



Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council Agenda

Notice is hereby given that the next meeting of the Community Council will take place at **19.30** on **Tuesday 24th November 2020 online**. Members of the public will be participating in this meeting.

- 19.30 1. Attendance, apologies, and declarations of interest.
- 19.32 2 Welcome to members of public attending.
- 19.35 3 Approval of Minutes of the Community Council meeting of 27th October 2020.
- 19.40 4. Matters arising:
- 4.4 Vennel Redevelopment. A Participation Request is the next stage.
 - 4.5 Smoke detector replacement – see note 1.
 - 4.7 Town Centre Funding
- 19.50 5. Participatory Budgeting - see note 2
- 20.10 6. LCDT AGM report
- 20.20 7. Standing Reports:
- 1) Chairman
 - a) Tourist information signage
 - b) HES Loch user group meeting
 - c) Remembrance Sunday report
 - 2) Secretary. See report.
 - 3) Treasurer.
 - 4) Police.
 - 5) Planning. See report
 - 6) Bus Group
 - 7) Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian. See report
- 20.45 10. Public participation feedback, questions and replies
- 20.55 11. AOB
- 21.00 12. Meeting close. Next meeting 24th November 2020.

For information: Dates of future meetings

<u>2021</u>	<u>2021*</u>	<u>2021*</u>
26 th January	25 th May	28 th September
23 rd February	22 nd June	26 th October
23 rd March	No meeting in July	23 rd November
27 th April - AGM	24 th August	14 th December**

* Meeting dates for 2021 will be confirmed at the AGM.

** Meeting date reserved but meeting may not be held if insufficient business

Notes:

1) **Smoke detector replacement** The Scottish Government replied to our October discussion as follows:

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the upcoming changes to fire safety regulations.

Please note that The Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (Tolerable Standard) (Extension of Criteria) Order 2019, which sets out the new smoke alarm regulations, was due to come into force on 1 February 2021. However, in a statement published 20 October the Housing Minister announced the Government will ask the Scottish Parliament to delay the implementation of these regulations by 12 months.

SPICe has recently published a FAQ blog on the upcoming changes to smoke and heat alarms, which provides more information on this topic: <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2020/10/21/smoke-and-heat-alarms-in-homes-frequently-asked-questions/>

How does the Scottish Government intend for superseded smoke alarms to be collected?

Disposal of end-of-life smoke detectors in Scotland is governed by The Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR) and the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (WEEE).

The Scottish Government advise householders to note the guidance issued by The Scottish Environmental protection Agency (SEPA) for the management and disposal of ionisation chamber smoke detectors:

https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/505349/management_of_end_of_life_smoke_detectors.pdf

The guidance is largely for commercial businesses, but it does provide the following information for householders:

SEPA promotes the environmentally sound management of WEEE devices and therefore advises the following disposal options for householders for end of life smoke detectors:

- you can take your smoke detectors to a civic amenity site and they should accept it to be recycled under small mixed WEEE;
- you can take your smoke detectors to the retailer/distributor where you are purchasing a new one. This should be free of charge on a one-for-one basis however a retailer who funds local authority WEEE collection sites, may direct you there.

Zero Waste Scotland's website advises that WEE electricals (including smoke alarms) can be recycled WEEE-approved sites at local recycling centres, or at a WEEE bring site (such as participating Currys PC World stores): <https://wasteless.zerowastescotland.org.uk/articles/what-to-do-with-electrical-items>

The Recycle Your Electricals campaign website has a useful 'recycling locator' search function, which can be used to find the nearest recycling place for electricals:

<https://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/>

Will there be financial or other help in the provision of interconnected smoke alarms?

In general, home owners are responsible for the costs of on-going work needed to protect and preserve their own property. The Scottish Government advise that local authorities have broad discretionary powers to provide advice and assistance to home owners with work needed to look after their homes. More information can be found here:

http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/get_advice/advice_topics/repairs_and_bad_conditions/help_to_pay_for_repairs_improvements_and_adaptations/the_new_scheme_of_assistance_to_help_pay_for_repair_work

In addition, the Scottish Government's factsheet on fire and smoke alarms notes:

"The Scottish Government has, over the period 2018-20, provided the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) with £1m funding to install these alarms in the homes of people assessed to be at high risk from fire as part of a Home Fire Safety Visit."

Source: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes/>

I hope this information is of use. Should you have any further enquiries then please do not hesitate to contact SPICe.

Kind regards,

Alisdair Grahame
Enquiries Officer

Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe)

2) Participatory Budgeting – Community Choices.

The Scottish Government and Cosla (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) have agreed that at least 1% of local authority budgets should be spent using a Participatory Budgeting approach by the end of 2021. Communities and service users in West Lothian will soon have the chance to influence spending through a process called Community Choices. West Lothian Community Choices is West Lothian's version of Participatory Budgeting - a democratic process which empowers people and communities to have a greater say in how public money is spent. West Lothian Community Choices empowers everyone from community groups to individual service users to get involved in local decision making via a democratic Participatory Budgeting process. Several Community Choices exercises will be undertaken throughout West Lothian, enabling local people to be more involved in decisions that affect them and their community.

West Lothian Council has not notified Community Councils of the budget for participatory budgeting nor of their intended approach. However, we might anticipate:

- An approach where elements of the council's capital investment programme are selected as topics for engagement for community input. An example is the current park improvements initiative at various parks within West Lothian. (excluding Linlithgow).
- An approach where specific budgets are set aside for a range of community services. Communities will input to how these services should be prioritised and how the budget is to be spent.

- A grant funded approach which is designed to support community-based projects and will use community voting to decide which projects will be funded.
- A mainstream approach where the local authority co-designs services with the people who use them. This takes PB beyond making decisions on small grants and existing services and towards directly involving communities in service re-design.

The Joint Forum is interested in providing Community Councils with a more effective method of gathering local opinion on a host of local issues important to the community. This facility would give them a better understanding of their community's thoughts and concerns and therefore give them as Community Councils a more informed approach and guide their actions and stances on these issues. It would also enhance their ability to reflect their communities view to the Council and other public bodies in West Lothian. The Joint Forum is aware of the commitment from many Scottish Councils and Cosla to a system known as Consul (<https://consulproject.org/en/>), having attended seminars where it has been demonstrated in presentations.

John Kelly
11th November 2020