

## Linlithgow Planning Forum

### Draft Minutes of the Meeting held at 6, Springfield Grange 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015

1. **Present:** John Kelly, (JK) Convenor (L&LBCC), David Timperley (DGT) (of LCT) Mike Vickers (MV), (LCT, L&LBCC & LBA), Councillor David Tait (DT) (LBA, WLC, Black Bitch Mag)
2. **Apologies:** Chris Long (LCT, BB), Gill Fawcitt (LCDT) Ron Smith (RS), (BB, LCT, L& LBCC),
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> November detailed the organisational arrangements for the exhibition. The minutes of the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> November are subsumed within agenda item 4 - report of the Exhibition held on 17<sup>th</sup> November at Low Port Centre.
4. **Report of Activity during November - The Local Development Plan consultation event held by West Lothian Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> November & the Linlithgow: A Plan for the Future Exhibition held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015.**

Members of the Planning Forum attended the West Lothian Council drop-in consultation on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 at Burgh Halls. The session was one of WLC officers dispersing information rather than eliciting opinion. It was disappointing therefore that there was no facility at the drop-in session to record an opinion.

The meeting of the Planning Forum on 5<sup>th</sup> November divided up areas of analysis amongst the members and planned the Exhibition planned for 17<sup>th</sup> November. See minutes of meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> November.

The Planning Forum exhibition entitled Linlithgow - a Plan for the Future was held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Low Port Centre attended by 123 residents. 73 detailed questionnaires were received at the exhibition and 3 subsequently.

The Planning Forum met on 19<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the response to the draft LDP and to interpret and report on the questionnaire results. Some time was spent discussing the feedback mechanisms to West Lothian Council. It was reported that the feedback portal was deficient in a number of key respects and that the information available was incomplete. The LDP and accompanying data was not available at Linlithgow Public Library on 21<sup>st</sup> November. Finally, the next steps were discussed.

Fiona McBrierty responded to the points made by the Planning Forum at its meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> November as follows:

*John*

*Thank you for your email regarding the above.*

*I would respond as follows:*

- 1. We're aware of issues with the online portal and advised customers that submissions to the LDP could be sent to the wlldp mailbox.*
- 2. The LDP data was forwarded to all libraries with libraries made aware of the consultation period for the LDP and the need to have documents available throughout the consultation period.*
- 3. a) the Proposed Plan represents the council's settled view and sets out policies and development proposals  
b) the council can seek to negotiate with interested parties to resolve objections prior to submission of the Plan to the Scottish Government for Examination  
c) unresolved representations are passed to the Reporter for Examination. The Reporter is appointed by Scottish Ministers. It is for the Reporter to decide whether or not to hold hearing sessions.  
d) the Reporter prepares a report following the Examination  
e) the council gives consideration to the report of the Examination  
e) anticipated date of adoption of the LDP is set out in Development Plan Scheme No.7 for the LDP. Anticipated date of adoption is during 2017.*

*The requirements for preparation of development plans are set out in Scottish Government Planning Circular 6/2013: Development Planning and the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008.*

*I trust this assists.*

*Regards*

*Fiona*

Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council objected to the LDP and gave specific areas of disagreement. The letter and appendices are available at [www.llbcc.org.uk/planning](http://www.llbcc.org.uk/planning)

5. It was decided to ask RS to update "Linlithgow: A Plan for the Future" taking account of the comments from DGT. A further 10 copies of the updated document should be printed for future distribution. These to be paid for by the Community Council.

**Action RS**

6. The Community Council budget for the running of the Planning Forum during the year 2015/6 is £200. Costs to date have amounted to £77.40 (mainly because we have enjoyed the free hospitality of MV).

7. DT informed members of the motion to be debated at the meeting of the full West Lothian Council on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.
8. The meeting requested that JK write to West Lothian Council to ask for a meeting to discuss our objections to the Local Development Plan. A proposal was made and agreed that the Planning Forum should book the Low Port Lounge and make use of its multi-media facilities to maximise the impact of a presentation of an argument based upon Linlithgow: A Plan for the Future. DT suggested that contact be made with the Scottish Community Alliance for advice. The focus of the presentation should be on the problems, the solutions and the questionnaire. Linlithgow should be described as a special case, a town which is asset rich which can be capitalised to fund infrastructure development.

**Action JK**

9. **Next Meeting:** To be arranged in the New Year.

John Kelly  
17<sup>th</sup> December 2015