

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2019**  
**held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm**  
**web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>**

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**1. Present:**

Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, David Cooper; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

**Apologies:**

Chris Dryden, Carol Hallesy, Arthur Marris, Tania Armstrong, Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell

**Residents:** Roger Harper, Ken Kirk

**Ian Brown assumed Chair tonight as Chris Dryden was unable to attend**

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 13 June 2019:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the regular meeting on 13 June was proposed by David Cooper and seconded by Ian Brown. Carried.

**3. Matters Arising:**

Ian Brown confirmed that the realignment of the double yellow lines at the taxi rank in the station carpark has now been completed.

**4. Finances:**

The bank balance now stands at £2,518.39. This includes annual administration grant of £473 for the year to 31 March 2020.

**5. Councillors' Reports:**

**Councillor Moira Shemilt:**

The Scottish Government is allocating £320,000 to West Lothian for public charging facilities for electric cars. The Council is preparing a report on implementation. Councillor Shemilt has had a meeting the council officer with responsibility for implementation. Locations are being identified across West Lothian; site ownership will have to be confirmed for some proposed sites. Sites will generally have a mix of standard and rapid chargers.

**Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick:**

Councillor Fitzpatrick reported that he had attended a number of events :-

Annual show of the West Lothian Horticultural Society; Crofthead Centre Family Day; the West Lothian Scouts AGM at Torphichen; an innovative event called 'Westdrive' organised by West Lothian Community Safety Unit, which is aimed at sixth year secondary school students to promote driving issues in a positive way but with a serious road safety message.

The Stellar Awards, celebrating achievement in West Lothian schools, will be held on 21 September at West Calder High School.

Visited the Archives and Records Centre at Kirkton and was saw diary for 1939 which related that 100 children had been evacuated from Leith to Bellsquarry at the start of World War 2.

Asda is donating £20 million over 3 years to the Trussell Trust which provides food banks nationwide. Surplus food is available for sale at a much discounted price at The Lanthorn Centre on Wednesdays from 11am.

The new X27 and X28 bus services are now being operated by Lothian County.

The lift at Livingston South station on the Edinburgh-bound platform failed in June. The Fire and Rescue Service forced the lift doors open to release a passenger. A new lift is required which will be delivered from Spain in October.

The embankments of the new station have been landscaped with a dressing of white stone chips. Planning consent, however, has a replanting condition which requires planting of shrubs etc. The Council Planning Service has written to Network Rail to remind them of the replanting condition. Peak-time trains will have six carriages when the rail timetable changes in December.

New arrangements for collecting food waste start on 1 October. Food will now be co-mingled with garden waste in the brown bin which now will be collected every two weeks, instead of every four weeks currently. There will now be a limit of two brown bins for each household.

Streets in the new Bellway and Miller housing estates are going to be named after areas in the Pentland Hills. The Community Council noted they were content with this naming convention.

Thirteen regeneration plans have been created to uplift areas in West Lothian which have data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Chief Superintendent John McKenzie has been appointed the Divisional Commander for the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division of Police Scotland. Six secondary school link officers are being funded from the Schools Equity Fund. Monthly crime statistic reports are to be broken down by individual council ward as before

Community participation is being introduced to the Local Area Committee (LAC) in October. Each community council is invited to nominate a representative who can sit on their LAC.

Applications for funding of projects from the Town Centre Fund will be considered by the LAC in October. Community councils which have submitted an application will be invited to have a representative presenting their proposal at the LAC meeting.

The Joint Forum of Community Councils can also nominate a representative to sit on each PDSP Scrutiny Panel.

RiverLife has completed work on the River Almond to open up weirs to allow fish to navigate upstream. The official opening will take place at Howden Bridge weir next week.

Buglife Scotland has an initiative to support seven wildlife meadows in West Lothian, including a new meadow in Bankton Mains Park.

The roof work and upgrade of the toilets at St. Ninian's Primary has been completed.

A review of denominational catchments for primary and secondary schools is in progress.

Educational attainment in West Lothian's schools has risen again this year. S5 pupils across West Lothian's 11 secondary schools achieving five or more Highers or equivalent rose by nine percentage points this year to 41%, and those with three or more passes rising by six percentage points to 58%.

West Lothian Council is now the no. 1 performing local authority in Scotland according to performance indicators. In recognition of this achievement, the Council Executive agreed that council staff are entitled to an extra 1 day of holiday leave, which has to be taken by December 2020.

The City Deal will fund new secondary schools and primary school, access link to the M9 and rail station in Winchburgh.

A major rebuild of the Sheriffhall Roundabout on the City Bypass is being funded by the Edinburgh City Deal.

The Edinburgh City Deal will also fund the new Usher Institute, next to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, which provides transformative research and digital analysis on prevention, diagnosis and management of medical conditions.

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

Nothing to report.

**7. Murieston Development Trust (MDT) :**

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

Helen Mackie has been liaising with Local Energy Scotland on finalising the bid proposal for a CARES enablement grant to provide funding to develop and produce a community action plan for Murieston.

The MDT steering group has agreed with Local Energy Scotland to issue a tender to commission a consultant to produce the community action plan, funded by the CARES grant. The tender was sent out to eight consultants/consultancies at the start of July. Responses are due back by tomorrow and indications are there will be four submissions at most. A shortlist of tenderers will be interviewed and the contract for producing the community action plan will then be awarded in October.

**8. Windfarms:**

Nothing to report.

**9. Communications, including website - [murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk](http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk)**

Nothing to report.

**10. Community Garden and Allotments:**

Nothing to report.

**11. Livingston South Station:**

Nothing to report.

**Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting at the end of this item of business.**

**12. Planning Applications:**

Ian Brown reported.

**Wellhead Farm (ref. 922/MSC/18)**

Local residents have raised several issues regarding compliance with planning conditions covering activities on the site during its development. They are now raising any issues directly with the planning enforcement officer.

We will be ensuring that trees and shrubs on Murieston Road frontage are planted in the first growing season as required by planning condition.

The site office has not been included in the planning application.

It is not clear how future landscape maintenance will be funded.

**Councillor Shemilt left the meeting at the end of this item of business.**

**13. Town Centre Fund:**

Ian Brown reported on the applications submitted for funding local projects. The Murieston area has been allocated £31,350 for qualifying projects. The Community Council has applied for a grant to create Murieston Community Gardens which would be a collection of three productive spaces along the Murieston Trail comprising an organic vegetable garden at the station, a managed wildflower meadow beside Murieston House and a forest garden on Murieston Trail.

A separate application has been made to fund a community noticeboard with co-location of the defibrillator at the station carpark.

The Livingston South LAC will meet in October to assess the project bids and award grants.

Contracts have to be in place during this financial year.

**14. Correspondence:**

None.

**15. Any Other Business:**

Cardboard boxes, plastic bags etc. are often deposited in the bottle banks, or stuffed down the sides of the individual bins.

The litter pick is provisionally arranged for Sunday 6 October.

Davidson McQuarrie reported that Murieston Gala Day had been held at Livingston Cricket Club last Saturday, when he sold ice cream at cost, and handed out cards promoting Murieston Community Council.

The Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian has four single-issue forums, covering Health, Police, Planning and Transport. Community Councils are encouraged to have representatives on each sub-forum. This will be discussed at the October meeting.

**The Meeting closed at 8.50pm**

**The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 10 October 2019 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.**