



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council
Meeting
on
Tuesday 18th December 2018 in the Burgh Halls at 19.30.**

Present: Chair Des Martin (DM), Pamela Barnes (PB), Sue Friel (SF), John Kelly (JK), Maire McCormack (MM), Gordon Smith (GS), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Police Scotland– Andrew Murray (AM) and Neil Hunter (NH) and 6 members of the public.

Apologies: Martin Crook (MC), Fraser Falconer (FF), Ian Kelly (IK), Tony Harry (AH), Mukami McCrum (MMcCrum), Scott Oliver (SO), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Ron Smith (RS), Councillor David Tait (DT)

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 27th November 2018. A member of the public commented that during the November meeting it was stated that LLBCC would carry out a public consultation covering the future of the Rose Garden in general and whether a Peace Garden should be established at this or any other suitable local site. (MC had clarified this at the meeting). It was agreed that with this comment included the minutes could be accepted. The minutes were proposed by SF and seconded by MV and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising.

Item 3b	Youth Members	PB will in the New Year contact Alice Ferguson, supply pupil council dates to FF and help to distribute the poster, compiled by SF, and approved at the October CC meeting.	Action PB/SF/FF
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3. Recycling Centre. DM introduced a paper previously circulated. The following points were made:

1. West Lothian Council proposed to reduce the operating hours of the five household waste recycling centres (HWRC) by 60%. There is a proposed reduction of total operating hours per week from 280 hours to 112 hours over the five sites. Overall therefore the five sites will be operating at 40% of the operating hours that they were previously.
2. This gives rise to a number of questions:
 - a. what happens if the demand for service cannot be met?
 - b. What modelling has been carried out and where is the risk register and results and recommendations to mitigate risk?
3. TK stated that the 60% reduction is a reduction in hours not in tonnage deposited.
4. SF raised a concern over the reduction in hours at weekends.
5. TC stated that there were no specific targets to be met with regard to recycling material through the recycling centres. Further the plans for co-mingling food and garden waste in the Brown bin should reduce the number of garden waste deposits at the recycling centre. Co-mingled waste would be sent to the new facility near Forth for processing into compost.
6. A member of the public stated that the recycling centre would be more efficient if operatives directed people to the correct skip. Best practice from other recycling centres should be replicated in Linlithgow. The capacity of the Linlithgow recycling centre should be

known and published. Data should be available for a benchmarking comparison in say three years time.

7. JK questioned whether the existing recycling centre could be made more efficient by reorganising the layout. If more cars could be parked then more deposits could be made per hour. This may only require repositioning of the skips and white paint to denote the parking areas.
8. A revision to the opening hours should be made if it is found that the recycling centres were not coping with demand.

It was decided that DM would write to Jim Jack and if possible, meet with David Goodenough to address concerns and consider options which would increase the speed of the depositing process.

Action DM

On the same theme JK noted a review of recycling and waste services presented to West Lothian Council Executive on 4 December 2018. It appeared that, were West Lothian Council to accept and sign the National Charter of Household Recycling, then West Lothian Council would receive a grant of £1.6 million. TC confirmed that this was the case but the Council has to consider whether the cost of meeting the National Charter would exceed £1.6 million. TC confirmed that it was the decision of the Council to sign the Charter.

4. Review of Local Governance.

JK introduced a paper discussed at West Lothian Council Executive which reviews local governance in the context of the Democracy Matters consultation being undertaken by COSLA and the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government has stated that it intends new legislation within the lifetime of the current Parliament potentially entitled the Local Democracy Bill.

The paper to the Executive states that Communities of Interest (CoI's) related directly to council services, across geographic areas, brings the greatest benefit to service users. This in preference to the existing Communities of Place (CoP' S) e.g. Community Councils and Community Development Trusts. Council consultation would involve CoI's through local ward forums and involve all residents. Community Councils would communicate through the Joint Forum of Community Councils. The suggestions seemed to demote the role of Community Councils and restrict access to the local authority. MV wished it minuted that in his opinion access to the overarching Community Planning Partnership would still be restricted to access via the Forum and this is the same as was the case with the previous West Lothian Association of Community Councils. MV stated that West Lothian Governance Manager, James Millar, confirmed that the Community Empowerment Act does not replace the Act that establishes Community Councils and our role within them i.e. Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, indeed the Community Empowerment Act states as much. TK recommended examining the proposed response in more detail.

5. Housing JK referred to the housing feedback report dated December 2018 which lists the questions derived at the October and November Community Council meetings and sent to Graham Struthers, Deputy Chief Executive. The report gives comprehensive answers from Graeme Struthers to each of the questions. The Community Council now has a significant amount of data to work with in the understanding of housing within Linlithgow. JK suggested a small group be formed to take this further. This was agreed.

Action JK

6. Pedal for Scotland. JK referred to a note of a discussion at the Linlithgow Ward Local Area Committee meeting at which it was stated that the alternative pedal for Scotland route via Beecraigs instead of via Linlithgow High Street was impractical because the roads around Beecraigs would be inaccessible to emergency vehicles in the event of a cycling accident. After a short discussion AM advised that the opinion of the ambulance service would be important. All police planning takes place in the West. TK advised that the current difficulties came about with the introduction of the Wee Jaunt which requires roads to be closed. If we wish to influence the decision on the route for

2020 then we need to gather a list of people, whose rights are infringed. It was reported that there were no strong complaints in 2018. MV stated that it may be that many people in Linlithgow welcome the Pedal for Scotland event through the High Street. A consultation is required.

6. Reports:

- a. **Chair:** There was no Chair's report
- b. **Secretary:** JK introduced the written report:
 - (i) Participation requests.
 - i. Local Area Committee. JK, DM, PRS, and MV attended a meeting in Livingston on 28th November. It was explained that the application contained no specified "outcome" relating to the service by the Council to the public and therefore was refused. An official letter has been received. There is no appeal process. MV stated that the Community Council should be invited to the Local Area Committee as a participating attendee on a routine basis. It is within the power of the Chair to determine the extent to which invited third parties are permitted to participate in the business of the committee. TC stated that the Community Council should formally ask. SF asked how far in advance, should the Community Council react to the agenda or request items to be included in the agenda. MV wished it minuted that in his opinion the Community Council's input is always relevant to Ward issues.
 - ii. Vennel Project Group. Acknowledged as a valid request. Result before 28th December (later advised that it would be 11th January).
 - (ii) Several TTRO's were listed in the Secretary's report.
- c. **Planning:** JK referred to the Planning Report included with the papers:
 - (i) 1110/FUL/18 Boghall East – Cala Homes. It was agreed to reply in terms outlined in the planning report. A member of the public queried the density of housing on the site.
 - (ii) 0007/FUL/13 Post Offices Ramp. Still need a resolution to this problem.
 - (iii) 0303/FUL/18 McCarthy and Stone. Templars Court. Letter from Jonathan Fair Regional Managing Director, Scotland McCarthy and Stone to Councillor David Tait 30 November 2018. The letter answers several points raised by residents following a visit by residents to TC's surgery.
- d. **Treasurer:** There was no verbal report; IK not being in attendance. There has been no change this month.
- e. **Police:** AM reported the following:
 - (i) Counterfeit £50 notes are in circulation. Shopkeepers are encouraged to use the fake notes kit. Reports to the Police should be immediate not the next day.
 - (ii) There has been a problem with the installation of CCTV in the High St due to a problem with ducting in the Westport. It is anticipated that this problem will be resolved soon.
 - (iii) There have been several unconnected violent incidents in the High Street generally involving inebriated men fighting.
 - (iv) The two people from Springfield connected with theft of number plates from cars were not Academy pupils celebrating as was reported in the Linlithgow Gazette.
 - (v) NH stated that a full police report is available in the Local Area Committee papers.

- (vi) A member of the public stated that once the police were called to deal with an incident of antisocial behaviour then it is no longer a matter for action by West Lothian Council staff. This was contradicted by TK and AM who informed the meeting that the safer neighbourhoods team and the police work closely together and tenancy warnings are issued. The same member of the public stated that 4 single homeless men have been allocated 4 two-bedroom flats which is likely to give rise to problems as previously.
- (vii) There is an ongoing investigation by CID into thefts from Subway.

f. **Bus Group.** SF referred to a paper giving an update on the activities of the bus group. A meeting with Transport for Scotland is due to take place on 19 December 2018. The bus group will be gathering data and evidence as part of a multi-modal transport appraisal for Linlithgow using the grant funding agreed and is seeking additional volunteers to help with this work

7. AOB and questions from the floor.

- a. MM asked for details of the PDSP discussion on a paper regarding instrumental music tuition. TK advised that three options have been considered going forward:
 - i. transfer music tuition to a third-party organisation
 - ii. establish a charitable trust
 - iii. continue with in-house delivery.The third option was considered the best option. TK wished to be advised if children are refused instrumental music tuition on the basis that they have been receiving tuition from local bands.
- b. SF proposed a motion that all future meetings of the Community Council subgroups should occur outside of normal working hours unless with the specific agreement of the subgroup members. The motion was seconded by MM. SF requested a vote. Several points were made:
 - i. TC stated that such a motion would prevent involvement with the Local Area Committee.
 - ii. JK stated that meetings such as the planning subgroup occasionally involved invitees from developers, Council officers and Scottish Government officers. Meetings outside normal working hours could be impractical for these invitees. SF stated that this was not a problem as subgroup members would understand that such meetings needed to take place where these other parties were available, but that normal subgroup meetings should take place outside of normal working hours to avoid excluding participation from those members who work.

The Chair stated that this matter should be considered at the January meeting.

8. Next meeting. Tuesday 22nd January at 7.30pm in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed 21.14

John Kelly, Secretary
21st December 2018