

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 13 APRIL 2017
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Kevin Kerr, Ron Skirving, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Carol Hallesy, Frank Mustard;
Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, PC Alan James and PC Alan Hodge arrived after 8pm due to earlier business appointments.

Apologies: Tania Armstrong, Alex Hendry, Nick Lansdell

Residents: Roger Harper, Andrew White

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 9 March 2017:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 9 March was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Frank Mustard. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

Andrew White raised the question of the surplus land released by Murieston Medical Practice, following the new build, being used as an overflow car park for the station as the Council has a responsibility to meet the needs of the community and provide amenities. Ian Brown stated that the site is zoned in the current Local Plan for commercial use. Arthur Marris noted that we had previously concurred it is a good idea to walk to and from the station where possible, with various footpaths affording access.

4. Finances:

Ron Skirving reported the accounts stand at £1,712. The accounts will be ready for assessment at the end of April in preparation for the AGM in June.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

There was a brief discussion clarifying the differences and distinctions in roles of MEG and a community development trust in managing and delivering environmental projects.

6. Broadband Rollout:

Nothing to report.

7. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

8. Windfarms:

Ian Brown reported that a planning application is being made for 12 wind turbines at Fauchs Hill.

9. Community Website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

Ron Skirving circulated website access stats which indicated 732 visits, many viewers accessing pages beyond the home page. Ron advised he has now developed the website to enable postings by the public.

10. Community Noticeboard:

Chris Dryden confirmed no grant is available to fund the purchase of a noticeboard.

Ron Skirving suggested that we may be able to display community news on the A-size cabinet at the Co-op store.

11. Community Development Trust (CDT):

Davidson McQuarrie reported that there have been 19 responses posted so far to the consultation form on the community website. These have all been positive about the establishment of a development trust and 5 respondents have indicated they may be willing to get involved.

Ron Skirving said he can source two 1m x 3m banners to publicise our consultation initiative. Ron has permission to use the fence at the side of Bankton Retail Centre facing the station to hang a banner.

The next meeting of the officers on 27 April will consider further action on promoting the case for a Trust.

12. Community Garden and Allotments:

Nothing to report.

13. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

A Reporter has now been appointed to determine the appeal against the Council's decision to refuse the Wellhead Farm planning application (0918/P/15). The public hearing will be held from 7 to 9 June. The venue is still to be confirmed. The Reporter originally requested submissions on two matters - Housing Land Supply and Education Infrastructure (Capacity & Planning) and has now asked for submissions about Transport Accessibility. The Community Council discussed issues re. the capacity of the station car park. Ian will make our submission to the Reporter covering the three matters which will be considered.

The Reporter has accepted the map we provided mapping old mine workings under the Murieston Castle site. The determination of the Reporter is due this month and will then be considered by the Scottish Ministers before promulgation.

Test bores are being made at Brotherton Farm following the granting of planning permission on appeal.

The developer of the Limefield site is seeking planning consent to build an increased number of houses.

A planning application has been lodged to cut down trees in two woodland strips in Murieston Valley. Ian will confirm with West Lothian Council that TPOs remain in place and are enforced.

14. Local Development Plan:

Ian Brown has asked for clarification on two points.

15. Edinburgh Airport Flight Paths Consultation:

A round table briefing on 20 April at Holyrood has been organised by Edinburgh Airport Watch, hosted by Mark Russell MSP. Chris Dryden, Ian Brown and Davidson McQuarrie will be attending. The relevant airspace route preferred in the consultation is between Kirknewton and Oakbank. The Secretary will respond to the consultation which has been extended by a week to 7 May.

16. Livingston South Station:

Chris Dryden advised he has received an email from Angela Constance's office forwarding an email from Network Rail outlining their proposed programme of work for Livingston South station. Network Rail advise more information will be available later in April and confirm they intend to share the proposals with the wider community, including the community council.

17. West Lothian Association of Community Councils:

We have been invited to consider whether West Lothian Association of Community Councils could be re-established in a different format. Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council have suggested holding an annual or bi-annual conference on a Saturday, rather than the more frequent meeting cycle. Current topics of mutual interest would be discussed at these conferences, and ideas and experiences shared between the community councils.

It was the view of the meeting that we could participate on meetings held in this format and the Secretary will respond accordingly.

18. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Fitzpatrick arrived after 8pm and gave a short report.

Trees bordering the rail bridge are being cut back in preparation for the installation of the footpath, which should be completed in September.

The Council has now approved the 2017/2018 Budget. The central grant has been reduced by 20% since 2010.

19. Community Policing:

PC Alan James and PC Alan Hodge arrived after 8pm and gave a report.

The monthly crime stats for Livingston South ward were outlined.

<u>Calls change</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Feb 16</u>	<u>% change</u>	<u>Year to date</u>	<u>2016 to date</u>	<u>%</u>
Youth	35	67	-48%	466	433	8%
Anti-Social Behaviour	140	150	-7%	1696	1514	12%
Hate Crime	3	5	-40%	61	37	65%
Vandalism	26	21	-24%	269	246	9%
Fire-raising	2	7	-71%	19	23	-17%
Public Space Assaults	16	15	7%	277	206	34%

There have been several incidences of blue bins being stolen when put out for collection and then set on fire in the Murieston Trail.

20. Correspondence:

None.

21. Any Other Business:

Chris Dryden noted that Virgin Media have lettered customers to forewarn there may be some disruption in service when engineering work is undertaken during tomorrow.

Tania Armstrong confirmed details of the Spring Cleanup and Litter Pick which will be on Sunday 23 April, starting at 2pm from Murieston Village Hall. Refreshments will be provided to our volunteers at the Hall afterwards.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 11 May 2017 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School