

## August 2020 Progress Report

At the June meeting of the Community Council it was accepted that the secretary would produce a progress report on all those actions which are, and may be for some time, continuing. It is proposed that these actions are not discussed at the Community Council meeting unless someone wishes to do so or there has been a significant movement which requires discussion and a further action. Items for the agenda should be submitted to the secretary at least two weeks before the Community Council meeting. The secretary will endeavour to keep the website [www.llbcc.org.uk](http://www.llbcc.org.uk) up to date. Those items marked **NEW** indicate a change to the previous report.

**Local Place Plans** - further to the submission of the Joint Forum briefing note on local place plans (see [www.llbcc.org.uk/planning](http://www.llbcc.org.uk/planning) ) a reply has been received from Graham Robinson from Scottish Government who is in charge of the community engagement package arising from the 2019 Planning Act. The reply can be found on the website. It appears unlikely that progress will be made on local place plans by the Scottish government until National Planning Framework 4 is completed in draft form in 2021. **Action:** we will remain in touch with Graham Robinson.

**NEW - Planning (Scotland) Act 2019** Consultation paper relating to proposed changes to the existing requirements for pre-application consultation (PAC) with local communities on national and major developments. Closing date 6<sup>th</sup> November. Details <https://consult.gov.scot/planning-architecture/pre-application-consultation-requirements/>

**NEW - National Planning Framework 4.** LLBCC responded to the call for ideas. All responses to the call are available <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/call-for-ideas/> An executive summary and full report on the ideas can be found at [www.llbcc.org.uk/planning](http://www.llbcc.org.uk/planning). A final version of NPF4 is anticipated in the spring of 2022. **Action** we will respond to the draft National Planning Framework when it is published.

**West Lothian Local Development Plan 2.** The current development plan scheme anticipates the publication of the draft LDP 2 Monitoring Report and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SCA), in early 2022. It is of concern that no consultation is timetabled to precede the publication of draft LDP 2 and no mention of LPP's. **Action** maintain a close watch

**New Parking Study.** An email has been received from Gordon Scott who is the associate from Stantec responsible for the West Lothian car parking study. The reply states "we have added you [Community Council] to our list of stakeholders and will keep you involved throughout the study". The documents relating to the car parking study are on the Community Council website. **Action** await further contact.

**NEW - Vennel Development.** The Development and Transport PDSP to consider the Planning Guidance which was consulted on in 2017 will be held at 10am on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**NEW - Templars Court** front building. A brief chronology of the Templars Court project has been prepared and is available at [www.llbcc.org.uk/planning](http://www.llbcc.org.uk/planning) . A meeting has been held with Wheatley Group Development Manager Elspeth Lang. Elspeth confirmed that it is unlikely that an affordable led approach can offer a solution since the complications associated with the site would mean a financial commitment above the benchmark and therefore further financial support would be

required for the project to be viable. By coincidence, West Lothian Council affordable housing group has been in touch with the Wheatley Group (which includes Dunedin Canmore) to ascertain whether Dunedin Canmore has any projects which could be included in the affordable housing program up to 2025.

**Community Council Scheme Review.** The review is ongoing. The Joint Forum has made several suggestions for improvement. LLBCC has submitted its response. **Action.** Await draft proposal.

**M9 junction 3 west bound slips.** Further to the Community Council discussion regarding the change of use of the Phase 3 building at Oracle to a distribution warehouse and the impact on traffic congestion in Linlithgow High Street a letter was sent to Michael Matheson the Transport Secretary. A reply was received from Transport Scotland which stated that whilst there are no current proposals for this infrastructure a comment was made on the consultation draft "Supplementary Guidance on Developer Contributions Towards Transport Infrastructure". Transport Scotland requested greater clarity on the trigger points regarding the requirement for the improvement/alteration of the M9 slips and the proposed delivery mechanism prompting the question of whether West Lothian Council planning will agree to include trigger points and what are these likely to be?

**Westfield 0293/FUL/20** A planning application has been received from Alba Developments (based at St Peter Port, Guernsey), for the initial development of 49 houses at Westfield. This will have an impact on Linlithgow Academy. A letter of objection was sent stating that such a development should not take place until Winchburgh Academy is operational.

**Springfield land sale.** Savills have advertised land for sale adjacent to the Blackness Road. The sale brochure will be available on LLBCC website. **Action.** It is unlikely that a planning application will occur in the short term, but it is likely that a developer will at some point lobby for the inclusion of the land for development within LDP 2.

**Safer Streets.** Councillor Tom Conn gave a report to the Community Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> June on various "safer streets" projects prompted by Covid 19. The projects in Linlithgow under consideration are:

- improvements to Capstan's Walk funded from the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) initiative.
- In addition are several projects funded from the "spaces for people" initiative the main aims of which are to provide temporary walking and cycling infrastructure that helps to protect public health; and focus on essential journeys such as to hospitals, health services, shops, pharmacies, and areas used for exercise. The projects are:
  - High Street footway widening adjacent to Oliphant's bakery
  - Footway widening at Back Station Road
  - Suspension of the pavement parking in the High Street between St Michael's Wynd and the Four Marys and also between Lion Well Wynd and New Well Wynd.
  - Walker/cyclist friendly zones will be introduced on rural roads in the Bathgate Hills with a reduced speed limit of 40 mph.
  - Advisory/temporary cycle lanes will be introduced along the Edinburgh Road and St Ninian's Road.
  - Physical distancing signage and measures at lay-by bus stops.

John Kelly  
20<sup>th</sup> August 2020