

MINUTE of MEETING of the BROXBURN, UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 15 NOVEMBER 2019.

Present – Councillors Angela Doran (Chair) and Diane Calder

Apologies – Councillors Chris Horne and Janet Campbell

In attendance –

Craig McCorriston, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council
Stuart Pollock, Scottish & Fire and Rescue Service
PC Andrew Murray, Police Scotland
Sandy Ross, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council
Elaine Nisbet, Anti-Poverty Manager, West Lothian Council
Dougie Grierson, Regeneration Manager, West Lothian Council
Keith McLeod (Broxburn Community Council)
Irene Bishop (Uphall Community Council)
Nick Knox (Winchburgh Community Council)
Alan Russell (Winchburgh Community Development Trust)
Hazel McLeod (Winchburgh Community Development Trust)

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all the community council representatives to the meeting.

She also welcomed Alan Russell and Hazel McLeod who were carrying out the presentation on Winchburgh Community Development Trust.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 5 (Presentation by Winchburgh Community Development Trust) - Nick Knox declared an interest in that he was Director of Winchburgh Community Development Trust.

3. MINUTE

The committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 4 October 2019. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

In terms of Matters Arising and under minute item 6 (page 88) Councillor Calder sought clarification as to why the purchase of a profihopper for the ward had not been not included in the workplan.

The Lead Officer and the Clerk both explained that the local area committee had no budget or decision-making powers to authorise officers to purchase such a piece of equipment. However, the Lead Officer undertook to ascertain the whereabouts of the existing profihopper and whether this could be put to use in the ward.

4. WINCHBURGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST - PRESENTATION

The committee were provided with an overview of the Local Place Framework and Action Plan that had been recently co-ordinated and developed by Winchburgh Community Development Trust.

Mr Alan Russell and Ms Hazel McLeod explained how the Trust, following the securing of funds through developer contributions, had appointed a consultant who had carried out a survey of the village to capture the desires and aspirations of local residents.

The themes that emerged from the survey were as follows :-

- Bringing people together
- Employment
- Look and feel of public places (especially the Main Street)
- Community spaces
- Activities
- Heritage and culture

Following the consultation exercise a Local Place Framework and Action Plan was developed and this was split into three sections; these being Community Place Baseline; Physical Place baseline; and Projects. The committee were provided with an overview of the three sections.

The presentation concluded that the development of the framework would allow for the identification of future studies and local actions/projects, to deliver sustainable social, economic and physical improvement to the village

The Chair thanked Mr Russell and Ms McLeod for the very informative presentation.

There then followed a questions and answer session in which the Lead Officer also took the opportunity to advise committee that the council was keen to work with the development trust on delivering the aspirations contained within the framework. This would include the delivery of the motorway junction which would provide access to employment land and delivery of a new school which would provide community spaces.

Mr Keith McLeod (Broxburn Community Council) also advised committee that he had very impressed with the work being done by the development trust and would look to invite them to a future meeting of Broxburn Community Council so they could present their ideas.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the presentation; and
2. To thank Mr Alan Russell and Ms Hazel McLeod for all the efforts being made by the Winchburgh Community Development Trust in delivering for the local community.

5. FIRE SERVICE WARD REPORT

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 September 2019.

Attached to the report were a series of graphs showing activity across a number of priorities and included comparisons with previous years.

The committee noted that bonfire night and the days around 5 November had to all intense and purposes gone well, from a community point of view, with few incidents of note. The Fire Officer agreed that the planning between partners and stakeholders beforehand had proven to be successful overall.

The committee was invited to note and provide comments on the Broxburn, Winchburgh and Uphall Multi-member Ward Performance Report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. POLICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Scotland providing performance, activity and issues in the ward up to 31 October 2019.

PC Andy Murray then provided members with a brief overview of some of the main activity taking place in the ward including the continuation of foot patrols as part of the prevention strategy; working with council colleagues on speeding issues in Winchburgh; and a successful Halloween and Bonfire night. It was noted that bonfire night had generally gone well due to preventative work with fire and council colleagues and which included visiting retailers about the responsible sale of fireworks.

It was noted by committee that community councils continued to miss Police Scotland representatives attending their meetings. However, Police Scotland did maintain regular contact with them. PC Murray also reported that an undertaking had been recently given by Chief Inspector Alun Williams, at a meeting of the Joint Forum of Community Councils Police Sub-Group, that every effort would be made to provide community councils with detailed police activity reports.

With regards to drug misuse committee requested further information on the uptake of drug rehabilitation services in the ward.

The local area committee was asked to note the content of the report and the main areas of activity.

Decision

1. To note the update from Police Scotland;
2. To note that issues concerning speeding through Winchburgh were being reviewed between Police Scotland and the Council;
3. To note the undertaking given by Chief Inspector Alun Williams with regards to activity reports be provided to community councils; and
4. To request that the committee members be provided with information relating to the uptake of drug rehabilitation services in the ward.

7. ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Service from April 2018 to March 2019, with specific details for the ward attached to the report at Appendix 1.

In acknowledging the challenges, the Anti-Poverty Service was facing, particularly in relation to Universal Credit, committee was advised that advice shops were held throughout the ward and with the help of volunteers the service had managed to assist 1,444 customers in the ward to better manage their money.

The local area committee was asked to note :-

1. The Anti-Poverty Service provision in the ward; and
2. The impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018 to 2023.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To request that the advice shops held in communities be widely advertised; and
3. To record a note of thanks to all the staff and volunteers for their efforts in helping customers navigate the benefits system.

8. HOUSING UPDATE

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

In relation to a question committee were provided with an overview of how the council managed rent arrears and the work undertaken to prevent them escalating.

The local area committee was asked to note the Housing, Customer and Building Services activity as detailed in the report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2019.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To request that details of the new council house build 2019/20 be provided at the next committee meeting.

9. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND AND COUNTRYSIDE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing members with details of recent activity of the NET's, Land and Countryside Service teams for the period 1 September to 31 October 2019.

Nick Knox, Winchburgh Community Council, enquired as to who was responsible for the maintenance of open space at new build developments in the Winchburgh area. The Lead Officer explained that the council no longer adopted open space areas and that factoring agents required to be appointed by developers to maintain these open spaces. However, with regard to a particular area identified at Block P & Q the Lead Officer undertook to investigate the issue of maintenance of this open space area.

Committee also noted that there had been an increase in illegal fly tipping from 19 enquiries in 2018 to 29 enquiries in 2019. The Lead Officer explained that in some cases the enquiries related to illegal fly tipping on private land and if so the council had no jurisdiction to deal with such matters. Committee requested further information on the costs associated with the increase in illegal fly tipping.

The local area committee was asked to :-

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

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To note the request from Winchburgh Community Council with regards to the maintenance of the open space areas at block P & Q at the new Winchburgh development; and

3. To request costs associated with the increase in enquiries of illegal fly tipping.

10. TOWN CENTRE FUND 2019/20

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 delivering the Town Centre Capital Projects as agreed by the committee on 4 October 2019.

It was recommended that the local area committee :-

1. Notes that 11 projects have been agreed within the ward;
2. Notes that the £15,000 originally allocated to WIN04 has been reallocated to Broxburn United Sports Club;
3. Notes that officers were working with applicants to agree the final details to support delivery of the projects; and
4. That further progress updates would be brought to committee

Decision

To note the contents of the report

11. VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS - REALLOCATION OF FUNDING IN DECHMONT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration confirming realignment of Village Improvements Funding awarded to Dechmont Community Council.

It was recommended that the local area committee notes and agrees the realignment of funding between projects in Dechmont.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

12. PENSIONERS' CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATION 2019/20

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the allocations made from the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 2019/20 to groups in the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups.

It was recommended that the committee notes the eight groups within

Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Wards applied to the fund and have been supported, with all details outlined in the appendix attached to the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

13. WORKPLAN

The Committee considered the workplan for its future meetings.

Decision

To note the workplan.