

## **Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Community Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on 19 March 2009 in the Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Ian Baxter (Chairman) Dorothy Innes (Vice-Chair), Elaine Ferguson (Treasurer) Stewart Renwick (Secretary), Brian Scott, Ruth Scott, Gilbert Scott, George Birrell, Eddie Ramsay, Benny McIntyre, Cameron Scott.

**In attendance:** Neil Stewart, PC Gill Lumley, Councillor Bob Constable, Councillor Jackie Aitchison, David Stewart, Finance Director, Scotland East and Cheryl Fleming, Marketing and PR Manager, Scotland East

**Welcome:** The Chairman Welcomed all to the meeting and introduced David Stewart and Cheryl Fleming to the meeting.

#### First Bus

David Stewart thanked the meeting for allowing First bus to explain the rationale for removal of first bus service 78 and x 78 from Bonnyrigg. He explained that First were a UK bus and train company with 23 bus companies in total, and that each bus company has to stand alone. He explained that First group PLC was doing well but Scotland east is the poorest performer of the bus companies.

They continually review their 250 routes on a monthly basis, and the routes x78 and 78 do not cover overheads. Due to the economy First had to take this course of action and remove the services. The fares charged by other operators means that to increase the fares to a viable fare the customers would move to the other operator.

DI Stated that the conditions of the First buses were so bad that it driving customers away.

Cheryl Fleming for first bus responded by saying that cleanliness is a priority with First and although 86 new buses had been added to the national first fleet First east could not present a financial case for any new buses.

GB put the point that the costs for First were the same as Lothian but First profits went to the share holders.

DS stated that this was not true. CF explained that Lothian bus routes were subsidised. GS asked if First routes were subsidised, CF replied that the 302/303 routes were subsidised.

Further discussion took place and IB brought the discussion to a close by saying he can't disagree with the finances but First had no strategy in place.

IB thanked David and Cheryl for attending the meeting, who then left the meeting.

**Apologies:** Derek Milligan and Rhona Brankin

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** These were proposed by George Birrell and seconded by Ruth Scott

#### **Matters arising:**

##### *June Meeting*

- Drinking fountain — the fountain is 100 years old and CS felt that the date should be marked in some way. Elaine Richardson to investigate possible improvements. See Item in councillor Atchison's report **Discharged**

##### *September Meeting*

- Secure post Box within Spar— waiting response from the Post office.

**Action: IB (Carried Forward)**

##### *November Meeting*

- Rubbish on Cockpen Glen Road — JA will ask council department to contact landowner. The last known landowners have been contacted. **Discharged**
- Broomieknowe Gardens Walkway — Information passed onto appropriate council department CC to contact Rickey Moffat direct

**Action: SR**

##### *January Meeting*

- Pedestrian Crossing — Road safety report from director commercial service and Strategic service Lothian Street (between the Waverley Cres and Eldindean Rd junctions) and meeting with SR. John Blair would not have the relevant information ready until beginning of March. Information still not available

**Action: John Blair (Director Commercial Services) Carried Forward**

- Bonnyrigg Organisation Contacts— Bring records up to date. SR asked all members to supply him with any details that they have regarding any organisation.

**Action: SR (Carried Forward)**

*February Meeting*

- Distributor Road — speed limit signs on the distributor road are not located as per the legal document received from the council. BS will contact the council. **Discharged**
- Polton road Traffic — Volume and speed giving concern to residents. SR to send email again to JA for JA to respond. The survey detail handed in to March meeting will be sent.

**Action: SR/JA**

- Holiday vaccination appointments — Catherine Evans (Patient Involvement Worker Midlothian Community Health Partnership) will attempt to find the average lead time on appointments.

**Action: CE/SR (Carried Forward)**

**Financial Report:**

Current Account	£1,823.27
Twinning	£1,738.92

**Police Report:**

PC Gill Lumley provided the following report

**Crime Statistics – February 2009**

**Bonnyrigg & Lasswade**

Total Rec: 61  
Total Sol: 32      52.46%      (YTD 40.96%, Last YTD 54.39%)

Breakdown :

	<u>Rec</u>	<u>Sol</u>
Threats & ext :	1	(0)
Theft HB (non-dwell)	7	(0)
Theft HB (bus)	1	(1)
HBWI & att (non-dwell)	1	(0)
Theft OLPWI & Att	1	(0)
Theft others	0	(1)
Theft Shoplifting	3	(1)
Theft pedal cycle	1	(0)
Theft MV other	0	(1)
Theft MV & Att	4	(1)
Fraud	0	(3)
Other crime	1	(1)
Vandalism	22	(2)
Fireraising	2	(0)
Reckless conduct	2	(0)
Obstruct Police	1	(1)
Offensive weapon	1	(1)
Drugs manufacture	1	(1)
Drugs supply	4	(9)
Drugs poss	8	(9)

There is a multi-agency approach day for Bonnyrigg to be held on Saturday 21 March.

There are to be two surgeries to be held in Bonnyrigg the dates for these are 2 April and 30 April.

GS highlighted a problem of a car parked on the Scout hall forecourt, which had been reported to him by a member of the public the contact details were passed to PC Lumley to contact direct.

GB raised an issue of youths at the Guide hall in Dobbies road. The police were phoned the police call centre at 4pm and GB received a response from a police officer at 11pm. PC Lumley could not comment as she did not know what other activities were being handled by the police at that particular time.

JA informed the meeting that a new deputy commander, Jackie Conway, had been appointed to e division and she was keen to meet the public. JA will supply SR with contact details for SR to contact.

**Action: SR**

BS voiced his view that there was an increase in drivers using mobile phones. He believed that he followed a car with the driver using a laptop on the passenger's seat. GL advised that these events should be reported to the police and if there is corroboration it is better, but all reports will be followed up.

EF reported that Dundas Street is still a major problem with parking on the double yellow lines GL will notify the traffic officers

**Action: GL**

IB asked if PC Lumley could inform PC Rod Stewart that he would appreciate an article for the newsletter.

**Action: GL**

### **Midlothian Councillors' Report:**

#### **Councillor Jackie Aitchison:**

The council are at present being visited by HMI auditors and there are daily meeting between them and cabinet members.

Distributor Road — this is now open and should remove a large amount of traffic from Bonnyrigg.

St Annes planning application — this was withdrawn.

Community Hospital — the first turf has been cut and still to be open 2010. Access will be via a mini roundabout; buses will not use the entrance but will use the existing bus stops on the main road.

JA and Elaine Richardson have been to Bilston to the antiquities looking for suitable taps for the fountain in the high street, but with no success. The CC will now decide what if anything can be done.

BS intimated that there was rubbish on the Cockpen to Carrington. JA would raise the with the appropriate department, IB suggested that the CC members should contact JA immediately and not wait for the next meeting if it was large scale fly tipping.

**Action: JA**

JA intimated his fear that First will pull out of Midlothian completely

#### **Councillor Bob Constable:**

BC and councillors had attended a seminar on the changes being introduced to the Planning system

BC attended a concert at Bonnyrigg primary school "Keep the fires burning" which had been excellent. The new school is on schedule.

BC had been shown around the police call centre at Loanhead. It had been a very impressive visit, and highly recommended. The meeting agreed that the CC should make a visit. SR to contact police.

**Action: SR**

GB asked the councillors if the council could pressurise the bus companies to go into the new community hospital grounds. The answer was no.

#### **Planning:**

The only item under planning was the removal of the application for St Annes reported earlier.

#### **Transport:**

The bus tracker at Bonnyrigg church hall is working.

#### **Twinning:**

A very enthusiastic delegation of 3 from St Cyr visited Bonnyrigg the weekend 27 February to 1<sup>st</sup> March. It was a very full programme and Involved IB NS from community council and Provost Montgomery and Bob Attack

The visit to LHS was very encouraging as both sides are keen to get something started between the schools. The group also managed to visit Bonnyrigg Rose while a match was on, Lasswade Rugby Club, a walking tour of the town including a visit to the Twinning Garden and a lunch with Adam Montgomery at Lothian house. There was also a quick tour of the Royal mile in Edinburgh. The date for the 45 anniversary is 26<sup>th</sup> June when it is hoped a delegation from Bonnyrigg will visit St Cyr as part of their celebrations.

#### **Spring clean:**

IB has registered with Keep Scotland Beautiful for our proposed spring clean. It was agreed that the clean up would be the Eskbank to Penicuik walkway Bonnyrigg section. The campaign runs from the 1 to 30<sup>th</sup> April. The 25<sup>th</sup> April was selected for our effort. IB will contact LHS and other organisations and groups for assistance.

**Action: IB**

SR will check with the ASCC regarding insurance cover for this event and annual cover for the CC

**Action: SR**

#### **Fair trade:**

IB explained that Midlothian was attempting to get Fairtrade zone status. The drive is to get Bonnyrigg shops to stock Fair trade items. LHS is pushing for Fair trade status stockist. IB will sit on the committee on behalf of the CC

#### **Recycling:**

BM intimated that there was a large amount of recycling being left on the ground after the collection. This was not the general view of the CC. BM was advised to contact the police if persons are throwing litter on the street.

#### **Correspondence:**

##### **NHS Lothian**

A letter received regarding a proposal to alter the practice catchments area for the Dalhousie Medical Practice [part of Bonnyrigg Health Centre]. The CC's views on the proposal are being sought.

The view of the meeting is that we support the change in the practice boundaries to meet the increasing population in Bonnyrigg. SR to write giving our support.

**Action: SR**

#### **Public Partnership Forum**

Minutes from the February meeting.

Working agreement notes on PPF

Agenda 19 March meeting

#### **Midlothian Council**

Minutes presented to Midlothian Council on 24 February 2009

#### **Letter from David Hamilton – re-broadband speed**

BT is currently spending £2billion per annum to upgrade their national network. Completion 2012 enables BT to increase speed to 24Mbps BUT distance is still a problem, they believe that the majority of users will enjoy a higher speed

#### **Invite from Girl guiding Midlothian**

To their annual AGM event.

#### **Emails**

##### **Association of Community Councils**

Announcing [that, with effect from next week, Dr Nicola Welsh will take up her post as the ASCC's National Development Officer.](#)

##### **Midlothian Voluntary Action MVA**

[The Strengthening Communities Group have organised a Planning Gain or Planning Obligations Seminar on Thursday 14th May at Dalkeith Arts Centre.](#)

#### **Email from Keith Fuller**

Representation in relation to planning applications a response from Midlothian Council giving clarifications on representation.

#### **Travel Team**

February Newsletter

Stop press Newsletter relating to First bus services

#### **Rhona Brankin**

Email detailing what she has done regarding the reductions of the First bus services

#### **Ian Johnson Head of Planning**

Letter detailing the changes to Scottish planning system, and the greater involvement of community councils in the planning process. Offering either a meeting at CC federation level or at a local level. Might be worth a joint one with PDCC

**Action: SR**

#### **AOCB:**

##### **Grants**

GS had attended the Federation of CC where it was announced that there were a number of grants available for groups. The FCC is investigating the requirements to gain access to the grants.

**Date of the Next Meeting:** Thursday 16 April 2009

(Sports Pavilion, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg) at 7.30 pm.