



West Lothian Council

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

19 January 2023

A hybrid special meeting of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre, Livingston on Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 9:30am.**

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest - Members must declare any interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda items and the nature of their interests.
3. Order of Business

Public Items for Decision

4. Request for Amendment to Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils in West Lothian - Request for the formation of a separate Carmondean Community Council - Report by Head of Corporate Services (herewith)

NOTE **For further information please contact Val Johnston, Tel No.01506 281604 or email val.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk**



West Lothian Council

Cathy Muldoon - Provost
West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 6FF
Tel: 01506 281738

Mr Graham Hope
Chief Executive
West Lothian Council
Civic Centre
Howden South Road
Livingston

10 January 2023

Dear Graham

I am calling a special meeting of full council to deal with a possible amendment to the Scheme of Community Councils. The only item of business will be:-

- *Request for Amendment to Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils in West Lothian: Request for the formation of a separate Carmondean Community Council – Report by Head of Corporate services*

As discussed, the meeting is to take place on Tuesday 24 January at 9.30 am, immediately before the scheduled council meeting.

Yours sincerely

Provost Cathy Muldoon



CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (2021)

This form is a reminder and an aid. It is not a substitute for understanding the Code of Conduct and guidance.

Interests must be declared at the meeting, in public.

Look at every item of business and consider if there is a connection.

If you see a connection, decide if it amounts to an interest by applying the objective test.

The objective test is whether or not a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard your connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence your discussion or decision-making.

If the connection does not amount to an interest then you have nothing to declare and no reason to withdraw.

If the connection amounts to an interest, declare it as soon as possible and leave the meeting when the agenda item comes up.

When you declare an interest, identify the agenda item and give enough information so that the public understands what it is and why you are declaring it.

Even if the connection does not amount to an interest you can make a statement about it for the purposes of transparency.

More detailed information is on the next page.

Look at each item on the agenda, consider if there is a “connection”, take advice if necessary from appropriate officers in plenty of time. A connection is any link between the item of business and:-

- you
- a person you are associated with (e.g., employer, business partner, domestic partner, family member)
- a body or organisation you are associated with (e.g., outside body, community group, charity)

Anything in your Register of Interests is a connection unless one of the following exceptions applies.

A connection does not exist where:-

- you are a council tax payer, a rate payer, or a council house tenant, including at budget-setting meetings
- services delivered to the public are being considered, including at budget-setting meetings
- councillors’ remuneration, expenses, support services or pensions are being considered
- you are on an outside body through a council appointment or nomination unless it is for regulatory business or you have a personal conflict due to your connections, actions or legal obligations
- you hold a view in advance on a policy issue, have discussed that view, have expressed that view in public, or have asked for support for it

If you see a connection then you have to decide if it is an “interest” by applying the objective test. The objective test is whether or not a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard your connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence your discussion or decision-making.

If the connection amounts to an interest then:-

- declare the interest in enough detail that members of the public will understand what it is
- leave the meeting room (physical or online) when that item is being considered
- do not contact colleagues participating in the item of business

Even if decide your connection is not an interest you can voluntarily make a statement about it for the record and for the purposes of transparency.

The relevant documents are:-

- [Councillors’ Code of Conduct, part 5](#)
- [Standards Commission Guidance, paragraphs 129-166](#)
- [Advice note for councillors on how to declare interests](#)

If you require assistance, contact:-

- James Millar, Interim Monitoring Officer and Governance Manager, 01506 281613, james.millar@westlothian.gov.uk
- Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor and Depute Monitoring Officer, 01506 281626, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk
- Committee Services Team, 01506 281604, 01506 281621
committee.services@westlothian.gov.uk

January 2022

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO SCHEME FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN WEST LoTHIAN - REQUEST FOR THE FORMATION OF A SEPARATE CARMONDEAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

REPORT BY HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report to Council on the public consultation undertaken and to invite the Council to consider whether the community council boundary, for Carmondean & Deans Community Council, should be altered to allow the creation of two separate community councils for the areas of Carmondean and Deans, as requested in the petition signed by registered electors from Carmondean considered by Council Executive on 4 October 2022.

B. RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That Council noted the responses to the public consultation undertaken and considers whether to approve the alteration of the boundaries set within the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils in West Lothian (Scheme), to allow the creation of two separate community councils for the areas of Carmondean and Deans
- (b) That if Council is minded to alter the Scheme boundaries for Carmondean and Deans, Council determines whether to adopt –
 - Option 1 – separate boundaries for Carmondean and Deans as they were prior to the introduction of the 2021 Scheme as shown in Appendix 3, or
 - Option 2 - alternative Carmondean and Deans area boundaries which were suggested in comments from a Consultation respondent as shown in Appendix 4.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; Being honest, open and accountable; Providing equality of opportunities; Making best use of our resources and Working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Section 53 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 in terms of which A decision to amend the existing Scheme must be made by a two-thirds majority of members voting at a special council meeting

III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	If approved, the costs of election notices will be met from the community council budget.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Previous Scheme Reviews have been considered at meetings of the former Partnership & Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel and special meetings of West Lothian Council.
VIII	Other consultations	Ward Members, the existing members of Carmondean & Deans Community Council, petition signatories and members of the public were invited to submit comments on the petition request and potential boundary maps during three rounds of public consultation.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

At its meeting held on 4 October 2022, the Council Executive heard that a petition had been received from registered electors in the Carmondean area, calling on the council to re-establish a separate community council for the Carmondean area. Community council boundaries are defined within the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils in West Lothian which was last reviewed in 2020/21, and adopted on 31st August 2021. The area of Carmondean is currently represented by Carmondean & Deans Community Council. Its area boundaries are shown in Appendix 1.

Council Executive agreed to undertake full consultation with Carmondean & Deans Community Council, Ward Members, petition signatories and members of the public, prior to inviting a special meeting of West Lothian Council to consider and determine whether to alter the boundary of the current Carmondean & Deans Community Council, and establish separate community councils for the areas of Carmondean and Deans.

In terms of Section 53 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, a new community council boundary cannot be adopted until (a) elected members agree to review that element of the Scheme and (b) full consultation has taken place with the affected community council and members of the public.

Council Executive noted that given the limited nature of the requested amendment, there was no requirement to comply with the lengthy statutory timescales which would otherwise be required when adopting a comprehensive new Scheme. It agreed that three shortened stages of public consultation should take place to ensure that, if the Scheme were to be altered, any change could be implemented expeditiously.

The three stages of consultation carried out were as follows:-

- Stage 1 – Advert in the West Lothian Courier - 13th October – 2 weeks for comments – closing date 27th October 2022. 6 comments were received.
- Stage 2 – Advert in the West Lothian Courier – 10th November – 2 weeks for comments – closing date 24th November 2022. 2 comments were received.
- Stage 3 – Advert in the West Lothian Courier – 15th December – 2 weeks for comments – closing date 29th December 2022. 10 comments were received.

Appendix 2 sets out all of the comments received during each stage of consultation. The Council will take the comments into full consideration prior to determining the outcome of the petition, calling for the established of separate community council areas for Carmondean and Deans.

If 2/3rds of present, participating, Council Members agree to alter the boundaries, the existing Carmondean & Deans Community Council will automatically be dissolved. They will be asked to hold a dissolution meeting at which any funds specific to the distinct community council areas of Carmondean and Deans, will be retained and passed on to the relevant new community council once established. This shall include, for example, Covid-19 recovery projects and town centre improvement projects. All other funds held by Carmondean & Deans Community Council, such as balances accumulated through unspent annual grant funding, shall be split equally between the two community council areas.

Should Council Members agree to alter the Scheme boundaries for Carmondean and Deans, they will consider and determine whether the adopted area boundaries should be those shown in Appendix 3 (which mirror the boundaries prior to the creation of a combined Carmondean & Deans CC in the 2021 Scheme), or those shown in Appendix 4 which shows the boundaries proposed by a Consultation respondent detailed in their comments. The boundaries shown in Appendix 4 show the proposed incorporation of Beechwood Park, Elmwood Park, Harburn Avenue, Harburn Avenue West, Larbert Avenue, Lenzie Avenue and Netherwood Park into the Deans Community Council area in terms of the Consultees proposal.

Following determination of boundary areas by Council Members, arrangements will be made to issue election notices calling for nominations to both Carmondean and Deans Community Councils. A minimum of 4 valid nominations will require to be received for each area in order to set up their community councils. Contested elections will only be necessary if more than 4 nominations are received for an area. If less than 4 nominations are received, no community council will be established.

If the boundary changes are not approved by 2/3rds of the present, participating, Council Members the existing Carmondean & Deans Community Council will continue to operate until the next 4-yearly community council elections, which are due to take place in September/October 2025. Prior to those elections, a full scheme review, including boundaries, will be undertaken in accordance with normal council practice. In those circumstances, Electors from Carmondean, who signed the petition, will be advised of the Councils determination, and will be provided with advice on how they may connect with, and become more involved with, Carmondean & Deans Community Council.

E. CONCLUSION

All comments received during the three stages of public consultation, are summarised in Appendix 2. Council Members will take those comments into account in determining whether to approve the request for separation of the Carmondean and Deans Community Council, and determining the appropriate boundaries for the separated Carmondean and Deans areas, in terms of the proposed boundaries shown in Appendix 3 or 4 to this Report.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils in West Lothian 31st August 2021.

Appendices/Attachments:

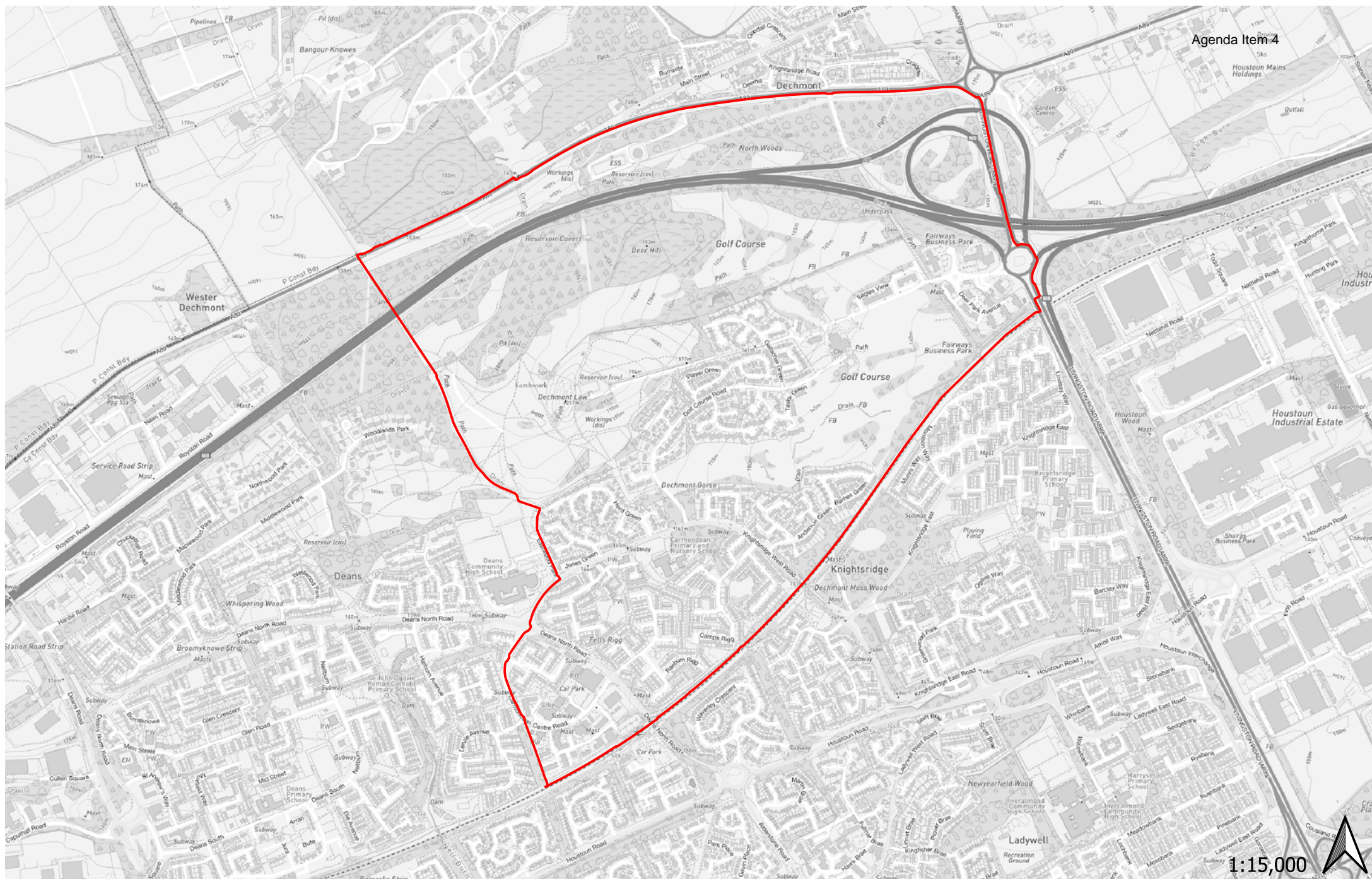
- (1) Boundary Map of the existing Carmondean & Deans Community Council
- (2) Consultation comments received during the 3 stages of public consultation
- (3) Proposed Boundary Maps for separate Carmondean and Deans Community Council areas as they were prior to the formation of a combined Carmondean & Deans Community Council in the 2021 Scheme
- (4) Proposed Boundary Maps for separate Carmondean and Deans Community Council areas as suggested by Consultation respondent

Contact Person: Lorraine McGrorty, Committee Officer, 01506 281609
lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk

Lesley Henderson

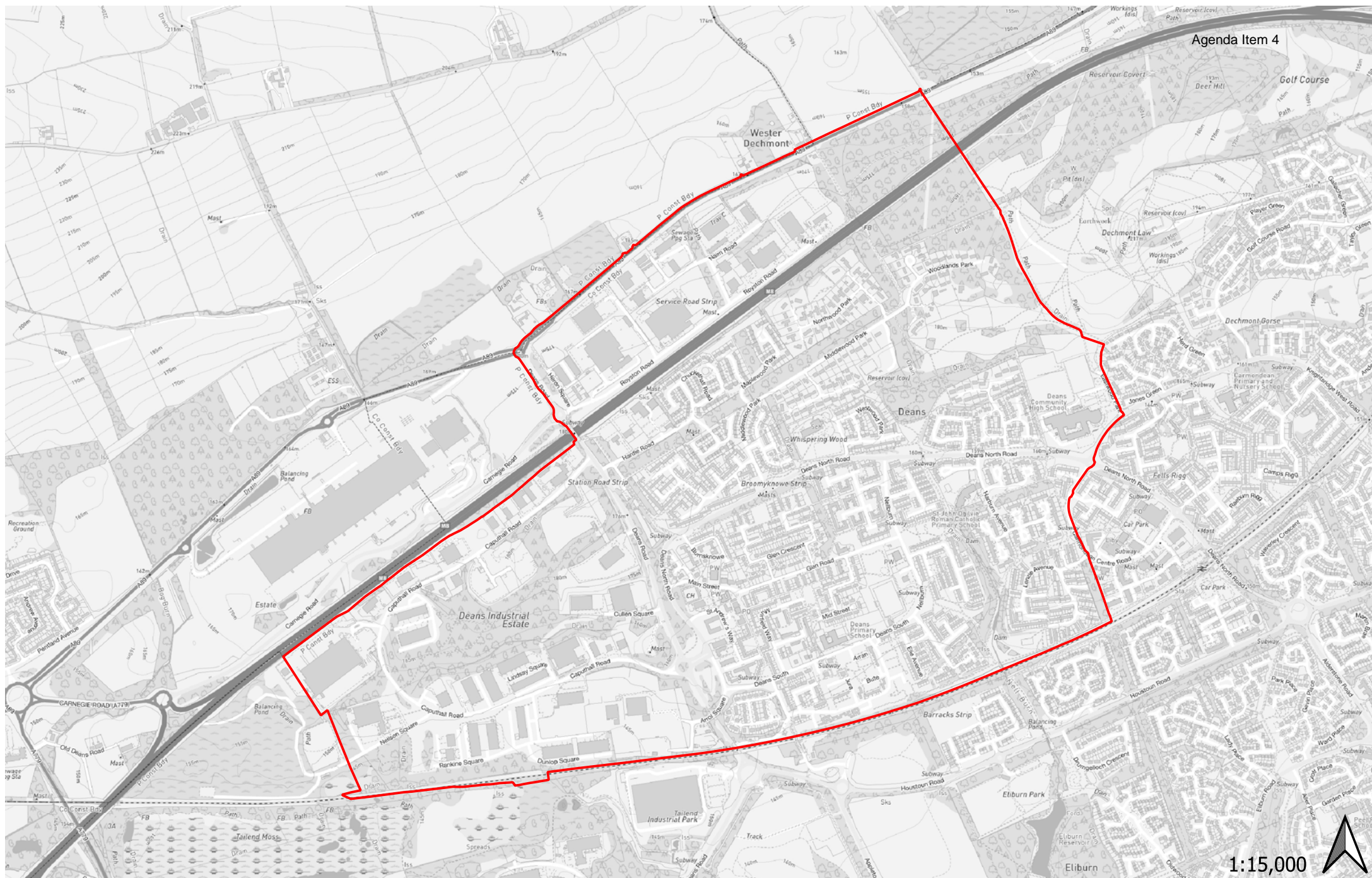
Interim Head of Corporate Services

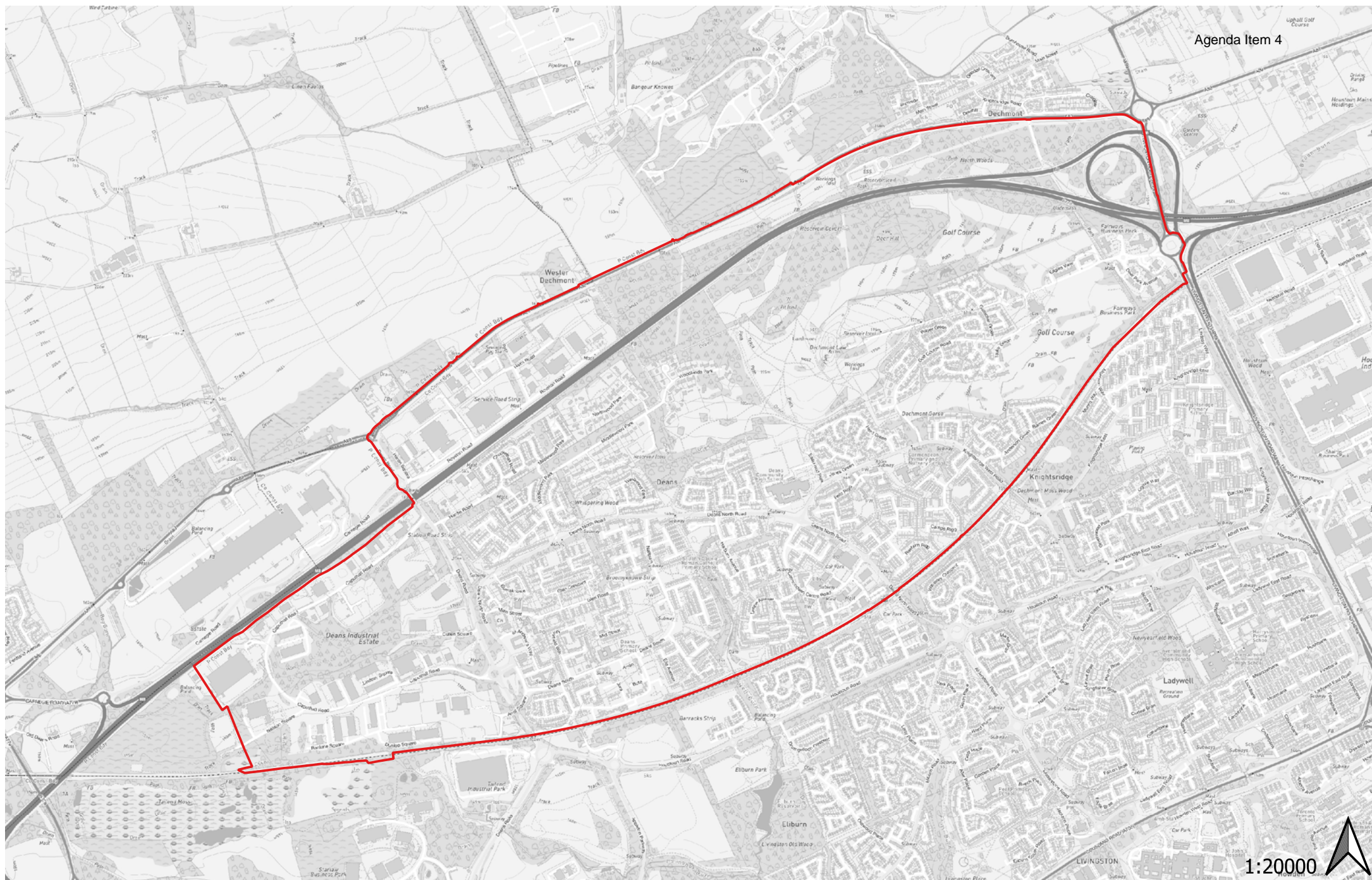
Date of meeting: 24 January 2023



Agenda Item 4

1:15,000





MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM	DATE RECEIVED	MESSAGE	FOR/AGAINST CREATION OF SEPARATE CARMONDEAN CC
■■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■	12/10/2022	On behalf of my family, I think having a separate community council for Carmondean is a great idea. They should never of been joined in the first place.	For
■■■ ■■■■	12/10/2022	I support the separation of the two community councils. Carmondean needs it owns.	For
■■■■ ■■■■	22/10/2022	I support the re-introduction of a separate Community Council for Carmondean. I live on the boundary and many of the services and facilities my family use (including GP, library, shops, footpaths and the train station) are in Carmondean. It's important that local areas are represented by people living in and using services in the community. A community council covering a wide area is not able to effectively address the different needs and priorities of each area. Carmondean has a distinct identity and deserves its own Community Council representation.	For
■■ ■■■■	27/10/2022	There are many reasons for our request to re-establish Carmondean Community Council in its own right. As there are three periods of Public Consultation I'll start with what ■■■ achieved in our first 3 1/2 years, despite much of that being covered by lockdown. In the second consultation ■ plan to collate a timeline from our beginnings in late 2017 to presenting ■ petition. This is proving more complicated than ■ at first expected. As a resident of Carmondean I feel that it is important to re-establish Carmondean Community Council as a separate organisation.	For

		<p>In its short life so far it has tackled many issues that were important to residents. From</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - parking at Arnold Clark showroom, to parking issues for local businesses. - ensuring that Livingston North retained a library service, - brought a successful, and much envied, art project to the area making 4 underpasses much more pleasant to travel through - added two new bus shelters to Carmondean Centre Road - placing art panels in 4 bus shelters - and finally raising funds to ensure lighting could be returned to these underpasses in time for the earlier dark nights. <p>This, along with many smaller issues, are quite an achievement considering half of the period of existence was covered by several lockdowns and reduction in council services.</p> <p>Community Council is an important link between a community and council officers. It is important that a good relationship develops between CC members and the officers as one of the main tasks of a community council is to liaise with officers.</p> <p>Many of the issues to be tackled in 2020/21 were top of the list to tackle in 2022. Residents were aware that we planned to apply for funding to complete the underpass improvements on the path between the Health Centre and the Partnership Centre, and were campaigning to have the Carmondean Connected building occupied as soon as possible. Several other issues were being investigated also.</p> <p>Carmondean deserves representation by our residents. Those requesting re-establishment have a proven record of success, have discussed possible future projects with our neighbours and are ready to start as soon as possible.</p>	
■■■■■	27/10/2022	I was recently made aware of a West Lothian Council report by the interim head of corporate services entitled:	Against

		<p>REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO SCHEME FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN WEST LOTHIAN REQUEST FOR THE FORMATION OF A SEPARATE CARMONDEAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL.</p> <p>I noted from the report that the council had “received a request from registered electors from the former Carmondean Community Council” to “re-establish a separate community council for Carmondean in its own right.” I also noted that this request was triggered by a ‘petition’.</p> <p>I read the terms of the report with great interest and to be honest, I was rather taken aback that the West Lothian Council would even accept such a request without bothering to establish if the purported reasons stated on the so-called ‘petition’ were with any substance.</p> <p>For example, one of the reasons cited by the ‘petitioners’ highlighted the fact that “the combined community council has led to Carmondean having no representation”. If anyone one had bothered to ask anyone from Carmondean & Deans Community Council if this were the case, then they might be surprised to hear quite a different story. From perusing through minutes of monthly meetings and talking to community councillors, I can provide you with a more accurate narrative.</p> <p>Following the dissolution of Carmondean Community Council on 13 October 2021 it was unanimously decided by the new Carmondean & Deans Community Council that the former [REDACTED] of Carmondean, [REDACTED] be elected as the new [REDACTED]. This took place at the inaugural meeting in November 2021. However, apparently after retaining the position of [REDACTED] certain behavioural issues arose including efforts to prevent the newly elected Carmondean & Deans Community Council from fulfilling its duty-bound obligations. Behavioural issues continued to intensify which eventually led to [REDACTED] being removed from the position of [REDACTED] on 10 January 2022. From that point onward, although a sitting member of Carmondean & Deans Community Council, [REDACTED] failed to attend all subsequent meetings, choosing instead to follow a more self-serving and obstructive path. [REDACTED] immediately undertook a campaign to split from Carmondean & Deans Community Council. For your information, and following enquiries on my part, my [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	
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		<p>the current [REDACTED] of Carmondean & Deans Community Council, has provided me with a letter drafted by [REDACTED] on 21 December 2021 which [REDACTED] intended to submit to Lorraine McGrorty, Committee Officer/Community Council Liaison Officer from West Lothian Council Legal Services. Eleven days after removal from office and without the knowledge of [REDACTED] or any member of Carmondean Community Council, the former [REDACTED] drafted a letter for [REDACTED] to sign which proposed, "the dissolution of Carmondean and Deans Community Council and re-instatement of individual councils for the Carmondean and Deans areas". A copy of the aforementioned letter is attached to this email. (Set out on the final page below)</p> <p>It is beyond any reasonable doubt that the former [REDACTED] [REDACTED] did not fulfil [REDACTED] role as a community councillor. [REDACTED] failed to represent the very people claimed to have no representation. In accordance with procedure, [REDACTED] was expelled from Carmondean & Deans Community Council on 15 August 2022. It would appear to any layperson, that this former [REDACTED] simply could not accept the fact that [REDACTED] community council had been dissolved and that [REDACTED] would have to in turn relinquish all perceived power and authority.</p> <p>Following the departure of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] another resident of Carmondean was elected [REDACTED] [REDACTED] remains [REDACTED] to this day.</p> <p>The former [REDACTED] of Carmondean Community Council resigned from Carmondean & Deans Community Council early on in 2022 citing various reasons for doing so including lack of time to fulfil duties.</p> <p>[REDACTED] [REDACTED] another community councillor from Carmondean failed to attend any monthly meetings and was removed on 15 August 2022.</p> <p>At this stage I would ask the council to consider whether any of the signatories to this 'petition' have been in contact with Carmondean & Deans Community Council? Have any popped along to any of the monthly meetings? Have any expressed a wish to join Carmondean & Deans Community Council to voice the concerns of their fellow residents? Carmondean & Deans Community Council is there, it exists. Why would the petitioner not</p>	
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		<p>approach Carmondean & Deans Community in the first instance? I suggest you investigate any underlying motivations before you reach any reliably informed decision.</p> <p>I would now like to move on to another claim made by the ‘petitioners’. This time, instead of using information from published minutes or snippets of information relayed in conversations with community councillors, I will just rely purely on common sense.</p> <p>The ‘petitioners’ claim that; “Carmondean has its own distinct heritage, community and needs, and that it should be represented by people from within its community”. As I have already pointed out there is an already established entity that represents the residents and interest of Carmondean, namely Carmondean & Deans Community Council. Furthermore, as I have also pointed out, it did and still does have people – representation currently provided by sitting councillors - from within the Carmondean community. The notion that it is not “represented by people from within its community” I utterly bogus. I suspect that one or more of the current ‘petitioners’ might be those who walked away from Carmondean & Deans Community Council!</p> <p>As for, “ heritage, community and needs”... might I suggest that this is a very thin argument indeed. Deans, formerly known as Livingston Station, has a heritage that goes back well over 150 years. Carmondean on the other hand is quite a new entity apart from the original farm that used to be there when it was just an area of farmland. On the surface its heritage is no more distinct from that of Knightsridge or Eliburn! Likewise, the community is comprised of the same social cohorts that can be found in Deans, sharing the same schools, shops, health centre, gala day, businesses, leisure facilities and entertainment venues and so on. Should Bathgate or Broxburn Community councils split because one area claims greater significance than the next in terms of “heritage, community and needs”? This idea that there is such a significant difference between Deans and Carmondean that it merits special treatment by boundary revision is quite simply nonsense.</p> <p>In summation, I trust that the council will see sense and throw this review out. In less than a year Carmondean & Deans Community Council has grown with considerable success and significant achievement. It should be allowed to continue along its path delivering for both the resident of Carmondean and Deans alike. Should a case for boundary revision arise at a</p>	
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		later date then I would suggest that West Lothian Council waits until the next scheduled election cycle comes along. In the meantime, please allow Carmondean & Deans Community Council to get on with their good work. I see no sense in effectively destroying all they have achieved based upon a rather disingenuous argument for separation.	
■■■■■ ■■■	27/10/2022	<p>I object to the creation of a separate Carmondean Community Council.</p> <p>I am ■■■■ of the Carmondean and Deans Community Council. This CC represents all of its residents very well. The reasons given in the petition are completely bogus. WLC should not even be entertaining the 'petition'. C&DCC is currently engaged in projects affecting both Carmondean and Deans.</p> <p>■■■ was also a member of the previous Carmondean Community Council. It was dysfunctional and operated as the personal fiefdom of one of the other members.</p> <p>C&DCC would welcome new members from Carmondean. It has created a public social media presence and public websites to gather community input. To create a Carmondean CC would serve no purpose and create additional unnecessary administrative expense.</p> <p>We strongly suspect a former member of Carmondean CC has organised this bogus petition.</p> <p>This response is in a personal capacity.</p>	Against

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON 1ST ROUND OF CONSULTATION

Letter 1 to WLC from CDCC proposing a split – joint letter suggestion

Dear Lorrain (or whoever is appropriate)

December 2021

Proposed dissolution of Carmondean and Deans Community Council and re-instatement of individual councils for the Carmondean and Deans areas

We, as the two signatories below are writing you a joint email on behalf of the former Carmondean members and the new Deans members of the newly formed Carmondean and Deans Community Council. All members of CDCC have been contacted and asked for their opinions, and each has agreed with the decision to request the dissolution of CDCC and the re-instatement for CCC and DCC.

We would like, officially, to request splitting this joint CC into its former individual parts. We feel that the focus of the two areas is essentially different and we could make more progress if we act as separate units. We would like to stress that we have resolved previous difficulties, and intend to work in harmony with, bur separately from, each other.

We recognise that this creates extra work for you, but are confident that this will be a catalyst for each council being more effective and co-operative.

Does the fact that the Model Constitution and Standing Orders have not been signed yet make this easier? Does it, for example, mean that the joint CDCC has not, in fact, been formally constituted, and that as a result dissolution could be speeded up, and the subsequent formation of individual CCs happen without undue delay? This would be the best result for us, and give us an energised start to 2022.

However, we appreciate that this might not be possible. If not, then we would continue in the interim as a joint council, but with the hope that you could action our request as soon as practically possible.

We believe that we have enough people to form two separate CCs. Initially, before the community council elections, CCC was concerned that we might not have enough people to keep going, while Deans members had been advised that setting up DCC would take an extended amount of time. These two factors lead to the creation of a joint CC that, in fact, neither group thought was ideal. Rather than continue with what was, for both groups, the fall-back option, we would be very grateful for any help you can give us to get back to our best option, being two councils.

Once we hear back from you, we will call an emergency meeting of CDCC to discuss how we are taking this forward together.

Many thanks, and we look forward to hearing from you.

 of CDCC
&  of CDCC

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING 2ND ROUND OF CONSULTATION



MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM	DATE RECEIVED	MESSAGE	FOR/AGAINST CREATION OF SEPARATE CARMONDEAN CC
█	15/11/2022	<p>I would like to support the creation of separate Community Councils in Carmondean and Deans. Community Councils are intended to represent small areas and this conjoined Council was as a direct result of years of no representation from Deans to form a Community Council. Now that Deans have achieved strong representation there is a strong case for each area to be represented by their own Community Council as intended under the scheme.</p> <p>The previous Carmondean Community Council instigated many important improvements in their area, the recent Town Centre fund for the conjoined Community Council had all of the monies being allocated to the car park in Deans. Consequently to have fair representation these areas should have their distinct Community Council's.</p> <p>Although I am █ of █ Community Council, this response is my individual view.</p>	For
█ █	24/11/22	<p>This post was made on Carmondean Community Council 2018-21 Facebook page last week.</p> <p>█ posts are all about the positivity of having a distinct Carmondean Community Council.</p> <p>In the last 2 weeks █ have spoken to several of █ neighbours who signed █ petition. The majority of those █ spoke to are elderly and "don't do email". █ explained what local issues have been reported and are being dealt with. █ have 2 damaged footpaths that are much used. Warnings have been painted and repair will be made in the near future. There has also been concern about woodland area on the edge of █ estate. That too has been reported, investigated and is awaiting action. █ neighbours agree that these things need to be reported and repaired. That's part of Community Council's purpose. Carmondean needs that active representation again.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>█ █</p> <p>"A Community Council is a voluntary organisation set up by statute by the Local Authority and run by local residents to act on behalf of its area. As the most local tier of elected representation, Community Councils play an important role in local democracy.</p>	For

		<p>Community Councils are comprised of people who care about their community and want to make it a better place to live.</p> <p>As well as representing the community to the local authority, Community Councils facilitate a wide range of activities which promote the well-being of their communities. They bring local people together to help make things happen, and many Community Councils protect and promote the identity of their community. They advise, petition, influence and advocate numerous causes and cases of concern on behalf of local communities."</p> <p>In ■■■ short period of existence, ■■■ supported local business with car parking issues, assisted in ensuring that Livingston North retained a library service, brought a successful art project to the local community and recently saw the installation of lighting to the underpasses in the Carmondean Centre area.</p> <p>■■■ were able to do these because ■■■ listened to the views of the local Carmondean Community who brought issues to us.</p> <p>In 2020 ■■■ had hopes for many improvements in the area including at Livingston North Station and Carmondean Centre whilst continuing with smaller issues around Carmondean area, but the Covid Pandemic stopped all works. The upgrading of the Ability Centre to Livingston North Partnership Centre was delayed for months. Eventually works were completed and Carmondean Library was also then relocated to Livingston North Partnership Centre.</p> <p>It was a huge disappointment to have the Carmondean Connected Building (library) empty for almost 18 months but what a difference the new Prim8 martial arts gym has made to the building.</p> <p>Community Council is designed to be local. There are 39 local community council areas in West Lothian. Neither Carmondean nor Deans had had Community representation for many years. When asked to help create a new Carmondean Community Council in 2017 it was quite a daunting task, one which was accepted and taken on with great pride. By working together, a very small group of Carmondean residents successfully collected more that 20 signatures to ask WLC to officially form the council. We succeeded.</p> <p>While waiting for our inaugural meeting to take place we did our research on what we could and couldn't do, attended meetings of other community councils and began forming working relationships with council officers and councillors. That preparation made for a smoother launch.</p> <p>In 2020 WLC proposed merging areas that did not have a community council with neighbouring experienced ones. Deans had not had a community council in 20 years, so a Carmondean/Deans merger was suggested. Knowing there were many community concerns in Deans the proposal was agreed. The question of, "What</p>	
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COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING 2ND ROUND OF CONSULTATION

		<p>happens if there are enough Deans resident nominations for them to create their own Community Council?" wasn't answered.</p> <p>In August/September 2021 nominations for the combined Community Council were sought, at the same time as the remaining 38 all sought new members. The unanswered question was asked again as numbers would have allowed for Deans Community Council to be formed in its own right, but the decision was made to keep the combined one.</p> <p>It's now a year later and Deans have demonstrated that they have enough people to have a successful Community Council in their own Community. There is no need to have a conjoined Community Council.</p> <p>Carmondean and Deans are quite different communities and would be best served by separate Community Councils who could, when necessary, work together.</p> <p>Having Carmondean and Deans communities conjoined weakens the impact that two separate Community Councils can have. Five Community Councils in Livingston North would also have more of an influence than just four.</p>	
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COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING 3RD ROUND OF CONSULTATION

MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM	DATE RECEIVED	MESSAGE	FOR/AGAINST CREATION OF SEPARATE CARMONDEAN CC
	27/11 – carried forward for inclusion in final round of public consultation	<p>I would like to object to Carmondean & Deans Community Council splitting up.</p> <p>Can you explain why Carmondean has it's own distinct heritage, community & needs and why they are at present not being met? Why is this being entertained and money being wasted. If Carmondean community have needs, why don't they join the existing Community Council? I feel like this is a crazy idea and I am sure Broxburn & Bathgate have a much bigger community and they don't have separate Community Councils.</p> <p>If this crazy request goes ahead, then I hope the distinct heritage, community & needs will be explained to the people who live in the area by West Lothian Council.</p>	Against
	15/12/22	<p>As a member of the above Community Council, I am disheartened to know this may be on the cards. I joined the Community Council a year ago. I was very disheartened in the beginning due to being in receipt of emails during the night and being given homework and bullied to a degree (in receipt of proof) but that then settled down and I enjoy being able to help in the Community and make a difference. I feel like there is no difference between Carmondean & Deans and would like to be informed why some think there is? Most of my friends live in Carmondean and I shop there and go to the Doctors, etc. Why should we share these facilities but have separate Community Councils?</p> <p>I was not aware you could petition for something already in place? I feel like this is a complete waste of council time & resources. It's also a waste of time for the Community Councillors in place at present. We are much needed to do more productive things, than have to write objections into West Lothian Council. Why don't these people who have put in the petition join us? We have never had anyone attend to be able to comment, never mind petition.</p> <p>Our chair is from Carmondean and so was the chair prior and we have a few Councillors also from Carmondean. There would have been more, had 1 not resigned, 1 never showed up and another one went AWOL.</p>	Against

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING 3RD ROUND OF CONSULTATION




		<p>I would advise that in the short time we have been Carmondean & Deans Community Council, the projects are in place for both. We have more in place than Carmondean had in 4 years.</p> <p>I joined Carmondean & Deans Community Council and should this go ahead, then I will not be proceeding as a Councillor.</p>	
■■■■■	18/12/22	<p>I and my husband wish to advise that we would both like the Carmondean Community Council reinstated please.</p> <p>Our address is ■■■■■■■■■■ Livingston EH54 ■■■■</p>	For
■■■■■	19/12/22	<p>As a ■■■■■ we would like to comment on the request to form a separate Carmondean Community Council as follows:</p> <p>It is regretful that it was felt that the merged Community Council wasn't able to fully represent both communities. It was proposed in good faith as part of the Scheme Review, as for a number of years it had not been possible to get enough people on the Dean's side to form a Community Council. That is no longer the case and there appears to be enough people willing to form both.</p> <p>We therefore see it as a positive step if there are then two Community Councils constituted with double the number of volunteers being involved in their Community Councils. And it will mean that residents have a more focused representation from within their own community that can prioritise their specific needs.</p> <p>We look forward to working with both Community Councils in the future.</p>	For
■■■■■	29/12/22	<p>I am writing this email in relation to the "public consultation" of the dissolution of the current Carmondean and Deans Community Council, orchestrated by ■■■■■■■■■■ and ■■■■■■■■■■ Based upon the fairly recent newspaper article citing both parties above as the those behind the reasons behind this split, and the unusual public/not public approach taken by the council on whom it actually</p>	Against

		<p>was that kicked this all off, I can only go on the facts that are presented to me at the moment.</p> <p>Firstly I would like kick off by stating that I am very much against the proposal to split the community councils up, and quite frankly I am insulted by some of the reasons on the petition that the council seems to have accepted on behalf of signatories.</p> <p>Deans and Carmondean has always been part of the same area and are indeed linked by schools, shops, facilities, jobs ... the list is endless. To state anything otherwise without documented evidence is ridiculous.</p> <p>Lets start by saying that I have lived in Deans (since birth) for 45+ years, I can categorically tell you as someone who has family, friends, work colleagues, places of employment in the area over that time that there is absolutely no difference in any heritage shared or otherwise between the Deans area and the Carmondean area. To say that there is, is indeed insulting. And to be clear, I will be seeking future clarification in what these differences in heritage are that have been identified and accepted by the council. These "differences in heritage" can, in my opinion, only point to a difference in wealth across the areas. To accept this proposal from those parties looking to dissolve what has been built up now would ultimately be a clarification from the council that this is indeed what makes both areas unique.</p> <p>If the council do decide to split the areas, I would be adamant the council do indeed redraw the boundary lines to include ALL of Deans in Deans to ensure that this protected "heritage" is not spoiled by those looking to cause maximum disruption.</p> <p>On that note, it is stated that there is no adequate representation of the Carmondean area in this community council. Rubbish, the Chair is indeed from Carmondean, we have two further members from Carmondean, one of whom is a local [REDACTED] and is well known for her amazing work in the area. The previous dysfunctional group (of three members by the way), and once more based on what we have been provided and what we know, we surmise this is from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] did not represent the Carmondean area what so ever, and when given the chance to do so in a more professional and useful manner they all chose not to be involved.</p>	
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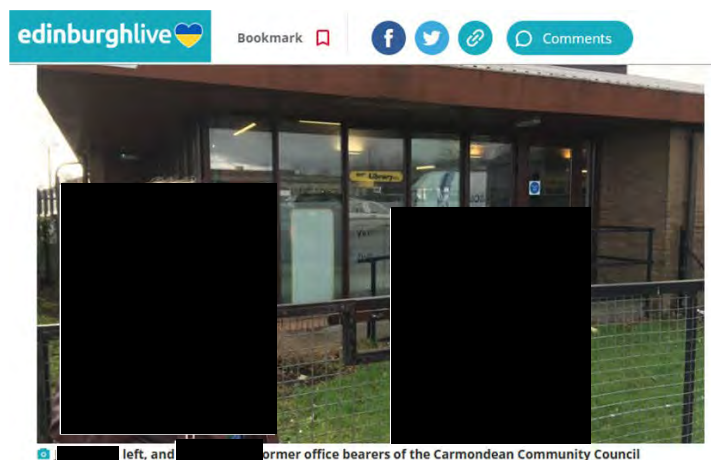
		<p>Since the creation of the current CDCC, we have saw [REDACTED] (who was [REDACTED] and had to be removed for non-attendance), [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and one more member from Carmondean all sign up, but in fact play almost ZERO part in any of the new ideas or plans that the group has had. Carmondean at the time were represented and the very same people who had the chance to do so, have now raised this petition. Definitely not what I would expect from a group that believes they are underrepresented and are part of a different “heritage” in the area.</p> <p>This community council in fact, in its short time has indeed done MUCH MORE for the Carmondean and Deans areas than the previous version had. We work with the likes of Morrisons, ALL the schools in the area and have reached out to ALL the local businesses in the area to offer our support where we have. We have reached out to almost EVERY SINGLE household in the area in this short time to inform of who we are and what we do and how we can help, and we have created many social media outlets to allow people of all ages to interact where they need to.</p> <p>We also hold regular monthly meetings (both in Carmondean and Deans Community Centres) every other month allowing anyone to come along and be involved. To state that Carmondean is “not represented” is simply not true.</p> <p>There are so many other factors that I can discuss here, but will indeed leave discussing these to when we have the direct consultation between the council and the CDCC as set out in the consultation plans.</p> <p>Please be aware as well, that by dissolving the CDCC you will indeed be putting at risk the future of any community council in Deans. I know for one I will have to consider my own future, as I did not sign up for fighting nonsense like this, from disgruntled ex-members and councillors.</p>	
[REDACTED]	29/12/22	<p>I feel the community council should stay joint. I think the joint council should remain. In my role as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I support both deans and carmondean areas.</p>	Against

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING 3RD ROUND OF CONSULTATION

		I think the whole of deans and carmondean should be a joint council.	
■■■■	29/12/22	<p>I wish to object whole heartedly to the proposed destruction of a very capable and representative body of community spirited people that is deans and carmondean community council.</p> <p>The current group have made massive headway in promoting carmondean and deans and are much more engaged and representative of our community than the previous cc.</p> <p>That the council are even considering this seems ludicrous and I hope that common sense will prevail and the current cc can carry on with there work.</p>	Against
■■■■	29/12/22	<p>As a resident of the Deans area of Livingston I strongly oppose to the split of the Carmondean and Deans community council. The new council has given Deans residence the opportunity to have a say in their local area and have so far as a team managed to achieve a great deal.</p> <p>I feel that it would benefit both the Carmondean and Deans area for the community council to stay together due to the capability and variety of community spirited people that are part of it.</p> <p>The council have only been working together for about a year and I'm positive that with the continued support of the community plenty more can be achieved for both areas by the existing council staying together and utilising everybody's strengths.</p>	Against
■■■■	29/12/22	<p>I would like to object to disbanding the very hard working and able deans and carmondean community council.</p> <p>The current group are amazing at speaking for the community that is carmondean and deans and is far more involved then the last community council.</p> <p>The fact the council are even thinking about doing this is preposterous and I have faith that the council will see sense and not go ahead with there plan.</p>	Against

	29/12/22	<p>I was recently made aware of a West Lothian Council report by the interim head of corporate services entitled:</p> <p>REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO SCHEME FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN WEST LOTHIAN REQUEST FOR THE FORMATION OF A SEPARATE CARMONDEAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL.</p> <p>I noted from the report that the council had “received a request from registered electors from the former Carmondean Community Council” to “re-establish a separate community council for Carmondean in its own right.” I also noted that this request was triggered by a ‘petition’.</p> <p>I read the terms of the report with great interest and to be honest, I was rather taken aback that West Lothian Council would even accept such a request for a review without bothering to establish if the purported reasons underpinning on the so-called ‘petition’ were of any merit. Indeed, speaking as the sitting  at Carmondean & Deans Community Council, which I might add is flourishing with a membership that resides both in Carmondean and Deans, did West Lothian Council, at any time, bother to check to establish if there was any underlying malicious motivation behind this ‘petition’? The simple answer appears to be a resounding no. If the council had carried out any semblance of due diligence, it would have established very early on that this whole request for a review was and is nothing more than a sham process fuelled by vanity and ego; orchestrated by the former disgruntled  of the now dissolved Carmondean Community Council. Indeed, West Lothian Council’s own records should show that over the last year, it has received multiple complaints from various current Community Councillors directed through Lorraine McGrorty, Committee Officer/Community Council Liaison Officer at Legal Services; complaints repeatedly pointing out the problems that this person continually created with the intention to subvert due process and the effective operation of Carmondean & Deans Community Council. It should also be noted that some of these complaints came from sitting Carmondean residents.</p> <p>Returning to the request for a review... the thrust of the ‘petitioner’s’ argument, which can be found in several printed and online articles, two of which are featured below, and which is subsequently cited by West Lothian Council, is as follows:</p>	Against
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“The council has received a request from registered electors from the former Carmondean Community Council that the council re-establish a separate community council for Carmondean in its own right. The reasons stated on the petition include that the combined community council has led to Carmondean having no representation and that Carmondean has its own distinct heritage, community and needs, and that it should be represented by people from within its community.”



Two community councils who joined forced just over a year ago could now be set to go their separate ways after concerns the match was not working out.

[Carmondean](#) and Deans community council was created to help both better represent their local areas. But a reinvigorated community in Deans has left Carmondean feeling left out, and looking to re-establish its own distinct identity.

West Lothian Council's Executive has agreed to start a public consultation on the re-establishment of two councils for the eastern and western housing areas of [northern Livingston](#) after a petition was drawn up in Carmondean and submitted to the council in the summer.

READ MORE: [West Lothian council to buy back houses for homeless young people](#)

Jill Parton chair of the former Carmondean Community Council said: "It is felt that, as Carmondean has its own distinct heritage, community and needs that it should be represented by people from within its community.

The original online article can be found here: [West Lothian community councils could split after only a year together - Edinburgh Live](#)





It should be note that the headline reported on the above article is totally untrue. It was published the very first week of the consultation process. It presented a completely untrue narrative which I believe would fundamentally skew public opinion and perception over the coming weeks of the review process. I actually believe this may have been the intention in the first place. Therefore, let me be resoundingly clear, **Carmondean & Deans Community Council did not under any circumstances apply to split up**. Should we have been approached by the journalist or for that matter West Lothian Council, then an entirely different narrative may have come to light. However, what is clear from both cited articles is that the name of the former Carmondean Community Council [REDACTED] appears in both. It is also rather unfortunate that unlike the other local [REDACTED] [REDACTED] did not find the matter important enough to recuse [REDACTED] from the review proceedings in their entirety given [REDACTED] familiarity and relationship with [REDACTED]. That is a matter I may return to on a future occasion.

		<p>Let me now deal with the whole issue in greater detail.</p> <p>Representation or Lack Thereof 1:</p> <p>The ‘petitioner’s claim that ‘the combined community council has led to Carmondean having no representation’ is completely without merit, and I would further suggest that the leading ‘petitioner’ knows full well that this apparent ‘statement of fact’ is blatantly and wilfully untrue. Carmondean & Deans Community Council has represented all residents equally throughout and will continue to do so despite the self-serving intentions of other parties. At this stage in my submission I would suggest that some attention needs to be paid to context and to the unfolding of events.</p> <p>On 13 October 2021 Carmondean Community Council was dissolved. As a gesture of good will I suggested that the former [REDACTED] [REDACTED] should retain the same post in the newly established Carmondean & Deans Community Council. I was more than happy to offer my nomination, and [REDACTED] a self-proclaimed resident of Carmondean was duly appointed to the position of [REDACTED] in a unanimous vote at the inaugural meeting of the newly formed Carmondean & Deans Community Council in November 2021. However, and quite unexpectedly, no sooner had the new [REDACTED] assumed the role, she began to engage in behaviours that I and all the other community councillors found offensive and somewhat bullying in nature. I, along with several others, received questionable emails and a series of inappropriate dictates. Furthermore, the rapidly escalating problem of inappropriate behaviours increased to the point that they were seriously hindering the newly established Carmondean & Deans Community Council from functioning effectively, preventing it from carrying out its remit. Given the rapid escalation of behavioural issues [REDACTED] was removed from the position of chair on 10 January 2022. The [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] another resident from Carmondean and former Carmondean Community Councillor immediately assumed the [REDACTED] role by unanimous vote. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] remains the current [REDACTED] of Carmondean & Deans Community Council. It should be noted that on the same day [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was appointed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was appointed [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The first two appointments by the newly appointed community councillors of Carmondean & Deans Community Council went to residents of Carmondean. This was a unanimous decision by all Deans residing councillors.</p>	
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COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING 3RD ROUND OF CONSULTATION

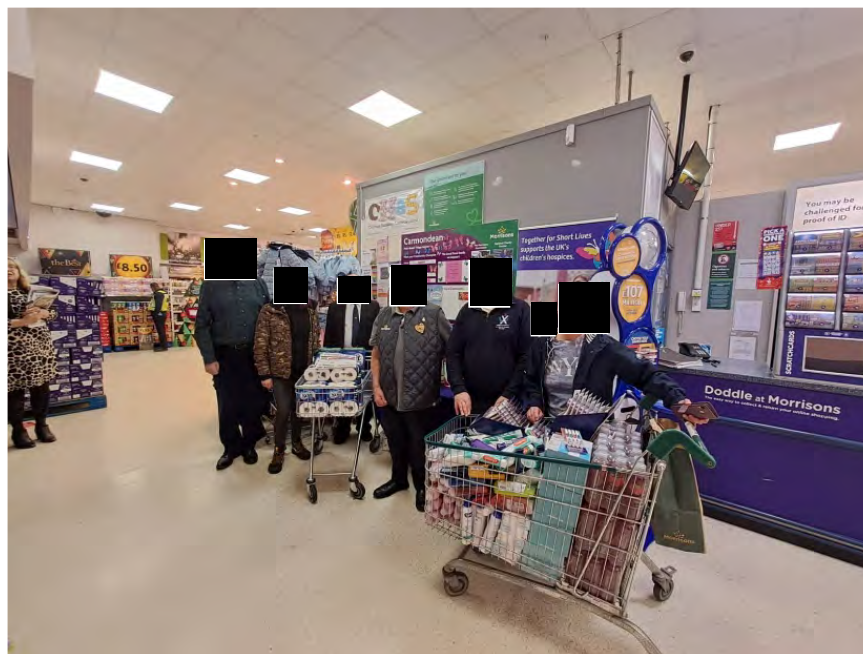
		<p>Following the former [REDACTED] removal from post, [REDACTED] remained a community councillor for Carmondean & Deans Community Council. However, from that point onward - 10 January 2022 - [REDACTED] did not attend any subsequent community council meetings. [REDACTED] effectively stopped representing the interests of those who live in Carmondean. Following failure to attend meetings on seven occasions and failure to represent, [REDACTED] was expelled from Carmondean & Deans Community Council on 15 August 2022. It should be noted that throughout this period, the [REDACTED] repeatedly offered the former [REDACTED] multiple opportunities to return and participate in the community council. [REDACTED] ignored all attempts to do so. Occasionally [REDACTED] would send an acidic email, mostly directed to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>Rather than work for the greater good of the residents whom we are all supposed to represent, the former [REDACTED] instead, continued in [REDACTED] efforts to break up Carmondean & Deans Community Council. I say continue because just three days after the 13 December 2021 monthly meeting [REDACTED] received an email. The email was dated 16 December 2021. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was still the sitting [REDACTED] of Carmondean & Deans Community Council. The email contained a draft letter which carried [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at the bottom. It was drafted completely unbeknown to [REDACTED]. All statements of fact contained in the letter are untrue. The letter itself was dated December 2021. Everything outlined in the letter is wholly untrue. It should therefore come as no great surprise that [REDACTED] rejected this 'joint letter' outright.</p> <p>The letter read as follows:</p> <p>"Letter 1 to WLC from CDCC proposing a split – joint letter suggestion Dear Lorrain (or whoever is appropriate) December 2021</p> <p><u>Proposed dissolution of Carmondean and Deans Community Council and re-instatement of individual councils for the Carmondean and Deans areas</u></p> <p>We, as the two signatories below are writing you a joint email on behalf of the former Carmondean members and the new Deans members of the newly formed Carmondean and Deans Community Council. All members of CDCC have been contacted and asked for their opinions, and each has agreed with the decision to request the dissolution of CDCC and the re-instatement for CCC and DCC.</p>	
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		<p>We would like, officially, to request splitting this joint CC into its former individual parts. We feel that the focus of the two areas is essentially different and we could make more progress if we act as separate units. We would like to stress that we have resolved previous difficulties, and intend to work in harmony with, bur separately from, each other.</p> <p>We recognise that this creates extra work for you, but are confident that this will be a catalyst for each council being more effective and co-operative.</p> <p>Does the fact that the Model Constitution and Standing Orders have not been signed yet make this easier? Does it, for example, mean that the joint CDCC has not, in fact, been formally constituted, and that as a result dissolution could be speeded up, and the subsequent formation of individual CCs happen without undue delay? This would be the best result for us, and give us an energised start to 2022.</p> <p>However, we appreciate that this might not be possible. If not, then we would continue in the interim as a joint council, but with the hope that you could action our request as soon as practically possible.</p> <p>We believe that we have enough people to form two separate CCs. Initially, before the community council elections, CCC was concerned that we might not have enough people to keep going, while Deans members had been advised that setting up DCC would take an extended amount of time. These two factors lead to the creation of a joint CC that, in fact, neither group thought was ideal. Rather than continue with what was, for both groups, the fall-back option, we would be very grateful for any help you can give us to get back to our best option, being two councils.</p> <p>Once we hear back from you, we will call an emergency meeting of CDCC to discuss how we are taking this forward together.</p> <p>Many thanks, and we look forward to hearing from you.</p> <p>  of CDCC &  of CDCC'' </p>	
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		<p>To reiterate so that there is no avoidance of doubt, I did not have any part in the drafting of this letter. I had no knowledge of its existence until it was sent to [REDACTED] via email. No one on the community council was ever contacted. No one agreed with any decisions. To be perfectly blunt, the whole letter was contrived by [REDACTED] the then sitting [REDACTED] in a self-serving attempt to try and turn the clock back so that [REDACTED] could once again hold power in [REDACTED] own little empire. Reading the letter, you will note that the main reason cited is the very same as those put forward by the current 'petitioner'; "two areas is essentially different." I will return to this point in due course.</p> <p>This totally fabricated letter was contrived one year ago. It was just one of numerous subsequent occurrences that led to [REDACTED] being removed as [REDACTED]. As you should note from the dates, [REDACTED] actively sought the break-up of Carmondean & Deans Community Council while holding the [REDACTED] position. It should also be noted once again that after removal from office, and while remaining a community councillor with Carmondean & Deans Community Council [REDACTED] did not attend any meetings for a period of seven months. [REDACTED] utterly failed to represent those that the current 'petitioner' claims had no effective representation. Instead, whilst remaining a sitting community councillor, [REDACTED] continued to operate the old Carmondean Community Council Facebook page, albeit with an edited title. Please see: www.facebook.com/CarmondeanCommunityCouncil/</p> <p>It should be further noted that [REDACTED] former [REDACTED] of Carmondean Community Council still operates this Facebook page as a de facto community council page. Additionally, [REDACTED] continues to use the following email: CarmondeanCommunityCouncil@gmail.com</p> <p>Despite multiple complaints from Carmondean & Deans Community Council to West Lothian Council over the last twelve months to try and sort this nonsense out, it would appear from the lack of interest and any response that anyone can simply set up pseudo community council Facebook pages and pretend to be legitimately sanctioned community councils!</p> <p>Representation or Lack Thereof 2:</p>	
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		<p>The 'petitioner' also failed to state that when Carmondean & Deans Community was established four new community councillors were in fact residents of the Carmondean area: [REDACTED] the first [REDACTED] as mentioned above; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the current [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was the third appointment by Carmondean & Deans Community Council. [REDACTED] was appointed [REDACTED] but later resigned in the first quarter of 2022 citing personal reasons.</p> <p>Another Carmondean based community councillor, the fourth, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] simply never attended any meetings, and [REDACTED] too was eventually removed although, at the time, a door remained open to [REDACTED] if [REDACTED] wished to return.</p> <p>It should be clear that except for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the current [REDACTED] the remaining three Carmondean community councillors effectively withdrew themselves from the community council process. It is wholly wrong to suggest that "the combined community council has led to Carmondean having no representation." It was the very representatives of Carmondean who, one way or another, withdrew their representation. A further manifestation of dysfunctionality that was observed by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] when he was part of Carmondean Community Council.</p> <p>Currently we have three sitting community councillors that come from the Carmondean area, and we expect this to rise by another two early 2023. Despite others trying to hinder our progress, we have established a valuable network of contacts across or community council area and are very pleased to say that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] – a Carmondean resident – is now one of our newest community council members. I am also pleased to say that at the beginning of December, despite very short notice, we, along with our new Carmondean partners raised a substantial amount of money and goods for the West Lothian Council Festive Essentials Campaign. I would like to add that we are about to launch two more fundraising projects with our partners across Carmondean and Deans - residents and businesses alike. One to raise money for defibrillators and the other for funds for the local foodbanks operating withing the area.</p> <p>With all due respect, I would suggest that West Lothian Council carry out a little due diligence to establish without question if the 'petitioner' or any of those mentioned on the</p>	
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petition document have had any previous connection(s) to Carmondean & Deans Community Council. I would also ask West Lothian Council to consider the fact that Carmondean & Deans Community Council has never been contacted by either the 'petitioner', any signatories to the petition or concerned individuals. There has been absolutely no communication whatsoever, to bring any concerns that might be held to the attention of Carmondean & Deans Community Council. There has been absolutely no communication to enquire about establishing the true facts of the matter. There has been absolutely no communication to express any interest by any concerned individuals to join the community council to address concerns regarding perceived lack of representation. Might I suggest that all the above is quite intentional and that those who signed the 'petitioners' petition might have in fact been misled in order to fulfil the requirements of a deliberately misleading, clandestine and destructive agenda. **A simple self-serving agenda which does not put the needs of the residents first.**



Carmondean & Deans Community Council along with our partners, raised a substantial amount of money and goods to support the West Lothian Council Festive Essentials Campaign. Far Left: [REDACTED] (Chair C&DCC) Far Right: [REDACTED] (Morrison's Community Champion).

		<p>Heritage, Community and Needs:</p> <p>I would now like to address the matter of “heritage, community and needs” as cited by the ‘petitioner’.</p> <p>Heritage:</p> <p>Deans, formerly known as Livingston Station, has a rich heritage that can be traced back well over 150 years. This history can be easily accessed via multiple online historical resources such as Scottish Shale (See: https://scottishshale.co.uk/), therefore I won’t dwell too much on the past suffice to say that Livingston Station, later known as Deans, has had a physical presence in the surrounding area long before any plans were ever drafted for the creation of Carmondean, let alone the relatively young Carmondean that we all know today. It is an inescapable fact that Deans is in possession an extremely rich vibrant heritage that far outweighs any perceived or inflated heritage that might be ascribed to Carmondean. Although much younger than Deans, Carmondean & Deans Community Council wholeheartedly regard Deans and Carmondean as one and the same place. We operate our council equitably representing both locations with the same enthusiasm.</p> <p>There is absolutely no logical reason to dissolve Carmondean & Deans Community Council to facilitate a wholly unnecessary boundary change.</p> <p>For the record it might be worth pointing out a few points of interest to qualify our position and why we, as a community council, reject the ‘petitioner’s’ request for a review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St Peter’s Church is listed in the Parish of Deans – its address recorded by Royal Mail: 9 Carmondean Centre, Deans. 2. Morrisons Supermarket. Address listed as Deans. 3. Carmondean Community Centre. Address: Farm House Nether Dechmont, Deans. 4. The local community high school is called Deans Community High School. 	
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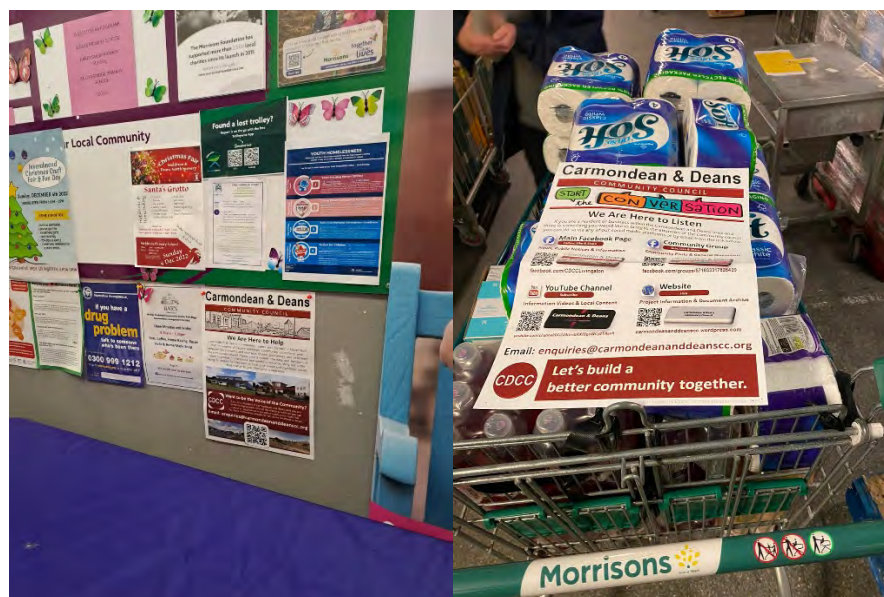
		<p>5. The main road artery is called Deans North Road.</p> <p>6. Elmwood Park, Netherwood Park, Harburn Avenue, Lenzie Avenue, Fells Rig, Raeburn Rigg... to name just a few. All addresses listed as Deans.</p> <p>7. Road signage positioned at the roundabout at the Deans CHS directs traffic to Deans East (Morrisons and the BP petrol Station).</p> <p>I could go on and on with more examples but suffice it to say, it doesn't matter how you try to present the facts as they stand to try and suggest otherwise but Carmondean is an integral part of Deans in much the same way the Deans South estate area is a fundamental part of Deans. This is a fact the 'petitioner' simply cannot ignore. Carmondean is a legitimate part of the wider Deans area and both it and our combined residents and businesses will be best served by the existing Carmondean & Deans Community Council.</p> <p>If indeed West Lothian Council decides that it needs to carry out a wholly unnecessary review which finds in favour of the 'petitioner's' request for a boundary change, should we then garner another twenty signatures to split a reformed Carmondean Community Council into smaller distinct units citing the same boundary change argument(s)? Should we also then encourage the dissolution of Bathgate and Broxburn community councils in order to create new boundaries to facilitate multiple smaller entities such as 'Boghall and Limefield Community Council' to meet their "heritage, community and needs"?</p> <p>There simply is no need to change the existing Carmondean & Deans Community Council boundary.</p> <p>Community and Needs:</p> <p>The suggestion that Carmondean has a distinct "community and needs" is an absurd argument from the outset. Unless the 'petitioner' is trying to infer that residents of Deans are too poor or undesirable to be associated with Carmondean in some way, then there is absolutely no difference in demographics or social strata between the two areas. The existing community in the Carmondean area is no different from that found anywhere else. There is no need to change the current boundary. This argument is simply nonsense,</p>	
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		<p>and I would hope that West Lothian Council reject it in its entirety. However, it would be interesting to know what it is exactly that makes the ‘petitioner’ think that the community residing within the Carmondean area is distinctly different from Deans or any other area for that matter. Similarly, in what way would a boundary change filter out the community to meet the ‘petitioner’s’ requirements? I am sure Carmondean & Deans Community Council will be told in due course.</p> <p>Likewise, as for the suggestion that the Carmondean area has its own distinct needs, I would again suggest that the ‘petitioner’ is completely wrong and appears to be oblivious to facts on the ground. Everyone residing within the Carmondean & Deans Community Council boundary share the same resources. We all use and share the same shops, schools, petrol station, train stations, library, health facilities, buses, food banks, religious buildings, general businesses and so on. There is absolutely no ‘us’ and ‘them’ – all needs, if any, are shared needs. Deans Gala Day is a prime example of our shared community. Residents from across the existing boundary area come to participate in and watch the gala day parade and enjoy the associated activities and fairground attractions. We are and always have been one large diverse community and we hope to remain so. I cannot stress enough, rather than pander to the vanity of an individual, reject the need for a review and leave the current Carmondean & Deans Community Council boundary as it stands. I really hope that West Lothian council reject this ridiculous notion.</p> <p>Carmondean & Deans Community Council and Public Engagement:</p> <p>Although Carmondean & Deans Community Council had several unfortunate problems to deal with when it was initially established due to [REDACTED] former [REDACTED] of Carmondean Community Council. It nevertheless persevered and got on with the job.</p> <p>Despite nearly ten months trying stop the former [REDACTED] from causing additional damage in [REDACTED] absence the community council still got on with the job.</p> <p>Given all this and given that we now face the possibility of unnecessary consultation brought about by the ‘petitioner’, we are still getting on with the job.</p>	
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We effectively only had ten months to get up and running. Unlike the former Carmondean Community Council, referred to as dysfunctional by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and our current [REDACTED] [REDACTED] we have hit the road running and achieved a great deal in what is a very short time.

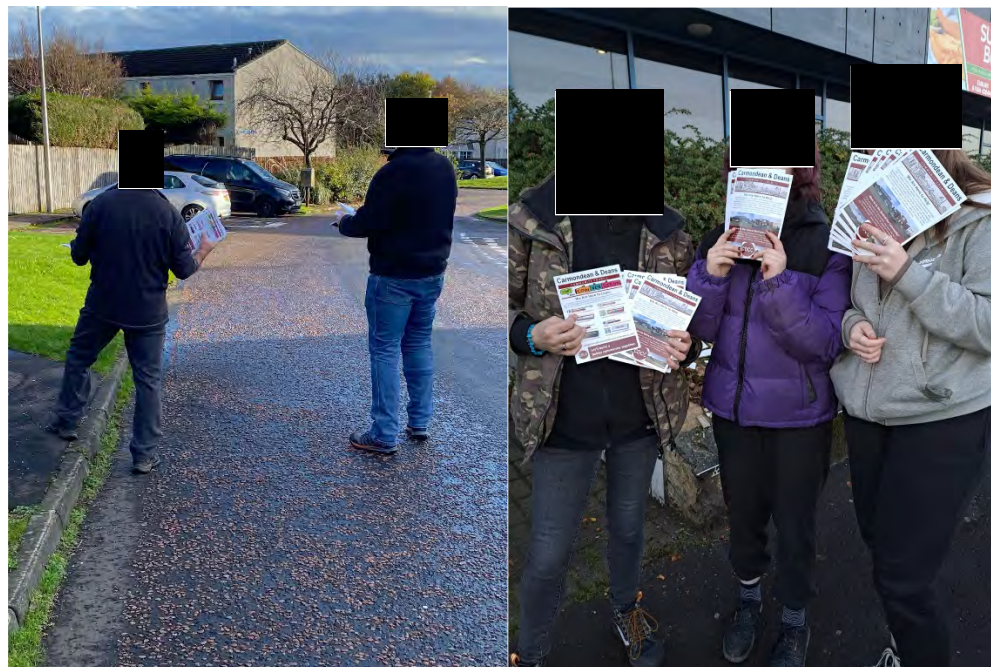
We operate two very active Facebook pages. The Main Page offers a platform for more serious content. The Group Discussion Page provides a platform for broad community engagement. We also operate the Carmondean & Deans Community Council web site that hosts archived news and project documents as well as meeting minutes. We also have a YouTube channel which hosts public information films and eventually, will be home to self-generated content. You can access all these platforms from the QR codes which can be found on the images below.

We have also placed a substantial amount of professionally printed A3 and A4 posters across our community council area as well as carrying out our first mass leafletting. The images below show some of the content printed on leaflets and posters.



Our poster drive has seen professionally printed posters appear in Morrison's, the health centre, community centres, library, Deer Park, shops,

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Carmondean & Deans Community Councillors and volunteers out leafletting on our inaugural leaflet drop.
The next leaflet drop is scheduled for February 2023.

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In addition to our intensive efforts to engage with the community we are currently building a network of community contacts from local businesses including those housed in the large industrial estate areas. Similarly, we are successfully building bridges with local groups and organisations across several cross-community projects not only to assist in their promotion but to also help in the formulation and execution of fundraisers and projects that we will be launching in the coming months. Our first two fundraisers will go

		<p>live in January 2026. One to raise money to buy new defibrillators for our area and the other to raise money to buy supplies for local foodbanks such as those starting to appear in local schools. We are also in the process of undertaking several larger capitol projects. Projects that meet the needs of the entire community.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Speaking as a long-standing 46-year resident of Deans and as [REDACTED] to Carmondean & Deans Community Council, I would ask that West Lothian Council see things for what they are and reject the 'petitioner's' request in its entirety. The reasons cited by the 'petitioner' are without foundation. They are baseless. This whole process – from time-wasting consultation to possible review - has been and is fuelled by one individual's personal vanity and ego. This person cannot accept that Carmondean Community Council no longer exists. Furthermore, this person cannot accept that they no longer hold or wield power. This whole affair has nothing to do whatsoever with fair and equitable representation of the people. It has everything to do with blatant self-interest.</p> <p>We at Carmondean & Deans Community Council just want to get on with the job: The job that we were appointed to do. We do not want to waste any more time dealing with this person. We want to focus all our attention on the future and going forward. Unlike the former Carmondean Community Council who had a full four years to deliver on less than a handful of achievements, we have by contrast, soared beyond expectations in just ten months.</p> <p>On behalf of Carmondean & Deans Community Council, can I ask that West Lothian Council allows our community council to run its full term of four years. Judge us then by our record.</p> <p>Should West Lothian Council carry out a review and subsequently find in the 'petitioner's' favour, then that would bring about the dissolution of Carmondean & Deans Community Council. We would cease to be. Everything we have built, done, and achieved will be destroyed. Our social media platforms will end and all; our community networking will be for nothing; our current and future projects will be terminated</p>	
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COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING 3RD ROUND OF CONSULTATION

		<p>It would be a sad day indeed if the needs of our residents become subjected to pandering to the whim of a disgruntled 'petitioner'.</p> <p>Please reject the review. Leave the current boundary in place. Allow Carmondean & Deans Community Council to get on with the job.</p>	
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