

LIVINGSTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Newsletter from the Chair (Brian Johnstone) – November 2020

I thought since we cannot hold normal meetings that a short newsletter from me would provide some updating snippets and spur others to get active. There is no priority order to the items.

Building works in the Village.

Persimmon report that they will complete the houses by the end of 2020 and just have snagging items to deal with next year.

Muir Construction report their target completion for the nursing home is May 2021

So by next summer this area of the village will cease to look like a construction site and contractors traffic should disappear.

Outstanding WLC Repair Works.

Remedial works to prevent flooding of the footpath from Kirkfield East to the main road are nearing completion by both WLC and BT.

The footpath between Kaims Brae and Kaims Gardens has had some remedial work completed to get rid of the trip hazard bumps and cracks caused by the roots of the overgrown trees in the adjacent private woodland belt.

None of us has had any success in getting the private owners of these woodland zones to carry out felling or other maintenance. I have exhausted all the contacts I have without going legal at high cost.

Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian

This is flourishing thanks to a strong Chair and Secretary and active executive committee. The forum now has regular feedback from a high percentage of the 34 active community councils in West Lothian. A newsletter is produced each month and runs often to more than 20 pages. I have started to circulate this to all of you in our CC team. Any feedback from you would be appreciated. This forum has active sub group forums for each of the following topics. Health, Planning, Police, Transport, Environment. Dean Swift now attends the Planning Forum and has recently brought back a questionnaire for our completion. I will help here since I have some experience with the planning aspects of our area.

Margaret McQueen.

Margaret has been active in attending to our social media conversations and fielding the questions that come to us via this route. At the moment she is talking with the above joint forum to establish a page for LVCC on the forum's website and to link this to our own website and social media.

Health Reports.

Ian Buchanan is a busy man attending lots of the many health related meetings on health and he, for the forum, produces a lengthy monthly Health Report. Again I have started to circulate this to you all. Again let me have any feedback you have on this.

Jacqueline Conway

Jackie has been a very busy lady working both as a team member of LVCC and as the Chair of the Livingston Village Gala day Committee which is affiliated to LVCC now.

During the lockdown her Gala team organised for villagers to paint stones to depict the challenges being faced and for accompanying stories. It is planned to have these stones mounted around the north edge of our Village "Square". Funds are being sought for this now that the long saga of establishing who owns the land has given us the owners name and she can seek approving permission.

She has organised procurement of new Christmas Tree Lights which will be sited by early December although there will probably not be the usual carol singing light up event.

She has applied for further funds to procure some implements to assist in village clean up activities. Having adopted the annual Pensioners Christmas Lunch from LVCECA the Gala team is organising hampers for the first 60 applicants

Village Planters

This year Dean Swift bought the summer bedding plants and along with Shona McKenzie and Jackie Conway did the June planting. My thanks to them. The planters formed the platform for the village children's Halloween Pumpkin display - again organised by JC and her Gala Team

Remembrance Service.

There will be no church and churchyard service in the usual format. Nelu Balaj, the minister is arranging a virtual version and is going to video the wreath layers doing their bit at the memorial. I went to the Earl Haig Poppy Factory, purchased our wreath and was part of the laying exercise on Thursday 05/11/20 .

Planning Matters

Most of these items are for the Kaims and Kirkton South part of our area.

Hunter Road. After many meetings and discussions a plan that suited best the local residents was tabled at last week's Development Management Meeting with LVCC supporting the proposal. The matter was deferred to a subsequent meeting after a technicality about vehicle numbers was tabled for the junction with Kirkton Road South.

Johnson & Johnsons (Ethicon) site (4 Simpson Parkway). The developer who held a public exhibition and consultation back in March has not yet submitted any planning application for his proposed housing. Meantime Fleet services submitted an application for fencing and vehicle storage on the same site but has now withdrawn that. WLC are now exploring the current storage of cars on site as a breach of planning regulations

No 1 Simpson Parkway. The earlier outline planning application for housing here was refused by WLC. The developer appealed to the Scottish Government and their reader has found in their favour so the original housing proposals for this site will be approved once a section 75 agreement is signed – probably January 2021.

Gregory Road. This got a planning approval in principal for housing well over a year ago . Just last week a detailed application has now been lodged. I will respond to this by the given deadline.

Glen Turner Distillery have written to us with 2 large expansion plans for their site in Starlaw Rod.

Although not in our patch they seem to want our opinions so I will deal with their initial consultation

Funding

We are chasing for quite a bit of funding.

Application has been made to Persimmon for one of their monthly neighbourhood donations.

Muir construction have offered to donate funds for our summer bedding plants for 2021

Funds have been secured for the Christmas Tree lights

WLC Town Centre fund is again open and £6,425 has been allocated to Livingston Village. JC and I will be making an application for some of this before the deadline of 22nd November.

An application has been lodged with Gemma Telfer of WLC for a share of the pensioner's Christmas Fund to pay for the hampers.

**If you have any questions or items to raise please contact me at
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