

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 8 OCTOBER 2015**  
**held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm**  
**web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>**

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**1. Present:**

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Davidson McQuarrie, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Alex Hendry, Nick Lansdell, June Keddie; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; Sergeant Ricky McMurdo

**Apologies:** Ron Skirving, Ian Brown, Tania Armstrong, Carol Hallesy, Frank Mustard; Superintendent Kevin Kerr, Sergeant Iain Wells

**Residents:** Roger Harper, Jonathan Louis

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

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 10 September was proposed by Lorna Cooper and seconded by Arthur Marris. Carried.

**3. Matters Arising:**

Chris Dryden noted that at 7.45am on Monday another JCB on a low loader could not get under the rail bridge at the station, causing another massive traffic jam on Murieston Road.

**4. Finances:**

Ron Skirving is unavailable tonight. There has been no expenditure and finances are as reported at the previous meeting.

**5. Community Policing:**

Sergeant Iain Wells has provided details of this month's statistics for Murieston South ward by email.

|                              | <u>Sep 15</u> | <u>Sep 14</u> | <u>% Change</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Youth Calls                  | 29            | 37            | -22%            |
| Anti-Social Behaviour Calls  | 125           | 121           | 3%              |
| Hate Crime                   | 0             | 9             |                 |
| Vandalism & Reckless Conduct | 22            | 19            | 16%             |
| Fire-raising                 | 2             | 0             |                 |
| Public Space Assaults        | 26            | 10            | 160%            |

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

Sergeant McMurdo is attending to provide details as Sergeant Iain Wells is unavailable tonight. Sergeant Wells has communicated with the Council Highways department but has had no update to date. Sergeant Wells has liaised with the Roads Policing Sergeant, Sergeant Taylor who has briefed and tasked his roads policing officers to make relevant checks. There is a speed tolerance level. Sergeant McMurdo confirmed that no offenders have been identified yet. A survey van was parked at Murieston Court to survey traffic on Murieston Road one weekday morning from 8 to 9am. The survey used responsive speed laser radar devices. 490 vehicles passed and one pedestrian crossed at that point. Nick Lansdell pointed out that this equated to a car passing Murieston Court junction every 7 seconds. Sergeant McMurdo will raise with Sergeant Wells the best time to run the survey check.

Roger Harper explained he had reported an incident to Police Scotland on 4 September (I1392 4/9/15) and had agreed with Sergeant Wells at the September meeting that an update would be available for this meeting. Traffic is still speeding. Roger has asked for details of the police presence on Murieston Road from 4 September to 8 October, and the intended presence until the end of the bridge closure in January/February. Roger Harper asked what to do if speeding on Murieston Road was observed. Roger also asked about the restoration of defaced and obscured signs which need to meet their mandatory designation.

Nick Lansdell noted that speeding needs to be engineered out by traffic management road design.

Councillor Fitzpatrick stated he will refer these technical issues to the Council Roads Service. Sergeant McMurdo confirmed that speeding needs to be proven and will try to arrange police

presence.

## 7. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick gave a report.

Councillor Fitzpatrick passed round a map with the proposals in the draft Local Development Plan.

HLv31 is now zoned for housing. Murieston Castle is now designated as Countryside Belt. The Council has rented 44 acres from the 55 hectare site at Linhouse Glen this summer to a local farmer for cattle grazing. The Council Property Manager will be meeting the farmer to discuss the possibility of all year use. Jonathan Louis asked if the cattle get access to the stream which could cause contamination.

Lawrence attended the ground breaking ceremony at Murieston Medical Practice on 30 September. The new health centre should be completed by next Spring. The Secretary confirmed Dr. Ed. Russell-Smith and the Practice Manager have been invited to the November or December community council meetings to provide an update on the build and plans on completion.

The closure of junction 3A of the M8 is continuing to cause traffic problems, compounded by the closure of the rail bridge on Murieston Road.

Barriers on the M8 are now cleaned and lines painted.

Cala Homes are still to name West Cairn View and provide the pedestrian traffic island on Murieston Road.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for news on the planned delivery of high speed broadband at

[www.digitalscotland.org/newsletter-signup/](http://www.digitalscotland.org/newsletter-signup/)

Lawrence passed round a copy of the school examination performance tables which are the best ever achieved by schools across West Lothian.

The availability of ambulances in West Lothian is often determined by Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. When an ambulance goes through to the ERI it is normally retained there for local calls until the end of the shift.

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

Jonathan Louis, Chair of MEG has been invited to our meeting to give a report on behalf of MEG.

As a result of the fire over the summer at the 'bandstand', MEG organised an online survey to determine what the community preferred by way of replacement. There were 166 responses, with 86% wanting action. A number of options for a replacement feature were suggested by MEG and the preferred option was a dry stone dyke seat and picnic benches. Jonathan had a meeting with West Lothian Council on Tuesday to seek permission.

MEG has also conducted an online survey on how Murieston Trail, Campbridge Park and Pond should be used. From the 110 responses, the majority preferred more benches.

The Co-op has donated £350 and MEG has now applied to their plastic bag charity scheme for funding for benches.

The last volunteer event for this year is on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October from 9.30 to 12, weather permitting, when there will be a litter pick, and tree and shrub pruning.

MEG is participating in the River Forth Project and will be submitting a funding application.

There is an open event on Monday at Howden Park Centre to introduce the Project. There are five main restoration projects, including feasibility studies on fish surpassing barriers on the River Almond.

The Blue Green Network corridor including Killandean Park should be factored into the River Forth Project.

The committee of MEG now has three members and would welcome more volunteers to join.

**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)**

No report tonight.

**12. Community Allotments:**

No report tonight.

**13. Local Development Plan:**

Ian Brown will advise our planning consultant, Malcolm Inkster regarding the endorsement of the status quo for Murieston in the draft Local Plan.

**14. Planning Applications:**

Nothing to report.

**15. Correspondence:**

None.

**16. Any Other Business:**

Kim Vance has expressed her thanks for the clock, paid for personally by the community councillors, marking her long-standing contribution to the community council and departure abroad.

Kim also has suggested that, while the rail bridge is closed, the roads in Murieston Valley be prioritised for gritting in the winter as a precaution. If there is any accident there, then access in and out of Murieston will be restricted.

June Keddie expressed her concern about the response times for emergency services.

Councillor Fitzpatrick will raise our concerns with the West Lothian Council representatives on the NHS Lothian Board. Jill Wilkie is the community representative.

June Keddie has agreed to be our representative on health issues.

We have booked the Terrace Restaurant at West Lothian College for Christmas Dinner on Thursday 17 December.

**The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm**

**The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12 November 2015 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School**