

LLBCC Meeting – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019, Burgh Halls

Present – Gordon Smith (GS), Mike Vickers (MV), Ron Smith (RS), Martin Crook (MC), Paula Ryans Stokes (PR), Fraser Falconer (FF), Councillors – David Tait (DT), Tom Kerr (TK), Tom Conn (TC) and four members of the public.

Apologies – Maire McCormack, John Kelly, Pamela Barnes, Joyce Hartley, Mukami McCrum, Ian Kelly

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

Minutes from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – No corrections required, proposed by FF, seconded by GS

Town Centre Fund – Tourist Information Office bid was successful; West Lothian Labour group has allocated some of the leftover Linlithgow fund to the plan. GS meeting Stewart Ness and Visit Scotland to discuss, details to be arranged.

Bus Group – MC said the report for Transport Scotland was to be arranged. Platform survey to go ahead with Tracsis contracted to do the survey, looking at targeting younger people to fill demographic gap. The group looked at work Transition Linlithgow have carried out. Regarding cash flow concern – Transport Scotland will pay as Bus Group spends.

Low Port – FF gave a report on behalf of LCDT, will be arranging a further public meeting (in November) to share the answers received from Head of Operations, West Lothian Leisure. West Lothian Council have completed a survey which states the building would need approx. £250k invested. WLL will not be running the residential unit as the poor energy rating of the building has made it not profitable. In 2018-19 the centre made a loss of £293k. Users are put off by pollution of the loch, weather conditions. LCDT to look at how the centre is marketed. WLL are cooperating.

Infrastructure Fund statement – GS stated that he and JK considering writing to WLC regarding the junction. TC pointed out the new development in the east of Bo'ness would also impact junction which is covered by two council areas so worth querying what Falkirk council are doing. GS said JK would be attending the Bo'ness CC to discuss.

AOB (following directly on from previous item) – MC brought up the congestion problems caused by traffic heading to the bridge – were there any conversations at WLC about this? TK said this was also raised at Newton CC due to the number of heavy vehicles heading through the village and delays caused by the traffic jams. Transport Scotland are the ones to contact as while WLC could lobby it would be Transport Scotland who would deal with resolving issues.

Chair – GS attending AGM of BID who will be giving a presentation at the November meeting. Organisation of the Advent Fayre was going well with next meeting of the Town Management due Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Turn left signage at the end of Preston Road would also be discussed. TC queried public liability insurance coverage with LDT taking over the Advent Fayre. CC would take responsibility for insurance with WLC as it nominally remains a CC event.

Treasurer – IK sent in report – financial account as last month, no change.

Planning – Local Place Plans. Scottish Government researching infrastructure levy, but it is not clear as to how system would operate. There is a gap between localised projects and major infrastructure. CC objecting to Wilcoxholm plans – official letter of objection sent in May with JK to ascertain when this will go before committee at WLC. JH sent in note that LCT raised concerns with WLC in June regarding ads and signage going up without consent. Water bottle refill stations – TC said planning

permission was given on basis that Scottish Water had spoken to NETS who were not aware of current work going on at the Cross.

Further AOB – McCarthy Stone had started on the building buttress at Templars Court but stopped due to more internal work being required.

GS will have an article on the tourist information centre request for volunteers placed in the Gazette. RS looking to formalise a Party @ the Palace presence in conjunction with the tourist information project.

New BID unit has been agreed and will be set up at their next meeting. Member of the public who owns a High Street business stated that they had been told there was “no money left” in BID to help with late night shopping, there was a belief that money had been side-lined for CCTV. She raised doubt over the value of CCTV in the High Street using the Mill Road CCTV ineffectiveness during a recent robbery. GS said this was more to do with a lack of police presence in town. Another member of the public wondered if there would be an increased police presence for the football match between Linlithgow Rose and Falkirk. Any application for this would need to come from SFA.