

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 12 APRIL 2018
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Carol Hallesy, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies: Arthur Marris, Tania Armstrong, Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell, Ron Skirving

Residents: Roger Harper

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 8 March 2018:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 8 March was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Carol Hallesy, subject to a minor change. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

Chris Dryden has written to our Police community representatives to confirm that they will provide reports for our meetings.

4. Finances:

Finances remain at £1,868.72.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Cruden Homes will be building flats on the site of the former Police HQ behind the Centre. One quarter of the homes will be reserved for the over 55 age group.

The Deans household waste recycling centre has now closed permanently. There are new opening times for the Oakbank centre, which is now often very busy. Changes to the bulky uplift arrangements have also taken place with bulky uplifts now being charged at £25 for up to five items. Councillor Fitzpatrick circulated a publication with details of the new waste management arrangements.

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

The Council Executive met on 22 March to progress the finalised Local Development Plan (LDP). The Scottish Government Reporter scrutinising the LDP had included the Wellhead Farm development proposal while it was still under appeal.

Councillors have been advised that, by law, recommendations made by the Reporter must be accepted.

The site at Bervie Drive in Murieston Valley previously zoned for retail use has now been redesignated for mixed use, which could permit development of up to 24 houses.

The site at the rear of Tarbert Drive (H-LV3) continues to be zoned in the LDP for 9 houses.

The station carpark was also closed for 9 days during the rebuild of Livingston South station as the statutory authorities did not raise issues with its temporary closure.

BT has moved cabinet 55 to the opposite side of Murieston Valley.

The collection of brown bins had been delayed due to the bad weather and collections are now catching up now.

Frank Mustard reported a faulty street light on Murieston Road, opposite Murieston Park.

6. Community Policing:

There were no community police officers present at tonight's meeting.

PC Ryan McCartney has provided a copy of the Police report for the month of March.

Statistics across Livingston South are positive for March with a reduction across most crimes compared to the same period last year. Youth calls have virtually dropped by half.

More specific to Murieston, there were 30 calls to the Police during the month of March.

The monthly crime stats for Livingston South ward are :-

<u>Calls</u>	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>% change</u>	<u>Year to date</u>	<u>2017 to date</u>	<u>% change</u>	
Youth	18	35	-49%	263	466	-44%	
Anti-Social Behaviour		111	140	-21%	1453	1696	-14%
Hate Crime	5	3	67%	76	61	25%	
Vandalism	21	26	-19%	265	269	-1%	
Fire-raising	1	2	-50%	28	19	47%	
Public Space Assaults		12	16	-25%	223	277	-19%

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

Nothing to report.

8. Murieston Local History Group:

Nothing to report.

9. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

10. Communications, including website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

Nothing to report.

11. Community Development Trust (CDT):

Chris Dryden reported.

The public meeting was held on Thursday 15 March in Williamston Primary. More than 20 residents attended, including Councillor Peter Heggie.

Councillors Shemilt and Fitzpatrick gave their apologies due to other diary commitments.

Catherine McWilliam, Membership and Communications Officer of the Development Trusts Association Scotland gave the initial slide presentation on setting up a Development Trust. Ron Skirving presented on specific actions to set up the Murieston Development Trust, followed by a Q & A session.

Some six residents came forward to volunteer to be on the Trust steering group.

12. Livingston South Station and Rail Bridge:

Ian Brown and Chris Dryden reported.

The extensive work on replacing Livingston South station was completed in 10 days on 9 April as scheduled. The stairs and lifts are still to be built, and access to the platforms is currently via ramps.

Ian Brown will write to Network Rail commending their work.

Network Rail have confirmed that trees and shrubs removed during the rebuild will be replaced.

Semi-mature trees and shrubs will be replanted as part of the landscaping plans.

Hanging baskets were removed from the platforms before the rebuild and will be restored afterwards, if Network Rail approve or else advise an alternative.

Network Rail have been invited to send a representative to one of our meetings soon.

13. Community Garden and Allotments:

Nothing to report.

14. Local Development Plan:

Ian Brown reported.

The LDP has now been approved by the Scottish Government and returned it to West Lothian Council for ratification and implementation.

15. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

Ian has responded to the Scottish Government's consultation on the new Planning Bill and has pressed for material improvements in the Bill to provide more effective community representation.

Ian Brown and Chris Dryden met with the Council Head of Planning recently regarding planning issues.

Wellhead Farm Appeal (LIVE/0918/P/15)

Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that the Council has taken legal opinion on seeking a judicial review regarding the Reporter's decision on the Wellhead Farm appeal (LIVE/0918/P/15). An affirmative judicial review would require a re-examination of certain points, rather than a ruling to quash the appeal decision.

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting at the end of this item of business for the duration of discussion of planning matters, having declared an interest as a member of the Development Control Committee.

Other Planning Matters

A pre-application notification has been received for housing on open space beside Bannatyne Health Club. The site is zoned in the LDP for commercial use.

The planning application has now been made for the new building on the vacant site at Murieston Medical Practice in Hamilton Square. The proposal is for a wellness centre with up to 6 units for office use and a café or restaurant. There will be 20 new parking places behind the new building.

16. Proposed Footway at Rail Bridge on Murieston Road:

Councillor Fitzpatrick confirmed that officers had been asked to provide a report on additional measures to improve pedestrian safety, as requested by the Council Executive.

17. Correspondence:

None.

18. Any Other Business:

The inaugural meeting of the bi-annual conference of the joint forum of community councils in West Lothian is being held at the Civic Centre on Friday 27 April. There will also be training sessions provided for community councillors re. planning etc.

The Community Council had a table at the Community Open Day at the Cricket Club on Saturday 31 March.

Community councillors attended the funeral of Sandy (Alex) Hendry at West Lothian Crematorium on 29 March. Sandy Hendry had been a community councillor until last year when he retired and was a highly regarded member of Murieston Community Council.

The Meeting closed at 8.10pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 10 May 2018 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.