



**Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council
Special Meeting to Test Public Participation
on
Tuesday 28th July 2020 at 19.30, online.**

Present: Chair Gordon Smith (GS), Pamela Barnes (PB), Joyce Hartley (JH), Ian Kelly (IK), John Kelly (JK), Mike Vickers (MV), Provost Tom Kerr (TK), Councillor Tom Conn (TC), Helen Hassel (HH) LCDT, and four members of the public.

Apologies Martin Crook (MC), Fraser Falconer (FF), Liam Fraser (LF), Graeme Grant (GG), Des Martin (DM), Maire McCormack (MMcC), Paula Ryans Stokes (PRS), Scott Oliver (SO), Ron Smith (RS,) Councillor David Tait (DT) Police Scotland - Andrew Murray (AM) and Peter Robertson (PR).

Welcome GS welcomed Helen Hassel who introduced the public participation process.

Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest noted

1. Minutes of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Meeting Tuesday 23rd June 2020. One correction to the minutes was noted; improvements to Capstan's Walk is to be funded by the cycling, walking and safer streets initiative not the spaces for people initiative as recorded in the minutes. With this correction the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting - proposed MV, seconded PB.

2. Matters arising. Proposal to close the Linlithgow Coronavirus Support service. JK introduced the report, circulated with the papers, detailing the proposals for a closedown of service from 14 August. PB stated that there should be an alternative phone line for help so that those dialling into the service still have an opportunity to contact a volunteer. Those who volunteered to assist with the service would be notified of other volunteering opportunities for example Linlithgow Link are currently short of drivers to take people to hospital appointments. There is a potential pool of volunteers. The LCDT newsletter continues on a weekly basis. LCDT has funding from the coronavirus programme until the end of October. It is proposed to promote volunteering; "time banking" and "help my street" were mentioned.

3. Templars Court front building. JK referred to the synopsis included with the agenda as note 1. JK also reported on a conversation with Wheatley Group Development Manager Elspeth Lang. During the conversation Elspeth confirmed that she had looked at the High Street site previously so was aware of some of the challenges associated with what is a small and complicated site. She confirmed that she was unsure whether an affordable led approach can offer a solution since the complications 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.

The stabilisation of the gable was discussed at which point Elspeth said that they would require details of the stabilisation solution and confirmation that the gable was sufficiently stable to allow a foundation to be constructed. In the context of the accommodation Elspeth confirmed that 7 residential units would be more attractive than 5 residential units and 2 shop units which would either be sold or rented. The shop units would not be eligible for charitable bond funding. Elspeth confirmed that she is willing to do some work on the project and ask Wheatley framework architects and engineers to do some investigative work. Further contact is not expected until towards the end of August. PB raised the opportunity of a community/business hub in lieu of the retail units and suggested that LCDT might put some resource into identifying the funds which might be available to facilitate this. The suggestion was made that the Victoria Hall proposed development might be a suitable place for a community/business hub but TC, drawing on a previous conversation with the owner, thought that very unlikely.

4. Safer Streets Initiative. JK introduced note 2 appended to the agenda. TC reported that tenders had been returned to West Lothian Council and contractors appointed to undertake the work. Some projects might require further funding or a modification in terms of their specification to remain within the budget. A member of the public asked whether a 20 mile per hour speed limit was not more appropriate than a 40 mile per hour speed limit on those roads bordering and transiting Beecraigs Country Park. TC stated that the 40 mph speed limit was to be common across a number of rural roads.

5. Remembrance Sunday parade and service and Advent Fayre. Following an introduction by GS it was decided that the logistics of the Advent Fayre were too difficult in terms of social distancing etc. However, it was agreed to support an initiative which would add sparkle to the town. GS stated that whilst it would not be possible to have a traditional Remembrance Sunday parade, service, and post parade hospitality it would be possible to have a Remembrance Sunday online service with perhaps wreath laying in the church. GS and JK to speak to Liam Fraser.

Action GS and JK

6. Planning. Proposal for a 9 house development at Burghmuir Farm 0497/FUL/20 JH introduced the proposal to provide 9 houses with 20 parking spaces at Burghmuir Farm. JH stated that in her opinion the existing buildings were modest in form and that the proposal was for a significant increase in floor area using a design and materials which were less than sensitive to the existing structure. The principle of a redevelopment at Burghmuir Farm was accepted in principle but not in the current form. IK pointed out that the development was well outside the settlement boundary described in the local development plan and therefore a rural development. It was agreed that JK would write to Matthew Watson seeking an extended period for comment giving JH time to examine the significant amount of documentation accompanying the application.

7. Public Participation feedback, questions and replies. GS read out one remaining question namely; when was the recycling centre to return to a full service i.e. accepting

electrical items for example. TC stated that all West Lothian Recycling Centres would be operating a reduced service for some time. HH thanked the members of the public for their attendance and requested feedback of their experience by email.

8. AOB It was agreed by the Community Council to purchase a 12 month licence for Zoom.

9. Meeting Close GS thanked everyone for their attendance especially the members of the public. The meeting closed at 20.30.

10. Next Meeting - The next meeting of the Community Council is Tuesday, 25th August 2020.

John Kelly, Secretary,
4th August 2020