

Minutes of the Loanhead & District Community Council Meeting Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.00 pm in Loanhead Miners Welfare Club

In attendance: Annabel Hamilton, Charles Hamilton, John Thomson, Pat Kenny, Ruth Stephen, Norman Scott, Peter Frame, Jack Aitchison, Gina Temple, Richard Prenter, Cath Verdin, Rena Young, Tracey Bain, Andy Baillie, David Temple, David Brown, James Martin and Councillor Pauline Winchester.

1. **Apologies:** Paul Mephram and Russell Imrie.
2. **Minutes of 12th October 2021** – approved proposed by Peter Frame, seconded by David Temple.
3. **Matters arising:**
 - Railway line path repair still no response on this, Ruth Stephen to contact Mirabelle Maslin (Roslin CC) to see if she had received a response from Midlothian Council.
 - CCTV in Midlothian – no update.
 - Dog Fouling – no update.
 - Grit Bins – Norrie reported that large bins were to be installed but didn't yet know the location in Loanhead - the idea is that people will be able to collect grit from the large bins for personal use.
 - Dryden Terrace – no update. Pat Kenny to contact the Midlothian Advertiser to try and organise a Loanhead – wide survey on what should be done with this road. The Dryden Terrace residents have signed a petition to have it closed. However, it was suggested that businesses located on the industrial estate should also be asked for an opinion.
 - Hawthorn Gardens – Puffin Crossing. It transpires that the traffic survey was carried out between 12 – 20 March 2020 between 2.30 and 3.00 pm when traffic is relatively light. No account has been taken of the bus stop locations, traffic island, the narrow footpath outside 24 Hawthorn Gardens or the difficulties of traffic coming out of Mayshade Road. There was no public consultation on the location of the traffic lights. Colin Beattie's office had contacted Midlothian Council about this but received no satisfactory answers.

4. Heritage Trail Update

Ruth Stephen gave some background to the Heritage Trail which is being funded by all three councillors through the Participatory Budget Scheme. During lockdown when a lot of people were out walking in Loanhead, it was clear that there were not enough public benches for people to take a rest. It was also clear that a number of new residents were not aware of the mining heritage of the town or of the famous people who had been born here, or operated businesses here. Therefore, a Heritage Trail is being developed with benches in strategic locations, heritage plaques to commemorate famous people and a free-standing information board about coal mining will be placed at the entrance to the Bilston Glen industrial estate. A walking map is being developed and this will be available in paper form from the Loanhead Library and it is also hoped to develop this as an "app" for mobile phones. The project is well advanced and it is hoped to be in operation in 2022. Pat thanked Ruth for all the work she had put into the project.

5. MTRaP Update

Norrie was unable to attend the last meeting so had no further update, but the November meeting is next week and the topic will be "Roads and Lighting".

6. Any other competent business:

- The Small Grant Fund is now open for applications. Gina Temple suggested that an application could be made for a display cabinet for Loanhead Library to display the Loanhead Townhall robes and chains that used to be displayed in the old Library building.
- Andy Baillie commented on the faded white lines on George Avenue especially outside the new Paradykes Primary School.
- Lidl Premises Licence – no action required. Some discussion about the over proliferation of licenced premises in Loanhead took place, Councillor Winchester said that the Licensing Committee did take this into account when reaching a decision.
- Remembrance Day. There will be a full parade this year on Sunday 14th November 2021. Richard Prenter asked if the new railings had been installed yet – Pat Kenny undertook to find out what was happening but said that council workers had been on site this week.
- Canmore Court residents raised concerns about alarm systems, bin sheds and key boxes in private gardens. They have not been able to get satisfactory answers from the Council but as they are relatively new build it was not clear if Hart the builders had handed them over to the Council yet. Pauline Winchester said she would look into it.
- Loanhead Football Club – the perennial problem of “quagmire pitches” and lack of training facilities was discussed. Ruth asked if the Club could apply for any of the £205 Million government funding to improve football pitch development announced in the Budget. Colin Beattie’s office had received the same old responses from Midlothian Council that the facilities in Loanhead are adequate.
- It was suggested that the Community Council need to advertise what they do much better.
- Litter Picking – there is a group who regularly organise litter picks which are advertised on the Loanhead Facebook page.
- Community Land Fund. David Brown reported that funding is available to enable communities to buy out land and buildings for community use. He cited Maybum House as a possibility, however Councillor Winchester thought this building had recently been sold – and agreed to check this. She also mentioned that the former Loanhead police station will be used as Council offices. David agreed to forward details to the committee.

7. Planning

21/00846/CL 14 October 2021

Ms Kirstie McGuinness, 48 Ashgrove Gardens, Loanhead, EH20 9GA

Extension to dwelling house at 48 Ashgrove Gardens, Loanhead, EH20 9GA,

Ward: Midlothian West. Case Officer

21/00863/CL 19 October 2021

Mr Russell Kinnear, 6 Wheatfield Grove, Loanhead, EH20 9ND. Alteration to window opening at 6 Wheatfield Grove, Loanhead, EH20 9ND.

Ward: Midlothian West, Case Officer: Ms Jade Macmillan

21/00872/DPP 21 October 2021

Mr Lee Calder, 13 Wheatfield Walk, Straiton, EH20 9NF. Extension to dwelling house at 13 Wheatfield Walk, Loanhead, EH20 9NF

Ward: Midlothian West. Case Officer: Ms Alison Ewing

It was agreed that no action required on any of the above.

Pat Kenny reported on a joint meeting with Damhead, Roslin and Bilston Communities Councils, representatives from ASDA and ourselves re the proposed new Aldi Store on Old Pentland Road. All parties have objected to this planning proposal because of its location e.g. on prime agricultural land. There is no opposition to a new Aldi Store but it should be located on the current retail park or on land that is not designated as agricultural.