

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 9 JANUARY 2020
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Carol Hallesy, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell

Apologies:

Arthur Marris, Lorna Cooper; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt; The representative from the Cyrenians is unable to attend tonight and their talk on the OPAL (Older People, Active Lives) service will be re-scheduled for next month's meeting.

Residents: Roger Harper, Ken Kirk, Jane MacGregor, Claire O'Lone, John Sharp, Irene Whitelaw

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 5 December 2019:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 5 December 2019 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by David Cooper, subject to minor changes. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

At the December meeting, Ken Kirk had asked for clarification on the cost of the concessionary rail fare to Edinburgh. The cost is normally £4 for an off-peak day return, but occasionally £2.80 has been charged.

Councillor Fitzpatrick subsequently provided background to the concessionary rail fare scheme :-

“ Concessionary rail fares scheme was inherited from Lothian Region when the new unitary councils were created in 1995.

West Lothian Council subsidise concessionary rail as an annual budget decision.

Any rail station in West Lothian to Edinburgh ... £2 single or £4 return. Tickets are bought on the train when traveller shows their bus pass mygovscot ... West Lothian Council ... ScotRail issues the ticket stamped *Adult Standard Class* and bills the Council for payment for the agreed subsidy difference.

Travelling west to Glasgow, due to historic arrangements, the subsidy extends to rail stations in the former Monklands Council area, beyond which the standard fare applies.

These tickets are stamped *Adult Standard Class with Lothian Concessionary* ... again for billing purposes.

It's a great deal for pensioners for off-peak travel. West Lothian Council are one of the few authorities to provide a local rail subsidy. “

4. Finances:

The bank balance is currently £2,475.22.

5. Councillors' Reports:

There are no reports as Councillors Fitzpatrick and Shemilt are unable to attend tonight.

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

No report tonight.

7. Murieston Development Trust (MDT) :

Davidson McQuarrie provided an update.

Posters and A5 flyers to promote the Murieston Community Action Plan and consultation have been put in more public premises throughout Murieston. Leaflets have continued to be dropped at households.

Leaflets were also handed out at the station before Christmas to early morning commuters.

Regular updates are being posted on the Murieston Community Facebook page.

The project was promoted in the December edition of the Community Council newsletter which was emailed to 500 subscribers on 26 December. A further newsletter will be emailed later in January which will include a progress report of the project.

The online community survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MuriestonCAP>) has now been completed by some 250 respondents to date. The survey is likely to be closed at the end of January. Paper copies of the community survey are being picked up and dropped off at four locations (Co-op store, Di's Diner, Bankton Dental Practice and Murieston Medical Practice).

Community Enterprise is arranging meetings with various community groups and facilities to discuss and identify issues, potential projects, priorities etc.

Community Enterprise is also engaging with Williamston Primary and James Young High School, and with the elected members representing Murieston.

8. Town Centre Fund for 2019/20:

Ian Brown reported on the applications submitted for funding local community projects under the

Town Centre Fund.

The Livingston South Local Area Committee has approved grants totalling £32,845 for two projects proposed by the Community Council.

The main project, amounting to £29,470, will create Murieston Community Gardens which will be a collection of three productive spaces along the Murieston Trail, comprising an organic vegetable garden at the station, a managed wildflower meadow beside Murieston House and a forest garden on Murieston Trail. The total cost of this project is estimated at £100,000 so the award will only fund the first phase.

The second project, amounting to £3,375, will provide a community noticeboard with co-location of the defibrillator at the station carpark. A location beside the bus shelter has been agreed with the Council. A power supply will be required for the defibrillator; source still to be determined.

The Centre also has funding under the Town Centre Fund scheme to have signage at the station to advertise the Centre, and consideration is being given to co-locating this signage with the community noticeboard.

Contracts have to be underway during this 2019/20 fiscal year as a condition of the award of grants. We have engaged an architect to design and provide planning support for the structural elements of the two projects such as layout, seating and paths.

The Council's NETs Service has agreed to arrange soil sampling and analysis for all relevant applications. The cost will then be split between the organisations concerned, thereby reducing the overall cost. £4,000 was originally allocated from the Gardens project but the NETs Service now advise that the cost will be £2,000, with the surplus of £2,000 being reassigned back into the Gardens project. Soil sampling starts today.

9. Communications, including website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

Davidson McQuarrie confirmed that another newsletter would be sent out later in January. This will include a progress report on the consultation work for the Community Action Plan.

10. Livingston South Station:

Ian Brown reported.

West Lothian Council has sent an enforcement letter to Network Rail to require the platform embankments to be landscaped as prescribed in the planning consent.

Network Rail have been carrying out underpinning work on the platform embankments.

11. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

Wellhead Farm

The wheel washing facility should be in place now to ensure that vehicle wheels are washed down to remove dust and soil before leaving the site.

Four lorries were parked in Murieston Valley between 06.45 and 08.00 today.

Roger Harper noted that lorries had also been parked in Murieston Grove several days early in the morning. The supposition was that these were lorries arriving early and waiting to get on the Wellhead Farm site at 8am. He asked that the Community Council write to West Lothian Council to request that they advise the Developers at Wellhead Farm to desist this practice of contractors using residential streets for parking of lorries. Ian Brown agreed to write to the Council.

Tarbert Drive (ref. 0927/FUL/18)

Cruden Homes have appealed against the decision to refuse planning consent to build 18 houses.

Anyone who had objected to the planning application can write to the Scottish Government Reporter with further comments on the appeal. Representations must be received by 14 January. The original 80 objectors should have been advised by West Lothian Council that the appeal has been made. As there are indications that several of the objectors have not been notified, it was agreed that we will contact all of the objectors by the weekend to ensure that they are aware of the appeal and have the opportunity to make a further submission.

The Reporter has the discretion to determine the appeal at a hearing or inquiry in public. Otherwise the Reporter will decide the appeal based on the written submissions and documentation.

12. Correspondence:

None.

13. Any Other Business:

Ian Brown advised that meals had been bought for Frank Mustard and Sergeant Alan James at the Christmas Dinner held at the Bistro 19 Restaurant, Harburn Golf Club on 20 December as recognition of their long and valued service to the Community Council as community councillor and Police representative. It was agreed by the community councillors that the payment of £44 for the

two meals was approved as authorised expenditure.

The Meeting closed at 8.30pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 13 February 2020 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.