

MINUTE of MEETING of the FAULDHUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within POLBETH AND WEST CALDER COMMUNITY GARDEN, on 15 MAY 2018.

Present – Councillors Cathy Muldoon (Chair), David Dodds, Pauline Clark

In Attendance

Alice Mitchell, Lead Officer, Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley LAC

Laura Wilson, Regeneration Team Leader

Kate Ward, Housing, Construction and Building Services, WLC

Tony Fleming, NETs, Land and Countryside Services, WLC

Gordon McCaig, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

PC Carol-Ann Wilson, Police Scotland

Judith McDermid and Lisa Drinnan, Polbeth and West Calder Community Garden

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Committee agreed a suggestion by the Chair that the order of business be changed to allow the presentation on Polbeth & West Calder Community Garden to be taken later in the meeting.

3. MINUTE

The Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Local Area Committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 27 February 2018. The minute was then signed by the Chair.

4. FAULDHUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report had been circulated by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the activity within the ward for Quarter 4 2017/18.

Gordon McCaig presented the report, providing statistical information in relation to the seven key priorities within the ward area.

It was reported that during the 2017-18 year to date reporting period, the service had dealt with 2 casualties due to fire in comparison to 0 during 2016-17 year to date

The number of unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) incidents during the 2017-18 year to date reporting period was 9, compared to 14 during 2016-17 year to date reporting period. The service was committed to 'Working Together for a Safer Scotland' and to engage with business partners to

reduce demand from Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS).

In response to a question raised concerning UFAS incidents, the SFRS officer explained that the service could levy charges on those responsible, but currently did not do so.

The Committee was asked to note and provide comment on the Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. POLICE SCOTLAND REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Constable Ross Walker providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 31 March 2018.

Police Constable Carol-Ann Wilson presented the report on behalf of PC Walker.

The report contained statistical information relating to the six West Lothian priorities. It was noted that there had been a decrease of 8% in youth calls in the year to date. 12 calls had been reported in March.

In relation to ASB calls, it was reported that there had been a rise of 13% in the year to date and 75 reports in March. The overall rise in the year to date had been a result of a number of 'party houses' identified in the ward during the year. The local ward officers had worked closely with the Safer Neighbourhood Team in dealing with these issues which had resulted in three full Anti-Social Behaviour orders being issued to three tenants within the ward.

The report contained a note concerning the 'Parksmart' initiative which had been introduced across West Lothian. The initiative was led by Education and supported by local Police at all schools in the area

Finally, the report contained details of forthcoming events.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. POLBETH & WEST CALDER COMMUNITY GARDEN - PRESENTATION

The Chair extended thanks on behalf of the Committee to Judith McDermid and Lisa Drinnan for hosting the meeting and for providing an opportunity for the Committee to visit the Polbeth and West Calder Community Garden.

Judith and Lisa then gave a presentation, describing the condition of the building prior to the installation of the underfloor heating.

The West Calder Village Improvement Fund grant had facilitated the installation of the underfloor heating and a breakdown of the cost was set out in a table in the presentation. The use of the building had been improved as undernoted:-

- All Year Round Use
- Warm, welcoming and accessible to all users and age groups
- Greater income generation from groups using building
- Hot running water for hand-washing and dishwashing creating a more hygienic kitchen and bathroom
- Wider range of activities and partner work taken place

The Committee heard that the re-structure of the organisation was complete and the 5 year Business Plan was progressing well. The organisation was implementing a Volunteer Strategy and Engagement, a Volunteer Co-ordinator post (half day per week) had been filled and a potential Project Manager had been identified.

The presentation listed plans for the future which included identifying potential grant funders.

The Chair thanked Judith and Lisa for their informative presentation.

Decision

To note the terms of the presentation.

7. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE - REPORT BY HEAD OF 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 overview of the service activities within the ward for the period 1 January to 31 March 2018.

The report examined property void performance for both mainstream and temporary tenancies.

In relation to rent arrears, it was reported that the ward position for Q4 of 2017/18 was £227,120. This was an increase of £23,718 on the previous year's position. While there were 61 serious arrears cases, it was noted that 56% of cases were in the lower bands (£300 or less).

The report provided an update in relation to the work at Cuthill Crescent,

Stoneyburn. A verbal update was given in relation to the new build houses at the Eastfield, Fauldhouse.

The Committee was asked to note Housing, Building and Customer Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2018.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND AND COUNTRYSIDE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising members of the recent activity of the NETs, Land and Countryside Services teams for the period 1 February 2018 to 31 March 2018.

It was reported that shrub bed maintenance had been completed and grass cutting and weed control had started for the new season.

The report went on to examine activity in relation to Grounds Maintenance Enquiries, Garden Maintenance Routine Works, Cleaner Communities Routine Works, Parks and Woodland, and Open Space and Cemeteries.

The Enforcement Officers had been involved in a number of community projects within the ward, with the aim of raising awareness of environmental issues.

As part of the capital upgrading programme for play, the service intended to upgrade Bridge Street Play Park, Fauldhouse and Addiewell Primary School Play Park in the current financial year.

In response to a question raised concerning improvements at Glenview Playing Field, the Grounds Maintenance Manager undertook to ascertain whether the planned work included upgrading of the path.

Members were asked to:-

1. Note the work carried out to date and future planned work.
2. Advise of any areas that required further investigation or inclusion in future work plans.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

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

informing the LAC members of progress towards developing regeneration plans within the ward, and other ward activity. The report contained information under the headings Stoneyburn, Fauldhouse, Addiewell and Polbeth.

In relation to community engagement in Stoneyburn, it was reported that the steering group had determined the themes for the locality plan. These were:- Transport and Moving Around, Play, Recreation and Facilities and Poverty, Health and Wellbeing.

An event had been held in Stoneyburn Community Centre on Saturday 24 March to consult the community on the themes and actions in the draft plan. Over 30 people had attended and there was universal support for the proposals. There were also some additional actions proposed such as establishing a local walking/jogging/running group and delivering courses on budgeting and cooking healthy, low cost family meals.

The Regeneration Team Leader advised that Fauldhouse regeneration group continued to be well attended. The group was gathering momentum and was viewed as the key community forum for sharing information and progressing joint projects.

The report also provided details of progress in Addiewell and Polbeth.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee note:-

1. that community engagement was complete in all regeneration areas in the ward;
2. that a draft plan was complete for Stoneyburn;
3. Fauldhouse and Addiewell steering groups were currently deciding on themes and priorities and the engagement information was being collated in Polbeth; and
4. the progress made by the Aspiring Communities project in Polbeth.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

10. WORKPLAN

A copy of the Workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the Workplan.