

MINUTE of MEETING of the FAULDHOUSE AND THE BREICH VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 12 MARCH 2019.

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

In attendance

Alice Mitchell (Lead Officer)

Lindsay MacGregor (Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration)

Lee Clark (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)

PC Andrew Hendry (Police Scotland)

Chris Nicol (Operational Services)

Sandy Ross (Housing, Customer and Building Services)

PC Philip Wilkin (Police Scotland)

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair made a ruling in terms of Standing Order 11 that the committee would consider agenda item 13 after agenda item 7 and agenda item 10 after agenda item 8.

2. MINUTE

The committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 30 January 2019. The minute was then signed by the Chair.

3. WEST LOTHIAN LOCAL POLICING REPORT FOR THE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE NOV 2018 - JAN 2019 FAULDHOUSE & BREICH VALLEY

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by PC Philip Wilkin providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 31 January 2019.

The report contained statistical information with regard to incidents relating to the six West Lothian priorities. Local officers had conducted a Festive Initiative during the December–January holiday period; it was noted during discussion that an expected increase in housebreakings had been observed during the festive period.

Community Ward officers had dealt with several neighbour disputes, which continued to constitute a significant amount of antisocial behaviour calls to police. Ward Officers also continued to perform intelligence-led antisocial behaviour patrols and to engage positively with youths. It was noted that early intervention and preventative strategies were routinely employed and members of the public were encouraged to report crime and antisocial behaviour to aid the police with information and intelligence and allow them to respond appropriately.

The report also provided details of the work carried out to protect people, reduce violence, tackle substance misuse and reduce home, fire and road casualties.

In response to a relevant query, PC Wilkin indicated that theft of high-value cars was a trend on the increase across Scotland.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

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

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the activity within Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Multi-member Ward for the period up to 31 December 2018.

Appendix 1 of the report provided statistical information in relation to the seven key priorities within the ward area.

During the 2018/19 year to date reporting period, the service had dealt with no casualties due to fire in comparison to 1 during the 2017/18 year to date reporting period.

The number of unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) incidents during the 2018/19 year to date reporting period was 11, compared to 66 during the 2017/18 reporting period. The committee acknowledged the remarkable fall in the number of UFAS in the current reporting period.

The number of deliberate fire incidents reported during 2018/19 year to date was 11 in comparison to 8 during the 2017/18 year to date reporting period. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service expressed concern as to the increase of deliberate fires as they posed a threat to youth safety and noted that the service was targeting young people and their parents with the aim of educating them as to the consequences of deliberate fire setting.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was also involved in promoting driver safety through the Westdrive Initiative. The sessions targeted young drivers; it was noted, however, that the Westdrive presentations were open to all community members, and interested parties were encouraged to contact Fire Service for information.

It was recommended that the committee note and provide comment on the Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

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 Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley ward.

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 Q3 of 2018/19 was £423,082. This was an increase of £141,519 on the previous year's position. While there were 128 serious arrears cases, it was noted that 51% of cases were in the lower bands (£300 or less).

The report also provided details of the local area team activity, capital programme and new build council housing, as well as details of the work carried out by the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The report indicated that the Tenant Participation Team had received the New and Innovative Services for our Communities award at the Council's Celebrating Success Awards. Also, the Good Neighbour Award ceremony had been held on 26 October in the Civic Centre to celebrate neighbours who had been nominated for being kind and considerate.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Building and Customer Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 October to 31 December 2018.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. STONEYBURN PATHS UPDATE

The committee was shown a video on the need for public walking paths in the Stoneyburn area. Chris Nicol, Operational Services Engineer, then provided an update on the council's actions with regard to building paths in the area.

Four routes had been identified for building paths. An initial consultation with community councils had taken place the previous year. The council was currently considering the best layout for the paths and the Engineer took note of the committee's comments and suggestions about the proposed routes.

Design of the paths would be fully funded by SEStran, while construction would be funded partly by SEStran and partly by the council. The committee was reassured that funding was available, although next steps with regard to construction and costs were yet to be determined.

Decision

1. To note the presentation and update on the Stoneyburn paths.
2. To include Stoneyburn paths on the committee workplan for further updates in future meetings.

**7. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE**

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising of the recent activity of the NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 November 2018 to 31 January 2019.

It was reported that work on hedge pruning had been completed as scheduled and work on shrub beds had been completed in all communities except West Calder. Enforcement Officers had attended to all enquiries in relation to various environmental issues within the area and carried out targeted patrols.

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.

It was recommended that the committee:

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

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

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

The report indicated that further to the draft regeneration plans presented to the Local Area Committee, individual steering groups made up of local community groups, members and partners had been formed to oversee plans and progress actions. There had been some delay in progress due to staffing changes; however, Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Regeneration planning was gaining momentum and was supported by the newly formed 'Fauldhouse Links'.

It was recommended that the committee note:

1. That plans had been updated for Stoneyburn, Fauldhouse and Polbeth to be online at end of March 2019;
2. That a draft Addiewell plan was currently still in progress due to staff changes; and
3. Updates from regeneration partners within Fauldhouse, Stoneyburn and Polbeth.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

### 9. 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 advising of applications received from within the ward seeking funding from the West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund.

Eight villages within the ward were eligible to apply for funding. The following applications had been received for this round of funding.

Curling Pond Lane Residents – The project involved turning a small area of land in the Curling Pond Lane estate into made into a kick about pitch. This project would enable children to play in a safe area and provide safe access steps to the current play park in Northfield meadows. Funding of £15,000 had been requested in total. An externally sourced local contractor would deliver the project to install drainage, turf the area and provide the access steps. The full application was attached to the report as Appendix 1.

Longridge Community Association – The community had requested funding for acquiring a second Defib and cabinet for the village. This would provide life-saving equipment along the main route in the village. The community would hold a further training session suitable for both children and adults on equipment use. The total requested for the application was £2,518.80. The full application was attached to the report as Appendix 2.

Longridge Community Association – The application from the Longridge Community Association (LCA) was to increase the equipment in the local park to cater for all ages, provide a seating area at the greenspace and remove a worn out shelter. As both sites included in this application were considered formal open spaces maintained by NETs, Land and Countryside Service, any final price for works that exceeded that price quoted would be met by the Open Space Capital Programme budget for 2019/20. The cost of the additional play equipment, installation and additional seated area was £21,795.44. The full application was attached to the report as Appendix 3.

The applications met the eligibility criteria for the funding and the committee was asked to support them.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Note that three applications had been received for funding;
2. Note that the proposals met the eligibility criteria for supported projects;
3. Supported funding for the projects; and
4. Agreed that the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration should make an offer of funding as per the details set out in the report.

#### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To note that three applications had been received for funding.
3. To note that the proposals met the eligibility criteria for supported projects.
4. To support funding for the projects.
5. To agree that the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration should make an offer of funding as per the details set out in the report, with the additional condition that upkeep of the areas would be the community's responsibility, and to agree that this would be highlighted in writing to Longridge community.

#### 10. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2019-20

A timetable of proposed meeting dates for 2019/20 had been circulated, which the committee was asked to approve.

#### Decision

To approve the Timetable of Meetings for 2019/20.

#### 11. WORKPLAN

A copy of the Workplan had been circulated.

#### Decision

To note the Workplan.