

MINUTES FOR MEETING
28th April 2014
held in the Old Town Centre, Broxburn.
at 7pm.

Present- Members:- Tom Roy, Chair; Ellen Glass, Secretary; Dorothy Knox., Treasurer; Harry Ferguson; Robert Morrison; Murray Kane; Sylvia Roy; Russell McLean;

Public:- 2

Apologies: Cllrs Tony Boyle. We wish you a speedy recovery. Cllrs. Diane Calder; & Janet Campbell, Jack McLaren, Steve Dowd.

Minutes of 31st March 2014: Proposed: Sylvia Roy . Second Steve Dowd.

Police Scotland. DNA

Speakers:

1. Douglas Westwood Rural Connect.
2. Gordon Connelly, WLC re Old Town Garden.

Rural Connect: Douglas Westwood explained that they are a charity of some 25 years and they are there to help other charities to formulate ideas; design; draw up plans, fill application forms, apply for correct licenses and help with who it would be most suitable to apply to for funding all across Scotland. Can point them in the direction for most appropriate help and if a 'venture' in existence is toiling they can help them to reset up business if there are people dependent on them etc.

They have been for 10 years located at Oatridge College but will need larger premises soon and had thought about the Vion site as they are keen to stay in Broxburn. They work with Business Gateway; The Development Trust etc, started 9/10 yrs ago with funding, trading subsidies and lottery funding etc. WLC are paying them to do training for people for 6 week courses. TR informed us that the possibility of a Community Trust is in the process of discussion for Broxburn – this group will be able to apply for funding etc. They require premises big enough for about 10 desks + computers and a couple of meeting rooms. Several people present suggested various empty shop premises that could be suitable for their needs (about 20 staff. A Community trust is in the early stages just now and they would certainly be able to help. Winchburgh Dyslexia Group have taken on 3 unemployed people instead of travelling to England for a specialist. At present a woman comes here from England to help with Dyslexia care. They self fund, and through contract with different funding bodies. They are like a consultancy which charges but put it back into the group. WLC are keen for them to go to Whitburn but we too need this type of enterprise. DW will appraise the information given with his colleagues and feed back to us. Contact: 01506 862227. Google: Community Enterprise web site. EG asked for a meeting.

Old Town Centre Gardens: Gordon Connelly started by telling us that the building had been update with over £150,000 spent on it and it was not enough to finish it. H&S have stated that the paths are dangerous and anyone using the vennel between Greggs and the Badgers Brook does so at their own risk – it should be kept locked. This path is for workmen only. The official entrance is through the archway off Station Road. If this is so, the lighting will need to be upgraded. The OAPs lease the OTC from WLC and are responsible for the bins at the OTC. There are 2 exits for fire escape which fall under Health & Safety. There is a Fire Safety test done every week. The council will help with money for the entry/egress of fire escapes but not anything else although money is available £20,000 but we should also get from other funders eg Lottery (they have suspended applications from May to

after the Commonwealth Games ? August.) Part of the back grass area is a communal drying area which belongs to WLC Housing and it could be a Legal issue. It is understood the OAPs did not want signage erected. It was felt that the OAPs should get help and support from the shop owners and landlords of the flats as they need to take some responsibility. It would be nicer for them and would also potentially increase the value of their properties. It was agreed that there needs to be a Management Team and also the various groups such as Scouts, etc could be involved in the upkeep. The area may have to be locked at night, and there may be a chance of help from the community eg the cadets or students if appealed for. New Café opening tomorrow will be The Central Cafe. (Laura Calder). Gordon was told about tipping in the back garden area, and also white van men lifting goods illegally. Contact the Police if you see them. It was suggested that we may ask some along to our next meeting to get their views, or that we go to their meeting in a morning. A squad will be in to clear out the garden soon. It may be an idea to ask the owners to come as well. **Action EG.**

Matters arising:

1. **Albyn Football Club.** They have applied for permission for an extension and it will incorporate a room/hall with sprung floor which will be for hire. The Pavilion would also be beneficial if done up but it is in a bad state and may best demolished due to H&S. Sport Scotland may be interested in helping. It was suggested this may be an ideal development for the Vion developers. This requires further investigation. If the BMX club + the gym could all work as one it could be beneficial. Sport Scotland will be meeting Chris Hoy. Other small groups may be interested in this. Invite rep along. **Action: TR**
2. **The Queens Baton.** There has been no update. HH & DG have suggested all groups to come to the street on Sunday. School has been given posters and flags. Waiting for funding from the Lottery. Coming down by the swimming pool at 9:15am. Greendykes Rd, round Albion, along Main Street, towards but turning up to Linlithgow before Dechmont.
3. **Dog fouling: Will owners please keep their dogs on a lead and pick up their dog poo.** The main problem is the dog fouling on the pavements and in parks. Although more bins would be appreciated in some areas, they are being emptied. Parks also need to display if dogs are welcome or not by erecting signs. Dog wardens need to come more often. Contact DL **Action TR**
4. **Development Planning Questionnaire.** This has been completed by HF & DK. It was a fair response stating some actions were fast and some slow.

Other competent business:-

1. Traffic Temporary Restrictions (TTRs)

- i. Station Road, Uphall. From the junction to the A89 to the junction with the A899 at Millers Bridge. This is for carriageway resurfacing. Starts at 08:00hrs on Tuesday 6th May to 16:00hrs Sunday 18th May 2014. Alternative route via A89 to Dechmont Roundabout and the A899 to Millers Bridge. Pedestrians are not affected.
 - ii. North & South carriageways of West Main Street, Broxburn at its junction with School Road, to a point 20m east and west of this junction. The suspension of parking to allow access & egress to a new housing development. Starts 08:00hrs 19th May and terminates 18:00hrs 28th November 2014 (max 28 weeks) Pedestrians are unaffected.
2. Xmas tree: The notice board has still not been relocated but once it is it will stay there.

We received a cheque for the tree and associated works from WLC Regeneration. The invoice for works is still awaited. After the November meeting we were told we would get Disbursement money from Cllrs Campbell and Calder but this was redirected to the Gala Day Committee, and no money was received from the Gala Day Committee. It has been

agreed that electric lights should be used in future and the council could look at tying up with the power at the clock.

3. **Scottish Rural Parliament.** The first meeting will take place in Oban, Argyll & Bute. It is a Three day event from 6th -8th November 2014 and will bring together 400 decision makers, organizations and people from rural communities across Scotland.
4. **Community Council Review:** WLACC has met with LMcG to produce guidelines to help us to answer this. HF & DK appointed to complete.
5. **West Lothian Ass of Community Council.** They had sent a letter asking for CCs to offer to hold a meeting or suggest where they should hold them. After discussion we decided we can't help. There are 33CCs but there is provision for 40 and only about less than a third attend.
6. **NHS update:** Labour ward still not complete re upgrade. Refurbishing Haematology Lab. Have a new Partnership rep who is Caroline McDowel who is like a Union leader. Still doing audit checks which are good. Three major trauma units are planned for Scotland which would cut out other A&E department which would possibly increase demand in Edinburgh. A&E have additional medicine consultants appointed with the support from an emergency nurse in St John's until 11pm. 6 Clinical Development Fellows (GPs with an interest) are in place to support the out of hours service in the Emergency Department, with extra in Lothian. Two of the successful candidates from Myanmar have now started & are undertaking local induction and orientation program. It is anticipated it will be 3-4months before working to full potential in the Paediatric ward at St John's Hospital. Staffing in their area remains fragile.
7. **Voluntary Sector survey.** This was about charity money etc, it was discussed and felt it was not applicable to us.
8. **Planning update:**
 - i. **Streamlining Planning Assessments. Stakeholder survey.** This is an online survey similar to the Development Planning one to be completed by 25 April 2014.. It has been completed.
 - ii. **Candleworks site:** Tesco pulled out for commercial reasons which were not given to the council. The permission remains active until May 2015 for another developer. If not it will lapse. The council housing was not granted full permission as it needed the Phase 1 road for access. This application is currently on hold. It was reiterated that WLC lost money set aside to decontaminate the land because they backed Tesco. Specialists in decontamination have stated it should be treated as one.
 - iii. **Phase 2:** Awaiting the Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIA), but it would appear that it will be reduced in scale and form and now cover only the construction of the primary school and the part of the distributor road which runs through this part of the site. Housing is tied up and dependent on Phase 1 of the application. Reduced works have been discussed and passed by WLC.
 - iv. **Shanks update:** Greendykes Road site to be used to store empty skips and wheelie bins only. Vehicle Depot will not relocate there They are currently looking at pest control of the rats as several of us have had complaints again of huge rats.

9. **Community Council Training:** This took place in Bathgate and was attended by about 12 people. It has been reported as a very useful meeting and it is hope there will be more people attend in future.
10. **Data Protection.** Confirmation received from them that we are up to date and paying by Direct debit.
11. **Optima:** This is The Federation of Voluntary Sector Day Support Services. It is day activities service targeted at the 50 to 70 year olds and delivered from venues in our local communities, around 150 are attending.
12. **Scottish Women's Convention:** Invitation to a free meeting on May 2nd 10:30am to 1:30pm in Howden Park Centre Livingston where representatives from both sides will be informing us about the Scotland Referendum.
13. **The Big lunch** on Sunday 1st June set by the Eden Project to get as many neighbours to join together as possible having a street party remember to apply to close your road if required.
Information available on application.
14. **Invasive Species** Information Evening at Ecclesmachan & Threemiletown on Monday 12th May 6:30pm to 8:30 pm. Two per CC can apply on first come first serve basis.

Questions from Floor:

- **Canal clear up of banking.** We are getting Community Payback to work on this clean up. It was requested a letter of thanks went to the Canal Soc for the work done to date. **Action: ?**
- Work is starting on the **Old High School** this week. They are trying to get a path through it to the school for the children. The Fountain has to go back up as well. **Action DK**

**Next meeting:
26th May 2014
Broxburn Old Town Centre
7pm**

WWW.broxburncc.org.uk

**** The meeting will be recorded for accuracy of minutes unless someone wants to discuss a personal problem in which case it may be turned off if requested.**