**LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING No 32 4th May 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**. Brian Johnstone - Chair, Catherine Brown, Dean Swift, Margaret McQueen [4]

**GUESTS** Richard Fish of Cyrenians, PC Alan McMahon, Richard Lever, Georgie Hume, Eric Mitchell, Alan Strachan. [6]

1. **APOLOGIES** Apology received from Carole Robertson. Since all elected councillors tenure ceased last night there are none available to attend today – local election day
2. **MINUTE APPROVAL.** The previous meeting minute no 31 for 6th April 2017 was approved by Alan Strachan and seconded by Dean Swift.
3. **MATTERS ARISING** These will be covered in the report from Chair and agenda items.
4. **PRESENTATION** Richard Fish a group coordinator with the Cyrenians gave a presentation on the various different services provided by them. Help is particularly aimed at those who are excluded from family, home, work or community. Help can be on a one to one basis or within groups – either is tailored to the need. The specific area focused tonight is OPAL – Older People, Active lives. Typical features are telephone befriending, accompanying and introduction to groups or activities, support to build confidence. Most of the assistance comes from volunteers but there are full time staff. Richard explained that new volunteers are always needed and that no special skills are required for many of the helping hand actions and training will be given. Brian thanked Richard for attending and his informative chat to deliver the message of how Cyrenians can help.
5. **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR**

***Consultation om Policing 2026.*** As agreed at last meeting Brian had circulated a draft submission on the Police consultation and had received couple of responses from residents which will be combined into the submission. Brian asked if the meeting wanted to add anything more - nothing was proposed and the meeting agreed that Brian proceeds to lodge the submission before the 8th May deadline.

***Consultation on Unconventional Oil and Gas extraction including Fracking.*** Again as agreed at last meeting Brian had circulated a draft submission on the Fracking consultation which amounted to 5 pages. He received 4 responses from residents which will be combined into the submission. Brian asked if the meeting wanted to add anything more - nothing was proposed and the meeting agreed that Brian proceeds to lodge the submission before the end of May deadline.

***Health*** All medical centres and hospitals are struggling for a variety of reasons and the whole health situation is becoming a political issue to all parties. This is very concerning but here seems little that LVCC can do. Brian will attend the next joint NHS Lothian /Community Council meeting on Monday 29th May and will report back at our meeting on 1st June.

***Update on actions by the Chair since last meeting.*** Brian tackled the above-mentioned consultations. On the Airport Flight Path consultation he was contacted to support an open letter challenging the validity and complexities of this massive 900 page document and that the consultation contained flaws. Brian added our name to support the challenge. On buses Brian got a response from Scottish Bus Users which had been circulated to all on our e mail list. This had intimated there are now increased services and there would be an event soon in Livingston with WLC, bus operators and user groups - so watch this space for dates and venue. From the meeting compliments were forthcoming on the excellent punctuality of the 21 service and also the good hospital bus services. These favourable comments would be passed back to Greig at Bus Users. Brian had contacted various parties on compostable packaging, parking in Meickle Road, tree belt clearing, and pavement restrictions in Kaims Grove - so far with mixed results.

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

***Weekly Planning Lists.***  Since our last meeting the lists totalled 85 applications. Nothing of concern the LVCC area – just interest – extension to Aldi, B&Q split was approved and Matalan noted as one of the new tenants, also a possible Sports Direct store and Gym

***Barratts Cousland Road.***  Although not proceeding to buy the site Barratt still want to obtain planning approval. WLC have asked for a site discussion with LVCC present on tree retention before progressing the application any further. So far Barratt have not responded and the ball is in their court.

***Housing at former Kirkton Business Centre.*** The WLC case officer is reviewing the situation with regard to the contribution for a school extension with the new head of education within the council. This at the site owner’s request for a reduced contribution. There are indications that a housebuilder may now be interested.

***Preplanning consultation on proposed housing at Hunters Road by Persimmon.*** The negotiations between the site owner and the potential housebuilder, Persimmon, are still continuing before a start date is announced for the long awaited public consultation. We understand the WLC case officer has written indicating some concern at the time lapse since first raised last December – so perhaps this will spur things on. ( Post meeting note;- the LVCC request for enhanced site security, following the theft of one set of the entrance gates, has been responded to with the addition of heavyweight concrete blocks at both roads into the site. In answer to a resident’s question on the pond – it has not been filled in and still exists as a habitat.

**7. POLICE REPORT** PC Alan McMahon stated that the stats did show huge percentage increases (159%) in youth antisocial behaviour but this should be read cautiously not with alarm since a jump from 3 incidents to 5 computes as 166%. Both local officers attended an evening incident in the park where a group had congregated around a burning wheelie bin. The youths scattered but later it was established they were not all local but came from a widespread hinterland – this prompted the speculation that they could all be linked to St Margaret’s. A lot of police time had been taken up with the Broxburn Orange Walk. Police were monitoring the travelling people who had moved on from Old Cousland Road but some had re-appeared at the Centrex site after smashing through concrete bollards. The building itself had been broken into and a vast amount of electrical cabling stolen.

**8 TREASURERS REPORT** Carole could not make the meeting so no report. However no spend or receipt since last month so balance should still be £614.73.

**9** **WEB & IT MATTERS** Margaret did not give any update on the status but offered some sound advice to try and prevent becoming a victim of scams, cons and other devious email take on home computers. If anything looks odd in an email do not reply , do not open any attachment, do not use any embedded link.

**10** **SECRETARIAL MATTERS** Since the last meeting the LVCC email in box had received 9 relevant messages and a host of social media items. 3 related to the airport consultation; 3 concerned our insurances to cover all our community council liabilities; 2 were the manifestos for SNP and Labour relative to today’s election and finally one invited attendance at the Bathgate Scottish Women’s Convention on 26th May – there were no takers at the meeting. Brian’s own e mail took 40 incoming messages relating to LVCC and he sent out 31

**11**  **AOCB**

Brian was on site at **Buchanan Gardens** earlier today speaking with Andrew, the site manager. He is driving the construction forwards to first occupations in late June 2017. The whole contract is a continuous build of 2.5 years from January 2017 to July 2019. We now have an updated phasing drawing showing the planned movement across the site.

The topic of **underage persons** getting **drink** by using “friendly” adults to do the purchasing was raised as a concern as was the irresponsible shop owners stocking drinks specifically marketed toward the young drinkers. Next step here ???

**12 NEXT MEETING** Our next meeting is **Thursday 1st June 2017at 7:00 pm** in the function room of Livingston Inn.

*Brian D Johnstone*

*11/05/17*