

MINUTE of MEETING of the ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within CRAIGINN CENTRE, BLACKRIDGE, on 20 AUGUST 2010.

Present – Councillors Isabel Hutton (Chair), Stuart Borrowman, Jim Dixon

1 MINUTE

The committee confirmed the minute of its meeting held on 4 June 2010 as a correct record.

2 WESTFIELD TRAFFIC CALMING

The committee considered a report by the Head of Operational Services (which had been circulated) providing information on the findings of an investigation into issues raised by the Community Council and residents with regard to the existing traffic calming measures on Main Street and Strathavon Terrace.

Following concerns raised by the Community Council in February 2005, with regard to road safety in the village, traffic calming designs were agreed in November 2005 and measures implemented in April 2007.

In September 2007 the community council raised concerns regarding the traffic calming measures on Main Street with further concerns being expressed by residents with regard to vibration, noise and failure to reduce speed.

A noise survey was carried out which recorded that the noise levels within the properties at night significantly exceeded World Health Organisation guideline values.

The report provided three options with a recommendation that item 3 be progressed and referred to Council Executive for approval. The three options were as follows:-

- a) Do nothing
- b) Remove the two sets of speed cushions; or
- c) Relocate the set of speed cushions outside 1 Main Street further each, and leave the set of speed cushions at 4 Millburn Road in place.

Before the committee made any recommendation the Chair invited residents to express their concerns in respect of the options before them.

In considering the report members were of a view that the proposals should be reviewed taking into account the approved planning permission

for 538 houses and the Section 75 Agreement.

Decision

1. To agree that the proposals be reviewed taking account of planning permission and Section 75 Agreements;
2. To agree that consultation take place with planning with regard to the possible road layout; and
3. To report back to a future meeting of the Local Area Committee

3 PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND PROVISIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2010/2011

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Area Services (which had been circulated) providing information on the provisional allocations made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas fund 2010 to organisations in the Armadale and Blackridge Ward.

The report advised that eight applications were received from ward organisations and information was contained in appendix 1 to the report.

In considering this report members advised that a new group had been set up in Westfield and requested that an officer contact them to ensure that they were aware of the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund and how to apply for funding.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To ensure the Westfield group were aware of the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund.

4 LOCALILTY PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTE 30 MARCH 2010

The committee noted the minute of the Locality Planning Steering Committee Minute.

5 YOUTH ISSUES GROUP UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Area Services (which had been circulated) updating the committee on the strategy for tackling under-age drinking/diversionary activities for young people in the ward.

The report advised that the Armadale Youth issues group was hosted by Armadale Community Education Association and involved staff from

Community Learning and Development, West Lothian Youth Action, Community Planning and Regeneration, Education, CYP, Police and Elected Members.

The report advised of the recent activity of the Youth Action Group and the programme of events taking place from the end of August 2010. The report also included an action plan for the Co-op Halls and a note of the Armadale Youth Issues Group meeting held on 20 April 2010.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6 EARLY YEARS CENTRE

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Area Services (which had been circulated) updating the committee on a proposal to develop an Early Years Centre in Armadale.

The report set out the background to the Early Years Life Stage Report recommending the establishment of an integrated Early Years Centre based in an area of Armadale, and accessible to the Early Years Life Stage target population.

The report advised that the proposal would make a significant contribution to early years work in Armadale and the wellbeing of those involved by providing positive outcomes for children, parents and the wider community.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7 ARMADALE TOGETHER FOR HEALTH

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Area Services (which had been circulated) outlining the progress of the project, future developments and priorities.

The report invited the members to provide leadership by championing the project in the community.

The report explained the background to the Together for Health – Healthy Weight Community, childhood obesity and activities and progress.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8 DRAINAGE IN THE MAYFIELD AREA OF ARMADALE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services (which had been circulated) advising of the progress and developments in the investigations into drainage and ground saturation in Mayfield, Armadale.

The report explained the drainage problems reported, outcome of the WA Fairhurst Investigations and the next steps. Appendix 1 to the report contained a summary table of the findings of the investigations.

The report went on to explain that the investigation into flooding and impaired drainage was moving into a second stage with the suspected causes of rising ground water and local developments displacing groundwater both having been discounted.

The report advised that WA Fairhurst would be appointed to carry out further investigations within a specified timescale.

In considering this report the committee suggested that local residents be advised on the progress of this issue.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To agree that local residents be updated on the progress of this issue.

9 POLICE AND SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

The Committee considered a report by Lothian & Borders Police (which had been circulated) to update the Committee on performance, activities and police issues across the ward area for the period 1 June to 31 July 2010.

The report included information on targeted foot and bike patrols, the new youth space, warrants, community and SNT officers and anti social behaviour operations.

The report went on to summarise Operation Faraday and Operation Floorwalk. During these operations over 12 litres of alcohol was seized and disposed of.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

10 HOUSING AND BUILDING SERVICES

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services (which had been circulated) providing the Committee with an overview of service activities in the ward.

The report provided information in relation to mainstream tenancies, temporary tenancies and arrears performance. The report also set out activity by Area Housing Office Activity, Locality Planning, Community Engagement, Local Projects, Staffing, Environment Team and Tenant Participation.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.