

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 8 MAY 2014
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://www.muriestoncommunity.com>

1. Present:

Arthur Marris, Kim Vance, Davidson McQuarrie, Ian Brown, David Cooper, Chris Dryden, Alex Hendry, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; Chief Inspector Kevin Kerr, PC Alan James

Apologies: Frank Mustard, Ron Skirving, Tania Armstrong, Lorna Cooper, Carol Hallesy, June Keddie; Councillor John Muir

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 10 April 2014:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 10 April 2014 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Kim Vance. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

Minor changes were agreed and will be made for publication.

4. Ronnie Fisher, West Lothian Council Roads and Transport Project Manager:

Ian Brown introduced Ronnie Fisher who has been invited as the Project Manager to attend the Community Council meeting to explain the proposal to divert traffic from the A71 during major road repairs in July and August.

The A71 will be closed between Newpark Roundabout and Crofthead Interchange to enable major repair work on two underpasses on the A71 which have water ingress. This will involve repairs to the concrete and asphalt, but until the work starts the condition of the underpasses is unclear. On completion of the repairs, the road will then be re-waterproofed and re-surfaced. The work will start on 30 June for 6 to 8 weeks. The Contractor will work between 07.30 and 18.00, including weekends, to expedite completion of the work.

The A71 carriageway will be closed in both directions as the work will be difficult to do with only one lane closed due to the narrow working width and assurance of safety for the Contractor's employees, and single lane working would also increase the time required for completion.

The plan is to divert traffic through Murieston via Alderstone Road and Murieston West Road. These roads are distributor roads built to A-road standard so can handle heavy vehicles.

Ian Brown noted the A71 carries 16,000 vehicles a day which when diverted through Murieston will have a severe impact on the community.

To reduce the impact of traffic at night, the traffic management plan includes diverting eastbound HGV traffic around the Centre along Almondvale Road to the A899 at night time from 20.00 to 07.00 each day.

The TTRO will include suspension of parking on Alderstone Road outside the Murieston Medical Practice to assist traffic flow. The Council will discuss this with the Medical Practice. Chris Dryden noted that vans and lorries making medical deliveries regularly stop on the road outside the Medical Practice.

The bus stops will continue in use.

Traffic lights will operate at the junction with Murieston West Road at the Medical Practice which will be controlled manually at peak times to prevent traffic congestion.

Ian Brown noted concerns that drivers may prefer to continue past the station to Williamston Interchange instead of re-joining the A71 at the Crofthead Interchange. Ronnie Fisher said the Traffic department will consider whether Alderstone Road can be closed at the Murieston West Road junction.

The engineer responsible for traffic signals will also review the phasing at Almondvale Roundabout after the diversion starts in case traffic patterns are disrupted by the A71 road closure.

It was agreed there needs to be signage to prevent high sided vehicles diverting via the low rail bridge on Murieston Road as an alternative route.

The Council is carrying out statutory consultations with Police, local retailers, bus operators etc. Initial consultations have taken place. A public notice will be placed in the local press two weeks beforehand. A leaflet explaining the road closure and diversion will also be dropped to households in the various streets directly affected by the diversion route.

Signs will be displayed at Newpark Roundabout beforehand to warn of the road closure and diversion.

The signage at the Centre will be checked to ensure it directs eastbound HGV traffic to the A899.

5. Finances:

The bank account now stands at £1,392.53.

Ron Skirving is arranging for the fee of £35 for renewing our registration with the Information Commissioner to be paid by direct debit annually.

6. Community Policing:

A report was given by Chief Inspector Kevin Kerr.

It has been widely reported that there has recently been a serious assault occurring at a house in Eliburn overnight.

Two cars were broken into on 6 April. Two sheds have also been broken into and a car theft occurred recently.

There are no local crime statistics this month as the crime analyst is not available.

Of the 13 KPIs measured by Police Scotland, violent crime and fatal accidents only are slightly up.

Work is underway to identify bikers who are illegally riding on paths.

7. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Fitzpatrick made a report :-

The refurbishment of the play park at Bankton Mains is being carried out by a Livingston company, The Play Practice.

Planning is completed for the new build of Murieston Medical Practice. Base works should start in the Autumn. Councillor Fitzpatrick will be meeting with Dr. Ed. Russell-Smith.

The Scottish Government is issuing guidance on the distance fracking boreholes should be from communities.

The Council is looking at a way to release the money collected from the public following the fire at the Five Sisters Zoo as the Zoo is not a registered Scottish charity.

The Council is now installing free-standing dog bins instead of lamppost bins which have been subject to vandalism. One new dog bin has been installed in Murieston.

The Council has picked up the items fly-tipped at the boundary of Murieston Castle Farm as it is council land.

A mobile phone communications box has been damaged in a car accident on Alderstone Road. The Council Operations department will contact the mobile network operator to make arrangements for its repair.

Williamston Primary is holding its annual fair this Saturday between 11am and 1pm.

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

Kim Vance reported.

The volunteer day at Campbridge Pond on 13 April was a great success. Marginal plants and grasses were planted at various locations around the Pond by a large number of volunteers, including an environmental group from Edinburgh.

The Gala Fun Day is being held at Livingston Cricket Club on Sunday 8 June. Any unused Christmas presents would be welcome for the MEG raffle.

Kim is the local coordinator for the Council's Paws for Thought initiative. Kim asked if community police had a role and Chief Inspector Kerr said he would check and advise Kim.

9. Litter Pick and Cleanup:

Carol Hallesy and Tania Armstrong are organising our next Litter Pick and Cleanup which will now be on Sunday 25 May. Volunteers are asked to gather at Murieston Village Hall for 11am. Refreshments as usual will be provided at the Hall afterwards. The Secretary will prepare and

hand in a letter to the

Co-op store asking for a donation of biscuits and cakes etc.

10. Windfarms:

No decision yet from the Scottish Minister regarding last year's Harburnhead and Fauch Hill Public Local Inquiry.

11. Community Website - www.muriestoncommunity.com :

Copies of minutes for all meetings and the current agenda are being posted there.

12. Community Allotments:

Ian Brown reported to the meeting.

Killandean Allotments Group applied for planning permission on 13 March. This is still to be decided.

All plots at Harburnhead have been taken and there is now a waiting list of 30.

Rural Connect are holding taster sessions on 17 May and 7 June.

13. Single Outcome Agreement:

There is no report this month.

14. SESplan Strategic Development Plan:

The SESplan is running late.

15. Planning Applications:

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting before this item was discussed.

An application has been made to build one house in Murieston Valley beside Moriston Drive (0264/FUL/14). The land in question is covered by a TPO. It was agreed that the Planning Secretary will make a submission on behalf of the Community Council.

The planning application to build a Class 2 premises beside the new Co-op store (0201/FUL/14) at the Bankton Retail Centre has been granted planning permission as a Class 2 development. The applicant has stated this will be a solicitor's office. Conditions applied include providing a footpath to the office from the main road and improving lighting at the car park.

A public meeting is being held at Bellsquarry Village Hall on 29 May regarding the recent planning proposal to build houses at Murieston Castle.

Planning applications have been made for a soft play area opposite Debenhams and for a petrol station at Sainsbury's superstore.

16. Community Council Meetings in 2014/2015 session:

The Council has invited our application for booking lets for the 2014/2015 session, starting in August.

Kim Vance proposed meeting at Livingston Cricket Club which has facilities to hold meetings in public. Nick Lansdell proposed the 'status quo' to continue using Williamston School. There was a consensus to continue using Williamston School and the Secretary will apply to book the Staff Room on the second Thursday of each month from September to June 2015.

17. Correspondence:

None.

18. Any Other Business:

The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 12 June 2014 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School