

LOANHEAD & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 8th August 2018 in Loanhead Library.

Pat Kenny welcomed everyone to the meeting.

In attendance: –Charles Hamilton, Annabel Hamilton, Ben Shore, Norma Bews, PC G. Black, Pat Kenny, Jack Aitchison and Gina Temple

Police Report: PC Black read out the Police Report for July: 61 recorded crimes, 18 solved, 234 calls to Police. The full report is appended to these minutes. There had been more problems with youths on the roofs at the residential home and the brick company.

1. **Apologies** – Peter Frame.
2. **Minutes from previous meeting** two corrections to the Minutes the date should have been 10th July (not June) and Peter Frame was complemented by the Council on how well the grounds around the Bayne Memorial were kept. Approved subject to these changes: proposer Ben Shore, seconder Charles Hamilton.
3. **Matters arising**
 - **Xmas Lights** Pat and Gina had met with the LCDA and other interested parties to discuss the Xmas Lights. The report on this meeting is attached to these minutes. The main conclusion was that a small community like Loanhead could not take over the task of raising funds to maintain Xmas Lighting.
4. **Planning Applications**

Pat Kenny read out the Planning Applications – full details in the Agenda papers.

 - 18/00463/DPP and 18/00464/ADV** both for Asda and remain within their current footprint.
 - 18/00469/MSC** Erection of 92 dwelling houses; formation of access roads and car parking and associated works (approval of matters specified in **condition 8** of planning permission 17/00273/S42) at Land between Loanhead Road and Edgefield Industrial Estate, Loanhead Road, Loanhead, ,
 - 18/00501/WTT** Felling of trees at 3 Aklam Path (Pentland Mobile Home Site).
 - 18/00529/DPP** Replacement of roofing and cladding materials at The Gardens Mavisbank.
 - 18/00556/MSC.** Erection of 92 dwelling houses; formation of access roads and car parking and associated works (approval of matters specified in **condition 6** of planning permission 17/00273/S42) at Land between Loanhead Road and Edgefield Industrial Estate, Loanhead Road, Loanhead,

It was agreed to find out what condition 6 and 8 were.

Note for information in the wider area.

18/00535/PPP The University of Edinburgh is an application for a residential development at Land North West of Moat View, Roslin.

18/00539/MSC Grange Estates (Newbattle) Ltd. is an application to erect 78 dwelling houses at land north of Dalhousie Dairy, Bonnyrigg.

18/00558/PAC Midlothian Council is an application to erect a community facility incorporating secondary and primary school, early learning and family learning provision, library, leisure and healthcare facilities, sports pitches and associated works at the former site of Monktonhall Colliery.

5. **Correspondence.** All correspondence was noted.
 - Attention was drawn to the Community Council Training Day on Saturday 6th October at the Lasswade Centre and members encouraged to sign up.
 - We have written to Garry Sheret asking for the football pitches alongside the Leisure Centre to be upgraded as a trade-off against a new MUGA within the old Paradykes school grounds.
6. **Any other Competent Business**
 - Gina was asked to get an update on Mayburn House.
 - Transport to Asda/Sainsburys for shopping – some residents from Harness Court have complained that they have to go on to the main street to get the bus.
 - Festival Acts – bill posting. Ben asked if these companies could be fined for posting bills everywhere.
 - Maurice McCann wants to set up a group to encourage more use of the Paradykes Facility. Pat Kenny happy to be involved at the outset looking for more volunteers.
 - Concern has been raised by parents that the bus company cannot accept the passes children are provided for the bus to St. David's Campus. Technology needs to catch up.
7. **Date of next meeting** Tuesday 11th September 2018.



Criminal Activity July 2018
Beat Areas MW01 and MW03 – Loanhead & District



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

Incidents of Note

- About 2.50pm on 1st July police were called to Straiton Retail Park following a report of dogs having been locked within a vehicle for a period of time in the warm weather. The vehicle left the area prior to police arrival.
- About 8pm on 1st July police were called to the NHS Health centre, George Terrace following a report of two youths on the roof. Police attended with no trace of them.
- About 2pm on 2nd July it was discovered that a window had been smashed at a property on Paradykes Avenue, Loanhead.
- About 6pm on 4th July Police were called to Asda after a report that a male youth hanging about outside the store was asking adults to purchase alcohol for him.
- About 8pm on 4th July police were called to the walkway between Loanhead and Roslin following a report of off road motorbikes in the area. Police attended with no trace of the bikes.
- About 7pm on 6th July police were called to Burghlee Bing following a report of off road motorbikes. Police attended with the bikes making off and lost to sight.
- About 7.30pm on 7th July police were called to McNeill Terrace following a report of youths on scaffolding. Police attended with no trace of youths climbing.
- About 2pm on 14th July police were called to Burghlee Bing following a report of off road motorbikes in the area. Police attended on quad bikes with no trace of the off road bikes.
- About 8pm on 14th July police stopped two 20 year old males on Engine Road before issuing them with recorded police warnings for possession of a small amount of cannabis.
- About 12pm on 15th July police were called to Burghlee Terrace following reports of youths on garage roofs. Police attended and a number of youths warned regarding the dangers.
- At 7.30pm on 22nd July police stopped a 19 year old and a 20 year old male on Engine Road before issuing them with recorded police warnings for possession of a small amount of cannabis.
- About 4.40pm on 24th July police were called to Straiton Retail Park following a report that a dog had been locked up in a van for a period of time when the weather was hot. Police attended with no trace of the vehicle.
- About 2pm on 28th July it was discovered that a car parked on Mayflower Gardens had been broken into with a quantity of items stolen from within.
- About 12.20pm on 30th July police stopped and seized a car on Pentland Road for having no valid insurance in place.

Xmas Lighting Meeting – 1st August 2018

Present: Irene Hogg, Nan Haddow, Peter Frame, Alan McLaren, Pat Kenny, Mandi Doig and Gina Temple (Representing Loanhead Community Development Association, Loanhead & District Community Council, Loanhead Miners Youth Football Club, The Link, Loanhead Children's Gala Day Association, LASC Childcare Services, Scottish Womens' Institute (Loanhead) and the Paradykes Parent Council).

The meeting was called to discuss Midlothian Council's proposal to remove funding for all Xmas Lighting throughout the County as discussed at the public meeting on 20 June 2018 which was attended by Council staff, councillors and community representatives. The outcome from this meeting was that if local communities could not fund the Xmas lights then Midlothian would have a **dark** Xmas.

For the past 5 years the LCDA has invested in new lights each year and has spent almost £10k over this period and the improvement has been marked. This investment was based on the understanding that the community would fund replacement lights and the Council would cover erection, dismantling, maintenance, electrical testing, energy costs, Christmas tree, storage etc. According to the Council the cost for Xmas Lighting in Loanhead for 2017 was £7955. Some of the items on their list were disputed as no repair materials, barriers, stages or signage was supplied. Irene Hogg obtained a quote from a private company for the equivalent service at £5806.80 (incl. VAT) so this can be done more cheaply.

A discussion on how to cut costs took place:

- Plant a tree in the Green to reduce the costs of erection and dismantling each year. It was agreed that this was not practical as it would impede Gala Day Celebrations. In a few years it would require a tree surgeon to trim it and the roots may start to come up in the Green or even the roadway.
- Leave the Xmas lights up all year round. The lights in the trees in the Green are left up all year round, but it is not practical to leave the other lighting up as it would suffer wear and tear due to the weather, meaning early replacement. "Much of the display in Loanhead is erected on temporary poles around Fountain Green. If these were left in place throughout the year they would be highly visible, detract from the appearance of the area and considerably restrict the use of Fountain Green for other events. This could even result in Fountain Green becoming unusable for the Gala Crowning Ceremony and other events during Gala Week.
- It was suggested we try and find storage within Loanhead, but as there is now no Town Hall premises this was not practical and if we did find a suitable venue we would have to take out insurance.
- We discussed the possibility of approaching local businesses and organisations to fund raise for the lights. The Retail Parks and Industrial Estate companies are removed from the town centre and many have their own designated charities. Local organisations are struggling as it is to cover their costs. The Gala Day is the oldest in the County and although it does receive sponsorship from some businesses it was agreed that approaching these sponsors would only dilute the support for the Gala.
- The LCDA organise the annual Fireworks Display and the Remembrance Day Parade as well as providing for the capital costs of replacement lights etc. therefore the community is already taking a big role in ensuring civic pride in Loanhead.

Conclusions

- There was no sustainable funding model for a small community to take responsibility for the cost of Xmas Lighting.
- Midlothian Council should continue to fund Xmas Lights, even if it means outsourcing to a private company to reduce the costs.
- The Council would not save the £7955 if they don't fund the lights due to ongoing employee costs.
- Whilst the financial challenges faced by the Council are appreciated, the expenditure on Christmas lighting represents a tiny part of the Council's total budget and the Council should have sufficient flexibility to accommodate these costs. The existing arrangement already involves costs for new and replacement lights being met by individual communities. Community groups have worked hard to raise the funds to purchase lights on the understanding they would be erected by the Council. If the Council was now to decline to erect, power and maintain the lights, that would throw away the investments made by communities in Christmas lighting, including over £3,600 spent by LCDA in the current year for new lights which are still to be used. Such a situation would clearly be a major disincentive to community groups becoming involved in other future schemes with the Council involving a shared approach to the funding and operation of community amenities. Midlothian Council should be responsible for ensuring Civic Pride in the County and Xmas Lights are a big part of that.