

MINUTE of MEETING of BROXBURN, UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 16 FEBRUARY 2017.

Present – Councillors Alexander Davidson (Chair), Tony Boyle, Diane Calder and Janet Campbell

In attendance

Alan Bell, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Andrew Blake, Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager, WLC
Gordon Brown, Senior Engineer, West Lothian Council
Douglas Grierson, Community Regeneration Officer, West Lothian Council
Joanne MacKenzie, Volunteer Development Worker, West Lothian Council
Daniel McComisky, Cleaner Communities Manager, West Lothian Council
Phyllis McFadyen, Area Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Elaine Nisbet, Anti-Poverty and Welfare Advice Manager, West Lothian Council
Inspector Scott Robertson, Police Scotland
Stuart Watson, Watch Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS, INCLUDING NOTICE OF URGENT BUSINESS

Agenda Item 8: Edinburgh Airport Airspace Change Programme Consultation

The committee agreed to hear a deputation by Helena Paul and Ian Mate on behalf of Edinburgh Airport Watch relating to Edinburgh Airport Airspace Change Programme Consultation. The Chair ruled under SO11 that the item be considered following agenda item 4 – Minute.

Supplementary Agenda Item 13 – Ecclesmachan Road Safety Review

The Chair ruled under SO7, urgent business, to consider a late report received relating to Ecclesmachan Road Safety Review, which had been requested by the committee at the previous meeting. The Lead officer apologised for the report being submitted late, which was an administrative error on his part. The Chair agreed that the item would be considered before agenda item 12 – Workplan.

3. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the minute of Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Local Area Committee held on 24 November 2016 as being a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. EDINBURGH AIRPORT 'AIRSPACE CHANGE PROGRAMME' CONSULTATION

The committee heard a deputation by Helena Paul and Ian Mate from Edinburgh Airport Watch in respect of the Edinburgh Airport "Airspace Change Programme Consultation". They raised concerns in relation to the financial impact to the Scottish economy caused by Scottish tourists going abroad on holiday, airport management on the ground due to the frequency of flights and the fact that aircrafts were now bigger and noisier. Further concerns raised included the serious effects on health and education and the life changing consequences for residents in West Lothian.

Particular concerns were raised with regard to the complexity of the consultation paper and it was alleged that information was flawed and missing from the original TUTUR consultation. Population figures were also miscalculated as consideration had not been given to the new build proposals in Winchburgh. It was also noted that the status quo had not been considered as an option.

Finally, the deputation recommended that the council appoint an independent aviation consultant as an independent adviser during this process.

Following conclusion of the deputation the committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising that the second consultation on airspace change had now been issued by Edinburgh Airport Ltd and confirmed that work had commenced on preparing a response to be submitted by West Lothian Council by 30 April 2017.

The report recalled the 2011 Edinburgh Airport Masterplan which laid down the development trajectory for the airport and highlighted the potential future increase in airspace capacity to cope with traffic growth by introduction of new technology.

In summer 2015 Edinburgh Airport carried out a trial of an additional new instrument based western departure flight path, known as TUTUR. This took air traffic over Uphall and the Bathgate hills, neither of which had been significantly exposed to air traffic previously. The trial was intended to gather data for a possible further permanent westbound departure flight path from the airport. The airport operator identified that additional flight paths were required to increase available runway capacity at the airport. Edinburgh Airport subsequently stated that it viewed the trial to have been successful but acknowledged there to be noise issues and alluded to taking a more comprehensive look at all flightpaths.

In June 2016, Edinburgh Airport launched "Let's Go Further" consultation process, the aim of which was to examine the potential impact of altering flightpaths to allow for maximum operational benefits and to minimise community impact. Following initial activities, the airport embarked on a two phase public engagement and consultation process. The council's

response to phase 1 consultation was attached as an appendix to the report. Phase 1 consultation response would be used as a point of reference when responding to phase 2 consultation, although it was noted that the second phase proposals had a change in emphasis therefore additional points would also be considered.

Phase 2 consultation had only recently been issued therefore had not yet received full consideration. Similar themes to the earlier response of minimising impact and promoting that on ground solutions were investigated to improve the desired efficiency prior to changes in airspace.

The report concluded that the second phase of the airspace change consultation had now been released with a response deadline of 30 April 2017.

The Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager then responded to questions from members of the committee. He also advised that whilst concerns existed over noise and other environmental impacts, it must also be recognised that the proximity of Edinburgh Airport provided an economic benefit to West Lothian.

The committee members raised a number of concerns in respect of the consultation which they recommended should be taken into consideration when reporting to Council Executive. The following concerns were highlighted:

- Residents in Winchburgh had not been involved in the Phase 1 consultation process and therefore not given the opportunity to comment. Information regarding the population of Winchburgh was also understated as the new homes being built were not taken into account;
- The impact on children's health, wellbeing and education due to aircraft noise;
- Concerns about the high level of pollution in Broxburn Main Street and the impact the additional flights would have on pollution levels;
- Why West Lothian in particular was the main participant of new flight paths which did not have the same impact on the City of Edinburgh?;

Members of the committee made the following recommendations:

1. That the Children and Young People's Commissioner be contacted to find out if independent research had been carried out into the attainment levels of children who reside under flight paths with a high level of aircraft noise;
2. Further independent monitoring of the noise levels be carried out, delegated to the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration in advance of the final routes being identified to ensure that sufficient data was available;
3. That council should consider appointing an expert aviation consultant

to provide independent advice; and

4. Due to the complexity of the consultation document, it was recommended that officers should provide community councils with the advice and support required to assist them to complete Phase 2 consultation response.

The Local Area Committee was asked to note the launch of the second phase of consultation on the Airspace Change Programme and the intention to submit a proposed response to the consultation to the Environment PDSP and Council Executive for approval.

Decision

- To note the terms of the report;
- To note the comments raised by the deputation;
- To agree that member's comments and recommendations would be taken into consideration when the Phase 2 consultation response was being finalised for submission to Council Executive for approval.

5. MACMILLAN CANCER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SERVICE

The committee considered a presentation by Elaine Nisbet, Anti-Poverty and Welfare Advice Manager, and Joanne MacKenzie, Volunteer Development Worker, providing details of the information and support available from Macmillan @ West Lothian.

The Anti-Poverty and Welfare Advice Manager advised the committee that the number of people living longer after being diagnosed with cancer has increased. The aim of Macmillan @ West Lothian was to ensure that anyone affected by cancer in West Lothian has access within their local community to quality cancer information and emotional and practical support.

Macmillan @ West Lothian was funded by Macmillan Cancer Support and delivered by West Lothian Council. Four drop in services were available in partnership centres in West Lothian. The first drop in venue was opened in Bathgate Partnership Centre in May 2016. A drop in centre opened in Strathbrock Partnership Centre in January 2017 providing support and information to people diagnosed with cancer, family members, carers and friends, health professionals and care workers and people worried about cancer.

The Volunteer Development Worker stated that volunteers were vital to the success of the project. The aim was to recruit thirty volunteers over the life of the project. Feedback received from service users has been excellent and the service would continue to provide support and advice, engage with the local community and develop relationship with partners and health and social care/council staff.

The committee acknowledged the excellent work carried out in the

community and commended staff and volunteers for their hard work and commitment in providing such a valuable service.

Decision

To note the presentation.

6. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Inspector Scott Robertson providing an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period up to 31 January 2017.

The report provided statistics for the period up to 31 January 2017 with comparative figures for the same period in 2016 for Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward area as well as comparative figures for all West Lothian. The report also highlighted details involving a number of initiatives and local priorities which included matters relating to violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour, road safety, dishonesty and drug dealing and misuse. Details of Operation Fearless were also highlighted within the report, which was being delivered in Broxburn Academy and supported by Crimestoppers and Police Scotland.

Inspector Robertson then responded to questions from members of the committee. He advised that the Community Action Team was pro-active in engaging with the community, working closely with council colleagues to address ongoing antisocial behaviour issues.

Members of the committee then thanked Inspector Robertson for the positive update and acknowledged that work being carried out by Police Scotland in partnership with West Lothian Council staff was resulting in issues of antisocial behaviour being addressed in the community.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Stuart Watson, Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, providing details of the activity within the ward for the period up to 31 December 2016. The appendix to the report provided performance information relating to the work undertaken by the service in Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward area for the reporting period. In addition to the ward based activity information the performance report also compared historical information in West Lothian Council area and Scotland. To allow benchmarking to be undertaken, the units of measurement in the performance graphs in the report were based on incidents/events per head of population.

The Station Manager then responded to questions from members of the committee. In response to a question raised regarding the number of deliberate fires per 10,000 head of population during 2016-17 compared to the same reporting period in 2015-16, he advised that there was a reduction in the number of deliberate fires, the majority of which were secondary, i.e. wheelie bins fires. He also advised that a new school strategy was in place in West Lothian with each school allocated a fire officer to try to educate children on the dangers of deliberate fire raising.

The Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Multi-member Ward Performance Report aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-2017, the West Lothian Strategic Assessment of Community Safety and continues with the excellent partnership working on Community Safety, which was evident in West Lothian.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

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 services activities within the ward for the period 1 October to 31 December 2016.

The report provided details of the property void and let performance for both mainstream and temporary tenancies. There were 15 policy voids in the ward during the reporting period for various reasons such as decant, structural, asbestos and electrical issues. Four of these properties were within the block in Greendykes Road which suffered a gas explosion.

In relation to rent arrears the report provided a graph comparing rent arrears to the same period in 2014, 2015 and 2016. There was also a reduction in the rent arrears position within the ward for Q3 of 2016/17 compared to the same period the previous year.

The Housing Manager then provided members with an update on the capital programme and new-build council housing within the ward area. It was also noted that sixteen houses had been handed over at West Main Street, Broxburn site and it was expected that allocations would increase at the Kirkhill, Broxburn site over the coming months.

Details of other activities carried out in the ward were also outlined in the report which included an update relating to tenant participation and the work carried out by the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The Housing Manager then responded to questions from members of the committee. Elected members acknowledged the excellent work carried out in the ward area and highlighted the fact that the Out of Hours team had now amalgamated with the Safer Neighbourhood team. The Housing Manager confirmed that twelve officers worked in two zones, the East and

West, with three teams of two officers in each zone. All officers now dealt with noise nuisance calls as part of their working remit. There was also excellent communication with the community police officers.

A request was then made by the committee for information to be provided to the next meeting of the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh LAC, scheduled to be held on 15 June 2017, on the amalgamation between the Out of Hours team and the Safer Neighbourhood team. The Housing Manager undertook to forward this request to Alison Ritchie, NRT Manager.

The committee also commended Dyann Evans on her achievement at the TPAS Awards 2016. The Housing Manager agreed to pass on their comments to Ms Evans.

The Local Area Committee was asked to note the Housing, Building and Customer Service activity detailed in the ward report for the period 1 October to 31 December 2016.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To note that the Housing Manager undertook to forward the committee's request to the NRT Manager for information to be provided to the next meeting of Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh LAC on the amalgamation between the Out of Hours and Safer Neighbourhood teams.

9. 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 activity of the NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 November 2016 to 31 January 2017.

The report provided details of the work carried out in relation to grounds maintenance, garden maintenance, cleaner communities, parks, woodland and open spaces and cemeteries routine works and enquiries.

The report confirmed that routine works were progressing as scheduled. A number of customer enquiries were received and dealt with relating to various service areas throughout the period. The committee also noted that the design for improvements on Glebe Park were complete and approved. Planned improvements included new seating, repair of entrance features new play equipment for toddlers, tree planting and long grass areas. The next stage was to invite contractors to tender.

The Cleaner Communities Manager then responded to questions from members of the committee.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee note the work carried out to date and the future planned work.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

10. 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 providing details of the applications received from within the local area committee area seeking funding from the West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund (WLVIF).

The report recalled that three villages within the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward area were eligible to apply to the Villages Improvement Fund. An application received from Ecclesmachan and Threemiletown Community Council to refurbish the village hall was eligible under the scheme and the Local Area Committee was asked to support this application.

The committee was also asked to support the request for an additional £5,000 to be ring fenced to support Winchburgh Community Council's delivery of the previously supported project to improve the area at the Old Post Office site in the village. The additional funding would only be drawn down if required and any monies not required to deliver the project would go back to the overall village fund.

It was recommended that the Local Area Committee:

1. Notes that one application had been received for funding which met the eligibility criteria for supported projects;
2. Supports funding for the Ecclesmachan and Threemiletown Village Hall Management Association project;
3. Supports the request for an additional £5,000 to be ring fenced to support Winchburgh Community Council's delivery of the previously supported project; and
4. Agrees 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

To agree the terms of the report.

11. ECCLESMACHAN ROAD SAFETY REVIEW

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an overview of road safety in Ecclesmachan and to address concerns raised in recent public

meetings regarding the existing access roads to Oatridge College and the Scottish National Equestrian Centre.

The report advised that a review of road safety concerns through Ecclesmachan and the access roads to Oatridge College had been carried out which showed that there have been no injury accidents within the village over the latest five year period. Proposals for traffic calming on the college access road to the junction of Byburn were conditioned through a planning application and this condition was subsequently discharged. Requests for additional traffic calming were assessed through the AIP programme and there was no justification for implementing further traffic calming at the present time based on the reported road injury accidents.

The U17 between the B8046 and the golf course entrance has kerbed areas across the local accesses that were implemented for road maintenance purposes to prevent the deterioration of the road surface at this location. Additional works were undertaken within the accesses to secure the kerbstones. These works were not intended to create laybys or passing places along this route. The U17 was subject to width restrictions based on the proximity of the boundary walls along the north and south of the route. This presents significant engineering challenges in adapting the road to accommodate any forms of passing places.

The Senior Engineer advised that there were no potential schemes identified through the 2017/18 Accident Investigation and Prevention programme within Ecclesmachan and confirmed that the council would continue to monitor the situation.

The Senior Engineer then responded to questions from members of the committee. The committee then voiced a number of concerns which included:

- Parking, access and traffic management at the Equestrian Centre and Oatridge College. Members reported that an agreement was not being upheld by the Equestrian Centre relating to a one way system and traffic management being carried out when major events were being held;
- Speeding issues and speed bumps in Byburn. It was noted that Ecclesmachan Community Council intimated that they were willing to fund additional speed bumps at Byburn;
- The width of the road at the Gold Club due to overgrown vegetation; and
- The width restrictions at the U17.

The Senior Engineer advised that he was not aware of an agreement for a traffic management system at the Equestrian Centre but undertook to discuss the committee's concerns with colleagues in planning and operational services. In response to the comments regarding Ecclesmachan Community Council being willing to fund additional speed

bumps at Byburn, the council would not permit third parties to put traffic calming measures on public roads due to safety issues and procedures and specifications in place. Councillor Calder wondered if the council would consider using the same scheme for traffic calming measures as being used for dropped kerb applications. The Senior Engineer undertook to pass this suggestion on to the Network and Transportation Manager.

During the course of the discussion the Senior Engineer agreed to attend the next Ecclesmachan Safety Meeting. He confirmed that an update report would be submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the LAC due to take place on 15 June 2017.

The Local Area Committee was asked to note the results of the review and agree that monitoring continues through West Lothian Council's annual Accident Investigation and Prevention programmes.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To note the concerns raised by committee members;
3. To note that the Senior Engineer agreed to forward the committee's concerns to colleagues in planning and operational services;
4. To note that the Senior Engineer undertook to attend the next Ecclesmachan Safety Meeting; and
5. To note that an update report would be submitted to the next scheduled meeting of Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh LAC.

12. WORKPLAN

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

The committee requested that the following reports be included on the workplan for consideration at the next meeting scheduled to be held on 15 June 2017:

1. Amalgamation of Out of Hours and Safer Neighbourhood Team Update – Action: Phyllis McFadyen undertook to forward this request to the NRT Manager;
2. Ecclesmachan Road Safety Review Update – Action: Gordon Brown, Operational Services;
3. Strathbrock Brae Change of Traffic Flow – Action: The Lead Officer undertook to forward this request to Operational Services; and
4. Broxburn Air Pollution Update – Action: The Lead Officer undertook to forward this request to Operational Services.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the workplan; and
2. To note the request for the reports outlined above to be included on the workplan for the next meeting of the LAC scheduled to be held on 15 June 2017.