

LOANHEAD & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 11th December 2018 in Loanhead Library.

In attendance: Annabel Hamilton, Charles Hamilton, Councillor Pauline Winchester, John Thomson, Pat Kenny, Daya Feldwick, Norma Bews, David Temple, Jack Aitchison, Adam Armit, Sheila Murray, Ben Shore, Peter Frame, Grant Stanley, Gina Temple and PC Graham Black.

Police Report: PC Black reported that there were 91 recorded crimes in November, 36 solved, and 223 calls to the police. The full crime report is appended to these Minutes.

1. **Apologies:** None.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting** were approved by Annabel Hamilton, seconded by Peter Frame.

3. **Matters Arising:**

- Gina reported on the Licensing Committee meeting re the proposed Vehicle Dismantling Facility in Engine Road. Four objections had been made against this proposal, but the applicant, Mrs McVey, had only been given access to one of these. The legal officer ruled that as she had not had the opportunity to see the other objections in order to make her case, that the decision be postponed until the next meeting in January to allow her time to do this.
- Gina reported that council officers have now been out to inspect the car lot on the corner of Engine Road/Clerk Street but we have not yet received their response yet.

4. **Planning Applications**

The following new applications were discussed and Annabel agreed to go and look at the sites and report back.

- 18/00901/S50. Iceland Foods applying for a planning certificate at 2A Straiton Mains, Loanhead.
- 18/00913/CL Deanway Development Ltd applying for a certificate of lawfulness for a proposed use (servicing, maintenance and cleaning of buses) at 7B Pentland Industrial Estate, Loanhead.
- 18/00925/DPP. Sipp (Pension Trustees) Ltd., applying for consent to install roller shutters doors, formation of door and window openings at 7 Pentland Industrial Estate, Loanhead.
- 18/00777/DPP. Braeside Road Planning Application. The applicant Mr. Armit attended the meeting. He had previously written to the CC asking that we correct the statement in our planning objection "*As the application is to create 3 dwellings (and possibly parking for at least 6 vehicles) on this plot.*" He said this was inaccurate as the application is to create one new dwelling as there are already two dwellings on the site, one of which would be extended slightly. He also thought it unfair that the CC had made an objection at all. In particular because there have been no recorded traffic accidents at this junction. Pat Kenny explained that it was part of the CC remit to look at all planning applications and to make representation on behalf of the community. In this case the objection was based on the access on to the busy A768 road. If the potential traffic hazard can be resolved, then it would be up to the Planning Department and Councillors to ensure that the proposed development was consistent with the requirements of the conservation area. The meeting to discuss this will be on 18th January 2019.

5. **Correspondence.**

- Pat reminded the meeting that comments on the Draft of the Housing Development in the Countryside and Green Belt Supplementary Guidance runs until Friday 18th January 2019. Comments should be made at: http://midlothian-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/planningpolicy/supplementary_guidance/draft_housing_in_the_countryside_supplementary_guidance

- The additional disabled parking bays in Hunter Terrace, Mavisbank, Mayburn Avenue and Station Road were noted, any comments to be made by 10 December 2018.
- The email from Sheildhill and California Community Council re Unconventional Oil and Gas Extraction was noted. As no one on the CC has expert knowledge of this, Pat suggested we should remain neutral. However, Daya and Gina said they were against UOG.
- The road closure of Polton Bank between Polton Cottages and Stevenson Place for 3 weeks from 3rd December 2018 for SGN mains renewal work was noted.

6. Any other Competent Business

- Midlothian Council is projecting a budget deficit of £7.9 Million for the year 2019-2020. Currently their estimated income will be made up from 23% Council Tax and 73% Scottish Government Funding. Their calculations assume a 3% rise in Council Tax and additional council tax revenue from the new housing developments and developer contributions have been factored into these figures. The big challenge for this Council are:
 - Population will increase from 90,090 to 100,410 by 2026
 - Number of school places will increase from 12,328 to 15,814 by 2026.
 - Number of people aged 65+ will increase from 16,392 to 20,236.
 - Number of people aged 75+ will increase from 6804 to 9565 by 2026.

The Council's estimate for 2019/20 is that they will need £211.8 million to provide key local services. By 2022/23 they estimate that this will increase to £238.8 million a shortfall of £39.1 million. The Council are already introducing charges for some services (e.g. brown bin collection) but this won't be enough to bridge the gap so they have to look again at charging for services to generate more income. The calculations have also taken into account suggestions made last year by the various communities. The new chief executive, Grace Vickers, is meeting with every department to get suggestions from them on how to reduce their costs, and the Council has asked for suggestions from local community groups to be made by mid January 2019. The Council will have to prioritise the services they provide and may need to reduce some services and possibly stop providing others. They cannot transfer money from the capital budget to the running costs. Each of the three political groups will also produce their proposed budgets by mid January

- Cllr Winchester said there was no new information on Mayburn House – most of the cars and the boat have been removed.
- Jack reported that traffic was overtaking on the wrong side of the keep left sign at the bad bend on Hawthorn Gardens where there are two bus stops opposite each other and the entrance. It was agreed to ask Traffic if there were any plans for this area

7. Date of next meeting: 8th January 2019 at 7.00 pm in Loanhead Library.



Criminal Activity November 2018

Beat Areas MW01 and MW03 – Loanhead & District



During the month of November in the beat areas of Loanhead & District there were 91 recorded crimes reported, of which 36 were solved. During this time period there were 223 calls to police.

Incidents of Note

- About 2.30am on 2/11/2018 a marked police vehicle parked on Kennington Avenue, Loanhead had its window smashed by unknown person. Police enquiries are ongoing.

- About 3pm on 2/11/2018 a group of youths attended at Loanhead Library where they proceeded to vandalise some furniture within. Police enquiries ongoing.
- About 8.00pm on 2/11/2018 at McDonalds, Straiton, Loanhead a teenage girl was responsible for breaking a table by standing on it. A short time later a car parked on Mayburn Loan, Loanhead was damaged. A 15 year old girl has since be charged with both vandalisms and a report submitted to the Children's Reporter.
- About 4pm on 6/11/2018 police stopped and searched a male on McNeill Avenue, Loanhead where a quantity of illegal drugs were found in his possession. A 24 year old male was arrested and charged with a number of drug offences and held in police custody for his appearance at Edinburgh Sheriff Court.
- Between 7th and 8th November numerous attempts were made to tender counterfeit money at shops at Straiton Retail Park.
- About 10.30pm on 13/11/2018 it was discovered that a number of buses parked at a garage on the Loan, Loanhead had been damaged.
- About 9.50am on 15/11/2018 it was discovered that a car parked outside a property on Park Crescent was stolen. Police enquiries are ongoing.
- About 11.50pm on 16/11/2018 police attended Straiton Retail Park and stopped a male within his car. A 21 year old male was subsequently charged with drug possession, namely cannabis and having no valid insurance in place on his car. The vehicle was seized by police.
- About 10.50am on 17/11/2018 police carried out a drug search warrant at an address on McNeill Terrace, Loanhead. A small quantity of controlled drugs, namely cannabis, was recovered.
- Overnight on 18/11/2018 a white van was stolen from outside a property on Park Avenue, Loanhead. Police enquiries are ongoing.
- About 9.20pm on 20/11/2018 police were called to Lawrie Terrace, Loanhead following a report of robbery by two males, one described 25-35 years old, 5'9", dark curly hair, beard, wearing all dark clothing. The other 25-35 years old, 5", blonde hair, clean shaven, light grey top and dark trousers. Police enquiries are ongoing.
- About 2.20pm on 21/11/2018 police were in attendance at an address on Lawrie Terrace, Loanhead. At this time two males were searched and found in possession of controlled drugs. A 38 year old male was charged with drug supply offences and another 38 year old male was charged with possession of a controlled drug.
- About 22.30pm on 22/11/2018 police were called to a disused property on Hawthorn Gardens, Loanhead after sounds of persons within could be heard. Police attended and traced two males with a large quantity of stolen goods in their possession. A 24 year old male and 31 year old male were both arrested and held in police custody for their appearance at Edinburgh Sheriff Court.
- About 11.30am on 26/11/2018 it was discovered that two tyres on a van parked on Mayburn Avenue, Loanhead had been slashed.
- About 8.50pm on 26/11/2018 a window of a property on Mayburn Avenue, Loanhead was broken by an unknown person.
- About 11pm on 29/11/2018 police stopped and searched two males on Station Road, Loanhead. An 18 year old male was issued with a recorded police warning for possession of cannabis.
- About 9pm on 30/11/2018 police were called to The Loan, Loanhead following reports of youths kicking cars. Police attended with no trace of the youths and no damage caused to cars.

If any person has any information about the incident(s) listed above, or indeed any other crime, please contact your Community Policing Officer

PC Graham Black via 101 or email:

LothianScotBordersPenicuikCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk