**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEEETING No 26 OF 6th OCTOBER 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**. Brian Johnstone - Chair, Catherine Brown, Dean Swift

**GUESTS** PC John McLean, Councillor Anne McMillan, Richard Lever, Georgie Hume, Vera Turnbull, Jo Rule, Janice Baxter, Pam Scott, Ben McCosh.

1. **APOLOGIES** Apologies from Alan Nicholson, Carole Robertson, Margaret McQueen and Gordon Pennykid.
2. **MINUTE APPROVAL.** The draft minute of meeting 25 on 1st Seprember 2016 was approved by Vera Turnbull and seconded by Richard Lever.
3. **MATTERS ARISING** These will be covered in the report from Chair and agenda items
4. **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR**

***Buchanan Gardens Update*** Central should complete demolition this week and move off site. Barratt will move in soon and expect to start work by early November although they have not as yet appointed their site manager. So unless or until there are any noteworthy items this topic will now be dropped off our agenda.

***Stadium Housing.*** Planning consent for both sites was granted in June. 20 homes on one and 17 on the other. There are some road and infrastructure details to be finalised but Sandy Ross at WLC expects a site start around March 2017. Again unless or until there are any noteworthy items this topic will now be dropped off our agenda.

***Health matters.*** St Johns continues to try and recruit to ensure the reported 24/7 continuation of Paediatric services. Staffing rota is sound until January 17 and hopefully after that more staff will make matters more secure. NHS Lothian’s Public annual review is in the afternoon of Monday 10th October in Waverley Gate – anyone can attend - so go and state your mind! The press is reporting further budget cuts. Next NHS/Community Council Meeting in St Johns will be Monday 8th November – Brian will attend and report back. St Johns are mounting an Occupational Health Roadshow in Howden Park Centre on the same day from 10:00 to 15:00.

Anne MacMillan confirmed the St Johns status and stated that there was some risk for the continuation of children’s clinics but this would be closely monitored. Anne asked for feedback on the appointment difficulties at Carmondean medical centre. There were only 2 from the meeting both of a complimentary nature - not criticism.

***Update from the Local Area Committees.(LACs)*** These meet 3 monthly and we are served by both wards. So Brian attended the North meeting on 15th September and the South one on 30th September. Format is generally similar with the following key reports – Police Update, Fire Service Update, Housing report, Operational Services Report, Pensioners Groups Christmas Funding, Regeneration Update and Plans. The South Meeting in addition had 2 presentations – 0ne from the Head Teacher of James Young High School and one from Ted Finch and Michelle Kirkbright on the Livingston Parkrun. One common rising statistic in the Police report was for Youth and ASB calls – more in our police report below. Brian gave a quick summary for some of the reports. In response to a question on the regeneration report. The new framework restricts regeneration plans to key areas and for us that is Livingston Central which comprises Knightsridge, Ladywell and Dedridge. On the Parkrun this is a 5K open event at 9:30am each and every Saturday starting and finishing at the Civic Centre and routes via our parkland on both sides of the river and can be run *or walked* by all age groups (the walk taking just short of an hour) The average number taking part is 185.

***Village Square*** The earlier suggestion to plant bulbs in the 2 planters will be actioned. Brian and Cath will clear the planters of summer bedding plants when dead and deliver a selection of daffodil, narcissi and tulip bulbs to Dean who with Shona’s help - hopefully - will fill the planters. Bright red phone box is looking good!

***Bus transport.*** Brian had set the ball rolling to try and get some bus people to the November meeting WLC, First Bus and Horsburgh will be contacted .

**5** **PLANNING LISTS & PLANNING ITEMS NOT COVERED BY REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR**

***Planning Lists.*** Since previous meeting the weekly lists totalled 27 pages and covered 70 planning applications. There was only one local item – a change of use from offices to a Gym in the Kaims area, Brian had circulated this to neighbouring parties for comment and got none so left it alone to find its way through the system without representation from LVCC.

***Barratts at Old Cousland Road.*** On Behalf of Mrs Mc Cosh Brian had followed up on the housing application in Kirkton North beside Old Cousland Road. LVCC had made an initial representation to the PAC in November 2015 and a second representation in February 2016. Since then WLC had rejected the plans and were in discussion with Barratt for a revised plan with less houses. Brian this week spoke with both WLC and Barratt. WLC expect education to be a stumbling block and there is also a difficulty with SEPA over a culverted water course through the site so Wendy feels we are a long way from an agreed plan. Barratt seem more upbeat and expect a resubmission before the end of the year. As LVCC we will put this back on our agenda for regular updating and participation.

***Housing at Former Kirkton Business Centre.*** The progress of completing the legal section 75 agreement seems to have stalled with the owner Mr Hus now questioning the need for school extension. Brian surmises there may be a hiccup with the owner’s sale to the house builder since the preferred name of Crudens seems to have disappeared. More next month

***Garages at 44/45 Kirkfield East.*** Brian had instigated a planning enforcement officers visit to these. As a consequence a resident had received a written report which contains the following:-“ I*t was noted the garages have been completed to a very high standard …. with no plumbing installations. Therefore we are satisfied that the garages will not be used as a residential property. I can therefore confirm that no planning breach has occurred.”* So unless or until there are any observed material matter/changes on site, or a change of use planning application appears on our weekly lists then this topic will now be dropped off our agenda. Jo Rule wished that thanks be noted to Brian for assisting in this matter.

**6 POLICE REPORT**

PC John McLean one of our Community Ward Officers attended and reported as follows.

The stats as reported to LACs did indeed show increases and look bad, however some of this can be attributed to increases in crime reporting. John urged us all to call in – no matter how trivial the offence - so that it is recorded and if trends demand specific actions will be taken. If possible take photos - but always be safe in such action to avoid any nasties. There would appear to be a gang culture associated MacDonalds so Police are assisting staff with preventative actions and attending regularly. There had been a case of car vandalism in Kirk lane. Police after our request at the last meeting carried out a traffic report relative to activities at school start and close times - during the study there had been no incidents and the report would now work its way through Police hierarchy. This prompted a discussion on the angled parking in the layby. Many thought the width should be restricted to a single car width so that drop off and only parallel parking could be done. Brian would send a message to this effect to the road safety team. A further aid to traffic movement at the south end of Kirk Lane was tabled since this T junction has no white lines to assist in prioritising movements round the corners. Again Brian would raise this with the roads section

**7 NEWS & UPDATES FROM ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

Councillor MacMillan had earlier made comment on health matters and these are recorded above.

**8 TREASURERS REPORT** Carole could not attend but reported current balance is £364.73.

**9** **WEB & IT MATTERS** No report since Margaret had sent in apologies**.**

**10** **SECRETARIAL MATTERS** The LVCC email in box had received 16 relevant message and a host of social media items. There were 5 invites to meetings on Engaging, Equality, Fairer Scotland, Living Streets and LACs. Brian only attended the LACs. 3 consultations which we did not participate in on Airspace, Health Impact Assessments and Linlithgow Public Realm. There are 2 items which will be dealt with under AOCB

**11**  **AOCB**

On ***local shops*** Sainsbury had gone quiet so Brian had rewritten to them and also written to Asda, Morrison, Tesco and Waitrose. Hopefully some responses by next meeting.

***Student Dissertation***. A local lad studying at Glasgow Uni had requested an interview with Brian to assist his dissertation on Communities so Brian will contact him and answer his questionnaire.

***Livingston Village Community Education Centre Association LVCECA***. Brain had attended the AGM for this on 23rd September and joined its committee as an ordinary member with a view to sharing ideas between the 2 committees**.**

***SES plan***. A consultation on this the bigger plan for the South East of Scotland area was open from 13th October to 24th November with drop in session in Civic Centre on Thursday 3rd November. Brian would attend and bring any relevant items to our meeting on the same date.

***Overhanging tree branches to gardens backing onto Cousland Road.*** Pam Scott again raised this matter and reported a growing number of dissatisfied residents. Brian would reopen discussions with the WLC tree specialist

Vera Turnbull added some other points for our ***bus discussion*** relative to the poor weather protection for the street that purports to be a bus station and the lack of any office or staff to assist with travel questions.

Janice Baxter raised the safety issue of **cars** ***driving through the bus lanes*** in breach of the signage. This prompted a discussion on bus gates, improved signage, flashing signs, cameras and fines as Edinburgh, policing. Brain would add this to the letters to WLC roads team

**12** **NEXT MEETING** Next meeting will be on **Thursday 3rd November at 7:00 pm** in the function room of Livingston Inn.

*Brian D Johnstone*

*14/10/16*