

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 14 JANUARY 2016**  
**held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm**  
**web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>**

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**1. Present:**

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Carol Hallesy, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; PC Alan James, PC Aidan McAllister

**Apologies:** Ron Skirving, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Alex Hendry, June Keddie, Frank Mustard, Superintendent Kevin Kerr, Sergeant Iain Wells, Jonathan Louis

**Residents:** Roger Harper

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 10 December 2015:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 10 December was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Chris Dryden, subject to two minor changes. Carried.

**3. Matters Arising:**

None.

**4. Finances:**

The bank balance remains at £1,389.03. The annual fee of £35 payable to the Information Commissioner's Office will be made in February by direct debit.

**5. Traffic Calming on Murieston Road:**

PC Alan James reported on the actions the Police have been taking recently.

Police have been carrying out speed checks on Murieston Road East and at West Calder. 66 speeding offences have been reported.

Roger Harper stated he had a 30 minute phone conversation with Sergeant Iain Wells earlier this week about the the continuing problem of speeding.

Sergeant Wells provided statistics on speeding in Murieston. There have been speed checks beside Murieston Medical Practice and at Bellsquarry Road South.

West Lothian Council can request the installation of a speed camera at locations with a history of speeding. An alternative is an active feedback sign displaying mph.

Roger Harper asked what action can be taken now.

**6. Community Policing:**

PC Alan James gave a report as Sergeant Iain Wells is not on duty today.

Sergeant Iain Wells has provided in advance the crime statistics for Livingston South area during December as detailed below.

Unfortunately there has been an increase in breakins to houses and garden sheds in the area and the CID are making relevant enquiries into these crimes.

Livingston South Ward						
Month	Dec-15	Dec-14	% Change	TYTD	LYTD	% Change
Youth Calls	20	30	-33%	320	374	-14%
All ASB Calls	101	149	-32%	1137	1273	-11%
Hate Crime	3	2	50%	27	57	-53%
Vandalism & Reckless Conduct	14	24	-42%	173	178	-3%
Fire-raising	1	0	100%	15	7	114%
Public Space Assaults	21	25	-16%	155	185	-16%

A number of changes to policing roles start in March. Officers will be assigned to community areas.

The Safer Neighbourhoods Team will have a new role.

**7. Councillor's Report:**

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick gave a report.

Cala Homes have now set up the street nameplate at West Cairn View.

The Council will be setting the Budget next month for 2016/2017

Training for the use of the new defibrillator at Murieston Village Hall will be in February.

West Lothian Council will commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January at Howden Park Centre.

Speed checks are taking place on Bellsquarry Road South to enforce the 30mph speed limit.

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

Nothing to report.

**12. Community Garden and Allotments:**

Ian Brown reported.

The habitat survey, completed on 15 December, did not raise any major issues to stop the Community Garden going ahead. A camera survey could be undertaken but no funds are available.

**13. Local Development Plan:**

Ian Brown reported.

Planning Application 0918/P/15 for Wellhead Farm has been lodged; closing date for comment will now be 21 January which is an extension due to the late advertising of the application. 94 comments have now been made. Carol Hallesy noted that this was promoted on Facebook to raise awareness in the community. Ian Brown advised he has dropped a leaflet in Wellview Lane and West Cairn View to make residents aware.

The reason for the developer's application is based on their assertion that West Lothian Council has failed to show that they have a sufficient land bank to meet the 5 year look ahead as defined in the South East of Scotland Plan (SESplan). Consequently the developer claims that more land is required to meet the SESplan. This issue may relate to an interpretation of the breakdown between social and owner occupier housing.

Bellsquarry has also fallen foul of this apparent problem with the Local Plan and the proposed housing development at Brotherton Farm has been approved by the Scottish Government Reporter.

**14. Planning Applications:**

Ian Brown reported.

Newpark Rail Bridge on Murieston Road opened on 18 December six weeks early against their plan. The yard at Newpark Bridge has now been cleared.

Brucefield Park West road in Brucefield Industrial Estate from Beechwood House to Haldane Square has been closed to allow for the demolition of the existing bridge and installation of a new bridge on behalf of Network Rail. The closure will apply from Monday 18 January for five months until Thursday 30 June.

Diversions are via Brucefield Park, the A71 (Calder Road), Limefield Road (West Calder), the B7008 (Harburn Road) and reverse. There has been no advert in the local press or has there been any planning application.

A presentation on the Greenspace Initiative for Bankton Mains Park will be held at Murieston United's Football Pavilion on Saturday 16 January at 2pm. West Lothian Council are seeking ideas for additional work on Bankton Mains Park.

**15. Correspondence:**

None.

**16. Any Other Business:**

Ian Brown outlined details of the Made in My Toun programme featuring Livingston which is being shown at Howden Park Centre on Sunday 17 January. This BFI Britain on Film programme will be a screening of archive films connecting the ambitions of Livingston

Development Corporation in their corporate film of 1976 with community documentary 'Livingston Lives' made for Livingston's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year, followed by a panel discussion.

Chris Dryden detailed information on the electrification of the Livingston South line. This will be completed in 2018. Platforms at Livingston South and West Calder will be extended in 2017 to accommodate the longer electric train sets.

**The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm**

**The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 11 February 2016 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School**