

BROXBURN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for Monday 29th October 2013

Held in The Old Town Centre, Broxburn at 7pm

Present: Tom Roy, Chair. Dorothy Knox, Treasurer. Ellen Glass, secretary. Murray Kane. Robert Morrison. Jack McLaren. Steve Dowd. Sylvia Milne; Harry Ferguson; Russell McLean.

Councillors: Diane Calder; Tony Boyle (left after 1st speaker)

Apologies: Councillor Janet Campbell;

L&BP. Apologies were given. Report attached.

Minutes approved for 28th September 2013

Amendment to minutes:

- Old Town Centre garden project. There is £20,000 set aside for the project. Ownership of land is being looked at present.
- £1 charge is for care-line service is for new people. £3.75p charge is for phone line but is taken up by the council.

Proposed by: Steve Dowd **Seconded by:** Robert Morrison

POLICE REPORT: - Police report up to 26th October was read out and is attached to these minutes.

Guest speaker:

1. Alice Sinnet – Economic Development Manager WLC. – Business

Gateway, Broxburn. Sheet with stats of area was distributed. Premises were chosen carefully not preventing any other business opportunity. Set up to help people in the area who had become unemployed and need support, start up a business or expand a business, bigger premises and/or take on more staff or equipment. Can help with this and also getting some funding for certain areas. Marketing West Lothian in the broader area. Mitsubishi have been in the area for 20 yrs and are still expanding. Community regeneration Grant is also available. Work with Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Government. There are Computers for the purpose of job hunting; creating CVs; business plan, research etc. Lack of awareness about what it is there for as it is not clearly displayed. Footfall is being taken up although it was a slow start.

- ##### **2. First Bus – Scott Ferguson - Operations Manager, Livingston.**
- The buses have not been updated as quickly as they had hoped, but they have reduced the number of step buses. A bus costs upwards of £150,000 and many routes are not profitable. If a bus breaks down they will have to send an older vehicle out to cover the service. Alterations have been made to services through Broxburn partly due to the trams in Edinburgh being taken back off. The traffic Commissioner requires a letter from Council for any change to take place or it can take months. Drivers also have to adjust their driving. Signs at bus stops should be sorted soon. Major change is to try to make service quicker. Some of the Fauldhouse buses in am and pm they hope to extend into Edinburgh and there will be more changes. The tardiness is outwith their hands. They use

twitter, web pages etc to get the word out. Tracking system is in operation on the buses which passes back vital information to base. There may be an update that it is displayed at the bus stops as it is in Edinburgh. Once the trams start running there may well be more changes. One of First biggest depots was closed in Edinburgh recently. All bus companies are struggling which is unfortunately reflected in usage. The use of a central hub for buses was discussed but it would be in the future. The use of zoned area pricing was also discussed and agreed it needs to be updated or replaced to a simpler structure. To get the fare process look up Travel line or First's web site. Contact at any time and please report any problems.

Matters arising:

- 1. Police.** EG & DK had a meeting with Inspector O'Conner. She is strongly for Community officers attending meetings as it was beneficial. Dates have to be sent to try to ensure there are officers attending. No police numbers are reduced. The loading bay at Scotmid is being reviewed. It was emphasized that the more calls the police get for the same complaint they will do something about it. Although no traffic warden is present, the police will be more stringent.
- 2. BMX track –**
 - As agreed at the last meeting it was suggested we give the 'club' cash but they have to submit receipts to us first. The insurance is for membership to the governing body. After discussion with them, it was agreed that this would be very helpful. Some parents are being very supportive and may be willing to become involved.
 - Chris Hoy is really busy and won't be here in the near future so, we have agreed to try and get him in the spring as he is still keen to come.
 - Children from two Edinburgh Primary Schools had approached the club to find out more about BMX, after visiting the track and trying it were very impressed and keen to get one in Edinburgh. It has been agreed that we should perhaps visit some schools in West Lothian and encourage them to try the sport. It has also been suggested that the wee 4x4 remote control cars as they do not damage the track.
 - There is a need for more crushed blaes as the last layer keeps breaking through due to the construction. Cllr Calder has spoken to CB about it.
 - There have been a couple of accidents mainly through lack of attention to warnings.
 - The track does not need widened but it does require some modification to it.
 - The track is being well used as is the adult equipment in the park.
- 3. Canal Tow Paths:** Scottish Canals cannot use the community pay back team. L. McB. is awaiting word from the Council Legal Department.
Action: Cllr Calder will contact TW.
- 4. Old Town Centre roof.** The flashing has been screwed down but will have it redressed.

5. **Old School:** The tenders are out to contractors and when there are more definite dates we will be told about it and given any other information.
6. **Old Town Centre:** As previously stated Cllr TB has stated that money is available for this project. It would be beneficial to be told where this is coming from. We have 4 sets of plans for the back and the thoroughfare, submitted by Oatridge College Students and they are being considered, but there will have to be some contact made with council as well. It was generally agreed that lighting requires to be addressed. It is hoped that other proprietors will become involved in this project as it will improve their premises as well. The students are very keen to use recycled materials. Suitable plants have also been suggested for the area. For safety there has to be something done to the area. The area needs to be tiered as it is too steep and small for ramps. Town Centre Management may also be able to assist this project. It is suggested that we have a joint meeting before this is taken forward. When talking to the owners it has to be clear that they are not contributing financially. **DK will contact Cllr TB. and invite GC. to meet us.**
7. **Broxburn Gala Day committee.**
 - AGM has been re-arranged for 7th November, place and time to be announced. To date it has not been advertised in the papers.
 - The Ball which was to raise funds for the Gala Day was held on the 26th October in The Club. This was very poorly supported, thank you the 30 or so who did attend. Auction prizes were not taken – a barge for children for Santa at Xmas will be taken to the local nurseries to see if they will contribute as it is worth £300:00. Gallon of whiskey also not auctioned.
 - Once again the Gala Day committee is fragile and local support is needed if you want the Gala day to continue. Differences need to be put aside for the sake of our children in the community.
8. **Christmas tree:** At present this has been abandoned as many feel the cost of £2,125:00 (including tree, lights and erection) for the first year and it will drop by £500 thereafter, is not justified. It is felt by some that it could be sourced more economically locally. **Action Cllr DC.**
9. **Road closure for Hopeton House Fireworks.** From 3pm to 9pm on the 2nd November. This is at Abercorn.
10. **Community Council Inaugural meeting.**
 - We need to appoint new office bearers. It was agreed EG will be co-opted on. If anybody retires in the four year period, we can only co-opt two new members.
 - We will also hold our AGM on Thursday 25th November. Only urgent business will be dealt with and if anything important arises we can call a special meeting.

Planning applications:

- Dobbies have an application for 3 external hoardings signs.
- Station Road 9; Applicant has to have a full Flood Risk Assessment Report done.

Question from the floor:

- A local resident who moved into Broxburn over 5 years ago alerted us to an article which appeared in several newspapers concerning "the top 50 crap towns" ie the worst places to live in. As Broxburn appeared in this article he felt that this was a slur on the town and something should be done to respond to it. Everyone at the meeting felt the same about this and Councillor D Calder said she would take this up with WLC. The article could have been written in *response to effect of the demise of VION on the area.*

Action Cllr DC

- Member of the public had complained that their child was almost run over by a motorbike along the canal path at the back of the BMX track. Police have been informed. It is hard to find a barrier that would be suitable for bikes, pedestrians and to stop motorbikes. There are bikers every weekend up the tip and the police are aware of them and where they park as they are not from this area. It was suggested again that the council could build a track and charge for it, but it was felt it would not cover the cost of insurance.

Next meeting
Inaugural Meeting and AGM.
Monday 25th November 2013.
Old Town Centre, Broxburn
At 7pm.

www.broxburncc.org.uk

NB The meetings are recorded for purpose of the minutes unless someone wants to discuss a personal problem in which case it may be switched off if requested.

CC = Community Council.

GD =Gala Day

Ref: DK/RM/TR

Broxburn Community Council
September/October 2013

Between 1st September 2013 and October 26th Police attended 471 calls to Broxburn that resulted in the following.

During September 46 crimes were reported in the Broxburn area, of which 19 have been solved to date, which gives a solvency rate of 41% for the month. This year to date figures are as follows, a total of 290 crimes have been reported of which 145 have been solved giving a solvency rate of 50%. The previous years figures for 2012 were 267 reported crimes with 125 having been solved giving a solved rate of 48%

As can be seen reported crime is up on 2012 by 11% on the previous years figures, and solvency is also up 2% on last year.

September

During the month a number of both garages and garden sheds were broken into. A number of bicycles and tools were stolen from within.

I am pleased to announce that 2 males were traced by Police through a large number of lengthy enquiries and put before the Livingston Sheriff Court. One of the suspects is currently on remand for his part in this crime series, where he is currently awaiting his court trial.

During the month there was also a spate of lead roofing materials being stolen. These occurred at residential properties within East Main Street, West Main Street, Goschen Place, Union Road and West Burnside. Local scrap metal merchants were checked following each and every incident with a negative result.

The theft of Lead remains high throughout Scotland due to its high price when scrapped.

October

*** This has been a particularly busy month with a number of Housebreakings reported to both residential and commercial properties in the town. These include the following**

7th October

Unknown persons have stolen a quantity of foodstuffs from a lockup to the rear of "Coffee Express" on East Main Street.

13th October

A property within Parklands was broken into on the evening of the 13th October by forcing open the backdoor. Once inside the unknown person/persons have carried out a search of the bedrooms and stolen a quantity of jewellery from within. Police are currently investigating this incident and are believed to be following a number of positive lines of enquiry.

15th October

A container belonging to West Lothian Council was broken into over night and a quantity of Hi Viz jackets and tools were stolen from within. At the time of the incident the container was situated at the junction of West Park Grove and Wyndford Avenue.

Regards

Vince Manning, Broxburn Police Station, West Main Street, Broxburn

Tel 01506 852121

Non emergency 101

Emergency 999

Email - vincent.manning@scotland.pnn.police.uk