people from West Lothian. This has not been properly publicised.

He also proposed a major vote of thanks for Clive Dyson who was attending his last meeting for all that he had contributed to the Council. All joined in a show of appreciation.

The meeting closed at 21.17.

Brenda Galloway
Minute Secretary
29th May 2014.

Date of June meeting: 24th June. No meeting in July. Date of August meeting – 26th August.
Date of September meeting: 23rd September