

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 10 NOVEMBER 2016**  
**held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm**  
**web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>**

---

**1. Present:**

Chris Dryden, Kevin Kerr, Ron Skirving, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, Carol Hallesy, Nick Lansdell, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; PC Alan Hodge, PC Alan James

**Apologies:** Arthur Marris, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Alex Hendry, Frank Mustard

**Residents:** Roger Harper, Norrie Anderson, Craig Dishington

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 13 October 2016:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 13 October was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Nick Lansdell. Carried.

**3. Matters Arising:**

None.

**4. Finances:**

Ron Skirving reported the bank balance remains at £1,850.

**5. Councillor's Report:**

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave a report.

The West Lothian Local Development Plan has been submitted to the Scottish Government. A Reporter will be appointed who may then call witnesses from organisations, including Murieston Community Council.

Councillor Fitzpatrick circulated the plans for the new West Calder High School.

The new mountain bike extension has now been opened at the Froggy Pond in Staunton Rise, Dedridge.

ScottishPower are digging up Murieston Road to replace the faulty power cable. Grass can be reseeded or turf, and reinstated within 12 months. West Lothian Council will ensure restoration is compliant.

Murieston Village Hall now has a cleaner for 10 hours a week. Gordon Connolly will be taking over as the Hall Secretary and will handle room bookings.

The lamppost at the entrance to Bankton Lane was damaged in a traffic accident 5 weeks ago and will be replaced in the next few days.

The damage at the entrance to Murieston Trail has been repaired.

Network Rail will be drilling foundations for the electrification masts using rail-based piling rigs.

Most of this work will be done overnight. Ian Brown has asked Network Rail to hold a public meeting and has provided details of the availability of Williamston School and Murieston Village Hall.

The Scottish Government has announced plans to centralise university funding, fund 30 hours of child care provision each week and provide direct funding and budget control to head teachers.

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting at 7.45 to attend another community meeting.

**6. Murieston United Community Football Club:**

Norrie Anderson, Chair with Craig Dishington spoke to the meeting about MUCFC.

MUCFC has been running for 30 years. The Club originally used black ash pitches but now has a full-size synthetic floodlit 3G pitch. There are also six grass pitches and two 5-a-side pitches which are not used in adverse weather to protect the turf. MUCFC has been supported by West Lothian Council and Sports Scotland. Running costs for the club are £70,000 a year, with a maintenance spend of £5,000 annually; covering the large number of boys, youth, girls and ladies teams.

The club has spoken with Becky Plunkett, Open Space Officer at the Council about the planned upgrade to Bankton Mains Park and possibility of a running path.

The club runs a canteen at weekends, which is open to the public.

The club would like to enlist support from the community in dealing with an increasing

problem of vandalism of the 3G pitch and facilities, particularly in the past two years. The gate used to be kept locked when the 3G pitch was closed, but it became necessary to leave it open for safety reasons as there had been some accidents when individuals have scaled the gate and fence.

PC Alan James asked that MUCFC report all incidents to the Police by phoning 101. The Community Safety Action Team may be able to offer assistance.

A CCTV system would assist in protecting the facilities but this would be expensive due to the length of cabling which would be required. A wireless CCTV system may be an alternative.

Littering is also a persistent problem. The NETs team have helped but they need to attend on Friday afternoons when much of the littering occurs after the schools are out. The litter bins are too small and inadequate.

## 7. **Community Policing:**

PC Alan James gave a report.

Residents are asked to phone 101 when they have an unknown door-step caller.

The youth riding the motorbike on paths and in Bankton Mains Park has been apprehended.

There has been a house break-in at Bankton Brae and a car has been broken into in Bankton Park West.

A parked car was damaged in Ossian Drive and the offender was identified.

The monthly crime stats for Livingston South ward were outlined.

<u>Calls</u>	<u>October 16</u>	<u>October 15</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Youth	46	80	-43%
Anti-Social Behaviour	149	189	-21%
Hate Crime	3	4	-25%
Vandalism	24	16	50%
Fire-raising	2	1	100%
Public Space Assaults	23	13	77%

## 8. **Murieston Environmental Group (MEG) - <http://meg.btck.co.uk> :**

Nothing to report this month.

## 9. **Broadband Rollout :**

Ian Brown reported.

Ian has asked Kyle Dodd from Virgin Media for an update on their plans for infrastructure work, but no details provided to date.

## 10. **Murieston Local History Group :**

Nothing to report.

## 11. **Windfarms:**

Nothing to report.

## 12. **Community Website - [murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk](http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk)**

Ron Skirving reported.

Ron has added a new Dialogue page on the website. The stated aim of this section is to provide fresh and different perspectives that might create further discussion about the role and possibilities for Community Councils. The discussion is hosted on the Scottish Community Councillors Development Network Knowledge Hub group, KHub - <http://www.khub.net> .

## 13. **Community Noticeboard:**

Ian Brown said Mid Calder has a public noticeboard and he will contact Mid Calder CC for details.

## 14. **Community Development Trust:**

Ian Brown said he will arrange a meeting with the Community Regeneration Officer at the Council, Laura Wilson to discuss the framework for establishing a community development trust (CDT).

The Questions and Answers as a guide to the proposal for a community development trust have been put on the community council website.

Ron will put a reminder on the website about the public consultation regarding a Murieston

CDT.

**15. Community Garden and Allotments:**

Ian Brown reported

Ian and Davidson recently met with a representative from the Central Scotland Green Network Trust and Council environmental officer at the proposed site beside Murieston House. They are supportive but there is a need to demonstrate there is sufficient demand within the community for these facilities. The Community Council could front a separate management committee to launch the project. Ian will consider how the project can be publicised.

**16. Health and Social Care:**

Nothing to report.

There is now a vacancy on the Community Council for a new representative.

**17. Planning Applications:**

Ian Brown reported on the current position on planning appeals by developers.

The decision supporting the appeal on the Brotherton Farm planning application has been confirmed by the second Reporter.

A Reporter has been allocated to decide the appeal against the refusal of the planning application for Murieston Castle (0355/P/15). The developer is contending that the 5 year look-ahead plan of the Council is wrong. Bellsquarry and Murieston Community Councils have both submitted letters of objection.

No Reporter has been allocated yet to determine the appeal against the Council's decision to refuse the Wellhead Farm planning application (0918/P/15).

**18. Local Development Plan:**

Ian Brown reported.

The SESPlan Proposed Strategic Development Plan has now been published for public consultation up to 24 November.

Ian and Davidson had attended the open day at the Civic Centre on 3 November and discussed local issues with SESPlan officers. There are two green networks to the east and west of Livingston but south Livingston is not part of a green network. Ian will prepare a letter expressing our concerns. Ian will also contact Bellsquarry Community Council regarding their response.

**19. Correspondence:**

The Secretary circulated a letter from Scottish Natural Heritage advising that the SNH has reclassified the Linhouse Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) from 'Wet woodland' to 'Upland mixed ash woodland'. Noted.

**20. Any Other Business:**

Christmas dinner has been booked at the Terrace Restaurant, West Lothian College on 1 December for the community councillors at personal expense.

**The Meeting closed at 8.40 pm**

**The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 8 December 2016 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School**