

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 14 MAY 2015
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Arthur Marris, Kim Vance, Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Carol Hallesy, June Keddie, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor John Muir; Superintendent Kevin Kerr

Apologies: Ron Skirving, Alex Hendry, Frank Mustard; PC Alan James

Other attendees: Chris Norman, Head of Planning, West Lothian Council

2. Chris Norman, Head of Planning, West Lothian Council:

Chris Norman has been invited to attend to give the Council's perspective to the major work now starting to raise the road bridge on Murieston Road as part of the electrification of Shotts line.

Network Rail as a statutory undertaker is not subject to the full planning framework. They have appointed BAM Nuttall as the primary contractor.

The major works will take 7 months in total, through to January. The main structural work will involve - bridge decking will be removed, approaches will be raised in height by over one metre, decking will be replaced and new buttressing will be constructed.

Trains will be suspended on four weekends when the construction company takes possession of the permanent way.

The construction compound is currently being set up at the top of Murieston Valley.

Planning consent is not required for this infrastructure project. BAM Nuttall have permitted development rights. They will need a permit from the Roads Service to access road.

There will be regular overnight work between last and first trains.

The Council has been advised re. statutory nuisance and noise.

A temporary pedestrian bridge, which will also carry utility services, is being built which will be open for the duration of the road bridge closure. Lighting will be provided on the pedestrian bridge and approaches.

School and service bus routes and timetables will be altered during the some five months of the road closure.

Traffic lights may be used at the junction of Murieston East Road and Murieston Road under the rail bridge which will carry increased traffic.

Some trees will need to be felled and the Council will stipulate replanting of trees.

The Council will ensure that the Contractor is fully aware of the presence of contaminated soil and their health and safety obligations.

Chris Norman is meeting with Network Rail within the next two weeks with local elected members and two representatives from the community council.

Nick Lansdell asked if traffic modelling has been undertaken. It was also suggested there may be speeding on Murieston Road and 30mph electronic warning signs should be deployed.

Ian Brown stated he had attended the Network Rail public presentation today.

Chris Norman then covered two other planning matters.

A planning contravention order has been served on the owner of the land strip between Rothes Drive and Tarbert Drive. This could be followed with an enforcement order.

Cala Homes will soon be installing the planned pedestrian refuge on Murieston Road beside the new Cala estate at West Cairn View. The design is being approved by the Council Roads Service.

3. Minutes of the Meeting on 9 April 2015:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 9 April with agreed changes re. Councillor Muir's apologies for not attending meetings from February to April due to general election campaigning and details re. activity at the land strip between Rothes Drive and Tarbert Drive

was proposed by Chris Dryden and seconded by Ian Brown. Carried.

4. Matters Arising:

None.

5. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported on behalf of Ron Skirving.

There are some expenses to cover bills for the litter pick on 3 May.

Arthur circulated the recent bank statement for the Treasurers Account.

6. Community Policing:

Superintendent Kerr will ask for a community policing report to be provided for next month's meeting.

7. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick gave a report.

Community policing is on the agenda of tomorrow's Local Area Committee meeting.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has attended the Carers for West Lothian group, Commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign, Commemoration of the 70th anniversary of VE Day, Livingston Boys Brigade Prizegiving.

Lawrence has also accompanied the West Lothian schools visit to Freiburg where the schools orchestra performed at several concerts.

Anti-skidding improvements are being made to the Adambrae Roundabout.

Work on the Almondvale Park Skatepark has now been completed.

Work on Alderstone Road at Almondvale Stadium and at St. Johns Hospital will be starting at the end of June for two months.

Abellio have confirmed they have currently no available rolling stock to provide an additional carriage for commuter trains on the Shotts line. They are conducting a review of capacity.

There has been an increase in the serving of fixed penalties last year, 2014 compared to 2013. Fly tipping 2 (0), Littering 81 (12), Dog fouling 10 (1).

Permission has been granted to remove some trees at the Easter Murieston site covered by an extensive TPO and no others have been removed.

The Council's Planning Service has contacted the contractor who is tipping commercial waste on the land strip between Rothes Drive and Tarbert Drive and advised that the tipped material must be removed by the notified date or enforcement action will be taken.

The new build of Murieston Medical Practice will now be built on a different footprint to avoid utility services running under the site. The new build will start in July and will be completed by December. Lawrence circulated the new plans for the building.

David Cooper asked if there was any access between the pharmacy and the medical practice.

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

Kim Vance reported on MEG and some issues brought to her attention regarding the School and Bankton Mains.

All planned work funded by the Blue Green Network grant has now been completed. Snagging is still underway.

There are continuing littering around Bankton Mains pitches.

Parking is still occurring on Murieston West Road at Bankton Mains when football matches are being played. Councillor Fitzpatrick will follow up.

Parking at Easter Bankton is still a problem at school drop-off and pick-up times.

Dog fouling is occurring around the school and will be reported to the dog warden.

9. Spring Cleanup and Litter Pick on Sunday 3 May:

Tania Armstrong reported.

Despite the very wet weather, 25 adults and children took part in this Spring's litter pick.

The NETs Team delivered the pickers and bags before the start at 11am but advised they no longer give a safety briefing to groups. Accordingly Davidson McQuarrie gave the safety brief to the volunteers.

Tania has emailed the NETs Team regarding the lack of support for the event and the delay in collecting the filled bags afterwards.

It was unanimously stated that the Community Council expressed their thanks to Tania for organising the litter pick.

10. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

11. Windfarms:

Ian Brown reported.

The wind energy development consultation closes at the end of this month.

12. Community Website and engagement - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

It was agreed that officers should have a generic email address which will be publicised on the website.

13. Community Allotments:

Ian Brown reported.

Ian has asked the Scottish Agricultural College to revise their quote for the soil analysis.

Ian has spoken with Michelle Kirkbride to discuss funding possibilities to cover the cost of testing the soil and restorative work and there are several funding options.

14. Local Development Plan:

Ian Brown reported.

The Local Development Plan Representations regarding the Main Issues Report was presented to the Development and Transport Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 23 April. 254 responses have been received by the Council. An environmental assessment has still to be done.

Their summation of the Community Council submission had a number of omissions which we have addressed with the Planning Service. Ian will email the web links to the documents to community councillors.

The eventual outcome of the MIR will be in the South East Scotland SESplan in Spring 2016.

15. Planning Consent to build one house in Murieston Valley beside Moriston Drive (0264/FUL/14):

Councillor Fitzpatrick and Muir left the meeting before this item was discussed.

The meeting debated what further action was appropriate.

16. Planning Applications:

Nothing to report.

17. Correspondence:

None.

18. Any Other Business:

We will be arranging a dinner at the Terrace Restaurant at West Lothian College later in June following the AGM.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be the 2015 Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 11 June 2015 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School