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**LIVINGSTON NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**COMMUNITY REGENERATION AND TOWN CENTRE FUND UPDATE**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to update the Local Area Committee on regeneration activity to support communities across the ward and update the committee on progress in delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects for the ward agreed by the Council Executive on 22 October 2019 and 15 December 2020.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes:

1. an update on the new Food Pantry within Deans which is being provided by the Livingston Islamic Centre & Mosque;
2. an update on the Vennie activity including the community garden, Connecting Scotland initiative, bike project, outreach youth work and Connecting Scotland initiative;
3. ongoing support to Livingston United Football Club in their efforts of to achieve 'senior' club status and become a community club;
4. the updates for Town Centre Fund 2019/20 and 2020/21 projects for this ward ; and
5. local applications to the West Lothian Summer of Play fund.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
<b>II</b>	<b>Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	To be assessed on an individual project basis but it is not anticipated that any proposals will require to be the subject of specific assessments.
<b>III</b>	<b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	The report sets out specific delegations to the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration.
<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance</b>	None.

## and performance Indicators

<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<p>Outcome 1 – We make West Lothian an attractive place to do business.</p> <p>Outcome 10 – We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the services we need.</p> <p>Outcome 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.</p>
<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	Across West Lothian, a total of £1.826 million was available through this Town Centre Fund for 2019/20 and a further £658,000 has been available for 2020/21.
<b>VII</b>	<b>Consideration at PDSP</b>	Not applicable.
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Other consultations</b>	Capital Asset Management Board

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D1 Background**

The report updates the committee on the work of the Community Planning and Regeneration Team and its partners to support communities in Livingston North with a particular focus on Knightsridge, one of 13 areas covered by the local plans required by the Scottish Government as part of their Community Empowerment approach and reported through the Community Planning Partnership.

These areas were identified as priority areas due to being within the bottom 20% of data zones in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. The first version of the plan was presented to members in November 2018 following extensive community consultation and development and development by the Knightsridge Regeneration Group.

The report also updates on other activities that the Community Planning & Regeneration team is undertaking to support groups and communities within the ward. Much of the focus of the team over recent months has been regarding the implementation of the Town Centre Fund.

### **D2 Food Pantry in Deans**

Livingston Islamic Centre & Mosque has initiated a food pantry from within their building on Glen's Road in Deans for the local community. This began providing a service in late March. The pantry is open on a drop-in basis between 2-3pm on Sundays or via appointment if outside this time period.

Since its inception, they report that they have managed to cater to in excess of 20 families. They add that the West Lothian Food Network continues to be a major help as we get regular supply of food from them. However, they are still searching for additional suppliers of food. The Community Regeneration Officer has suggested they contact local supermarkets and the local shops within the Deans

neighbourhood centre, as well as making links with neighbouring food project who may occasionally have excess supplies for their own projects.

### **D3 Vennie Update**

- D3.1** Summer Programme: The Vennie has applied to the West Lothian Summer of Play fund to help provide funds to the Vennie's summer programme. This will look to run four days per week and addition to the activities within and around the Vennie's building will also look to involve bike rides and trips. The proposal is also hoping to obtain funding to incorporate the outreach work into this programme for a day per week during the summer holidays.

This will help enable the partnership agreement to fund the outreach work until the end of March.

- D3.2** Outreach work: a partnership agreement between the Vennie and the council's Work with Young People team has been developed. Both partners are contributing financial resources to enable the continuation of the outreach and youth empowerment work until the end of March 2022.

The contracted artist for the Carmondean Bus Shelter and Underpasses project is accompanying the outreach workers on their walkabouts in Carmondean on Friday 11 June to raise awareness of the project with young people there, try to gather feedback and gauge if there is any further interest in it by the young people.

- D3.3** Community Garden: Staff and volunteers have continued to develop the community garden area. Of the 21 growing beds in the garden, 18 beds are rented, so only 3 remain available for residents or groups to hire. A 'life skills' club for young people operates on a Wednesday there.

The trampoline equipment which was funded by the Town Centre Fund via Knightsridge Community Council has been installed in the community garden. Further to the pergola roof being attached to the wooden frame in the communal area in the garden, the group of older people are continuing to have social gatherings before and after the food outlet session in the community centre next door.

- D3.4** Bike Project: the Bike Lending Library Technician has been in post for a few months. They have been cataloguing the bikes and bring them all up to standard into a usable condition. Unfortunately, this meant around 30 bikes were no longer in a usable condition and had to be scrapped. The library includes a range of bikes from small kids bikes to BMX and mountain bikes.

The project is currently operating on Tuesdays and Fridays. An average of 25 bikes are lent out on these days. Cycle-led rides resumed on Friday 11 June with a trip to Eliburn Park. During the summer holidays, the bike project will be looking to have one or two of these per week. There are different levels of ability, with some young people able to cycle much further than the distances that are normally undertaken so the project is considering creating some rides where young people can go longer distances.

- D3.5** Connecting Scotland: all the eight devices that were obtained for families (six Chomebooks and two ipads) have been distributed. Five out of the six devices and MiFi for the older and/or disabled people have been distributed.

The community champion has been trained and is supporting people to use their devices and deal with any technical difficulties they encounter.

- D3.6** Youth Forum: the Community Regeneration Officer met with the youth forum in Mid-May on their request. This was to discuss local issues and concerns the young people had.

One specific area of interest they had related to the 'fivey' MUGA (multi-use games area) facility, just outside Mosswood Community Centre. They raised some concerns about the condition of the surface within it, mainly holes and lack of drainage to allow water to escape following rainfall. There are also a couple of missing panels here.

These concerns were feedback to officers in Open Spaces (Operational Services). The service has advised that the MUGA is included in the council's Capital Programme for 2022/23. They will accelerate some of this funding just now in order to make the asset safe and suitable for playing. This will mean patching the holes (undertaken in early June) then take wider repairs in the autumn, before a likely full resurfacing with the same rubber material, fixing of fence panels and a redesign of drainage system.

- D3.7** Litter Pick: Knightsridge and West Lothian Litter-Pickers have organised a litter pick in the area on Sunday 13 June at 11am.

#### **D4 Livingston United Football Club**

Officers from Property Services met with representatives from the football club at their ground in Deans in early May. They are discussing the terms of a new lease for the club. A longer lease term should help the club to be in a better position for trying to obtain larger-scale funding and help satisfy the criteria for their recent progression to senior status within the Scottish Football Association's (SFA) development framework.

Property Services have agreed to attend to the car park area and trim back some hedges to support the club.

The Regeneration Officer has continued to liaise with the manager from the club over other plans they are pursuing for improving the club and facility

#### **D5 Town Centre Fund 2019/20 & 2020/21 Project Updates**

The deadline for projects funded from both years allocations to have been commissioned has now passed. The remaining deadline is for all projects to be complete by 30 September 2021

Updates on some of the outstanding projects within the ward are as follows.

##### **D5.1 Carmondean**

CAR01/CAR20-01: Carmondean Community Council - Underpass and Bus Shelter Art project

The contracted artist has been undertaking engagement with a range of local community groups. This has involved a range of engagement tools from providing packs to children's groups and school, structured sessions and group discussions to generate the themes and ideas for the artwork.

The planning group for this, involving the Community Council as project 'owner', Community Regeneration and Community Arts will meet with the artist in July to

discuss the outcomes of the public engagement and subsequent early designs. The installation of artwork will then take place between then and end of September, as per funding conditions.

## **D5.2 Eliburn**

### ELI20-01: Eliburn Community Council – Improving Safety

The proposed start date for these works is 1 August. The contractor has been appointed but due to the need to protect the new footway against the possibility of utility companies and other contractors excavating in it or digging it up, the process required a three-month notification period on the roadworks register, hence the above start date.

Officers will meet with the contractor in July to discuss the works and confirm details prior to the works starting on site.

## **D5.3 Livingston Village**

### LIV20-02: Livingston Village Community Council - Livingston Village Hub Memorial

Further to update to the previous meeting of the Local Area Committee, the community council has advised that the artist is going to begin works in June. Some preparatory work to the area will be undertaken by the community council beforehand.

## **D5.4 Deans**

### MA001/ DEA20-01: Planning Services, WLC - Livingston Station Local Centre, Deans Livingston – public realm enhancement

As was reported to the previous meeting of the Local Area Committee, Construction Services appointed a contractor at the end of March 2021 to undertake public realm improvement works across several Livingston neighbourhood centres, including Deans.

Lists of the contracted and quoted works for the Deans neighbourhood centre area have been provided by Construction Services and sent to the local members for the ward for their consideration and feedback. The specification of works identified as part of this contract is subject to change. This allows for elements to be deleted and/or added following the engagement with local members and the relevant neighbouring property owners.

Whilst the works that were costed for Deans amount to the region of £74,000, there is £34,171 available for the area.

## **D5.5 Knightsridge**

### KNI20-01: Knightsridge Community Council – Inclusive Play

The installation of the inclusive trampoline is complete. Open Spaces have inspected and will sign off the invoice shortly. Safety barriers which surround the new facility will remain in place until the grass has established through the grass mat.

## **D5.6 Next steps**

Officers will continue to keep in contact with all organisations and service leads for the projects that are yet to be completed, to ensure that the projects are going to be delivered within the timescales outlined above.

#### **D6 West Lothian Summer of Play fund**

In addition to the Vennie's application to this fund, detailed in D3.1, the council's Work with Young People team has applied to this for the Livingston Station area. The application is just short of the £10k maximum that can be applied for. This aims to run a programme five days per week, with four of these days operating out of the community centre there and a trip on the remaining day per week.

Applicants are due to be advised of the outcome of these applications on 14 June.

#### **E. CONCLUSION**

Members are asked to note the above activities taking place across the ward and in particular the support to groups to help deliver the Town Centre Fund projects that have been granted funding within the ward.

#### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

Council Executive, 11 June 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=42684>

Council Executive, 22 October 2019: Town Centre Fund 2019/20: Town Centre Fund Capital Grant 2019/20 - Livingston North Ward - Report by Lead Officer for Livingston North Local Area Committee

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=43976>

Council Executive report, 22 October 2020, Town Centre Fund - Capital Grant 2020/21

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=46496>

Council Executive, 15 December 2020: Town Centre Fund 2020/21: Proposed Funding Awards - report by Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=47175>

Appendices/Attachments: None.

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**18 June 2021**