

MINUTE of MEETING of the BROXBURN, UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, on MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2009.

Present – Councillors Alexander Davidson, Graeme Morrice.

Apologies – Councillor Ellen Blaney Glass (Chair), Janet Campbell (Vice-Chair).

1. MINUTES

The committee confirmed the minute of its meeting held on 12 August 2009 as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Minute item 8 – Former Broxburn Primary School

The Chair requested that an explanation be given to members as to why a further report on the planning brief was not reported back to the Local Area Committee before being reported to Council Executive for approval, as had been agreed.

The Clerk advised the Chair that this was not an item for matters arising.

The Chair was of the opinion that this was a relevant request to make under matters arising.

Decision

To agree that officers report back to members with an explanation of why a report on the planning brief was not reported back to the LAC.

2. GUIDE TO LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES

A copy of the Guide to Local Area Committees had previously been circulated for information.

The Chair requested clarification on the requirement for convening meetings of the Local Area Committee.

The Clerk advised that regular meetings of the Local Area Committee were scheduled and approved at full Council. The Chair had the power to call a meeting or change date and time of meeting without consultation with other committee members.

Decision

To note the information provided in the guide.

3. POSITION STATEMENT ON THE WINCHBURGH MASTERPLAN

There was a report by the Planning and Information Manager (which had been circulated), which updated the committee on the current status and implications of progressing with the major planning application for residential and related development at Winchburgh.

The report recommended that the committee note the information provided in the report in particular the uncertainty caused by the economic recession and the statutory need for consultation.

The report advised that the Edinburgh and Lothian Structure Plan 2015 identified 3 core development areas within West Lothian, Armadale, Livingston and Almond Valley and Winchburgh East, Broxburn/Uphall.

An application for development at Winchburgh was received in September 2005 and that there had been ongoing discussions with a wide variety of interested parties. The application was received against a background of a draft local plan and rapid economic development whereas consideration today must be against that of an adopted local plan and economic recess.

The report went on to advise that the Structure Plan and Local Plan set out the approved policy context for the proposed Winchburgh Development. The council approved school role forecasts and methodology in September 2009 including those that would apply to the Winchburgh development.

The report went on to outline the Education implications for both denominational and non-denominational primary and secondary schools.

The report further advised that it was difficult to make conclusions with the current development uncertainty and that it was the case that the ultimate pattern of provision remained largely unchanged while the means and method by which development progressed had altered significantly.

Decision

1. To note the report.
2. To agree that a copy of the report be circulated to Winchburgh Community Centre Management, Winchburgh Primary School, Holy Family Primary School and the two Parent Councils.

4. AIR QUALITY IN BROXBURN

There was a report by Environment Health (which had been circulated), which advised the committee of Air Quality Objectives within the ward.

The report advised that all local authorities were required to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas against objectives for a number of pollutants of particular concern to health.

The regulations required the Local Authority to undertake an Update and Screening Assessment every three years.

The committee was advised that the two pollutants being measured in Broxburn were Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter.

The report advised that a monitoring station had been located in East Main Street, Broxburn since June 2008. The requirement to undertake monitoring at this location was highlighted in the progress report by March 2008 as a result of elevated Nitrogen Dioxide levels identified from a diffusion tube survey.

The report went on to advise that the only significant source of air pollution on East Main Street was associated with road traffic and that both pollutants Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter were by products of the petrol and diesel engines, with buses and heavy duty vehicles contributing greater emissions of Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter.

The report further advised that the Update and Screening Assessment had also highlighted the entrance to East Mains Industrial Estate as an area that required further assessment due to the high volume of heavy goods vehicles and the locality to residential receptors.

Following discussions it was suggested that new signage and alternative routes to the A89 for heavy goods vehicles be investigated to avoid the need to travel through Uphall and Broxburn.

Decision

1. To note the report.
2. Agreed that a report be brought back to the LAC on possible measures including additional signage, to reroute heavy goods vehicles to the A89, avoiding Uphall and Broxburn.

5. WINCHBURGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

There was a report by Head of Cultural, Communities and Economic Development Services (which had been circulated), which informed the committee of the proposals for repairs to Winchburgh Community Centre.

The report advised that Winchburgh Community Centre required a substantial amount of money to carry out essential repairs and that £160,000 had been identified from the capital fund.

In order to carry out the works to commence in January 2010 community

groups would be required to decant for 3 to 4 months. Consultations with local primary schools, church halls and the bowling club were underway to arrange alternative accommodation for the community groups to use.

Following discussions it was suggested that a copy of the report be sent to the community Centre Management Team for information. The committee also suggested that a report be brought to a meeting of the local area committee on any adverse effects to ward facilities caused by reduction in budgets.

Decision

1. To note the report.
2. A copy of the report to be sent to Winchburgh Community Centre Management Team for information.
3. To report back to a future meeting on any adverse effects to ward facilities due to reduction in budgets.

6. UPDATE ON BROXBURN OLD TOWN CENTRE

There was a report by the Head of Cultural, Communities and Economic Development Services, which updated the committee on Broxburn Old Town Centre.

The report advised that West Lothian Asset Management Group in consultation with Property Services was reviewing the council's property portfolio and that several buildings, halls and pavilions had been identified that were in extremely poor condition.

The Broxburn Old Town Centre on Station Road was previously the Salvation Army Hall and was gifted to the council around 1982.

The report went on to advise that the Old Town Centre was used primarily by pensioners who used it as a café/meeting area, 3 - 4 mornings per week. The facility also housed an adult Whist Club which, attracted members from West Lothian and beyond.

The report further advised that the building was in an extremely poor condition and following discussion with elected members and user groups it was agreed that essential repairs would be carried out to make the building DDA compliant.

Tenders for the work were in the process of being returned and it was anticipated that work would commence in February 2010 and be completed by July 2010.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.

2. To send a copy of the report to the Old Town Centre.

7. POLICE UPDATE

There was a report by Lothian & Borders Police (which had been circulated), which updated the committee on the Police activity and performance within the ward from 1 April 2009 until 31 October 2009.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD RESPONSE TEAM UPDATE

There was a report by the Head of Housing and Building (which had been circulated), which provided the committee with an overview of the Neighbourhood Response Team activities within the ward.

The report provided an update on the work of the neighbourhood response team.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

10. UPDATE FROM NET'S AND LAND SERVICES

There was a report by Head of Operational Services (which had been circulated), which advised the committee on the recent activity of the NET's and Land Services teams and highlighted the future works planned for the ward.

The report advised that Environmental Wardens issued 5 fixed penalty notices for dog fouling, 6 fixed penalty notices for littering and 16 enquiries were received and dealt with in relation to Environmental Wardens issues.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

11. LIFE STAGE OUTCOME PLANNING – SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN PILOT

There was a report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services (which had been circulated), which updated the committee on the progress of the Life Stage Outcome Planning Pilot.

The report advised that the West Lothian Life Stage Outcome Planning Model was at the forefront of Scottish attempts to tackle significant social inequalities and was receiving considerable national interest.

The implementation of the model in the ward provided services with the opportunity to bring about significant changes to the life chances of school age children.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

12. UPDATE ON COLD CALLING

There was a report by Stuart Neilson, Safer Communities Team Lothian and Borders Police and Linda Owen, Cultural, Communities and Economic Development (which had been circulated), which updated the committee on Cold Calling in Broxburn.

The report advised that a group of 4th year pupils who were participating in an XL course being run by the Prince's Trust had been identified as good problem solvers by Broxburn Academy and that they had been working with Stuart Neilson and Linda Owen to develop the Cold Calling project.

The group identified the following three approaches to get the cold calling message out into the community:

- To host a community Christmas event on Friday 18 December at Broxburn Academy aimed at 100 older people to promote the message.
- To promote the message within the school by using the Police Bluetooth blasting service, to encourage pupils to pass the information to older relatives.
- To create a Cold Calling Christmas Card incorporating the cold calling message and issue it to everyone who attended the community Christmas event.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

13. LOCALITY PLANNING

There was a report by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership (which had been circulated), which updated the committee on locality planning within the ward.

Locality planning in the ward was ongoing with a variety of groups meeting to take forward the four priorities for the area.

The actions being taken were contributing to the ward locality plan and was enabling Community Planning Partners to begin to deliver the single outcome agreement at a local level.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

14. LOCALITY PLANNING ANNUAL REPORT

There was a report by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership (which had been circulated) which advised the committee of the key activities and achievements within the ward for 2008/2009 relating to locality planning.

The report advised that this was the first annual report since Locality Planning was restructured into the new Community Planning and Regeneration Service. Locality Planning became part of Cultural, Communities and Economic Development service in June 2009, as part of community regeneration.

The report also advised what the next steps and priorities would be for Community Regeneration in 2009/2010.

In conclusion the report reflected the work done by Locality Planning and the significant contribution made to improve to the quality of life to the citizens of West Lothian.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

15. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND FINAL ALLOCATIONS 2009/10

There was a report by Head of Cultural, Communities and Economic Development Services (which had been circulated), which advised the committee of the allocations made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2009 to organisations within the ward and West Lothian-wide organisations.

Following discussions it was agreed to add Broxburn Old Town to the list of organisations for next year.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To include Broxburn Old Town Centre to the list of organisations.