

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 11 JANUARY 2018
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Ron Skirving, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, Carol Hallesy, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt;

Apologies: Kevin Kerr, Arthur Marris, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Frank Mustard; Councillor Peter Heggie

Residents: Roger Harper, Claire O'Lone, Diane O'Lone, John O'Lone, Ron Palmer, Callum Whitelaw, Irene Whitelaw

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 9 November 2017:

Acceptance of the minutes of the inaugural meeting of the formation of the new community council on 9 November was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Ron Skirving, subject to a minor change. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Dr. Ed. Russell-Smith, Murieston Medical Practice:

Dr. Ed. Russell-Smith has attended this community council meeting, accompanied by William Russell-Smith and Derek McAllister, to present his proposal for re-developing the vacant site formerly occupied by the original medical practice.

Dr. Russell-Smith advised that the new practice building had now been open 18 months. The facilities include 6 GP consulting rooms, 2 nursing consulting rooms and a treatment room. Over 5,500 patients are now registered with the Practice.

Mr. Russell-Smith explained the vacant site had been bought to build a multi-occupancy facility to complement the medical practice and neighbouring community facilities. A questionnaire about providing additional facilities had received some 200 responses. Popular suggestions were a café, physiotherapist and beautician.

Derek McAllister explained that it is important that the local community is involved in the planning and purposing of Barden House. Five local professionals are on the project team, including the architect and structural engineer.

The current plans were viewed and discussed at the meeting. There will be some tree screening behind the new building. It is intended that the design should be finalised in the next two weeks, then a planning application will be prepared and submitted to the Council.

Subject to planning consent, the building should be completed by Spring 2019 and will then be available for commercial tenants.

Dr. Russell-Smith emphasised that this is a long-term vision and investment. Tenancy will only be offered to businesses which meet criteria regarding health and wellbeing, and which will be appropriate and complementary to the community-oriented facilities in Murieston.

5. Finances:

Finances remain at £1,965.

6. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick

expressed his appreciation to PC Alan James and PC Alan Hodge who are moving to other police duties, and will no longer be providing community support for Murieston.

Councillor Fitzpatrick recently attended a meeting with the paediatric consultants at St. John's Hospital. They explained the reason it was necessary to close the children's ward overnight. Four consultant paediatricians provide medical support from 8am into the evening, sometimes using video conferencing. It has been necessary to close the children's ward overnight three times in the past 5 years when there was insufficient consultant cover. There is a national shortage of several hundred paediatricians.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has attended the recent Young Roots heritage event, Livingston garden completion, commemoration of the Ypres campaign in 1917 and West Lothian College prize giving. New standing orders have been provided for elected members.

New Supplementary Planning Guidance has been published in the new Residential Development Guide.

The First Minister has announced a new station will be built on the Livingston South line between Kirknewton and the junction with the Carstairs line. No specific details or timescale are available. The new BT cabinet 36 is now operational and providing broadband for the area. Councillor Fitzpatrick noted the excellent work by Andy Cotton, Economic Development Officer at West Lothian Council in securing this.

A petition, supported by 100 residents, has requested road calming measures on Bankton Park East and Bankton Park West. The petition was considered by the full Council but was not carried.

The Transforming Your Council public consultation closes this Sunday 12th. The Council needs to save £73 million over the next five years as a result of budget cuts and will use the consultation to address the plan for service change.

Davidson McQuarrie asked community councillors to email their comments etc. and he would compile a formal submission to the consultation from the Community Council.

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt referred to the proposed footway under the rail bridge on Murieston Road.

At the recent Livingston South Local Area Committee (LAC), concerns were expressed about the design and estimated cost of £100,000. There were also concerns about the safety of the chicane under the bridge for traffic approaching from the bend on Murieston Road.

A survey was carried out for residents on Murieston Road and adjacent streets about the proposed footway.

263 questionnaires were dropped and some 100 responded when the survey was stopped because it was considered sufficient responses had been received. Residents needed information on why a footway under the bridge is required.

The elected members will make a site visit soon, then the proposed plan will be considered further by the LAC in the December meeting.

Councillor Fitzpatrick said a letter was being issued today to householders on Murieston Road.

The Council arborist has visited and checked the trees adjacent to the proposed footway and has reported the tree roots will not be harmed.

Councillor Fitzpatrick confirmed that the road changes would include appropriate traffic signage regarding speed and traffic control.

Roger Harper referred to the recent traffic speed monitoring conducted on Bellsquarry Road South where no houses front onto the road.

Councillor Fitzpatrick said a number of pedestrians cross Murieston Road at the pedestrian cross.

7. Community Policing:

No report is available.

PC Alan James and PC Alan Hodge have moved to other police duties, and will no longer be providing community support for Murieston. Stefanie Cairns and Ryan McCartney are the new community officers for our area.

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

Nothing to report.

9. Murieston Local History Group:

Nothing to report.

10. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

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

Ron Skirving reported.

The newsletter has now 500 subscribers, which is an additional 100 over the past 12 months. The petition asking for a review of the planning appeal concerning development at Wellhead Farm has now been signed by 552 petitioners.

12. Community Development Trust (CDT):

The Community Council executive met with Catherine McWilliam, Membership and Communications Officer of the Development Trusts Association Scotland in November to discuss arrangements for holding a public meeting to launch the Murieston Community Development Trust. It is proposed to

arrange the public meeting for March, preferably in the assembly hall at Williamston School.

13. Livingston South Station and Rail Bridge:

Ian Brown reported.

Network Rail have now intimated the main building work at the station is planned for April and May 2018. The upgrade of the platforms will be the first major piece of work. The platforms will be lengthened to handle 3 and 6 carriage trains. A building yard will be set up at Oakbank to service the construction work at the station. Network Rail have confirmed they intend meeting with the community.

Ian Brown has written to West Lothian Council for clarification on the building plans for the lifts. Councillor Fitzpatrick advised he has asked Network Rail for details of station closure dates and incursions into the station car park during construction work.

14. Community Garden and Allotments:

Nothing to report.

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

15. 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.

16. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

The Reporter has still to decide the appeal against the refusal of planning consent for housing development at Wellhead Farm (LIVE/0918/P/15).

A planning application has been made to build 15 lodges and 4 bedroom annex at Bankton House Hotel (0811/FUL/17). There have been 27 objections and 1 neutral submission. Ian noted that there are some discrepancies in the application documents, including the neighbour notification process.

A new planning application has been made for a hot food take away beside the Co-op store at Bankton Centre (0564/FUL/17). The application has been backdated. Ian Brown has written to the Planning Service to state we want to make a new submission.

Ian has written to the Planning Service to provide details on the developer's contaminated land report and the access strip for a new house on Murieston Valley. Craig McCorrison, Head of the Planning Service confirmed he has received the report which is currently being examined.

17. Correspondence:

None.

18. Proposed Footway at Rail Bridge on Murieston Road:

19. Any Other Business:

None.

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 8 January 2018 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.