

Cutting Edge

August 2010 edition

**A briefing note produced by West Lothian Council
For councillors and their communities**

This publication has been designed to keep you up to date with events and activities in West Lothian, and at ward level, over the coming months. We hope that you find the information in this issue interesting. Remember to check the council's website for news and information.

We compile and distribute Cutting Edge monthly. Please email communications@westlothian.gov.uk
Cutting Edge is also available online from www.westlothian.gov.uk

Community news on www.westlothian.gov.uk - This dynamic section is updated with local community news and pictures on a daily basis. If you have good news, initiatives and achievements which you would like to share, let us know. Please include a name and contact number. Email: communitynews@westlothian.gov.uk Please encourage your friends and family to visit the website.

Cutting Edge is produced by West Lothian Council's Corporate Communications team. Email: media@westlothian.gov.uk or phone 01506 282001.

Ward one: Linlithgow, **Ward two:** Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh, **Ward three:** Livingston North, **Ward four:** Livingston South, **Ward five:** Livingston East and East Calder, **Ward six:** Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley, **Ward seven:** Whitburn and Blackburn, **Ward eight:** Bathgate, **Ward nine:** Armadale and Blackridge.

Information relevant to all wards and members:

Councillors' surgeries – the dates, times and venues of Councillors' surgeries are available online at www.westlothian.gov.uk/surgeries as well as Council Information Service (CIS) centres and libraries.

CUTTING EDGE August and September 2010

SPOTLIGHT – West Lothian Walking Week 20 – 26 September

The council's Chief Executive, Alex Linkston, will launch the 2010 West Lothian Walking Week at 10am on Monday 20 September at the Civic Centre. Everyone is welcome to the launch and the walk afterwards, although booking for the walk is essential. The three-mile walk leaves from the Civic Centre at 10.45am, alongside the River Almond,

before cutting on to a path towards Craigshill as far as the Rugby Club. The walk will then head back along the river path as far as Livingston Football Club stadium and finish at the Civic Centre main entrance at 11.45am.

The aim of walking week is to encourage individuals in West Lothian to be more physically active, promote the health benefits of walking and to create a greater awareness of the natural environment. Just 30 minutes walking a day can make a dramatic difference to your health and wellbeing – and what better way to get out and about than by enjoying beautiful scenery and sharing the experience with a like-minded group of people. The guided walks and activities are absolutely free. Walks cover a range of times throughout the day, so simply choose your walk, book and go. The week has been arranged by both local and national organisations in partnership with West Lothian on the Move, aimed to encourage inactive people to participate in moderate intensity activities in order to improve their health and wellbeing.

- For more information, please contact Jade Maxwell on 01506 775626 or via email at jade.Maxwell@westlothian.gov.uk
- To download a full programme of Walking Weeks events, click on www.westlothian.gov.uk/walkingweek

- **Community Learning and Development - Literacies**
- **Cooking By Numbers** - runs over six weeks and looks at how numbers can be involved in cooking and healthy eating. Each session includes practical cooking tasks and also looks at

weights and measures, reading food labels and finding out about a well balanced diet. Within the course there is a chance to work towards an SQA Numeracy qualification. The next course will be in Whitburn community centre starting at the end of August. Contact Janice Davidson on 0800 731 1831 for more information.

- **DOSH** - is a 4-week course to help you through the financial minefield of spending and saving. Areas covered include: debt, credit, income, managing a bank account, saving and borrowing, budgeting and Credit Unions. You will be able to open a Credit Union account when you start the course and get a £5 bonus in the account for each week attended. A course is currently running at Blackburn Family Centre. Contact Janice Davidson on 0800 731 1831 for information on future courses.
- **Lipreading Taster Course** - A six week taster to find out more about lipreading, strategies for coping, aids and equipment that will help you manage your day-to-day life. The next course will start at the end of August and will be held in St. Johns Hospital, Livingston. Contact Janice Davidson on 0800 731 1831 for more information.

Tough Choices - public consultation on officer-led proposals is being considered by Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels (PDSPs).

Voter Registration Forms - are being issued to all households in the West Lothian Area. Please return the form as soon as possible. If you do not receive one or you require any assistance in completing the form or information about registering to vote or postal voting, please contact the Electoral Registration Office on 0131 344 2500 or visit www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk

Choose Life - With an aim to raise awareness around suicide prevention and promote positive mental health, a number of training sessions, activities and events are planned for September and October. Training includes areas such as suicide alertness and intervention skills, a memorial service for those "touched by suicide", health issues in the community. A Mental Health Day will also be held. All are free of charge to anyone living or working within West Lothian.

Community Race Forum - The Community Race Forum met on 16 August for its first AGM. The well attended meeting heard about the activities of the Forum during its first year. These included attending the opening of the Civic Centre in Livingston, hosting a successful visit by Arun Gandhi, participating in the Multi Cultural event during Diversity Week, holding an Education themed meeting and celebrating its first year in existence with a Birthday Party in June. The Forum thanked the Chair, Nahid Hanif, for the sterling work she had done over the first year to raise the profile of the Forum and recruit new members. The Forum then elected a new Executive Group. The new representatives are: Chair – Renner Mbireaye, Vice Chair - Mohammed Farooq; Treasurer-Gina Placey. Following an informative presentation about the Councils Tough Choices consultation and Equality Impact Assessments, the executive group agreed to create a work plan for the Forum over the next year, which will include a joint meeting of all equalities groups to look in detail at the council's budget plans. The Forum also agreed to plan the major multi cultural event for this year's Diversity Week.

- The Race Forum exists to raise awareness and celebrate the different cultures and communities that make up West Lothian. It is the key mechanism used by the council, and other Community Planning partners, to engage and consult with people from minority ethnic backgrounds. If you are interested in joining the Forum, contact 01506 281086 or email communityraceforum@hotmail.co.uk

Economic Development

- New economic strategy – the new economic strategy for 2010-2020 has been launched by West Lothian Economic Partnership. The summary document can be found online, or can be obtained from the economic development service.
- East of Scotland Investment Fund (ESIF) - West Lothian is one of nine local authorities in the east of Scotland who have come together to create this new, recently launched loan fund. With an investment pot of £5 million. It will span the next five years to 2015 with the main aim of assisting viable SMEs who have struggled to secure capital from other sources.
- European funding under the LUPS programme – the economic development service is working up applications and notifications of interest for a Business Gateway project (covering south-east Scotland), Skills Pipeline Initiative and Job Brokerage Scheme. In addition, four notes of interest were submitted under the JESSICA programme.
- 16-18 Jobs Grant – the new 16-18 jobs grant scheme is now up and running with two applications currently in progress.
- Procurement survey and clinics – a survey was carried out in June by the economic development service in partnership with the procurement service to identify barriers which may prevent local firms from winning council business. 225 responses were received from 1,677 emails, a 13.4% response rate. Procurement officers and Business Gateway advisers are following up a large number of contact requests as a result of the survey, the results of which are about to be published. Businesses are also benefiting from one-to-one procurement clinics held at the Enterprise Centre on the first Thursday of each month. Additional clinics are being arranged due to demand.

- Inward Investor Factsheets – a set of factsheets to help respond to inward investment enquiries has been compiled by the economic development service. They position West Lothian as Scotland's Hub and have been compiled in consultation with other business facing services of the council. They cover key demographics, key sectors, transport connections, skills infrastructure, key economic trends, industrial estates and property prices.
- Perceptions of West Lothian - an online survey is being planned by the economic development service to update our knowledge of how West Lothian as a business location is perceived by business, stakeholders and partners. The aim is to ensure that the key messages we send out reflect the area's key strengths.
- East Coast Renewables Alliance - local authorities along the east coast of Scotland have put forward proposals to form an alliance to engage around the renewable energy agenda. The economic development service will review the proposals in consultation with elected members, with a view to West Lothian involvement.
- Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) Awards – five finalists have been announced for the 2010 awards which take place on 31 August.
- FSB Green Energy event - The economic development service will be represented at the Federation of Small Businesses' Green Energy event on 7 September by Business Gateway advisers including the Green Business Partnership adviser.
- Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS) - a business breakfast briefing has been organised by Business Gateway on 9 September to highlight to local manufacturing firms the services offered by SMAS, a national program to help manufacturers improve their productivity and generate cost savings. SMAS has recently introduced new resources and increased the size of its team in West Lothian.
- Economic Conference - This year's conference takes place on 14 September. The key aim is to raise awareness of youth unemployment and increase links with local employers to support this agenda.

Business Gateway - meets in Carmondean Connected every Wednesday from 10 am - 12 noon.

Tenants' information - Preparation is underway for the annual Tenants' Information Day, in the reception area of the Civic Centre on Saturday 9 October.

- **Access2employment** - Future Jobs Fund, which is delivered by Access2employment, has created 122 jobs for young people since December last year. To date, 64% of those who have completed the programme have moved into a positive destination. Despite challenging times and low employment, Access2employment continues to get an average of 50 West Lothian residents per month into work or training. The annual Access2employment stakeholder event will take place on 29 September - invitations will be issued soon.

Waste services

- **Brown bin contamination** is an ongoing issue. The Waste Strategy Team has developed a detailed plan of action, including press release, communications letter for householders with recycling bookmark included, and contamination stickers for bins. Temporary door knockers were recruited for four weeks in July and the areas affected were targeted using enforcement officers and several of the NETS/Land Services environmental wardens. While the problem continues to persist, there has been a notable reduction in the levels of contamination previously experienced. Items that contaminate brown bin collections include: kitchen or food waste; plant pots and timber; all plastic, including bags and bin liners; general waste, glass; animal waste/bedding; soil and turf; building rubble, stones and bricks.
- **Master Composter Workshop:** The Changeworks Master Composter Project is coming to Waste Services on August 31. Volunteers from across West Lothian will be trained in how to become expert composters and then act as compost ambassadors for West Lothian. Master Composters will then be encouraged to go out into the community and raise awareness of the benefits of home composting. A morning training session at Deans followed by a site visit to Colinton community compost site at Torphin, Edinburgh will take place. Limited spaces are still available. Contact the Waste Strategy Team on 01506 777807.
- **CPD Educational Workshops:** CPD programme development ongoing. Current programme includes 1. Waste Hierarchy for Schools; 2. The Waste Journey Explained; 3. Site Visit for Schools; 4. Composting in Schools; 5. Getting and Maintaining your Eco Schools Green Flag; 6. Waste Education Games for Eco Schools. It is planned to run these CPD workshops from the start of the Autumn term 2010.
- **Fauldhouse Environment Fair** was a successful community event organised by Fauldhouse Community Development Trust to which Waste Services contributed special compost vouchers and several bicycles from our Community Recycling Centres which were kindly repaired by Frames Wheels and Gears of Whitburn.

Inter-schools football festival - Local business and officials from local football teams are being asked to support a special inter-schools football festival to raise awareness and funds for families dealing with Huntington's Disease. It is hoped that 10 teams of P7 pupils from across West Lothian will take part in

the 7-side football festival, which is planned to take place on 8 October at Bathgate Academy. For more information, email anniemack38@hotmail.com or telephone: 07706 080367

MORE NEWS

Police Inspectors: The following are the ward inspectors in West Lothian: Wards 1, 2 and 5 – David Hynd; Wards 3 and 4 – PI Kevin Kerr; Wards 6 and 7 – PI Alistair Riddell; Wards 8 and 9 – PI Bob Paris.

Community Safety Unit - A new Community Safety Unit is now up-and-running in West Lothian. The unit is made up of Safer Neighbourhood Team officers from the council's Neighbourhood Response Team, working side-by-side with police colleagues in the Civic Centre.

Countryside section - For fuller information on the country parks in West Lothian, contact the following numbers or email addresses: Almondell and Calderwood 01506 882254 almondell&calderwood@westlothian.gov.uk / Beecraigs 01506 844516 mail@beecraigs.com / Polkemmet 01501 743905 polkemmet@westlothian.gov.uk

Country parks

- Beecraigs, Almondell and Calderwood, and Polkemmet Country Parks are open throughout the year with Visitor Centres currently open on summer hours.
- **Ranger events and activities** - Join the Rangers for a variety of events and activities including 'Beecraigs Bat Walk' on Friday 27 August, 'Dedridge Pond and Wood Walk' on Saturday 28 August, 'Beecraigs Badger Walk' on Friday 3 September and 'Food for Free' at Beecraigs on Saturday 11 September. During West Lothian Walking Week, the Ranger Service will lead on the following walks: 'Broxburn Community Woodland' on Tuesday 21 September, 'Powies Path' on Thursday 23 September, 'East Calder and Oakbank' and 'Blawhorn Moss' on Sat 25 September and 'Easter Breich' on Sunday 26 September.
- **Outdoors Open Day** - the three Country Parks will be taking part in West Lothian's Outdoors Open Weekend on 23 and 24 October.
Almondell and Calderwood Country Park
 - 2pm – 5pm, free Ranger-led introductory walk to the Country Park, followed by a free tea or coffee. Must be booked in advance (telephone 01506 882254).**Beecraigs Country Park**
 - 1.30pm – 2.30pm, free guided walk around the deer attraction. Must be booked in advance as numbers are limited (telephone 01506 844516); Stay six nights and get the seventh night free on the caravan and camping site between 15 and 31 October inclusive. Please book in advance at the Visitor Centre (telephone 01506 844516).**Polkemmet Country Park**
 - 9.30am – 10.15am, free Ranger-led introductory walk to the country park. Must be booked in advance (telephone 01501 743905); 10am – 2pm, free use of Putting Green; 1pm – 4pm, basket of 25 balls at driving range plus voucher for 100 balls for the price of 50 - to be used within one month; Bring your own clubs and two play for the price of one on the golf course from 10am – 4pm. Must be booked in advance (telephone 01501 743905).

Outdoor Pursuits

- The Summer Activities Programme for 2010 is available via the Countryside section's website at www.beecraigs.com or via direct link from Intranet and from www.westlothian.gov.uk. A variety of activities that include canoeing, hill-walking, archery and orienteering, is available. The Open Access Activity programme is ongoing and the October programme will be available soon. Highland cows have now arrived at Beecraigs and are settling in well. There are six cows, one bull and followers. There are also 82 red deer calves around the attraction. All of the animals can be seen easily by visitors. Pony rides started in June at Beecraigs and will also be starting at Polkemmet soon (weather permitting).

Polkemmet golf

- 37 par, nine-hole golf course with demanding picturesque last green reached by shot over the river valley. Open 6.45am - 9.30pm seven days. Please contact 01501 743905 for info.

Beecraigs venison

- Venison is available to buy and order from the Park Centre at Beecraigs.

Fly fishing on Beecraigs Loch

- Boats are available for day and evening sessions at competitive prices. Concessions and junior angling are also available. 01506 844516.

Beecraigs Sawmill

- Suppliers of pressure treated fencing materials and other timbers from locally grown stock for the general public, commercial sales and local authorities at competitive prices.

Park improvements

- **Beecraigs** - Access points improvements at the Balvormie end of the park are going well. Ongoing works on the caravan and camping site are also progressing well.
- **Polkemmet** – The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) are working with the Ranger Service to clear encroaching vegetation.
- **Almondell** – The new fence around the Visitor Centre garden is under construction. Temporary improvements are being made to improve access to the disabled toilet. The removal of the old workshops is also planned.

Livingston Youth Trust - provides financial assistance to individual young people from Livingston as a contribution towards their advancement in the specific fields of the Arts, Sport and Music. The Trust also considers general applications from individuals, groups of young people and from organisations working with young people and based in Livingston. Grants are open to all young people under the age of 21 or organisations working with young people under the age of 21 with an active interest in a chosen field, but where the individuals or organisations are not in a position to develop that interest from their own resources. An application form and guidelines can be downloaded from the Community News section of the council website.

West Lothian Run - This year's Santa fun run will take place at the Civic Centre Livingston on Sunday 5 December. Registration is now open for the event. The Easter 5K and 10K fun runs will take place on Sunday 24 April at Beecraigs Country Park. Next year's half marathon/relay event will take place in Meadow Park, Bathgate, on Sunday 19 June. Registration forms are now available at www.westlothianrun.co.uk

The nine community regeneration officers and their wards are listed below:

- **Ward 1 – Linlithgow – Dougie Grierson**
- **Ward 2 – Broxburn/Uphall/Winchburgh – Laura Machnik**
- **Ward 3 – Livingston North – Benny Lynch**
- **Ward 4 – Livingston South – Rachel Johnson**
- **Ward 5 – East Livingston and East Calder – Pete Moir**
- **Ward 6 – Fauldhouse and Breich Valley – Clare Summers**
- **Ward 7 – Whitburn and Blackburn - Scott McKillop**
- **Ward 8 – Bathgate – Jim Saunders**
- **Ward 9 – Armadale and Blackridge – Willie Carruthers**

Free computer access - Free access to computers and the internet is available at all libraries and most community centres in West Lothian.



Ward 1 – Linlithgow

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 8am on Tuesday 21 September. Venue: County Buildings, Linlithgow. Members: Councillor Tom Conn, Councillor Martyn Day and Councillor Tom Kerr.

Linlithgow library

- **Bookbug sessions** - All babies and preschool children are welcome. Come along to enjoy the rhymes, songs and stories. The next sessions are from 10.30am – 11am on 20 September and 11 and 25 October.
- **Storytime** - We have a weekly storytime on Tuesday at 2.30pm for three and four-year-olds. Please contact the library on 01506 775490 to book a place. The next meetings are on 7, 14, 21 and 28 September.
- **Chatterbooks** - is a children's reading group that usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month between 4 pm and 5 pm. Refreshments are provided. Please check availability with library staff. The next meetings are on 7 September and 5 October.
- **Museum Exhibition** - Girlguiding: a hundred years young – celebrating the 100th anniversary of guiding in the UK and the 90 anniversary of guiding in West Lothian. On display during the library opening hours

Town centre improvements - Streetscape works are progressing. The clay model of the Katie Wearie public art has now been signed off and the model is with the forge for casting in bronze. The expected installation date is October. Signage strategy and furniture strategy will be implemented late summer.

Kids' History Walk - at Linlithgow Loch on Tuesday 21 September is led by Historic Scotland Ranger Service. The walk takes place from 11am - 1pm and is a distance of 2.5 miles. The walk is aimed at primary age children with adults and will include interactive historical activities along the way.

Classic rally - The first Linlithgow Classic Cars Day takes place on Sunday 5 September. Up to 60 invited classic cars are expected on the day from various car clubs. Cars are expected to include Ferraris, Morgans, Porsches, Triumphs, Rovers, Austin Healeys, Aston Martin, Sunbeams, MGs, Westfields, Jaguars and Jeeps. Most of the cars date back to the early 1950s but there are also some older ones including the World War II Jeeps, and some more modern supercars. Cars will assemble at Linlithgow Palace car park at 12.30pm for a public display.

Road closure - The U16 at Kingscavil will be closed from 8am to 12 noon on Sunday 17 October from the junction with the B9080 to the junction with the C19. This is to allow a cycling event to take place. Local diversions will be in place. Pedestrians are not affected.

Linlithgow Folk Festival - This year's Linlithgow Folk festival takes place from 8 to 12 September. Scottish band Old Blind Dogs has been booked as the headline act for the Saturday concert. Fuller details are available at the website: <http://www.linlithgowfolk.com>

Community Learning and Development (CLD)

- **International work** - This year's German youth exchange group has just returned from a very successful and interesting 10 day visit to Brilon, Hochsauerland and the capital Berlin. Next year's return leg is booked for 1 - 11 August, based in the Lowport Centre



Ward 2 – Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 9am Thursday 11 November. Venue: Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre. Members: Councillor Janet Campbell, Councillor Alex Davidson, Councillor Ellen Glass and Councillor Graeme Morrice.

Town centre improvements

- **Broxburn** - Streetscape works are substantially complete. Minor remedial works will be carried out in September on completion of the Uphall project. Benches and cycle stands have been installed with litter bins to be installed over the next few months. A deep clean will be programmed upon completion of Uphall. Signage strategy and furniture strategy will be implemented late summer. The shop front grant scheme is progressing in partnership with Broxburn and Uphall Traders' Association.
- **Uphall** - Streetscape works are progressing. A deep clean will be programmed upon completion of streetscape works. Signage strategy and furniture strategy will be implemented in late summer. The shop front grant scheme is progressing in partnership with Broxburn and Uphall Traders' Association.

Broxburn Academy

- Christmas Card competition - This year, Broxburn Academy Parent Council would like to invite entries from pupils for a Christmas card design, the winner of which will become the official Christmas card used by Broxburn Academy for Christmas 2010. The theme must be connected with Christmas and all entries to the competition will cost £1. Entries need to be with the school by 30 September to allow judging and subsequent printing prior to the cards being sent out before Christmas break.

The Bridge 19-40 Canal Society - is to donate all the proceeds from its trips on Sunday 5 September to Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of one of its founder members, David Wright. David, also a past member of Broxburn Community Council, recently died from cancer. The trips on 5 September will take place at Port Buchan, Broxburn

Broxburn Community Woodland - walk on Tuesday 21 September will be led by West Lothian Council Ranger Service. The walk, from 1.30pm - 3pm, covers a distance of two miles and starts from Broxburn Academy.

Broxburn Community Council has reformed and held the first meeting on Monday 30 August with meetings on the last Monday of every month. The foundation for the War Memorial is being prepared at Strathbrock. The Dedication Service for War Memorial is on Sunday 3rd October. Look out for more details in the next Cutting Edge.

Broxburn Library -

- **Teenage Reading Group** - We're the B-Teens, a monthly group where teens from Broxburn and the local area can come and talk about books. For more information, check out our Bebo page, or contact Hayley Rowlands at hayley.rowlands@westlothian.gov.uk or phone 01506 775600.
- **Bookbug sessions** - All babies and preschool children are welcome to enjoy the rhymes, songs and stories. The next sessions are from 10.30am – 11am on 7, 14 and 28 September and 5 and 12 October.

Police surgeries - Community Police Officers from Broxburn Police Station are continuing to hold police surgeries. Contact Broxburn Police Station on 01506 852121 for further information.



Ward 3 - Livingston North

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 2pm on Thursday 21 October. Venue: Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre. Members: Councillor John Cochrane, Councillor Robert De Bold, Councillor Bruce Ferrie and Councillor Andrew Miller.

Livingston Village community centre - The management committee of the community centre are currently in the process of carrying out improvement/refurbishment works by having new cupboards built in the community room to provide more storage space for the groups who use the building and also renewing equipment. The AGM of the association will be held on 6 September.

Eliburn community centre - has been closed over the summer as the management committee has had a replacement kitchen installed complete with new flooring. A new room divider has also been installed by the council to allow the hall area to be opened up for larger school functions. Groups have now restarted and the AGM of the management committee is due to be held on 8 September.

Walking Week - The Eliburn Park and Woodland Walk, from 5.30pm - 7pm on Wednesday 22 September, covers a distance of two miles and will be led by the council's Greenspace Officer and the Woodland Trust. The leisurely walk around Eliburn Park and Livingston Old Wood starts from Eliburn Park pavilion. It's a flat but uneven walk, including paths and some steps and slopes. It is suitable for all, including families with primary age children. Walkers can return to the pavilion for refreshments.

Livingston North Community Surgery - A police surgery is held at Carmondean Connected every four weeks from 10.30am – 12.30pm. Police officers and members from the council's housing department are in attendance. This is a consultation surgery only, and should not be used to report crime. Surgeries are offered for the areas of Carmondean, Deans, Knightsridge, Livingston Village and Eliburn.

Eliburn Park - official opening event will take place on Saturday 25 September, with activities organised from 11.30am to 3pm. The park parade starts at 11.30am and activities include; music, dance demos, face painting, Dr. Bike, climbing wall and games.

Footpath closures - Various footpaths in Deans South will now be closed at times until Monday 25 October. These include Staffa, Jura, Arran, Bute and Deans South. Pedestrians will be diverted along signposted routes using adjacent footpaths.

Carmondean Connected

- **Chatterbooks** - is a children's reading group that meets in Carmondean Connected every four weeks on a Friday afternoon. The next meeting is from 2pm on 3 September.
- **Bookbugs** - All babies and preschool children are welcome to enjoy the rhymes, songs and stories. The next meetings are from 1.30pm – 2pm on 9 and 23 September and 7 and 28 October.

Deans Community High School

- **Community classes** - Fuller details and timetables are available from reception. For bookings or more information, telephone 01506 282155.



Ward 4 - Livingston South

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 3pm on Wednesday 15 September. Venue: Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre. Members: Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Peter Johnston, Councillor Danny Logue and Councillor John Muir.

Forestbank community centre - is due to open around the end of September. For the time being, the groups who have been re-located for the past year will re-commence the new session in Toronto community wing and Inveralmond Community High School. It is hoped that they will be able to move back to Forestbank at the beginning of October. The management committee are currently making plans to hold an Open/Fun Day once Forestbank is open. A variety of activities will be on offer on the day and local people will have the chance to view the new facility and also make suggestions as to the types of activities they would like to see happening there in the future.

Lanthorn Community Centre

- **Movers and Shakers** - The belly dancing class at the Lanthorn community centre is now known as the Movers and Shakers. The group now has a constitution and hope to apply for a grant to learn other forms of dance. One of the English as a Second Language students, from Cambodia, is a teacher of Cambodian dance and hopes to provide sessions for the dancers.

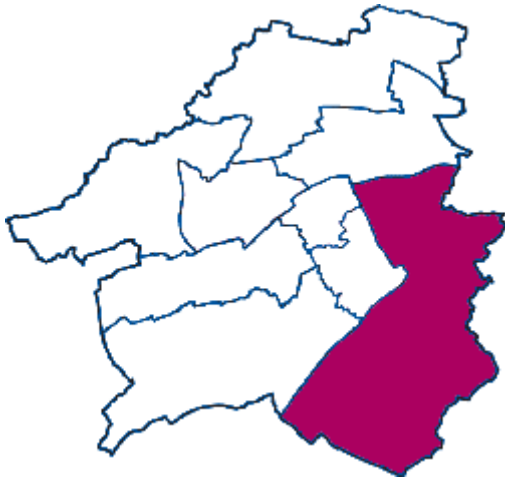
Lanthorn Library

- **Bookbug Sessions** - All babies and pre-school children welcome in this free session of rhymes, stories and songs. The next meetings are from 1.30 – 2pm on 16 September and 14 October.
- **Book Group** - This free reading group for adults meets on the first Thursday of the month. All are welcome to come along and join in the lively discussion. Refreshments are provided. The next meetings are from 6.45pm – 7.45pm on 2 September and 7 October.

Community Learning and Development (CLD)

- **Forestbank Youth Club** - The youth club ran for an extra three Thursday nights during the summer, all were well attended and culminated in a trip to M & Ds. Activities included team sports, cold cooking and arts and crafts. The group are still operating out of Inveralmond, but are looking forward to being in the new Forestbank centre in the new term.
- **Inveralmond Youth Club** - This year's summer programme at Inveralmond was a four day activity programme which consisted of healthy eating, cooking, potting and planting, pottery, curling, team games, talent show and a trip to Craigtoun Park, St Andrews. The programme is targeted at ages 7 -10 in the Inveralmond catchment area and is designed to give them positive options and experiences that they are unlikely to gain in their day to day lives.

Macmillan Cancer Support are holding a public coffee morning from 10am - 12 noon on Saturday 25 September at Howden Park Centre. The event is part of McMillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning.



Ward 5 – East Livingston and East Calder

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 2pm on Thursday 23 September. Venue: Council Chambers, Civic Centre. Members: Councillor Frank Anderson, Councillor Willie Dunn, Councillor Carl John, and Councillor Dave King.

New school - Work will start on the new Pumpherston and Uphall Station Community Primary School at the end of September. The project is due to be completed by December 2011

East Calder Library

- **Tuesday Book Group** - This free reading group for adults meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Lively discussions. Refreshments are provided. The next sessions are from 6.45 – 7.45pm on 7 September and 5 October.
- **Bookbug Sessions** - All babies and pre-school children welcome in this free session of rhymes, stories and songs. The next sessions are from 10.30am - 11am on 10 and 24 September and 8 and 29 October.
- **Thursday Book Group** – This free reading group for adults meets on the last Thursday of the month. Refreshments are provided. The next sessions are from 6.45pm – 7.45pm on 30 September and 28 October.

Almondbank Library

- **Reading Group** - This free reading group for adults meets from 6.30pm – 7.45pm on the last Thursday of the month. The next meetings are on 30 September and 28 October. Refreshments are provided.
- **Bookbugs session** - Bring your baby and pre school child along to enjoy rhymes, songs and stories. The next sessions are on 7 September and 5 October from 1.45pm – 2.15pm.
- **Graphic Novel Group** – meets in the library on the first Thursday of the month. The next meetings are on 2 September and 7 October.

Walking Week - A walk round Almond Park, Craigshill, from 12.30pm - 2pm on Wednesday 22 September will be led by the Community Greenspace Officer and Community Inclusion Team. The walk sets off from Livingston Rugby Club car park. Most paths are surfaced and mostly flat, but there are some moderate slopes.

- The Powies Path walk from 1.30pm – 3.30pm on Thursday 23 September will be led by West Lothian Council Ranger Service. The walk, a distance of four miles, starts at the Visitor Centre, at Almondell and Calderwood Country Park. Powies Path was an ancient route to Bridgend, Mid Calder. Walkers can find out where a secret castle stood in Pumpherston and where the path of the 'craw flee' led to. The walk will cross some rough tracks with steps leading to the viaduct.

English as a Second Language – classes start at Craigsfarm community centre on the week beginning 6 September. The classes are from 9.30am -11.30am on Fridays. A crèche is available. For further information or to book a place on the free course, call Freephone 0800 121 4695 or email cbal@westlothian.gov.uk



Ward 6 - Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 8.30am on Tuesday 9 November. Venue Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre. Members: Councillor Neil Findlay, Councillor Greg McCarra, and Councillor Cathy Muldoon.

Community Learning and Development (CLD)

- **Styoneyburn funding application** - Following consultation with young Stoneyburn residents, CLD and Stoneyburn management committee are in the process of completing an application form to Cashback for Communities. Young people in the area highlighted the village play park as an area that required refurbishment. It has therefore been suggested that part of the funding be allocated to employ an artist. This is to work in partnership with the young people in order to design the new playpark. The management committee also put forward the idea of having the entrance to Stoneyburn redesigned, so that it is both innovative and welcoming.
- **Fauldhouse Youth Club** – The summer activity project to provide diversionary activities during the school holidays was not as well attended as previous years.
- **Ski Italy 2011** – again, there was a smaller number of participants, but spaces are still available to any West Lothian young people. Youth clubs are starting up again during the week beginning 30 August.
- **Working with Active Schools** - will offer snow boarding/skiing to Whitburn Academy pupils starting from 4 September.
- **Longridge Youth Clubs** - A series of trips away which were offered were cancelled due to a lack of response. The drop-in facility programmed for once a week in the school attracted less than 10 people.
- **Part time youth work** - staff training and development. A certificated one day workshop 'Domestic violence awareness and effects on the child' will take place from 9am to 4pm on Saturday 11 September in West Calder community centre.

Fauldhouse Library – which was in temporary premises in St. Andrew's Church Hall, has now closed, prior to the move to the new Fauldhouse Partnership Centre. A mobile library, with a council information adviser on board, will visit the car park at the Partnership Centre, until the new building is ready.

- The library and council information services will be available on Wednesday and Friday from 1pm - 5pm. The library service will also be available on a Saturday morning from 9am to 12noon. Customers may use their library card in any library in West Lothian.

West Calder Library

- **Bookbug Sessions** - All babies and pre-school children welcome in this free session of rhymes, stories and songs. The next meetings are from 10.30am – 11am on 16 September and 14 October.
- **Tuesday Reading Group** - This reading group for adults meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6.30 pm. Everyone is welcome and tea and biscuits will be provided. The next meetings are 7 September and 5 October.
- **Thursday Reading Group** - This reading group for adults meets on the last Thursday of the month at 6.30 pm. Everyone is welcome and tea and biscuits will be provided. The next sessions are on 30 September and 28 October.



Ward 7 - Whitburn and Blackburn

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 10am on Monday 25 October. Venue: East Whitburn Community Centre. Members: Councillor Gordon Beurskens, Councillor Jim Dickson, Councillor George Paul and Councillor Jim Swan.

St Kentigern's Academy - Preparations for St Kentigern's Academy annual show are now underway. This year, pupils are very excited by the prospect of the chance to perform in the wonderful musical play 'Oliver'. The show will be staged in the school assembly hall on 9, 10 and 11 November.

Town centre improvements - Civic Space work started on 16 August and is expected to take a period of eight weeks. Signage strategy and furniture strategy will be implemented in late summer. The shop front grant scheme is progressing in partnership with Whitburn Traders. The refurbishment of the wall at the Cross and repairs to the Market Place Planter has now been tendered with an expected return date of late August.

Whitburn Library

- **Bookbug Sessions** - All babies and pre-school children welcome in this free session of rhymes, stories and songs. The next sessions are on 2 and 30 September and 28 October.
- **Reading Group** - This monthly book group for adults meets on the last Monday of every month at 2.30pm. The next sessions are on 27 September and 25 October.
- **Chatterbooks** - Children's reading group meeting on Friday afternoons. For more information, please contact the library on 01501 678050.
- **Museum exhibition** – 'Jeanie Walker Sampler' - See an important part of Whitburn's heritage. The exhibition runs until 13 November.

Community Learning and Development (CLD)

- **Blackburn funding application** - CLD has been working with Team 1, a committee of young Blackburn people who were elected as peer representatives through the annual primary seven school conferences. This collaboration resulted in a Cashback for Communities funding application, applied for by Blackburn Management Committee on behalf of Team 1.
- **Whitburn Youth Festival 2010** - The second annual Whitburn Youth Festival ran on Saturday 14 August and was attended by around 200 local young people and approximately 70 local adults.

Blackburn Connected

- **Blackburn Connected Reading Group** - This free and informal reading group for adults meets on the first Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in reading, meeting people and having a chat over tea/coffee, come along and join in. The next meetings are at 1.30pm on 1 September and 6 October.
- **Friday Club** - Storytime and craft activities are on offer at this free weekly children's club. Sessions are from 1.30 pm - 2.30 pm on: 3, 10, 17 and 24 September and 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 October.



Ward 8 - Bathgate

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 10am on Monday 6 September. Venue: Council Chambers, Civic Centre. Members: Councillor Willie Boyle, Councillor John McGinty and Councillor Jim Walker.

Town centre improvements - St David's Square and Steelyard public realm works are progressing. A wi-fi zone feasibility study is currently underway through Enterprising Bathgate Ltd. Signage strategy will be implemented in late summer. A Premises Improvement Scheme is underway through Enterprising Bathgate Ltd.

Wester Inch Community Association - Wester Inch Community Fayre takes place at Simpson Primary School from 9am to 1pm on Saturday 4 September. Activities include a DJ and live music from local talent, the chance to take a health MOT, fun and games, an opportunity to win some prizes and craft and home baking stalls.

- The Keep Wester Inch Village Tidy campaign is organising a half-day for volunteers to help clean and tidy the village from 9.30am to 12.30pm on Saturday 11 September.

Bathgate Music Festival - A party in the park on Sunday 12 September will launch the Bathgate Music Festival 2010. The party, in Kirkton Park, includes Boghall Family Fun Day, from 10.30am to 12.30pm, and live bands between 12.30 and 5pm. Bands lined up to play include: Fire and I, Flip Banshee, YAP Music, Columbia, Look Left Again and The Amorettes. The music festival runs until 18 September

Bathgate Fabb Club - Planning is underway for a visit to Poland in July 2011, following a recent visit by 14 young people from Bathgate Fabb to Germany, where they took part in an international youth exchange with young people from Germany and Poland.

Bathgate Library

- **Bathgate Library Reading Group** - meet once a month on a Tuesday evening. The next meeting is from 6.15pm on 14 September. The book under discussion will be "Pandemonium" by Christopher Brookmyre. Tea and biscuits are provided.
- **Bookbug sessions** All babies and preschool children are welcome to enjoy the rhymes, songs and stories. The next sessions are 3 and 17 September and 1 and 15 October, from 10.30am – 11am.
- **Storytime** - Bathgate Library have started holding a monthly storytime and craft activity/colour-in session for children on the second Tuesday of the month. For more information, please contact the library on 01506 776400. The next sessions are from 2.30 – 3pm on 14 September and 12 October.

Community Learning and Development (CLD)

- **Annual camp** - Working in partnership with Stoneyburn, Blackburn, Seafeld and Bathgate centre Management Committees, CLD were able to successfully facilitate the third annual camp to Dalguise Centre in Perthshire. It is hoped that this integration will help dissipate tensions and relieve inter village rivalry.
- **Boghall Girls Group** - Facilitated by CLD, working in partnership with Youth Action Scotland, Boghall Girls Group has continued to develop extremely well. The girls are now in the process of forming an action group to develop youth resources in Boghall and will be supported by CLD and Youth Action. A planning workshop and consultation has been arranged with the group regarding the formation of the action group.



Ward 9 - Armadale and Blackridge

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 10am on Friday 12 November. Venue: Youth lounge, Armadale Community Centre. Please check the website: www.westlothian.gov.uk for details. Members: Councillor Stuart Borrowman, Councillor Jim Dixon Councillor and Councillor Isabel Hutton.

Town centre improvements - Civic Space work started on 9 August and is expected to take a period of eight weeks. A deep clean started on the week 16 August and will take one or two weeks to complete. Signage strategy and furniture strategy will be implemented in late summer. The shop front grant scheme is progressing in partnership with Armadale traders.

Community Learning and Development.

- **Armadale/ Blackridge summer programme** - Young people from across the ward took part in a full summer programme including trips to Blackpool, Dunbar beach, sports days and dance workshops. The new Youth Space was used along with community centre and Blackridge community wing.
- **Community engagement project** - Young people from Blackridge are about to embark on a 'better community engagement' project in partnership with the Arts Unit. The project will target young people aged 10-16 and will explore how young people perceive Blackridge and opportunities within it through multimedia art forms.
- **Armadale Youth committee** - had a break over the summer but are about to begin stage 2 of Youth Scotland's' Involvement Training. They will be going on a residential in September to Aviemore with other young people from across Scotland.

Westfield - A new group for seniors in the village has been formed called 'The Bridgecastle Club'. The group have been doing local walks and also paid a visit to Culross. Future plans include linking to Armadale community centre for indoor bowls and a visit to New Lanark

Armadale Library

- **Museum exhibition** - During September, the library will host the 'History of Armadale' and 'Call to Arms' displays. These are on view during opening times.
- **Bookbug sessions** - Bring your baby and pre-school child along to enjoy rhymes, songs and stories. The next sessions are 21 September and 26 October from 10.30am – 11am.
- **Chatterbooks Club** - usually meets on the last Tuesday of the month between 4 pm and 5 pm and refreshments are provided. Parents should check with the library in advance to see if there is a place for their child, 01501 678400. The next meetings are 28 September and 26 October.

Blackridge Library

- **Museum Exhibition** – 'The Story of Blackridge' is currently on display at the library. Examining work and leisure in Blackridge, there is a special display of old railway photographs.

Walking Week - The walk to The Glen, Armadale, from 10am on Tuesday 21 September will be led by Put your West Foot Forward. The walk is 2.5 miles in distance and starts at the community centre.