

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 13 OCTOBER 2016
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Ron Skirving, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Nick Lansdell, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; PC Alan James

Apologies: Arthur Marris, Kevin Kerr, Carol Hallesy, Alex Hendry; PC Alan Hodge

Residents: Roger Harper

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 8 September 2016:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 8 September was proposed by Lorna Cooper and seconded by Tania Armstrong. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Community Policing:

PC Alan James gave a short report.

The monthly crime stats for Livingston South ward were outlined.

Car owners are warned that catalytic converters have been dismantled and stolen from cars in the area.

5. Finances:

Ron Skirving reported.

The administrative grant of £465 covering the year to 31 March 17 has been credited to the bank account, taking the bank balance to £1,850.

6. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave a report.

The Council will be installing a new bus stop at the western approach to Murieston Medical Practice as the nearest stop is currently at the station.

Electronic displays at the bus station at the Centre will be operating from the end of October.

Mrs. Dawe has been appointed as depute head teacher at Williamston Primary.

The issues with school buses at James Young School have now been resolved.

The educational attainment at James Young School is now classed Excellent.

ScottishPower are digging up Murieston Road to replace the broken power cable.

The work to install the pedestrian pavement under the rail bridge will take 8 weeks, during which time vehicles will be controlled by traffic lights.

The ongoing electrification work on the Shotts line will cause some disruption to train timetable from October to December.

A tree was cut down close to the School by West Lothian Council as it was considered necessary for safety reasons.

Nick Lansdell asked when the hedges on the public footpath at Murieston Village Hall would be trimmed back. Councillor Fitzpatrick confirmed this work would be done soon.

The Council has now painted white lines across driveway entrances to denote no parking in response to complaints from residents in East Bankton Place that cars are blocking driveway entrances at the school start and end times.

Signs are being erected on Murieston Trail to advise riders on clearing up after horse fouling.

Councilor Fitzpatrick has visited the new 30 flat Rosemount Gardens complex, which will offer assisted living for older people close to the heart of Bathgate. As well as facilities solely for residents, the public are welcome to use the shared facilities in the complex including the atrium café, restaurant, garden, multi-purpose rooms and hairdressers.

Lawrence has also attended McMillan Coffee Mornings in Murieston and Bellsquarry.

A new contract has been started to clean Murieston Village Hall. Current room booking arrangements are being reviewed.

The Du Beau Hair and Beauty Salon in Bankton Centre is winner of the Best Scottish Hair Salon in the Scotland Business Awards 2016.

7. **Murieston Environmental Group (MEG)** - <http://meg.btck.co.uk> :
Nothing to report this month/.
8. **Broadband Rollout :**
Ian Brown reported.
Virgin Media have confirmed they will be cabling Birrell Gardens and Bankton Avenue in 2017.
Ian will contact Kyle Dodd from Virgin Media for an update on their plans for infrastructure work.
Tania Armstrong asked about whether the barriers placed at Livingston Cricket Club would be removed now as the cabling work in Murieston Valley has been completed. Chris Dryden said he will enquire.
9. **Murieston Local History Group :**
Nothing to report.
10. **Windfarms:**
Nothing to report.
11. **Community Website** - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk
Ron Skirving reported.
Ron has added a new Dialogue page on the website. The stated aim of this section is to provide fresh and different perspectives that might create further discussion about the role and possibilities for Community Councils. The discussion is hosted on the Scottish Community Councillors Development Network Knowledge Hub group, KHub - <http://www.khub.net> .
12. **Community Noticeboard:**
Chris Dryden and Ian Brown will be considering options to purchase and erect a new community noticeboard in the vicinity of the station.
13. **Community Benefits Trust:**
Ian Brown reported.
The online consultation on murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk website has indicated approval for a community benefits trust in Murieston.
The CC Executive have prepared a set of suggested Questions and Answers as a guide to the proposal for a community benefits trust. Ian circulated the Q and A sheet. These FAQs will be put on the community council website. The public will be invited to respond by early November and a formal proposal will be put before the November meeting for a decision on whether to proceed.
14. **Community Garden and Allotments:**
Ian Brown reported that a site visit with Council representatives would be arranged soon to consider options.
15. **Health and Social Care:**
Nothing to report.
As our representative, June Keddie has moved from Murieston there is now a vacancy on the Community Council for a new representative.
16. **Planning Applications:**
Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting before discussion on this and subsequent business on the agenda.
Ian Brown reported on the current position on planning appeals by developers.
A Reporter has been allocated to decide the appeal against the refusal of the planning application for Murieston Castle (0355/P/15), but a decision is not expected soon. Bellsquarry and Murieston Community Councils have both submitted letters of objection.
No Reporter has been allocated yet to determine the appeal against the Council's decision to refuse the Wellhead Farm planning application (0918/P/15).
17. **Local Development Plan:**
The SESPlan Proposed Strategic Development Plan has now been published for public consultation up to 24 November. SESPlan officers are holding an open day at the Civic Centre on 3 November. Chris Dryden confirmed that the CC Executive will meet to discuss and formulate our response.
18. **Correspondence:**
The Secretary circulated the autumn edition of the Spokes cycling newsletter.
19. **Any Other Business:**

Christmas dinner has been booked at the Terrace Restaurant, West Lothian College on 1 December for the community councillors at personal expense.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 10 November 2016 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School