

MINUTE of MEETING of the LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within CR3, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 13 SEPTEMBER 2018.

Present – Councillors Dom McGuire (Chair), Alison Adamson, Andrew Miller

Apologies – Councillor Robert De Bold

In Attendance –

Jim Jack, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Sergeant Iain Wells, Police Scotland

Alan Cunningham, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Ross McDonald, Senior Engineer, West Lothian Council

Sandy Ross, Area Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

Eirwen Hopwood, Park & Woodland Manager, West Lothian Council

Gloria Gibson, Carmondean Community Council

Brian Johnston, Livingston Village Community Council

Steven Egan, Elburn Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 28 June 2018 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. WINTER SERVICE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an insight into how the winter service is operated taking into consideration road priorities.

The report advised that in Scotland, council's statutory responsibilities regarding the Winter Service were defined in the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, which required that a road authority shall take such steps as it considers reasonable to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles over public roads.

The council's current Winter Service Policy was well established and was based on the Code of Practice "Well-managed Highway Infrastructure – 2016".

The Winter Service Policy included the service standards and a definition for "Extreme Weather Event" a statement on resilience and salt conservation; and the policy promoted the benefits of self-help in line with Government recommendations.

The Head of Operational Services advised that the Winter Service Policy

had proved successful in dealing with the normal UK winters. Additional resources were utilised from NET's Land & Countryside Services to complement resources providing a more robust and flexible rota.

The Head of Operational Services explained that domain based forecasting was utilised with separate forecasts being obtained for the north and south of the county. This allowed treatment plans to be more specific providing an improved service to areas most in need.

Route maps were reviewed and updated to reflect any newly adopted streets, with additions being prioritised in line with policy. Route maps and further information on how the council prioritise gritting can be found on the council's website.

The route coverage within the Livingston North area for primary carriageways and primary footways/paths were shown on the plan appended to the report.

The report recommended that the committee note the content of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

4. LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the PC's John McLean and Alan McMahon providing an update on performance activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 31 July 2018.

Sergeant Wells explained that that since May 2018, PC's McLean and McMahon had dealt with numerous neighbour disputes carrying out early intervention and prevention activities. They also continued to work closely with housing and other council partners to address incidents of anti-social behaviour in communities.

With regard to road safety Sergeant Wells advised that parking issues continued in various areas of Livingston North, with Carmondean Train Station being a particular problem and that hotspots would be visited whenever possible. The patrol of areas of concern regarding speeding, mobile phone use and other road traffic offences would be continued

The report concluded with an update on drug misuse and drug dealing.

Sergeant Wells advised the committee that future reports would provide a breakdown of statistics in specific areas of the ward.

The report recommended that the committee note the content of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. LIVINGSTON NORTH MULTI-MEMBER WARD FIRE SERVICE PERFORMANCE

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 2018.

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration, providing an update on progress towards developing a regeneration plan within the 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. One of the areas identified was Livingston Central, which covered the communities of Knightsridge, Ladywell and Dedridge.

Since the last local area committee meeting there had continued to be progress around a number of identified priorities and included the development of action plans. The Regeneration Group last met on 15 May with a further meeting planned during the school holidays to continue to progress the action plans.

A number of initiatives were being developed under the headings of the Vennie, Mosswood Community Centre, Community Learning and Development, Environmental Visual Audit. The report provided details under each of these headings of some of those initiatives including gala days, and an Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) for the Knightsridge area.

With regards to the EVA an update was provided highlighting issues and actions. A copy of the report following the conclusion of the EVA was

attached to the report at Appendix 1.

In conclusion it was noted that Knightsridge was part of the Livingston Central regeneration area for which a regeneration plan was being developed and that an update on progress would be brought to the next meeting of the Local Area Committee.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee notes :-

1. The update on progress towards the first version of the regeneration plan for the Knightsridge area, the first draft of which will be provided to the November meeting;
2. The update on activity at the Vennie, Mosswood Community Centre, the recently formed Gala Day committee and community council; and
3. The update on actions from Environmental Visual Audit exercise previously carried out in Knightsridge.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report and the Knightsridge EVA;
2. To agree that members are provided with the numbers of participants that attended the Vennie Summer Programme and an update on the Harvester site.

7. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2018

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the groups invited to apply for the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2018 in the Livingston North ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

In 2018, the total amount available was £29,054 with the fund being divided by the total number of beneficiaries. Seven applications had been issued to groups across the Livingston North ward, with two returned to date. The intention was to support all seven groups upon submission of their application. Appendix 1 of the report detailed those groups proposed to be supported and the approximate number of beneficiaries in each.

One application had also been sent to a Livingston-wide group and three applications to West Lothian-wide groups with one returned to date. The intention was to support all of these groups once the applications had been returned. Appendix 2 provided further details on those applications and the approximate number of beneficiaries.

The committee noted that a full report on the final allocations would be presented to the Voluntary Organisations PDSP later in the year with letters to be issued to groups in late October advising of the level of

funding they would receive.

The report recommended that the committee note that seven groups within Livingston North ward had been invited to apply and applications were awaited.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

A report had been circulated by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within the ward.

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

In relation to rent arrears, the ward position for Q1 of 2018/19 was £247,441. This was an increase of £27,245 on the previous year's position.

The report provided a table showing the sites in the ward which were included in the New Build Council Housing Programme, together with information on site start dates and completion dates.

The report provided details of service activity in relation to Tenant Participation and the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The Local Area Committee was asked to note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

9. SERVICE UPDATE - OPERATIONAL SERVICES

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services appraising members of the Operational Services activities for Livingston North from 1 May 2018 – 31 July 2018.

The report contained statistical information in relation to Grounds Maintenance Enquiries and Cleaner Communities Enquiries.

In relation to enforcement action, it was noted that there had been one Fixed Penalty Notice for dog fouling.

There were 73 Parks and Woodland related enquires received during the

period of which 43 were inspected but no works were generated. 30 enquiries generated works instructions to programme of which 28 were completed.

It was noted that waste services received and dealt with 1443 customer enquiries from residents which was a reduction on the same period last year.

In conclusion it was advised that good progress had been made with ground maintenance tasks due to the good weather experienced for most of the reporting period. Enforcement Officers attended to all enquiries in relation to various environmental issues within the area.

The Local Area Committee was asked to:-

1. Note the work carried out by the service within the local area.
2. Advise of any areas that required further information or investigation.

A number of issues were raised by Committee members and Community Council members and these were summarised as follows:-

An issue was raised with bins at Eliburn Park not having lids. Comments were also made with regards to speed bumps at Aller Place being unsuitable. An issue was raised with regard to overgrown tree roots and the damage being caused.

There was also an issue raised with regard to common land and the difficulty in trying to establish ownership of this land, particularly when there were issues with the land that required action by the landlord.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To agree that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Local Area Committee providing an update on common ground ownership in Eliburn.

10. WORKPLAN

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the workplan
2. To agree that a report on common land ownership in Eliburn be included on the workplan.
3. To agree that a report on Local Public Transport issues in Livingston be included on the workplan.

