

Community Councils in West Lothian Elections 2013



**Do you have something to say about your local
community?**

**Have you ever thought about becoming a community
councillor?**

YES!

Then it's time to

HAVE YOUR SAY and GET INVOLVED

What are Community Councils?

Community councils are groups of people that have a common interest in their local area. They are legally recognised and under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 local authorities in Scotland are obliged to have a scheme that supports their establishment.

What do Community Councils do?

Their main purpose is to represent their local area, to consult with local residents and pass their views on to public sector organisations such as West Lothian Council, N.H.S. Lothian, Police Scotland and the Scottish Government.

Community councils have an important role to play in the decisions that affect their local area. West Lothian Council consults with community councils about how local services are delivered and informs them about any changes to services or any issues that may affect their local area. Community councils must be consulted about planning issues.

West Lothian councillors can attend their local community council meetings providing a good link between the council and the community.

What can a Community Council do in my area?

Community councils can participate in a wide range of activities and events involving communities across West Lothian. For example:

- Represent community views in local planning applications;
- Participate in West Lothian Council policy, development and scrutiny panels;
- Help to identify opportunities and apply for community project's funding; and
- Help to make your local community a better place to live and work.

Community councils are involved in many decisions that affect communities in West Lothian. For example:

- Supporting the establishment of allotments in Livingston;
- Developing a BMX track at Broxburn.

How do I find out about my local Community Council?

For details of your Community Council visit West Lothian Council's web page at www.westlothian.gov.uk/communitycouncils

In addition, you can obtain independent advice and information from the West Lothian Association of Community Councils by visiting their web site at www.wlacc.org.uk

The Association is made up of members from local Community Councils. It aims to represent the views of the community, is an important and active contributor to local policy and provides a key link to West Lothian Council and the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership.



How do I join my local Community Council?

All Community Councils welcome local residents getting involved in their community. Each Community Council must hold an election at least once in every four years to give new members the opportunity to join.

If you want to become a Community Councillor you must be over 16 and on the electoral roll in the Community Council area.

'Join Us' in 2013

Do you want to have a say in what is happening in your community?

Why don't you get involved in your local Community Council!



Elections for Community Councils will be taking place in October 2013 although contested elections will only be necessary when more nominations are received than there are places available.

If you or a friend is interested in joining your Community Council you can pick up a nomination pack and nomination from the council's Community Council Liaison Officer.

This is your opportunity to play a part in the way your community is run.

E-mail – Lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk

Or visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/community_councils

Nominations have to be received by

19 September 2013