

MINUTE of MEETING of the BROXBURN, UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 8 SEPTEMBER 2016.

Present – Councillors Alexander Davidson (Chair) and Diane Calder

Apologies – Councillors Tony Boyle and Janet Campbell

In Attendance

Dougie Grierson, Community Regeneration Officer, WLC  
Phyllis McFadyen, Area Housing Manager, WLC  
Kevin Hamilton, Operational Services, WLC  
Gordon Brown, Operational Services, WLC  
Inspector Scott Robertson, Police Scotland

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair ruled in terms of Standing Order 11 that agenda items 6 and 11 would be considered at the end of the agenda to allow attendance by respective personal in relation to the two items of business.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 19 May 2016. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. POLICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Inspector Scott Robertson (Police Scotland) providing an update on performance, activities and issues in the ward up to 31 July 2016.

The report provided statistics for the month of May, June and July 2016, together with comparative figures for the same period in 2015 noting that there had been a rise in figures relating to Youth Calls and Anti-Social Behaviour Calls.

The committee continued to be advised of a number of other initiatives taking place in the ward on matters such as violence, disorder & antisocial behaviour, road safety, dishonesty and drug dealing & misuse.

The report concluded with the Inspector encouraging members and their constituents to complete the online survey “Your View Counts” which could be found on the Police Scotland website.

### Decision

To note the contents of the report

## 5. EDINBURGH AIRPORT 'LETS GO FURTHER' CONSULTATION

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising that on 30 August 2016 the Council Executive approved a response to Edinburgh Airport's "Let's Go Further" consultation a copy of which was attached to the report.

The local area committee was advised that in June 2016 Edinburgh Airport launched "Let's Go Further", its airspace change programme. The stated aim was to examine the potential impact of altering flightpaths "*to allow for maximum operational benefits and to minimise community impact*". Following these initial activities the airport had now embarked on a two phase public engagement and consultation process :-

- Phase 1 aimed to gather views from communities involved; and
- Following feedback on local sensitivities gathered at Phase 1, Phase 2 would consult in detail over specific flightpaths developed within each of the "envelopes".

The report then provided an overview of Phase 1 of the consultation detailing the specific question being posed and the proposed response noting that the objective of Phase 1 was to gather feedback from stakeholders on the broad design "envelopes" to inform the design of all Edinburgh Airport departure and arrival routes up to 7,000ft.

In responding to the consultation question, "*What local factors should be taken into account when determining the position of the route within the design envelope given the potential impacts, and why?*" the following matters were considered :-

- The wishes of the community
- Established routes and impact of changes on those not currently subject to aircraft noise
- Overflight noise impact on general community
- Overflight noise impact on specific communities/establishments
- Location of existing settlements/population density
- Planned location of future settlements
- Times of flights and frequency

Notwithstanding the potential for Edinburgh Airport to discount responses

out with the immediate scope of the consultation a number of other matters relating to noise were also highlighted in the consultation response.

Whilst concerns over noise existed it was also to be recognised that the proximity of Edinburgh Airport provided an economic benefit to West Lothian allowing for easy connectivity to new markets and providing a benefit to the people and businesses of West Lothian. This also included the potential long-term benefits for the Scottish labour market by enabling West Lothian to retain senior executive talent that could otherwise migrate elsewhere.

The report concluded that Edinburgh Airport wished to revise its arrival and departure routes to make use of new technology and to increase capacity which in turn would allow for increased flight numbers. West Lothian did benefit from the proximity of Edinburgh Airport making it a more attractive place from which to do business however West Lothian residents had raised concerns during the trial change of flightpath which demonstrated significant negative impact for many residents.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee note the content of the report and the approved response.

#### Decision

1. To note the content of the report; and
2. To note the continuing concerns of the community with regards to a potential increase in aircraft noise.

#### 6. BROXBURN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA - ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising on the outcome of the consultation on the statutory draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for the Broxburn Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and to advise on the progress for developing and adopting a final Air Quality Action Plan.

The declaration of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Broxburn required the local authority to develop an Action Plan in pursuit of the achievement of air quality standards and objectives. The draft plan was presented to the Local Area Committee on 25 Feb 2016 as part of the official consultation process.

Following the official launch further broad consultation was carried out for a period of 6 weeks between 7 March and 18 April 2016. This included both internal and external parties and included local residents, transport operators, community council representatives, local businesses and elected members

Feedback gathered during the consultation was considered with the most

significant responses from Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), the developers' consortium at Winchburgh and the Broxburn and Uphall Traders Association.

Nothing received questioned the approach to the Action Plan or the measures within, although the Winchburgh developers' consortium highlighted the direct link between some measures and existing planning conditions involving funding. The comments received would help shape the final Action Plan and assist in giving priority to each measure.

Funding to allow completion of the final Air Quality Action Plan by external advisors had been sought from the Scottish Government and a contract had been placed for the work to be completed by the end of January 2017. The final Action Plan would list the measures considered worthy of pursuit and detail timescales for their implementation. The final Action Plan would also be brought to a future meeting of the local area committee and the Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel before going to Council Executive for approval.

It was recommended that the local area committee :-

1. Note that the broad consultation on the draft action plan had now concluded with no adverse comments being received; and
2. Note that due to no significant objections, finalisation of the Air Quality Action Plan had commenced using Scottish Government funded external expertise.

### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

## 7. UPDATE ON RESULTS OF TRAFFIC SURVEYS IN DECHMONT VILLAGE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing results of traffic surveys undertaken in Dechmont, at locations agreed with Dechmont Community Council, and to update committee on the continued monitoring of incidents following the implementation of the spiral marking layout at Dechmont roundabout.

The report recalled that at its meeting on 21 May 2015 the local area committee considered a report which provided an update on the spiral marking layout installed at Dechmont roundabout in November 2013. The report provided an initial review of monitoring work undertaken following the implementation of the spiral markings. The local area committee also noted that officers from the council's Transportation Service would meet with Dechmont Community Council representatives to agree what steps could be taken to monitor traffic flows through Dechmont Village and share the results of the data collection process thereafter.

Following a meeting between the council's Transportation Service and

Dechmont Community Council representatives a seven day survey commenced on 24 September 2015 along Main Street and Knightsridge Road, a summary of which was contained in the report. The results demonstrated that there was a small percentage of HGV usage along Main Street and Knightsridge Road with HGV's making up 1% or less of the overall traffic volume with the value significantly less than the 10% that would normally be expected on an A Class road.

Speed at the locations were also found to be reasonable with lower speed to the west of Dechmont Village where there was traffic calming in the proximity to the survey location. Average speeds along Knightsridge Road were found to be below 20mph which was considered appropriate for an advisory 20mph road.

Overall the results from the traffic surveys showed that vehicular speeds were not concerning and were considered to be reasonable.

The report continued by providing injury accident data as provided by Police Scotland and these figures were summarised in the report noting that when reported to the local area committee in May 2015 a 41% reduction in the accident rate was presented from the data available at the time. Based on information available to the end of January 2016 there had been a 68% reduction in the accident rate.

Therefore a review of available injury accident data demonstrated that there had only been one reported injury along Main Street, Dechmont in the 26 months following the implementation of the spiral markings at Dechmont roundabout in November 2013. On this basis there were no injury accident pattern along Main Street, Dechmont that would require further investigation or mitigation.

The local area committee was asked to note the results of the survey and agree that no further action was required.

#### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To agree that no further action required to be taken.

### 8. HOUSING, BUILDING AND CUSTOMER SERVICES UPDATE

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

The report examined Property Void and Let Performance for both mainstream and temporary tenancies for the months of April, May and June 2016 noting that 14 mainstream properties had been let in the month of June 2016. There were also 8 Policy Voids in the ward; 3 were being used for decants and the others were for structural upgrading.

In relation to rent arrears the report provided a graph comparing rent

arrears in 2016 with those in 2015 noting that there are had been a slight decrease in the first quarter compared to the previous year however the overall position for West Lothian had significantly improved. There were also 27 serious arrears cases (£1,000+) but it was to be noted 68% of cases (349) were in the lower bands. A strategy for 2016-17 had been devised by the council for addressing rent arrears and these were summarised in the report and included increasing Direct Debit take-up, benchmarking with other local authorities, a campaign programme and performance monitoring.

The report continued by providing details of the capital and new build council house programmes

The committee were also advised of other notable activity in the ward including a Tenant Participation update, the work of the Homeless Network and the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The Local Area Committee was asked to note the Housing, Building and Customer Service activity detailed in the ward report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2016.

#### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To note that the Health Improvement Team were planning to carry out surveys on those tenants recently moved to new council houses to assess the effect on their health and well-being; and
3. To agree to invite all local ward members to the meeting at which discussions would be undertaken with the tenants of the properties at Almondell Road at which maintenance was planned in the near future.

#### 9. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND PROVISIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2016

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration informing members of the provisional allocations made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2016 to groups in the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

It was reported that, from the total fund in 2016 (£29,106.54), the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward had an allocation of £3,773.07.

The Committee was informed that eleven application forms had been issued to groups across the ward, with seven having been returned. The intention was that the seven applications would be supported and the remaining four would be followed-up. One application had been sent to a Livingston-wide group but this application had not yet been returned and this was being followed-up

The Livingston-wide and West Lothian-wide organisations, and the provisional allocation to each in 2016, was shown in Appendix two to the report.

It was recommended that the committee note that seven groups within Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward had applied to the fund and would be supported.

#### Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To note that officers would continue to chase the outstanding applications.

#### 10. WEST LOTHIAN VILLAGES IMPROVEMENT FUND UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the latest position with regards to the funds available in the West Lothian Village Improvement Fund allocation to Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh. The committee were advised by the council's Community Regeneration Officer that attached to the report were two applications but these had been attached in error and committee had already approved these applications previously.

Attached to the report at Appendix 1 was a list of the applications that had previously been approved by the local area committee in relation to the council's small scale village improvements and initiatives scheme. Three villages in the ward were eligible for funds. These being :-

- Dechmont - £55,000
- Ecclesmachan/Oatridge - £20,000
- Winchburgh - £55,000

Following approval of a number of applications money remained for each of the villages as follows :-

- ❖ Dechmont - £46,500
- ❖ Ecclesmachan/Oatridge - £4,000
- ❖ Winchburgh - £25,957.22

Therefore over the coming months there would be a campaign to promote the remaining funds across West Lothian to encourage new applications. Officers would work to promote and support groups to apply and help identify suitable projects.

It was recommended that the local area committee note the progress to

date with regards to the West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To note that officer's would continue to promote the improvement fund in local communities; and
3. To note that every effort would be made to progress the improvement works at the old post office site, Winchburgh.

11. WORKPLAN 2016-2017

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the contents of the workplan

12. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - PERFORMANCE UPDATE REPORT

The committee noted that a report from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had been circulated as part of the agenda but a representative of the organisation had been unable to attend the meeting and therefore the item was not discussed.

Officers intimated that if ward members did have any questions on the content of the report these could be relayed back to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report; and
2. To request that officers investigate why no-one from the service had been able to attend the meeting.

13. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

The committee noted that a report from Nets and Land Services had been circulated as part of the agenda but a representative of the organisation had been unable to attend the meeting and therefore the item was not discussed.

Officers intimated that if ward members did have any questions on the content of the report these could be relayed back to Operational Services.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report; and

2. To request that officers investigate why no-one from the service had been able to attend the meeting.