



Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting  
On  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in the Burgh Halls at 19.30

**Present:** Chair Martin Crook (MC), Des Martin (DM), Sue Friel (SF), Katherine Orr (KO), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Ron Smith (RS), Fraser Falconer (FF), Councillor Tom Kerr, guest speaker Alice Ferguson and 4 members of the public

**Apologies:** Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Pamela Barnes (PB), CJ Lambe (CJL), Maire McCormack (MM), Mike Vickers (MV) and Police Scotland – Andrew Murray (AM)

**Declarations of interest** – None

1. **Minutes of LLBCC meeting Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018.** Proposed by FF and seconded by SF and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.
2. **Matters arising** - None
3. **Reports:**
  - a) **Police Report** – no report
  - b) **Secretary** – no report
  - c) **Planning** –
    - i) Vennel Redevelopment proposals – MC advised that the draft proposal for development document produced by the Planning Forum was only circulated in that forum. It also needs to be circulated to the full Community Council and to be published on the website. – **Action RS** (circulate) **and PRS** (website)  
It is to be the number one item on a future agenda - **Action JK**  
RS stated that WLC say it is too late to submit this re consultation, but perhaps as a late item and further discussion ensued as to the best course of action.  
Agreed that the report should not be submitted for now and that DT be asked to raise it as an agenda item at the next LAC. MC also to find out at which Committee and when WLC will discuss the Vennel – **Action MC**
    - ii) Extension to West Port House – JK has lodged an objection to the extension on the basis that it breaks the spirit of the planning law

4. **Year of Young People**

AF spoke about her role as MSYP and her focus on trying to get the Universal Rights of the Child enshrined in Scots Law, as well as activities for the Year of Young People.

Asked about how to involve young people in LLBCC, she advised she knows several who might be interested, to help them get involved in the Community and have something to succeed in and that the vast majority knew nothing of LLBC. She recommended that more social media coverage was required to engage with young people successfully, for example putting the minutes on Facebook and Twitter.

Discussion followed amongst all present on how best to engage with the Academy pupils.

AF recommended contacting the Pupil Council, Head Girl and Head Boy, rather than with teachers, and offered to provide contacts – **Action AF**

AF warned against “box ticking”, recommending that the Community Council ensure young people are properly listened to and involved. Having a younger person/people represent the views of the Pupil Council at LLBCC meetings would be good experience for them and also provide a different perspective for LLBCC. AF stated that young people should always be considered and have a voice, recommending that LLBCC should always offer one place to a young person. After further discussion about whether LLBCC members should attend the Pupil Council on a rota basis, it was recommended that the Pupil Council Chair or another member should attend LLBCC meetings to provide feedback from the Pupil Council on their concerns and activities.

MC said there were 18 members now and it was later noted that TH WLC website stated that, while CC members have to be 18 to be elected, CCs can have up to 4 youth members aged 14-18 with full voting rights. There is a need to check with Lorraine Alexander if this is in addition to the 18 already in place – **Action MC**

AF said Hot Topics for young people in the town included:

- Mental Health
- Plastic Free Campaign being launches for the school over the summer
- Community engagement and getting involved in the community – e.g. LYPP
- Also interested in Housing and Buses

KO stated that many young people were stressed by parents who cannot afford to pay rents etc and that the shortage of affordable housing does impact on young people

MC stated youth input needed re L1 bus group and asked the best way to connect

AF said Twitter is better than Facebook for engaging young people

KO – A Flyer should be produced for young people with LLBCC contact details, what LLBCC are looking for and what they will gain, which can be shared on Twitter and other social media. AF said this should be very specific and should also be posted on Opportunity Boards.

SF agreed to pull together a brief re the 4 vacancies, when LLBCC meet, roles, topics etc for AF to share – **Action SF**

MC thanked AF for her contribution and AF left.

## 5. Housing report

The written Report and the fact that 1500 were on the waiting list for Linlithgow, but only 37 lets happened last year was discussed. TK joined the meeting. Asked whether there were any changes to the points allocation system TK said he thought there had been none.

MC stated that he hoped that the Housing Officer would attend the next meeting in August and asked for questions for her in preparation for this meeting

Suggested questions –

SF – The current policy is that a single person may be allocated to a 2 bed flat if that is all that is available. Could the Council arrange it so that, if a 2 bed flat was vacant and a local family looking to move from a 1 bed flat, then the single person could have the 1 bed flat and the family could move into the 2 bed flat?

MC – Raised the availability of land or buildings to convert. Doomsdale – could the land be remediated and used for Council housing? Annet House – Could this be converted into Council flats? What plans does WLC have re council housing re the proposed redevelopment of the Vennel area?

MC is to draw up a list of questions and LLBCC members are to advise him of any questions they wish to add – **Action MC and LLBC members**

## 6. Bus Sub-Committee Report

MC reported on the feedback from the public meeting at the Lowport Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> June PB had provided the sub-committee with the flip chart notes and MC undertook to add these into his report and to circulate it to LLBCC. **Action MC**

Funding application has been submitted regarding work to assess lining up bus times with train times – MC is to arrange a meeting with the contact there – **Action MC**  
Questions were asked about the future of the 31 bus and it was agreed that the service is an essential service, both for patients and for staff at St Johns Hospital. MC stated he had been shocked at the lack of bus information at the hospital and that a local resident had been wrongly told at the Hospital Reception that there was no bus service to Linlithgow. TK stated that the 31 bus subsidy had been protected and would continue, but it was pointed out that this was only on a year by year basis. TK also advised that First Bus were proposing changes to the 38 bus which would impact on local people travelling to the Gyle, but would add in Bridgend. TK agreed to forward a copy of the proposed bus changes to MC – **Action TK**

## 7. AOB

A member of the public raised the question of the Rose Garden/Peace Garden planning application and stated there were 22 objections so far to the latest version. A facebook poll on the Linlithgow Facebook page had 248 responses, only 9 of which were supported the plan. Concern was expressed that the Peace Garden group were still not engaging with the community and LLBCC was asked if they could comment on the public's perception and alleged lack of support in time for the Consultation on 21 July.

TK stated that the period for comments had expired and that any LLBCC comments would need to go to Council Committee for 1<sup>st</sup> August.

MC stated that LLBCC would make observations, but not an objection – **Action MV?**

TK was reminded that CJL was to have been invited to attend meetings of the Peace Garden Committee since last year, but had still not been invited. **Action - TK**

## 8. **Next meeting:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm in the Burgh Halls

Meeting closed 21.05

Sue Friel  
8<sup>th</sup> July 2018