

Linlithgow Planning Forum

Draft (2) Minutes of a Meeting with Craig McCorrison (WLC) held in the Canal Tea Room on Thursday 21 November 2013 at 4:30pm

Present: John Kelly, Chair (L&LBCC), John Aitken (LCT), David Tait (LBA, L&LBCC, VWL, Black Bitch Mag), Alan Brown (TL), Ron Smith (L&LBCC, LCDC, LCT, BB), Mike Vickers (LBA) and Craig McCorrison (Head of WLC Planning and Economic Development Services).

Apologies: None

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting with Craig McCorrison, held on 26 September 2013, and of the Linlithgow Planning Forum meeting held on 31 October 2013 were approved.

Purpose: The purpose of the meeting was to continue the dialogue between the Planning Forum and West Lothian Council Planning Services. It is noted that Craig McCorrison can advise the Planning Forum on procedural matters and can listen to members' views but that West Lothian Council are responsible for setting and agreeing policy.

Consultation: There was further discussion on the consultation of community councils which led to a better understanding of the process and agreement on the procedure that should be adopted:

- The Weekly List will continue to be used by West Lothian Council to inform the Community Council and the public of newly registered planning applications. It is up to those who are interested to review the weekly list on a regular basis.
- The Community Council has 7 days from the date of publication of the Weekly List to inform Development Management that it wishes to be consulted on any particular item. This can be achieved by e-mail to planning@westlothian.gov.uk or by contacting the relevant case officer.
- The case officer will confirm that the Community Council has requested consultation and will e-mail a link to the relevant entry in the planning website.
- Starting from then, Community Council will have the relevant period (typically 14 days) in which to consider the application and make a representation.
- When the application has been decided the decision will be communicated to all those who have made a representation

It was noted that all this procedure may change in future as a result of the emerging Community Empowerment Bill.

Craig also commented that a number of presentations could be more influential than a few at Planning Committee meetings.

SESPlan **The SESPlan was adopted in June 2013.** Supplementary Guidance on housing allocation has been issued for consultation and it is expected that this will not be finalised until June 2014.

Local Development Plan: The Main Issues Report has been further delayed and is now likely to be issued for consultation in February 2014. It will be considered by a Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (either Partnership & Resources or Development & Transport) before submission to the WLC Council Executive for approval and release for consultation. The draft will be made public 5 days before the relevant PDSP meeting.

Development Sites John Kelly had circulated list and a location plan of the sites in Linlithgow that were submitted in response to the “call for sites”. It was agreed that some were more suitable for development than others and that they should be assessed against relevant criteria. It was also pointed out that there are some other sites in Linlithgow that could be developed and that some sites might be required for future infrastructure development.

Until the situation regarding the new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh is made clear, there is insufficient educational capacity at Linlithgow Academy for any significant housing development in Linlithgow. If the Winchburgh school were constructed it would create capacity for at least 550 additional houses in Linlithgow. A change in the situation at Westfield might also free capacity at Linlithgow Academy: it is within the Linlithgow Academy catchment and detailed planning consent exists until August 2015 for 540 houses.

There are very few sites within the existing settlement boundary and this produces an expectation of housing land value, even if they are used for other purposes such as public open space, public buildings or car parks.

Thanks John Kelly thanked Craig McCorrison for attending the meeting and for helping the Linlithgow Planning Forum to play its part in reviewing planning issues and contributing to the emerging Local Development Plan process.

Next Meeting It was agreed that the dialogue with WLC on planning issues should be continued but that the Linlithgow Planning Forum should meet at least once before asking Craig McCorrison to attend again. A Linlithgow Planning Forum meeting will be arranged soon.