

MINUTE of MEETING of the EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 14 SEPTEMBER 2017.

Present – Councillors Dave King (Chair), Frank Anderson

Apologies – Councillor Damian Timson, Carl John

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The committee noted the Minute of its meeting held on 22 June 2017.

3. ST MARGARETS ACADEMY - PRESENTATION BY HEADTEACHER MRS SIOBHAN MCGARTY

The Chair welcomed Siobhan McGarty (Headteacher, St Margaret's Academy) to the meeting. Ms McGarty had been invited to provide an overview of the school's performance and levels of attainment.

The presentation slides contained information in relation to attainment and achievements in the session 2016 – 2017.

Ms McGarty provided details of performance for S4 Attainment 2017, Higher Attainment 2017 and Advanced Higher 2017. The presentation went on to provide information on the areas of focus for improvement and raise attainment through excellence and equity.

In relation to the wider life of the school, the Committee heard details of achievements and events including the school show at Howden Park Centre and West Lothian School Sports League.

Finally, the Headteacher responded to questions raised by LAC members.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked the Headteacher for her informative presentation.

Decision

To note the terms of the presentation.

4. KIRKNEWTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST - PRESENTATION BY TONY FOSTER

The Chair welcomed Tom Foster, Kirknewton Community Development Trust to the meeting. Mr Foster had been invited to provide an overview

of Kirknewton Achievement 2015 – 2020..

The presentation slides contained information in relation to what had been achieved in the following five themes:-

- Community Development and Volunteering
- Community Facilities and Services
- Local Environment and Green Space
- Planning and Strategic Development
- Local Economy and Training

Mr Foster went on to explain that during community participation 2015, 561 responses had been received. Of these 561 responses, 81 were online, 197 from school, 41 from a feedback day, and the remainder from events, in street and door knocking.

Finally, Mr Foster advised that funding would end in July 2018 and that £80,000 a year was required to maintain the current organisation and bring in additional funds and support West Lothian groups.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Mr Foster for his informative presentation.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the presentation.

#### 5. POLICE WARD REPORT - REPORT BY POLICE INSPECTOR ADAM SMITH

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Inspector Adam Smith, Police Scotland, providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 31 August 2017.

The report provided a range of statistics for the months of May, June and July with comparative figures for the same period in 2016 noting that across the ward the figures were either in line with the rest of West Lothian or better.

The report advised that June was a challenging month for local officers in light of the many gala days, parades and other events across West Lothian. It was also advised that concerns had been raised by residents in Kirknewton following two incidents on 4 August 2017. It was reported that a male had been apprehended in relation to an incident which occurred at a house party and there were ongoing enquiries in relation to a serious assault.

Information continued to be provided in relation to road safety measures

in the ward including the monitoring of scrambler bike usage in the Pumpherston area, continued monitoring of parking along Main Street, East Calder and continuing to work with parents with regards to road safety around primary schools.

The report concluded with a brief update on substance misuse and acquisitive crime.

#### Decision

1. To note the content of the report;
2. To note the comments in relation to Kirknewton.

### 6. FIRE SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the activity within the ward for the period up to 30 June 2017.

Attached to the report at Appendix 1 was a summary that provided a series of graphs showing details of accidental fire dwellings, fire casualties and fatalities, deliberate fires, fires in non-domestic properties, non-fatal non-fire emergency casualties and unwanted fire alarm signals.

The Fire Officer then provided an update on these graphs noting that wheelie bin fires continued to be a problem in the ward as it did in most other wards in West Lothian and that the Fire Service was reviewing its strategy on working with schools on fire raising and other fire safety matters and trying to adopt a more targeted approach.

It was also noted that there continued to be partnership working between the council and the Fire Service in terms of home safety visits and working with new council tenants.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report

### 7. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on the housing service activities for the ward.

The report examined Property Void and Let Performance for both mainstream and temporary properties for the period April to June 2017. It was noted that delays in re-letting could occur for a variety of reasons including additional works not visible during the initial inspection and the type and location of the property.

The Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services continued by

providing details of rent arrears for the ward noting that for Quarter 1 of 2017-18 it was £54,555 which was an increase of £2,919 on last year's position. It was also reported that much work was being done in preparation of Universal Credit which was being introduced in February 2018 which would bring with it a number of challenges for both the council and its tenants.

Information continued to be provided on the capital programme and new build council housing, tenant participation including digital inclusion and the work of safer neighbourhood team.

In answer to questions asked in relation to temporary tenancies the officer confirmed temporary tenancies were reviewed but undertook to review any long running temporary tenancies.

It was recommended that the local area committee note Housing, Customer and Building Services activity as detailed in the report for the period 1 April 2017 to 30 June 2017.

#### Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report;
2. Noted the housing officer would undertake a review of long running temporary tenancies.

#### 8. SERVICE UPDATE - NET'S, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services appraising members of the Nets, Land Services and Countryside activities in the ward for the period 1 May to 31 July 2017.

The report provided a summary of works carried out and enquiries received in relation to Grounds Maintenance, Garden Maintenance and Cleaner Communities.

Further information was also contained in the report concerning Parks & Woodland and Open Space & Cemeteries.

With regards to East Calder Park, approval for a 3G pitch had been now been granted following additional funds from SportScotland. Additionally a park stakeholder meeting was held on 9 March to discuss park developments and as a result of this, a masterplan would be drawn up in partnership with Central Scotland Green Network Trust.

In relation to Marrfield Park it was advised that the contractor was on site but works had been delayed due to the discovery of Great Crested newts near the site which required specialist ecological supervision to ensure that works did not adversely interfere with the newts or their habitat.

The report recommended that the committee note the work carried out by

the service and advise on any areas that require further information or investigation.

### Decision

To note the contents of the report; and

## 9. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF REGENERATION PLANNING

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on community regeneration activity in the East Livingston and East Calder Ward.

The report recalled that the Regeneration Framework which was approved by Council Executive in February 2014 contained a commitment to develop regeneration plans in key areas of deprivation in West Lothian. In addition to this, as part of the Community Empowerment Act there was a requirement on all Community Planning Partnerships to develop plans to improve their most disadvantaged areas.

Eight regeneration areas had been identified in West Lothian based on the data zones within the bottom 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. To date this process had commenced in five of the eight identified areas.

The report advised that the Craigshill launch event took place on 27 June and was attended by 29 people from a variety of local community groups, including third sector organisations, council services and partner agencies. The new generation steering group were undertaking a process of engagement and mapping exercises to identify current assets and any gaps within the Craigshill community at a service, organisation and business level.

The group were developing their vision and agreeing a framework for the regeneration group to work within. It was advised that Early Years, Youth and Employability were being considered as sub groups to see if these were relevant and current to the aims and objectives of the process.

The report then provided a summary of the activities currently underway in the ward and noted that the West Lothian Youth Action Project had incorporated the Craigshill summer play scheme into their summer activity programme following closure of the YWCA. It was also advised that thanks to increased funding through WLC Summer Activity and Hungry Holiday Lunch Funds, the play scheme ran for the full seven week school holiday period based in the Riverside Primary School and Youth wing.

It was recommended that the local area committee note:-

1. That a regeneration steering group had now been established in Craigshill;
2. That community engagement activity was underway in the area;

and

3. The additional community activity in the ward which had been supported by the Regeneration Team

### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

## 10. WEST LOTHIAN VILLAGES IMPROVEMENT FUND - APPLICATIONS -

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration inviting consideration of an application received for funding from the West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund

The report recalled that in 2012 the Council Executive agreed the eligibility criteria for a West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund. Funding of £1.65m was made available to support eligible schemes with funding phased over five years.

Six villages in the ward were eligible under the scheme as follows:-

- East Calder - £125,000 (£67,729 remaining)
- Mid Calder - £125,000 (£42,600 remaining)
- Kirknewton - £55,000 (£23,000 remaining)
- Pumpherston - £55,000 (£17,917.75 remaining)
- Uphall Station - £55,000 (£55,000 remaining)
- Wilkieston - £20,000 (£20,000 remaining)

The report provided the committee with full details on the following five applications which had been received:-

- Mid Calder Community Council – Bank Street Car Park Improvements – £40,000 to upgrade the car park and increase the number of parking spaces.
- Pumpherston Community Council – Heritage Landscaping - £13,696 requested to upgrade and improve the main visual point in the village; the bus turning circle.
- Pumpherston Community Council – Community Garden - £3,430 requested to provide a sensory and wildlife walkway which would incorporate wildlife homes and planting which attracts insects.
- Pumpherston Bowling Club – Disabled toilets - £17,917 requested to install disabled/accessible toilets for bowling club's members and general public.

- East Calder Community Resources Association - £4,000 was requested to repoint the old stone boundary wall that looked onto the new partnership centre

The five applications were eligible to apply to the Village Improvement Fund and met the criteria for funding.

#### Decision

1. To note the terms of the report and recommend that the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration should make an offer of funding as set out in the report.
2. To note that as the meeting was inquorate a report by the Lead Officer would be submitted to the next Council Executive on 10 October 2017 to ratify the decision of the two members present.

#### 11. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND PROVISIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2017

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing the Committee of the provisional allocations made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2017 to groups in the East Livingston and East Calder ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

The Committee was informed that thirteen application forms had been issued to groups across the ward, with eleven returned to date. The intention was that the eleven groups would be supported. The remaining two applications would be followed up. Appendix one to the report showed the organisations to be supported and the provisional allocation to each.

In relation to Livingston-wide and West Lothian-wide organisations, it was reported that one application had been sent to a Livingston-wide group. The application form had not been returned and this was being followed up. Two applications had been issued to West Lothian-wide groups and both had been returned. The intention was that both groups would be supported. Appendix two to the report showed the organisations and the provisional allocation to each.

During discussion, it was suggested that in relation to Pumpherston Senior Citizens that it may be an option for correspondence to be sent to Pumpherston Community Council to pass on.

It was recommended that the Committee note that eleven groups within the ward had applied to the fund and would be supported.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

12. ALMOND HOUSING REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Almond Housing Association providing an update on the activity of the association.

The committee was advised that the Association's Board of Management had recently approved the 5 year Investment Programme which included a variety of work within the Craigshill area, including boiler upgrades, external wall insulation/roofing works, partial electrical upgrades, external painter works, kitchen replacement, External Improvements and the handover of the new development at Forth Court.

The report continued to provide information on housing first for youth (West Lothian), digital inclusion, foodbank provision, home starter packs, energy advice noting that they had been successful in securing funding to continue energy service advice, and community growing

The Almond Housing representative then reported on two topics not contained in the report in relation to the money advice service and the issue of the cost of public transport for pupils in the Craigshill area attending Inveralmond Community High School.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To note the comments in relation to Inveralmond Community High School public transport costs for pupils in the Craigshill area.

13. CRAIGSHILL HEALTH CENTRE PATIENT NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2017

The committee considered the Craigshill Health Centre Patient Newsletter and noted that this was the first edition and that the newsletter would be published every month.

Decision

To note the contents of the newsletter.