



**Minutes of the meeting of Uphall Community Council held on
Wednesday 20th September in Uphall Community Centre**

In attendance : Irene Bishop (chair), David Flight, Lynne McEwen, Jonathan Moore

Apologies : Pippa Plevin, George Scott, Cllr Tony Boyle, Cllr Diane Calder, Cllr Janet Campbell

1 The minutes of the August meeting were agreed proposed by Jonathan Moore seconded by David Flight.

2 Transport

Nicola Gill and Keith Muirhead spoke on bus services in West Lothian. They explained that 80% of bus service is run by private companies. Questions raised included unreliability of buses, poor accessibility in certain areas. Although the new Transport Act may make some improvement, they agreed that not much can be done to make things better. Bus driver shortage is a national problem.

3 Matters arising from previous minutes

Response from Graham Hope : a survey will be undertaken to assess community council training needs.

Suggested metal bollard outside Scotmid.

Local Place Plan : no direct advice but support available through website.

4 Reports

Treasurer : Money paid to planning has been received. Balance £2172.93.

Planning : Alexander Street application has been withdrawn.

BUTCMG : Nothing to report.

Joint Forum

Planning : The Joint Forum partnered with Bathgate Community Council to host a PAS training session on NPF4 and Local Place Plans, led by David Wood. More than 30 people attended, both online and in person at the Bathgate Partnership Centre, including Steve Lovell from the WLC Planning Department. The notes and presentation will be shared when available.

West Lothian Climate Action Network

The Bid Application has been submitted and the meeting with the Scottish Government to present our case for the funding is on the 27th Sep. The Diagram shows what it will look like and the report on Members shows the 24 community groups that have already signed up to be members of WLCAN. Uphall CC can still Register as a WLCAN Member and be a part of this project.

Scottish Forum of Community Councils

Following the Scottish Conference in June and the overwhelming support for the formation of a Scottish Forum of Community Councils a Steering Group has been formed and have drafted a Terms of Reference for discussion and consideration. An Engagement Report has been produced to analyse the figures for engagement from the Scottish Conference, and identify which LAs need to be engaged with more effectively. As we don't have any funding as yet, we are using the Joint Forum's email marketing platform and have sent out the first Scottish Forum Newsletter. If you would like to receive this newsletter in your inbox, please use the Subscribe function at the bottom of this newsletter to do so. We would like to invite Community Councils to formally Join the Scottish Forum. We believe that by working together, we can have a greater impact for Community Councils in Scotland. We would be grateful if you could discuss this at the meeting and decide if your Uphall Community Council would like to be involved. We have also written to Scottish Ministers to explore the possibility of funding for the Scottish Forum.

Democracy Matters

The Scottish Government has relaunched the Democracy Matters consultation at an event on the 28th August in Linlithgow, with Scottish Government Ministers Joe Fitzpatrick and Tom Arthur and the COSLA Presidential team. A Democracy Matters website has been rolled out as part of the Local Governance Review and gives details of the new CONSULTATION which provides another opportunity for as many voices as possible to be heard to help shape future local democratic systems and processes. You can respond as a Community Council before it closes on 28th Feb 2024. You can also attend an online webinar hosted by the Improvement Service. There is funding available for help to hold Conversations to discuss this. The Joint Forum will likely bid for funding to hold a West Lothian wide event. The Local Government Committee has written to Ministers following the Scottish Parliament information session in May, in which the Joint Forum gave evidence. It has captured the session's prevailing sentiment about the future of Community Councils.

Minutes : the MINUTES for the last JF Exec meeting held on the 17th Aug are available for download.

EANAB

Chair Appointment : Blake Cushnie, the new Chair of EANAB is still working out the logistics on how he can chair remotely so there was no EANAB meeting held in September. He is likely to join in person at the meeting in October.

Community Engagement : Aaron McKeen the EAL Sustainability Manager should be in contact to attend a future Uphall CC meeting.

ACP : The ACP is progressing with flight paths still being worked out with NATs and run through the flight simulator so they are workable.

Night Flights : Night flights, particularly departures, have increased in recent years. EANAB has been in active dialogue with the airport about reducing night flights, as this is one area where we can have an influence on noise mitigation.

Minutes: All Minutes for EANAB monthly meetings are available on the EANAB website.

5 Correspondence

From Cycle September noted
Love to Ride Noted

6 Other business

The Community Council agreed they do not want to join the Scottish Forums of Community Councils.