

BROXBURN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on The Old Town Centre at 7pm

Minutes 27th May 2013

Present:

Tom Roy, chair; Jack McLaren; Murray Kane; Dorothy Knox, treasurer; Ellen Glass, secretary; Robert Morrison.

S Roy; H Ferguson; R McCabe WCC; S Sutherland WCC; A Wright WLACC; L Macaulay BEELG; J Macaulay BEELG; D Thomson BEELG; J Purves BEELG; M Boylan; T Boylan; E McKay

Councillors: Janet Campbell. Tony Boyle

L&BP. PC V Manning.

Guest speakers: Graham Hope, CEO of WLC. John McGinty Leader of the Council

Apologies: Councillor Diane Calder; Steve Dowd; George Swanson.

Minutes approved for 29th April 2013

Proposed by: Murray Cane **Seconded by:** Jack McLaren

The Chair invited our guest speakers to the floor after a brief resume of what we would like answered on behalf of the community.

Please see separate papers for more detail.

POLICE REPORT: - see separate report (page 6)

As from 1st April this year the phone numbers are: **Emergency** number is still **999**,

Advice, or non emergency number is free **101**.

Broxburn Police station is still 852121.

It was reported that there are problems with anti social behaviour in a block of mixed ownership flats. It has been suggested that it is reported to the Neighbourhood Team of the police and also to housing. **Action Cllr. Boyle**

Matters arising:

1. Family Unit – The light is no longer on during the day and the angle has been adjusted.

2. NHS/St John's Hospital:

a. Paediatric unit: The NHS Board have stated they will have the staff to cover the ward over the summer this year. Problems remain with recruiting 4 doctors from abroad.

b. A&E at St John's Hospital: There is a shortage of junior doctors throughout the country resulting in problems to get staff. Consideration of utilising GPs is being given. It was made clear that there should be no further downgrade at this hospital as A&E is needed. Stated that only 2 patients per hour go in at night, but it can take several hours to be seen/treated. West Lothian has to pay private funding to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary (ERI) which means it will never have its own funding. WL has the oldest and the youngest population who need services. Rezoning was discussed but people in Edinburgh objected to having to travel to St J's. ERI is not big enough to cope with increase they are trying to build another two wards. It was also stated by NHS that if travel problems from eg. Fauldhouse to ERI an ambulance may be provided. Apparently Ambulance reps confirmed there are insufficient for this service & once in Edinburgh area are then deployed from there. MSP Alex Neil, and NHS Board have stated they are committed to St J's. and continuation of care. St J's will stay open on a 24 hr 7 day a week basis, although some dubiety exists regarding whether Dr or nurse cover provided at night. The Board have said they will consult with staff and public. There is a petition in the shops, and it is on facebook if you would like to sign up if you are concerned.

3. BMX track: Track is being well used. Forms for Grant application have been received and will be submitted in due course. Cheque still to be handed over.

4. Community Regeneration Fund – see newsletter

5. Tesco: Planning permission has now been granted. However, there is no mention of the land being investigated and decontaminated in the Section 75 agreement it has been incorporated in

Property Services and we are currently requesting/awaiting information about this. Likewise the road is not mentioned although it is on the plans. There are other smaller changes such as a towpath on the north side of the canal from the superstore, to be lengthened later for access from the west. The main towpath being on the south side. The seating position changed. Boat moorings which were to be up at Stewartfield are now at the superstore. Work in the car park behind Stewartfield at the canal has to be done. Invite planners to next meeting. – **Action EG/DK**

6. Update on Winchburgh & Linlithgow. WLC are currently awaiting a reply from WSAS following a report and photographs being sent.

7.0582/EIA/13 Old School: We are still awaiting confirmation from Planning that full permission has been granted from the Conservation Department of the Scottish Ministers. WLC Conservation team state it is uneconomical to maintain the lodge house and have recommended demolition of it. We are still awaiting confirmation of what is intended to replace it. Planning to be invited to next meeting. **Action EG/DK.**

Other competent business:

1. Temporary Road closure: Due to the new flood defence wall being built, the remote footpath along the Brox Burn between West Burnside & Parkwood Gardens will be closed and pedestrians diverted along Park Road, Station Road and West Burnside. Buses and cars will be affected, but this will be kept to a minimum, but it will be disruptive for the residents of this area. This will be from 10th June 2013 to 10th November 2013 weather etc permitting. Work commences 17th June.

*Works are also in hand from 103 – 145 West Main Street and awaiting legal agreements to be signed by all concerned before work can be completed.

*Residents and commercial plant for work can park in Bowling Club car park.

2. Donations for Food Bank. Blackburn Community Council asked for donations for the Food Bank for Wednesday 5th June at 1pm at their distribution and collection facility 31 Market Place, Whitburn.

3. Proposed housing at Wyndford Avenue: Proposal of application notice has been received for 250 houses at Kirkhill (adjacent to Wyndford Avenue). This will be a range of council houses of different sizes and types. Public event held in Strathbrock on 28th May from 10 – 4pm & 5-7pm. Public consultation for Bennie's on 30th May.

4. Voluntary Sector Community Resilience Seminar for Community Council or community & voluntary groups and public sector emergency responders involved in planning for, responding to and recovering from emergencies. Tuesday 26th June Victoria Quay, Edinburgh 10am – 3:30pm. Confirmation of attendance required so please contact Broxburn Community Council initially.

5. Plants: Due to the weather slowing growth, council planting will not commence until 10th June in borders & baskets, but on the bright side some of the bulbs are still flowering now.

6. Planning Policy engagement: This is a long quite technical document regarding the National Planning Framework (NPF3). There is a questionnaire for CCs. To complete, but even that is quite complicated. There is a "drop in" event to be held in the Gyle on May 30th and it is hoped a rep will attend. WLACC are also gathering information to share.

7. Tellme Scotland: A local organisation with current information useful for all. This is a free service once you sign up. More information on their web site; -<http://www.tellmesotland.gov.uk>

8.*First Bus: Cllrs. JC. DC met with Senior Executives of the Company who accepted and apologised for buses being late, partly due to operational faults which are being addressed with training, road works also contributed. They report that 96% of their busses have maintained the schedule. Two inaccessible busses left in the W.L. fleet are due to be replaced. Assurance given that a review will take place in the next few months then would attend our meeting. An e-mail address for any initial comments or issues you may encounter with their service is: contactscotland@firstgroup.com

***WLC** have a white mini bus **for visitors** (with disabled access) **to/from the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh.** The first bus leaves from Livingston at 13:00 arriving at the Western General at 13:56. This leaves for the return Journey at 16:00. The second journey leaves Livingston at 17:30 and returns from the Western General at 20:15. Ensure you ask/confirm pick up points when booking. It **does not drop** off along the route on its journey to the Western. The Journey time is just under 1 hour. Please note that this is an ON DEMAND SERVICE it will not stop to collect you unless

you have pre-booked it by calling 01506 44 44 44. This has to have been done prior to 12:00 or 16:30 - a minimum of one hour prior to the start of the Journey.

*Horsburgh Busses are not always running to their contract. Action Cllr T.Boyle

9. Community Jobs SCVO; applications were open to 800 16-19yr olds: 100 20-24yr olds: 100 16 -24yr olds with disabilities and closed on 30th April. The feed back was a very high response from applicants and also a number of new employers came forward with job offers.

10. Letter received from Deputy Leader of the Council Cathy Muldoon. It was addressed to the Chairman & hand delivered to a private address, in breach of protocol, in response to our minutes. Acknowledgement to be sent. Content has been noted. One of the reasons for inviting our guest speakers was for clarification of the whole matter regarding Vion, which we now feel has been concluded. Action - EG.

11. HH reported that work has started on the canal towpath from the bridge at Parklands towards Drumshoreland. The team are cleaning and widening the path. There appears to be some problem that WL are not keen to use Community Payback (CP) for this work although it is apparently widely used and liked by the C P people themselves elsewhere. Action Cllr Campbell & DK.

12. A double sided sign has been placed on the grass verge of the A89 suggesting people would be better buying a house and living in Corstorphine in Edinburgh. To be brought to the attention of WLC and also ASA. Action Cllrs J Campbell & T Boyle.

NEXT MEETING;

24th June 2013.

The Old Town Hall, Broxburn. 7PM.

www.broxburncc.org.uk

*The meeting will be recorded unless someone wants to discuss a personal problem in which case it may be switched off if requested

Ref: TR/EG/DK

Vion

After introductions were given the chair invited the guests to answer some of our concerns. Some perceive Broxburn a dead town without Halls, others see it differently. Greendykes Road shop acquired by WLC is being funded out of the Scottish Government Regeneration Fund. It will be staffed by existing WLC staff to help the Vion staff who are still unemployed in this & surrounding towns. It was felt this was not what the money was given for. There are many people still unemployed in the area with no sign of a job. There are also several people after any one job. What is the position regarding George Elliot and his consortium? Is the whole of Vions site being auctioned? What is happening?

J McGinty Leader of the Council is from this area originally. He agreed to work with Mr Sweeney & the Scottish Government the day before the news '90 day notice of closure' broke, and have had many meetings including a visit to Holland since.

WLC currently are working with the Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise (SG/SE/WLC). Scottish Government made available £29m to be utilised for the regeneration of West Lothian by the three bodies.

Vion own their site and they have/make all decisions regarding it.

Senior Council Officers have met with the consortium led by George Elliot. They will consider any business that has a good & viable business plan and guarantee jobs for local people. The consortium business plan was supposed to be lodged last week but so far has not arrived.

WLC will build council houses to help the economy.

The aim is to employ 3,000 people.

Chief Executive Graeme Hope: There are 8 parts to economic growth plan.

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| 1. PACE short term employability courses to be run by WLC & partners to help people apply for and get a job. | £0.61m |
| 2. SDS Translation. Funding to ensure translation services on site. | £0.02m |
| 3. Funding to meet training & other needs. Medium to long term training packages & jobs grants. | £4.70m |
| 4. Community led regeneration fund. Localised for Broxburn; Uphall and Winchburgh communities. | £0.25m |
| 5. Food and/or Drink Park For any of three sites: 2 in Broxburn at West Wood & Clifton View and 1 in Eliburn. The idea of this is to add value to food – not a café or restaurant. There are other sites that can be used for business other than Vions site. Joint with SE to look at creating a research & innovation hub around food or drink, &/other sectors. | £2.00m |
| 6. Scottish Executive (SE) support for growth in account managed companies-2m to £3m per year | £15.00m |
| 7. Additional SE support to bring jobs to West Lothian this year. | £60m |
| 8. Business Gateway (BG) complementary services | £15.00m |
| 9. Company support – to companies identified through BG & SE. This is medium to long term grant support to growing companies in West Lothian to support capacity building & job creation. | £4.00m |
| | Total = £29.18m |

*Councillor Campbell: Stated there had been several meetings with both council and the consortium led by G Elliot. He was dependent on machinery being left in place in Vion. She believes that they have still not been heard properly and the plant is up for sale.

Reply: GH. Plant disposal is up to Vion. The deputy Chief Executive makes her own decisions about meetings. There have been several meetings and any investment decision will be taken by the partnership (SG/SE/WLC). WLC have still not received a business plan. They will look at any business plan that is serious, viable and fulfils the criteria.

*Public: Have WLC tried to bid for equipment?

Reply: No, Council would not buy equipment that they wouldn't use.

* Public: Would you, WLC, buy the site then sub let back etc where council have control?

Reply: Not on the open market. WLC have written asking Vion to donate the factory to them as they believe Vion owe the community.

* TR stated that it said in the Sunday Post that it is for sale for offers over £2m.

Reply by GH: Plenty sites available including 2 enterprise areas. Maybe Scottish Enterprise could.

* Public: Site machinery has been sold to auction. The site was open for tender and they are now deciding. The site has to be flattened. There is security fence. It is hoped it will be completed by January. G Elliot must have a lot of pigs if he thinks he can make it a viable business.

GH. No planning permission is required for demolition, it only requires a warrant. He will check whether still in a mixed use area or industrial? It can be changed for usage in future if required.

* Public: Sick of pig factory. It is the wrong place and should be moved to another site. Why this ground? It's time they, the council, thought of the health and wellbeing of the local people.

* Public: Didn't know about this information or that it was Vions responsibility. They should make contribution to the community.

* Public: A local demolition company has been asked to do work. Did you know? There are 500 houses being built in Winchburgh but no local employees.

* Public: Build houses and get some community tax in. Business gives less.

* Public: If WLC own the other two sites why don't they donate to a company?

* Public: If a company that has been given a grant subsequently folds, what happens to the money?

Reply GH – money is given back if not used, as did Vion.

Due to lack of time the subject was concluded guests were thanked and several people left.

Broxburn Community Council

April 2013

38 crimes were reported of which 21 have been solved to date, which gives a solvency rate of 55% for the month.

This year to date figures are as follows, a total of 38 crimes have been reported of which 21 have been solved giving a solvency rate of 55%. The previous years figures for 2012 were 61 reported crimes with 53 having been solved giving a solved rate of 86%

As can be seen reported crime is down 38% on the previous years figures, and solvency is down on last year.

Incidents of note for April

09/04/2013 – A premises was entered in Westerton Road, East Mains Ind Est over night and approximately 1000ltrs of diesel was stolen.

The theft of diesel is becoming more prevalent throughout the division and I would ask anyone to contact the Police, if persons selling fuel approach them.

22/04/2013 – A bag of medical equipment was stolen from the Broxburn Dental Practice. This bag contained various medicines associated with the Practice. Enquiries are ongoing at present to trace those responsible for the theft.

30/04/2013 – A premises was broken into on West Main Street and a quantity of Laptops, Games Consoles, Cigarettes and a TV were stolen from within. The suspect was identified through CCTV images and quickly traced after he entered a property carrying the items in view of the Police.

30/04/2013 – 3 males were arrested after being caught in the grounds of the recycling centre during the night. All three males will appear in court at a later date.

Other matters

Remember that as of April 1st dial 999 for an emergency or for non-emergencies call free on 101.

Regards

Vince Manning, Broxburn Police Station, West Main Street, Broxburn
Tel 01506 833709
Email - vincent.Manning@scotland.pnn.police.uk