



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council
Meeting
on
Tuesday 26th February 2019 in the Burgh Halls at 19.30.**

Present: Chair Martin Crook (MC), Fraser Falconer (FF), Sue Friel (SF), Joyce Hartley (JH), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Des Martin (DM) Gordon Smith (GS), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Ron Smith (RS), Mike Vickers (MV), Councillor Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor David Tait (DT) and 5 members of the public.

Apologies Pamela Barnes (PB), Tony Harry (AH), Maire McCormack (MM), Mukami McCrum (MMcCrum), Scott Oliver (SO), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Police Scotland– Andrew Murray (AM) and Neil Hunter (NH)

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 22nd January 2019. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting proposed by FF and seconded by PRS.

2. Matters arising.

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| Item 3 bf | Youth Members | PB will 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 |
| Item 3 bf | Pedal for Scotland | Alternative route for 2020. JK has written to Scottish Ambulance Service NHQ at the Gyle but has received no reply. JK will contact again. Action JK |

3. My Linlithgow.com.

Rebecca Holmes (RH) from the Linlithgow Community Development Trust (LCDT) gave a presentation to the Community Council on the work that has been done to evolve a broader and more inclusive website for the town. LCDT's community consultation of January 2017 highlighted that there was a need in the local community for such a website. Specifically, for an interactive and engaging portal through which groups can share up-to-date information and events. It was noted that some groups have no web presence and other groups' websites needed revision. <https://westcalder.org/> and <https://www.pitlochry.org/> were cited as websites which demonstrated best practice. LCDT considered it important that the websites serve not just the 160 community groups but local businesses as well. The website will be easy to maintain and capable of organic growth. The website has been launched in partnership with Linlithgow BID.

Funding has been obtained for two employment places for vulnerable young people to assist with the processing of information coming into LCDT. The tourism offering will be refreshed and there will be a link to social media. It is proposed that the website will grow to become a website for the whole community and will include "Shop Linlithgow", an interactive High Street and part of the Virtual Towns movement. Discussions are being held with the Black Bitch to integrate local news.

Finally, in recognition of the need for LCDT to generate funding RH made a request for donations. In the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

- LCDT has no ambition to replace existing organisational websites unless the organisation wishes to replace their website. Additionally, LCDT is willing to help groups with the construction of their own website.
- The website would be useful for listing events as currently it is considered that there is no one place in Linlithgow for all events to be listed although the Diary at Linlithgow.info and the Gazette Pinboard are acknowledged. Organisations self-completing events is currently the case with Linlithgow.info is recommended.
- It is likely that those that know Linlithgow would Google search for a specific organisation; strangers to Linlithgow are much more likely to search Linlithgow as a whole.
- Adwords such as hotel, shops etc needs to be inclusive and trusted especially once Linlithgow.info has closed.
- The Partnership Centre could be a central place for information via a large screen (as suggested in the Partnership consultation) and each of the library computers could boot up into myLinlithgow.com.
- In answer to the point made about the necessity for an overarching structure to allow organisations to access the website RH replied that there was no intention to cover everything and there was no point in duplicating current websites.
- In answer to the question why not Linlithgow.com? RH replied that LCDT decided to start afresh; myLinlithgow.com is looking to draw new people in.
- RS confirmed that Burgh Beautiful and the Burgh Trust website is currently being revamped and emphasised the effort required in compiling websites and keeping them up to date.
- The point was made that the Community Council has a statutory duty to represent the opinion of the town which it seeks to do through various multimedia activities. In answer to the question; what are you looking for from the Community Council? RH replied "point Linlithgow.com at myLinlithgow.com and propose a member of the Community Council to sit on the user group of myLinlithgow.com". It was decided to comply with the request to point Linlithgow.com at myLinlithgow.com.

Action PRS

- A meeting between representatives of the Community Council and LCDT is to be arranged. *Note this meeting will be held on Monday the 25 March 2019.*

5. Options to enhance efficiency of the Linlithgow Recycling Centre.

DM introduced the topic by referring to the need for accurate data on which to judge the efficiency of the Linlithgow recycling centre. He recommended benchmarking against other recycling centres and establishing an electronic survey of use of the Linlithgow recycling centre. DM suggested that there may be an opportunity to make a bid to the Lottery for funding to build up a picture of waste recycling centres. Commercial waste is no longer collected by West Lothian Council and this includes churches and charities who have been classified as commercial users. In answer to a question from DT, GS confirmed that the sort of waste from church premises was normal domestic waste from the kitchen used by charitable organisations and playgroups. DM confirmed that the waste landscape is changing, plastic has to be separated into separate streams, food and garden waste will in future need to be dealt with in a strictly hygienic manner. However, in the view of DM the council does not wish to give up a valuable income stream from recycling; this with the caveat that we need facts, figures and details to understand the full picture.

In the discussion that followed RS stated that much more education is needed to inform residents of what can and what cannot be recycled. JH suggested that packaging was not clear. MV will write to TC about collection from churches and charities.

Action DM/MV

6. Discussion of a paper on housing for Local Area Committee 09.30 5th March 2019.

JK confirmed that an e-mail has been sent to Tom Conn requesting the opportunity to present a paper on housing in Linlithgow to the Local Area Committee. No reply had been received but the paper was ready to send with Community Council approval. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the current West Lothian Council economic and social plan was starving Linlithgow of social housing. DM stated that the facts in the paper are indisputable. MV emphasised the point that the facts in the paper are largely gathered from the papers and policies of West Lothian Council. The question was asked what West Lothian Council's vision for housing in Linlithgow is? The point was also made that it is not just a question of Council housing but also the diversity of housing types and tenures; specifically, opportunities for downsizing. It was agreed to send the paper to Graham Struthers, Lorraine McGroarty and TC with the request for the topic to be included in the forthcoming Local Area Committee agenda.

Action JK

7. Reports:

As it was approaching 9pm MC, from the Chair, said that all further items on the agenda would be deferred until next month. JK ran very quickly through the secretary's report and the planning report previously circulated. The only point of note was the condition of the High Street pavement around the Victoria Hall development and the amendments to the section 75 agreement for Winchburgh Academy. TK suggested that the Community Council write to Elaine Cook to determine exactly the impact of the decision to release the Winchburgh developer from the requirement to provide schools before the occupation of the 550th house. Specifically, how many houses could the developer build before the schools are completed.

Action JK

8. Next meeting.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th March 2019 in the Burgh Halls.

Meeting closed at 21.05

John Kelly, Secretary
10th March 2019