



## 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 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021** in the Burgh Halls. Residents are invited to 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 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
- 19.40 4. Matters arising:
  - 4.2a. Smoke detector replacement – see note 1
  - 4.2b Springfield trees – see note 2
  - 4.2c Low Port Centre – see note 3
  - 4.4c Templars Court Gap site – see note 4
  - 4.5 Linlithgow High St and Public Realm – see note 5
  - 4.6 LLBCC Website & Zoom – see note 6
- 20.00 5. Proposal for a new pharmacy in Linlithgow – short presentation by Thomas Byrne
- 20.10 6. St Michaels Hospital – current situation and action required – see note 7
- 20.15 7. Linlithgow Loch
- 20.25 8. Result of the Community Council election & handover arrangements.
- 20.35 9. Standing Reports:
  - 1) Chairman
  - 2) Secretary.
  - 3) Treasurer.
  - 4) Police.
  - 5) Health.
  - 6) Planning.
  - 7) Bus Group
  - 8) Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian.
- 20.50 10. Public participation feedback, questions and replies
- 20.55 11. AOB
- 21.00 12. Meeting close. Next meeting 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – note this is the inaugural meeting.

## For information: Dates of future meetings

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022*</u>	<u>2022*</u>	<u>2022*</u>
28th September	25 <sup>th</sup> January	24 <sup>th</sup> May	27 <sup>th</sup> September
26th October	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	28 <sup>th</sup> June	25 <sup>th</sup> October
23rd November*	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	No meeting in July	22 <sup>nd</sup> November
14th December**	26 <sup>th</sup> April - AGM	23 <sup>rd</sup> August	20 <sup>th</sup> December**

\* Meeting dates will be confirmed at inaugural CC meeting.

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

### Notes:

- 1. Smoke detector replacement** – TC has advised that replaced smoke detectors can be disposed of at the Linlithgow Recycling Centre. The notice from West Lothian Council states “residents are being urged not to put old smoke detectors into their grey or blue household bins. Every home in Scotland must have interlinked smoke alarms by February 2022.  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes>  
As a result, it’s expected that there will be an increase in the number of old smoke alarms residents want to dispose of. Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is made from valuable materials which can be recycled but – in some cases – contain hazardous materials which need to be treated properly. The good news is that the old smoke detectors can be disposed of safely in the small mixed WEEE containers at West Lothian’s Recycling Centres. These WEEE containers/skips are located within all of West Lothian’s Recycling Centres and are clearly marked for small electrical items. If you are not sure where to place them, please ask a member of staff onsite”. Finally, we have been notified that anyone who have Careline linked smoke alarms in their property should retain them in addition to the new interlinked smoke alarms.
- 2. Springfield trees.** All information received from residents, relevant documents, queries, and comments have been summarised and collated on the Community Council website.  
<https://llbcc.org.uk/community-matters/springfield-trees/> A letter from West Lothian Council to residents advised that a paper setting out the position of West Lothian Council on the subject of trees and tree shelter belts in particular will be presented to the Environment PDSP on 14<sup>th</sup> September. However, the presentation of the paper has been postponed until the Environment PDSP on 9<sup>th</sup> November.
- 3. Low Port Centre.** The minute of the August meeting stated that the closing date for offers for the Low Port Centre should have been week commencing 9th August and St John’s Church were ready to make their offer. However, they have been informed that West Lothian Council have a legal obligation to secure “the best terms reasonably obtainable” and will set a closing date only once they are satisfied that a sufficient level of interest has been established. West Lothian Council believe there is merit in openly marketing the property for a longer period. The new closing date is likely to be week commencing 27th September 2021. A developer, planning a flat development, has been in touch with the secretary to ascertain possible incorporation of a community facility. The developer had been shown around the Low Port Centre but was not aware of the potential asset transfer bid.
- 4. Templars Court Gap site.** The August meeting of the Community Council unanimously agreed the proposal that West Lothian Council buys the site as offered for £1 and transfers

the title to the site to a housing association and offers to contribute the £90,000 it received from McCarthy and Stone as a contribution towards housing association mid-market rent housing on the site. This should make the site viable as 7 units for the elderly. This proposal was subsequently accepted by four other members responding by email. TC to arrange a meeting with officers.

5. **High Street Public Realm.** As pandemic restrictions have eased recently for shops and High Street businesses, West Lothian Council is seeking views on the updates to the Linlithgow Town Centre Public Realm Action Plan and seeks ideas for new improvement proposals from town centre organisations and businesses. All details can be found at <https://llbcc.org.uk/community-matters/public-realm-design-guide/> This item was delegated to the Planning Forum. The response to the questionnaire was sent to Chris Alcorn as follows:

Dear Chris,

Please accept this response to the Linlithgow Public Realm Consultation in lieu of a completed questionnaire.

- a. In respect of the Linlithgow Public Realm; we agree with the statement in the Development and Transport PDSP of 10 November 2020 "review of public realm design guide for Linlithgow" that the current public realm document is sufficient to facilitate the actions already identified. It is noted the concluding comments to Appendix 2 states that this will be with continued partnership working with the Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Town Centre Management Group (TMG), Linlithgow Bid, Linlithgow Civic Trust and the Burgh Beautiful group. We assume that the Community Council will also be involved. You have already received an email from Ron Smith of Linlithgow Civic Trust dated 20th of June 2021 the contents of which have been agreed and endorsed by Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council.
- b. With reference to the questions referring to the TMG, the Community Council view this body as an unincorporated forum, focused solely on the town centre, which achieves its aims by facilitating communication between various organisations and co-ordinating activity within a funding arrangement with West Lothian Council who retain a significant controlling interest. To be more effective the TMG needs to be incorporated with a means to sponsor projects required by the whole Linlithgow Community even if this means generating funds. The TMG needs to work efficiently with the BID and with LCDT. The TMG structure, financing and operation needs a thorough overhaul.
- c. Question 4 asks "What new initiatives could be considered that would be beneficial to supporting local businesses within the town centre?". The Community Council believe that the focus on the town centre is incorrect and the question that should be asked is "what new initiatives could be considered that would be beneficial to supporting local businesses and those working from locations in Linlithgow but remote from their primary place of work?" This could be inclusive of a business hub within the town centre although the parking issues associated with such a hub have to be resolved; which may mean a business hub elsewhere within the Linlithgow Community Council area.

John Kelly  
Secretary

Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council

Secretary - LLBCC

6. **LLBCC website.** The Zoom subscription has been renewed. A discussion of the future structure of the website be taken off-line on a date to be agreed.
  
7. **St Michael's Hospital** St. Michael's Hospital serves Linlithgow and the surrounding area. It is a geriatric long-stay hospital specialising in assessment, palliative care and respite care. As stated in the minutes of last month's meeting an update on the current situation was given at the meeting of the West Lothian Integration Joint Board on 21st of September 2021. The update on the temporary closure of St Michael's Hospital report is at <https://llbcc.org.uk/meetings-and-minutes/> . The land on which the hospital stands was gifted to St Michael's church in the early 1850's for a hospital with a garden. The Linlithgow Combination Poorhouse and Infirmary opened on the site in 1856. An infectious diseases hospital was built on an adjacent site in around 1900. The poorhouse infirmary and the infectious diseases hospital came together to form St Michael's Home and Hospital in 1932. The combined facility joined the National Health Service in 1948. The poorhouse building was demolished in 1969 and replaced with the current facility. NHS Scotland took a lease on the hospital in the 1970's. The League of Friends of St Michael's Hospital assist in the functioning of the hospital by organising activities, trips, entertainment or if required one to one time with individuals. The hospital was a 30-bed hospital but reduced to 22 for infection control reasons. At the Community Council meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 it was reported that only 19 beds were occupied and the question was asked "when there is a demand for palliative care beds why are not all beds filled?" The hospital was run down to 8 beds occupied before the temporary closure with staff reassigned and movement of patients to Tippethill House Hospital. The issue of closure will be revisited at the end of November but there will be no permanent closure without consultation.