

MINUTE of MEETING of BROXBURN, UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within ROOM GP3, ENTRANCE 'B', STRATHBROCK COMMUNITY CENTRE, 189A WEST MAIN ST, BROXBURN EH52 5LH, on 25 MAY 2018.

Present – Councillors Angela Doran (Chair), Chris Horne and Janet Campbell

Apologies – Councillor Diane Calder

In attendance

Alan Bell, Lead Officer, WLC

David Brewster, Senior Environmental Health Officer, WLC

David Cullen, Operational Services, WLC

Lynne Gow, Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Phyllis McFadyen, Housing Manager, WLC

PS Iain Wells, Police Scotland

Laura Wilson, Regeneration Team Leader, WLC

1 member of the public was in attendance.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTE

The committee agreed the minute of its meeting held on 15 February 2018 as being a correct record. The Chair thereafter signed the minute.

Matters arising

Page 35: Road Safety Issues: Niddry Road, Winchburgh and Ecclesmachan

Councillor Campbell requested that updates relating to road safety at Niddry Road, Winchburgh and Ecclesmachan be included on the workplan for future meetings.

Page 37: West Lothian Village Improvement Fund Applications

A request was made for an update regarding Dechmont Community Council's application for hanging baskets. The Regeneration Team Leader advised that planning permission was not required however, it was recommended that the community council contact WLC Operational Services in relation to hanging the baskets.

Decision

- To agree that the Lead Officer forward the request to Operational Services for road safety updates at Niddry Road, Winchburgh and Ecclesmachan to be included on the workplan for future meetings;

and

- Noted the update regarding Dechmont Community Council's application for hanging baskets.

3. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by PS Iain Wells providing details of the performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 30 April 2018.

The report provided information for the reporting period relating to a number of themes and provided comparative figures for the same period in 2017.

PS Wells provided an update on the work carried out regarding the restructuring of the Community Police Team, details of which were outlined in the report. Named single point of contact officers have been provided for each secondary school. These named single point of contact officers also have a wide remit within their roles in the community locality area they serve. The Community Action Team was replaced by a smaller Community Enquiry Team with tasks prioritised based on threat, risk and harm at any given time within the community.

PS Wells then responded to questions from members of the committee. He advised that officers continued to work hard within the community, working with partners on a number of initiatives that were taking place in the ward area. Statistics relating to anti-social behaviour across the ward area were on a downward trend. Partnership working with WLC officers and Community Police officers continued which greatly assisted in the reduction of incidents being reported.

Police officers continued to work with partners in responding to complaints from residents in various areas of West Lothian relating to large groups of youths congregating. An appeal was also made to parents via a Facebook message put out on the West Lothian Police Facebook site urging parents to challenge and check on their children's whereabouts and welfare, which was also linked in with schools.

Finally, road safety reports, acquisitive crimes and responses to drug related criminal activity in the area were outlined in the report.

The committee acknowledged the excellent work carried out by police officers in the ward area.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the contents of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and the update from PS Wells.

4. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing details of activity for the ward up to 31 March 2018.

The Station Manager, Lynne Gow, advised that information relating to six key areas were outlined within the report. Details regarding the number of accidental dwelling fires, fire casualties and fatalities, deliberate fires, fires in non-domestic properties, non-fatal non-fire emergency casualties and unwanted fire alarm signals on a ward basis, West Lothian basis and Scotland-wide basis were given providing comparisons between 2014 and 2017, which was a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E.

The Station Manager responded to questions from members of the committee. She provided details of the initiatives taking place within the ward area to reduce the number of fire related incidents. The Community Safety Team continued to work with children raising awareness of the dangers of deliberate fire-raising. Online information was also available for schools to access and a number of events held to raise awareness. An engagement programme was also in place to help reduce the number of unwanted fire alarm signals and the Community Safety Team was engaging with business partners, providing advice to repeat offenders.

During the course of the discussion the Station Manager agreed to provide members of the committee with fire safety leaflets at the next LAC meeting to allow them to be circulated in the community and distributed at their surgeries.

It was recommended that the committee note and provide comment on the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

The committee commended the Community Safety Team for the excellent work carried out in the community.

Decision

- To note the contents of the report and the update provided by the Station Manager; and
- To agree that the Station Manager would provide members with fire safety leaflets for circulation in the community.

5. 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 for the period 1st January to 31st March 2018.

The report provided an overview of the activities of Housing, Customer and Building Services, specific to the Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh ward for the fourth quarter of 2017/2018 and examined property void and let performance for both mainstream and temporary properties for the reporting period, confirming that there were 19 policy voids in the ward for this period.

The report continued by providing details of rent arrears for the ward noting that for Quarter 4 of 2017/18 the arrears were £135,677, which was an increase of £11,084 on the previous year's position. Work continued to provide financial advice and assistance to support tenants.

The Housing Manager advised the committee that Universal Credit commenced on 16 May 2018. Officers were working jointly with DWP to ensure that as smooth a process as possible was in place going forward.

An update was also provided within the report on the capital programme and new build council housing, tenant participation and safer neighbourhood council officer ward information.

The Housing Manager then responded to questions from members of the committee. In response to a question relating to the upgrade of the rear enclosure at Almondell Road, members were advised that the design works were complete and further consultation would be carried out with tenants linking in with the Youth Action Project. A strategy and development event was also being held on 7 June 2018 between 4.00 and 7.00 pm which ward members would be invited to attend.

During the course of the discussion members congratulated the Tenant Participation Team for being shortlisted for the Tenant Information Services (TIS) Award 2017 under the category of Best Innovative Practice and wished them well at the awards ceremony in June 2018.

It was recommended that the committee note the Housing, Customer and Building Services activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1st January to 31st March 2018.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing details of the NETs, Land and Countryside services for the period 1 February to 30 April 2018.

The report provided a summary of works carried out and enquiries received in relation to grounds maintenance, garden maintenance and cleaner communities.

Enforcement Officers dealt with enquiries in relation to various

environmental issues within the ward. Details of the Parks and Woodland enquiries and Open Space and Cemeteries enquiries were also provided. Funds were available within the capital programme to make some improvements to Holmes Park (Broxburn), Parkview Square (Broxburn) and Millbank Place East (Uphall). Updates would be provided as progress was made with the process.

Members were advised that shrub bed maintenance was completed and a programme for grass cutting and weed control had commenced for the new season. Rangers continued to patrol local woodlands, rights of way and the core path networks, as well as looking after Almondell and Calderwood Country Park. It was also noted that the Enforcement Officers have been involved in a number of community projects within the ward, with the aim of raising awareness of environmental issues.

The Operational Services Officer then responded to questions from members of the committee. He undertook to forward comments from members to colleagues in Operational Services regarding the Community Recycling Centres (CRC), particularly relating to consideration being given to review the new permit system for the CRC sites, and simplifying access to the centres for private users of vans, trailers and pedestrians.

It was recommended that the committee notes the work carried out to date and future planned work and advise of any areas that require further investigation or inclusion in future work plans.

Decision

- To note the contents of the report; and
- To note that the comments from members relating to the Community Recycling Centres would be forwarded to colleagues in Operational Services.

7. EDINBURGH AIRPORT 'NOISE ACTION PLAN' CONSULTATION

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing details of the recent Edinburgh Airport consultation on its proposed statutory Noise Action Plan. The officer consultation response, subsequently approved by Council Executive, was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Senior Environmental Health Officer advised the committee that the Edinburgh Airport consultation on its draft Statutory Noise Action Plan for 2018-23 was poorly publicised. The deadline for submission of responses was 2 April 2018 however, the service only became aware of the consultation on 22 March 2018. A request for an extension was made to Edinburgh Airport, which was declined. Due to the desire to meet this response deadline, there was no opportunity for the report to be considered at either the Environment PDSP or relevant LACs. An officer response was therefore submitted in consultation with the Chair of the

Environment PDSP and Leader of the Council and approved by Council Executive on 17 April.

During the course of the discussion members of the committee highlighted their disappointment about the short notification period and timescale to respond to the consultation. Members were also concerned that West Lothian Council was not considered to be a statutory consultee. The Senior Environmental Health Officer advised that Environmental Noise Regulations were within the directive of Scottish Law, which stated that Local Authorities were not statutory consultees. Any changes to this would require to be carried out by the Scottish Government. He confirmed that West Lothian Council's generic email addresses had been provided to Edinburgh Airport Communication Manager to ensure that up to date information would be provided in future.

The committee commended the Officers involved in responding to the consultation and acknowledged the excellent work carried out in such a short period of time to respond to the Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 consultation.

It was recommended that the committee notes the contents of the report and the approved officer consultation response.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8. WORKPLAN - SEPTEMBER 2018

The committee noted the workplan (copies of which had been circulated).

It was recommended that the following item be included on the workplan:

- Update on road safety issues at Niddry Road, Winchburgh and Ecclesmachan to be given to a future meeting.

Decision

To note the workplan subject to including the item on road safety.