

# Bulletin

UK Council  
of the Year  
2006



West Lothian  
Council

The newspaper of West Lothian Council

westlothian.gov.uk

Issue 54 - Winter 2009



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## Councils and other public sector bodies across the country are facing up to significant budget pressures that will last for many years.

Unfortunately West Lothian Council is no different.

Council Leader Peter Johnston commented: "There is a lot of doom and gloom surrounding public sector finances at the moment – and rightly so. All public sector bodies are facing a very difficult financial future.

"However, it is our aim to continue to freeze council tax next year. We believe that by freezing council tax for a second consecutive year, families and pensioners will have more cash in their pockets.

"In the coming weeks, the Government will provide us with our reduced grant figure for 2010/11. This figure allows us to make decisions and develop a balanced budget for the coming financial year.

"As one of Scotland's most forward thinking and progressive councils, we are already working on a financial strategy for the future.

"The picture is still not clear what national budget cutbacks will mean for the people of West Lothian. However, West Lothian Council operates from a sound financial base and we are working hard to make efficiency savings, which will lessen the impact that a reduced budget will have on front line services.

"For example, £50,000 of funding for our new income maximisation project (highlighted on page three) has been funded from efficiencies made this year through a reduction in council staff attending conferences and seminars.

"We will continue to share information about the impact of finances, as they become available. Some service reductions are inevitable and the council will continue to work with partners to provide best value for the public pound and focus on priority needs."

Further updates will be available in future editions of *Bulletin* and on the council's website: [westlothian.gov.uk](http://westlothian.gov.uk).



Councillor Andrew Miller at the new Deans CHS

INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

## New dawn @ Armadale Academy and Deans CHS

The new Armadale Academy and Deans Community High School have been officially opened.

The stunning new schools are the first in West Lothian to be opened under a £60 million partnership arrangement. The modern, state-of-the-art buildings, have been built and customised to meet the needs of local communities.

These will be the first new secondary schools to be built in West Lothian for over a decade.

Executive councillor for education, Andrew Miller, said: "I'm delighted that both Deans CHS and Armadale Academy are now open.

"I know the young people in Armadale and the north of Livingston will benefit greatly from the new modern facilities and I am confident they will enhance West Lothian's tradition of excellence in education.

"Both schools are good examples where schools are maximising technology to enhance the learning experience of pupils. I'm sure that the fantastic facilities will be warmly welcomed by pupils, staff, parents/carers and

those who use the community facilities."

Head Teacher of Armadale Academy, Graham Johnstone, said: "The whole school community is very excited by the quality and design of the new building and we are enjoying the amount of space provided within our dining and social areas. The design of the building maximises natural ventilation and lighting providing excellent learning conditions. The specification of interactive whiteboards in all teaching areas and full wi-fi connection across the school bring new opportunities to enhance the learning experience for all pupils."

Head Teacher of Deans CHS, Elaine Cook, added: "I would like to thank the staff, pupils, parents and carers for their support and cooperation since the start of the new term. We have worked hard to ensure a good start to the new school session and are all very excited about the future."

**At Deans Community High School, the capacity will be maintained at 1,100 pupils. A wide range of new facilities has enhanced the school.**

Visitors enter into an impressive double height space in the circular reception, administration and pupil support block. This leads to the wide "street" and on through to the core of the school. There are excellent physical education and recreation facilities – games hall, gymnasium, dance studio, fitness room and a 25metre state-of-the-art swimming pool with a moveable floor for learners. There is also a community café, theatre and exhibition space. An all weather pitch will be provided on the site of the old school building. All users are impressed by the natural light flooding into the building and the use of colour in the corridors.

→ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# West Lothian's Business Gateway service is proving that support is at hand for new businesses.



John Ward, managing director, Business Gateway adviser Jim Henderson, Councillor Day and Mike Connelly, director of Fasteq

business gateway  
west lothian

Small to medium sized businesses can access financial support thanks to West Lothian Loan Fund which offers gap funding of up to £30,000 to help with business change projects.

Projects eligible for loan funding include new products/services, new manufacturing processes, quality improvements and new e-commerce systems. The scheme provides gap funding in the form of both grants and soft loans.

One of the first firms to benefit was Fasteq in Linlithgow. Fasteq quickly built up contracts supplying fastening technologies to electronics companies including Motorola and NEC.

John Ward, Fasteq's MD, identified a need to expand to larger, specialist premises but wanted to remain in the local area.

The ideal premises were found on Mill Road Industrial Estate in Linlithgow and Fasteq saw an opportunity to improve stock control processes, through the creation of a bonded

warehouse facility with state-of-the-art stock control software.

When the £95,000 project couldn't be fully funded commercially, Fasteq approached West Lothian Council's Business Gateway. A £5,000 project grant and £10,000 loan enabled the project to be implemented and has safeguarded three jobs and allowed the creation of five additional jobs at the company.

## In other news...

Specialist advisers from the Business Gateway provide advice, support and experience to around 300 start up businesses in West Lothian each year.

Executive councillor for development and transport, Martyn Day, said: "Despite the difficult economic environment, many small businesses are flourishing and the council's Business Gateway service is playing a pivotal role in helping new businesses get up and running – providing jobs in West Lothian."

One business to take advantage of the service is BOSS Door Controls Ltd, based on Livingston's Brucefield Industry Park.

Key to the company's fast start up and strong projected growth has been the support provided by West Lothian Council's Business Gateway. Owner Russell Marks said: "The support from West Lothian Council has been invaluable in helping us to boost our manufacturing capacity very early on in the life of our business. Although a relative newcomer,

we are projecting strong future growth, with a turnover anticipated to grow beyond £2million within three years".

Russell's business adviser has provided a range of support from locating the business premises to assisting with recruitment.

**For more information on how West Lothian Council's Business Gateway can help, call: 0845 609 6611 or visit: [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com)**

## In a first for West Lothian, the newly formed Community Race Forum welcomed the world renowned, inspirational speaker, Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, in October.

Mr Gandhi visited Scotland to make only a small number of public appearances. During his visit he spent time at Carmondean Primary School and St Kentigern's Academy, before addressing a public audience at Howden Park Centre in the evening.

Chair of the Community Race Forum, Nahid Hanif, commented "We were delighted to host the visit from Mr Gandhi. His philosophies of non-violence and cultural integration mirror some of the aims and objectives of the Community Race Forum."

Councillor Carl John is the council's representative on Edinburgh and Lothian's Racial Equality Council. He added: "We were delighted to welcome Mr Gandhi to West Lothian. It was a wonderful experience for our young people to

meet with him and hear his positive messages about equality and respecting all cultures."

The Community Race Forum was launched in May 2009 to promote integration and understanding amongst the different cultures and ethnic groupings within West Lothian. There are now over 60 members of the Forum and new members are always welcome. The only criteria for membership is that you must live or work in West Lothian. For more information about the forum contact Jackie Leeds on 01506 774035.



## Your community needs you!

West Lothian Council is looking for community spirited residents to come forward and become school crossing patrol guide's. Ask yourself:

- Do you want to make some money?
- Do you have some spare time?
- Do you want to make a difference in your community?

If the answer is yes call: 01506 776585 for more information. Full training is provided (as well as a snazzy looking coat and hat).

## A new partnership with the police is set to make a difference in two West Lothian school communities.

Bathgate Academy, Deans Community High School in Livingston and their cluster schools have welcomed a full-time police officer to the high school team, as part of a new pilot community initiative.

Both high schools have been involved in developing the project, which is designed to promote citizenship, health and wellbeing, social inclusion and positive behaviour across the school community.

The pilot will be evaluated by education officers, and if successful could be rolled-out across West Lothian.

Executive councillor for education, Andrew Miller said: "Similar projects across Scotland have demonstrated that close partnership working with the police can enhance the school experience for all children, particularly at the secondary stage.

"We anticipate that the officers will work closely with teaching and support staff."

West Lothian Divisional Commander Ronnie Liddle from Lothian and Borders Police added: "In partnership with Education, we can make a huge impact on children and young adults in a safe and supportive environment, and I look forward to seeing many positive outcomes in the months and years ahead."

Funding for the project has been split between West Lothian Council's Education Services and Lothian and Borders Police.

# Review to benefit growing population

Older people in West Lothian are set to benefit from a comprehensive review of services.



Council Leader Peter Johnston joins residents at Whitdale Day Centre.

The aim of the review was to ensure that public sector and voluntary organisations work together to provide the best service possible for West Lothian's growing older population.

## The review has led the council to develop:

- A six-month pilot in 2009/10 to focus on helping older people maximise their incomes through claiming more benefits (see below).
- A new Older People's Forum will be introduced so that older people can have a say in the development of services.
- A 'change or challenge' fund will be set up which will direct resources to priority areas.

Council Leader Peter Johnston explained: "What is clear from the report is that "no change" is not an option. Predicted demographic changes show a significant growth in the numbers of West Lothian residents over the ages of 60, and more particularly the growth in numbers over the age of 75, which will have major implications for a range of services.

"The review highlighted that the most productive overall corporate approach appears to be a twin-track approach which encourages older people to live healthy, active lives in the community and provides care services to vulnerable older people, maximising the use

of smart technology promoting independent living wherever possible.

"A key challenge facing us will be to determine how to best provide for the needs of our most impoverished older people.

"The council also wants to work in partnership to ensure that resources are targeted where they will provide the most value, so the council will set up an Older People's Forum which will enable this group to have a say in the development the strategy and its implementation," added Councillor Johnston.

There is a lot happening on the West Lothian Council's website: YouTube (westlothianvideos), twitter (lovewestlothian), local news, podcasts, advice and information, and of course, direct access to services.

Updated daily, you will find the latest council and local news along with a comprehensive events section. The website has a 'find my nearest' section and with a variety of online facilities you can access council services at a time that is convenient to you. We are keen to hear about what information you would like to find on the council's website. Or simply take a look and let us know what you think we could improve. Text **consult** and your comments to **60777** (local rate charge).



www.westlothian.gov.uk

## Pensioners to pocket from new benefit programme

Pensioners in West Lothian are set for a cash boost after West Lothian Council launched an ambitious project aimed at increasing the benefit take up for those over 60.

In just five months over 500 residents aged over 60 are expected to benefit from the council's Income Maximisation Project.

It is estimated that older residents will receive, on average, an extra £40 per week but some will receive up to £100 extra per week due to extra premiums.

The project aims to increase the income of older people by £1 million by March 2010.

The £50,000 project is funded through efficiencies made this year after the council reduced the number of staff who attend conferences and seminars.

Council Leader Peter Johnston is delighted with the funding and the impact it will have on pensioners in West Lothian.

He said: "The project has set ambitious targets and aims to make a positive impact for many pensioners across West Lothian.

"The council's Advice Shop will dedicate three

members of staff to advise and assist those aged over 60, who are most at risk of being financially excluded. Many older people do not realise the benefits that are available to them and are unsure where to turn for advice. Our Income Maximisation Project will tackle these issues.

"As well as offering independent, confidential advice the project team will be on hand to offer customers assistance with completing forms and claiming benefits, and will also provide ongoing support throughout the claim process and beyond."

**If you are over 60 and you would like to make sure that your income is correct contact the team. This is especially important if you are struggling financially or your health has recently deteriorated. You can contact the West Lothian Pensioner Income Maximisation Team on: 01506 775125.**

## ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

A UK Parliamentary general election will take place in the UK by 3 June 2010. However, this election can be called at any time and sometimes at short notice so it is worth checking whether you are registered now.



Voting in an election is your opportunity to make your views known. It gives you a say on important issues that affect you such as taxation, benefits, pensions, defence and local issues such as roads, education and the environment. If you're on the register you'll have the chance to vote.

Registering to vote doesn't mean you have to, it just means you can if you want to: You can register to vote from the age of 16, although you cannot vote until you are 18.

If you moved home recently you will have to change your details.

**If you are unsure whether you are registered just contact the electoral registration office for West Lothian, the Lothian Valuation Joint Board, [www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk](http://www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk). You can view the electoral register at Council Information Services (CIS) centres and local libraries. More information about voting is available online at: [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk)**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



# Council's five star performance is recognised



At Armadale, the school has excellent physical education and recreation facilities – games hall, gymnasium, dance studio, fitness room and swimming pool. These will bring benefits to both the school pupils and to the community out with core school hours and an all-weather pitch will be provided on the site of the old school building. The capacity of the school has been increased to 1,210 pupils to support new housing developments in and around Armadale. At the heart of the three-storey school is a central courtyard which improves access and circulation to other areas of the school and provides an attractive, sheltered landscaped area for pupils during lunch and break times. The pupils appreciate the new Business and Computing classes, the sports facilities and the new social spaces. Built on an elevated site above the old school, the new building has excellent views over West Lothian.

West Lothian Council has been awarded a landmark accolade in recognition of its dedication to improving services.

The council has achieved five-star level (gold) in EFQM (European Foundation for Quality Management) Recognised for Excellence scheme. This achievement is awarded to organisations that can demonstrate high-performance and a commitment to providing excellent services.

The prestigious accolade, based on the most widely used management framework in Europe, was created to encourage efficient improvement in organisations. Recognition in EFQM also provides the opportunity to learn from the highest performers in the public and private sectors across Europe.

West Lothian Council's Chief Executive Alex Linkston added: "West Lothian Council strives to provide excellent service for those in West Lothian.

"Some of the world's biggest and most successful companies use this recognition scheme and for West Lothian Council to gain five-star level is a significant landmark for us.

"This type of external scrutiny challenges the council to demonstrate that it continues to provide excellent customer service and value for money for the citizens of West Lothian."

Leader of West Lothian Council Peter Johnston said: "West Lothian Council is one of the top performing councils in the country.

The dedication, commitment and quality of our staff is second to none and will stand our community in good stead as we face up to the massive challenges coming our way in the years ahead."

Dave Bradley, Chief Executive of Quality Scotland, added: "On behalf of Quality Scotland, I would like to congratulate West Lothian Council on this achievement and praise the dedication of the staff who, through their everyday actions, showed excellent practice to achieve this award. The council has shown what can be achieved with a strong desire to improve services and the overall organisation."

# Bulletin SURVEY 2009

## WIN CASH FOR CHRISTMAS!

Each year, West Lothian Council delivers over 307,000 copies of *Bulletin* to local households.

The team behind the quarterly council newspaper is keen to find out what readers think about the publication, which is why we have prepared a short questionnaire.

In an attempt to seek the views of local people we would be grateful if readers would complete our survey. You can pop the survey in an envelope and return it to the FREE postal address or alternatively, Text **Consult** to **60777** with your answers and name. (See details below).

The results of our survey will be published in the next edition of *Bulletin* and all entrants will be entered into a prize draw, for the chance to win a Gift Card to spend in The Centre. There are three Gift Cards up for grabs, one worth £50 (Courtesy of The Centre, Livingston) and a further two Gift Cards worth £25.

**Free postal address:**  
**Freepost RLXR-SJEC-BJJH**  
**West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden Road**  
**South, Livingston, EH54 6FF**

Please fill in your details below:

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

Alternatively, you can text your answer to 60777. Type **Consult**, your name and your answers. For example: Question 3 - If you always read *Bulletin*, text 3e. (Texts are charged at local rates)

**1 Are you male or female?**

a. male  b. female

**2 What age group are you in?**

a. Under 20  b. 21-35   
 c. 36-50  d. 51-65   
 e. Over 65

**3 In general, do you read *Bulletin*?**

a. Always  b. Usually   
 c. Sometimes  d. Hardly ever   
 e. Never

**4 Do you find the information in *Bulletin* easy to understand? (Please circle a number below - where 1 is very difficult to understand and 6 is very easy to understand).**

1    2    3    4    5    6

**5 Please circle a point on the scales below to indicate your views of *Bulletin*.**

Interesting    1 2 3 4 5 6    Uninteresting  
 Informative    1 2 3 4 5 6    Uninformative  
 Well presented 1 2 3 4 5 6    Poorly presented  
 Relevant    1 2 3 4 5 6    Irrelevant

**6 Do you think *Bulletin* provides sufficient information about the following:**

a. Council developments   
 b. Plans for the future   
 c. Councillors   
 d. Local communities   
 e. Council services

**7 Have there been any articles/features in recent editions of *Bulletin* that you found particularly interesting? (Please write your answers below).**

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**8 Can you suggest any changes/improvements to *Bulletin*? (Please write your answers below).**

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**9 How would you rate the overall quality of *Bulletin*?**

a. Excellent   
 b. Good   
 c. Adequate   
 d. Unsatisfactory

**10 Overall, how satisfied are you with the publication?**

a. Very satisfied   
 b. Satisfied   
 c. Unsatisfied

**11. Do you have access to the internet?**

a. Yes  b. no



**Don't delay - Get your answers back to us by Monday 7 December and if you're one of our lucky winners, we'll send the gift card back to you in time for your Christmas shopping. Good luck!**



Fifth and sixth year pupils celebrate a great year for Inveralmond CHS

## Exam success

West Lothian pupils are being congratulated for their efforts after the 2009 exam results highlighted significant success stories.

Executive councillor for education, Andrew Miller, said: "Our S4 performance was above the Scottish average for 2008. There was also a significant increase of 4% (pre-appeal) in the numbers of pupils attaining one higher which is extremely positive. The number of presentations at Advanced Higher level rose by 6% and the pass rate rose by 5%. Well done to pupils, parents and teachers – a team effort."

Almost 1,600 pupils attended the council's Saturday Masterclass Programme. The programme promotes good study techniques.

### Performance in S4

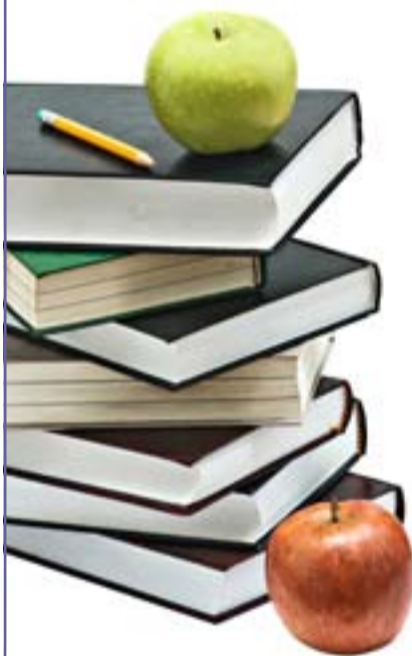
■ Percentage of pupils attaining level 3 or better in English and Maths in 2009 – 95% – a 1% improvement on 2008. Scottish average (2008) 91%.

- Percentage of pupils attaining five or more passes at level 3 is 95% – the same as 2008. Scottish average (2008) 90%.
- Percentage of pupils attaining five or more passes at level 4 is 79% – an improvement of 2% on 2008. Scottish average (2008) 76%.
- Percentage of pupils attaining five or more passes at level 5 is 36% – an improvement of 2% on 2008. Scottish average (2008) 34%.

### Performance in S5

- The percentage of pupils attaining one or more passes at level six (Higher) is 40% – an improvement of 4% on 2008. Scottish average (2008) 38%.
- The percentage of pupils attaining three or more passes at level six (Higher) is 21% – the same as 2008. Scottish average (2008) 22%.

## Inveralmond Results Boosted by Refurbishment



Students and staff at Inveralmond Community High School returned after the holidays to an excellent set of examination results, despite of the upheaval caused by the school's £20 million refurbishment.

Headteacher, Bill Tevendale, said: "The building work has been a major challenge, but the determination and consideration shown by the staff has ensured that the pupils have not suffered. Every subject area has been affected with departments moving out to mobile classrooms in rotation.

"A great team effort has produced the school's best results for many years with the number of students gaining five highers doubling, and with two of the pupils achieving straight 'A' grades. The results in S3 and S4 were also up and bear witness to the committed teaching and study support offered at the school."

## Second round for council homes

Plans to build a further 489 new council houses have moved one step closer.

West Lothian Council has announced plans to build new homes at eight further sites across West Lothian.

The sites are:

- Elburn East, Livingston
- Inveralmond CHS playing fields
- Dixon Terrace, Whitburn
- Little Boghead 6
- Alderston Road, Livingston
- Former infant school site at Uphall Station
- Ferrier Crescent/Marches Drive, Armadale
- Ladeside Ave, Blackburn

A short list of potential house builders have submitted tenders and it is hoped that construction will be underway by February 2010.

In total, 775 new homes will be built by 2012.

A number of prominent local companies and suppliers have already benefited from the first phases of council houses.

Frank Anderson, Executive councillor for services for the community, added:

"Not only are we building council houses to help accommodate those in need of affordable housing, but the new homes provide an opportunity for positive employment benefits for local people, many of whom are young people starting out in their careers.

"We are building houses which vary in size and style and will be able to accommodate families, couples and those people who require disabled accommodation."

## Landmark for council tenants

The first tenants have started moving into the newly completed council houses – the first to be built in West Lothian in over 25 years.

New council homes have been built in Boghall (68 homes), Dixon Terrace, Whitburn (49 homes), Wester Inch, Bathgate (87 homes) and Peel House, Livingston (44 homes).

Councillor Frank Anderson said: "It's fantastic news that tenants are settling in to the new council houses. Council homes are in short supply across the country and this development will provide people with homes built to an excellent standard.

"The standard of building work is wonderful and I'd like to thank house builder, Gladedale Partnerships (Scotland) Ltd, and the council's Housing and Building Services for their excellent work in the planning and construction of the new homes.

"West Lothian Council is committed to providing communities with affordable

housing and these homes will compliment their communities and accommodate generations for many years to come."

Kirsta Hunter moved into her new home in Marina Avenue, Boghall at the end of September. She said: "The house is gorgeous and we are absolutely delighted with the amount of space we have. They new houses are a really good size for families and have plenty of storage.

"It is difficult to pick out one aspect that I like most because I love the whole house - everything from our own private drive way to the fantastic garden. All the neighbours seem delighted with their houses and my kids love it. They have a play park at the bottom of the street and we're walking distance to the school – we're settling in really well.

"It feels really secure here and the views over the farmers' fields are really stunning."

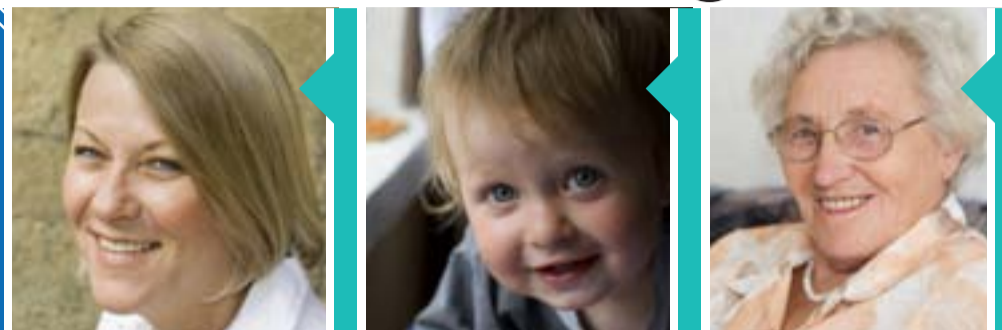


Councillor Anderson joins Krista Hunter and her sons, Connor and Dylan, outside their new home.

# Major improvements being made at **St John's Hospital** in Livingston.

The news has been welcomed by the St John's Hospital Stakeholder Group who are playing an important role in helping to bring changes to West Lothian's hospital.

The group provides a platform for NHS Lothian Board members, health professionals, patient representatives and councillors to discuss improvements to St John's Hospital. The group can help influence issues such as tackling health inequalities, economic regeneration, transport infrastructure and the development of services at St John's Hospital.



Executive councillor for health and care, Ellen Glass, is a member of the Stakeholder Group. She said: "The health needs of West Lothian's citizens is our main priority for the Stakeholders Group.

"We are delighted that we have the opportunity to help shape the future of St John's Hospital and the range of services delivered there. In addition we have the opportunity now to develop areas of mutual interest that impact on the health and wellbeing of people in West Lothian.

"We are satisfied with the investment and improvements taking place at St John's Hospital.

I worked in health care for 42 years and I realise how important St John's is to the West Lothian community.

"We are particularly pleased with the increase in the number of staff working in important services. For example, NHS Lothian has appointed an additional Consultant Paediatrician in Women's and Children Services, an additional Obstetrician and eight midwives. There have also been two additional Consultant Anaesthetists and two staff-grade doctors added to support the increase in surgical activity at St John's.

"We will continue to work with our colleagues at NHS Lothian and put ideas forward to them which we feel will improve St John's Hospital for those in West Lothian. We are committed to ensuring that the interests of those living in West Lothian are put at the heart of future decisions made at St John's Hospital."



Councillor Gordon Beurskens is a fellow member of the St John's Hospital Stakeholder Group.

He added: "The recent improvements mark a positive step forward for

St John's. We will continue to investigate new opportunities to further enhance services.

"It is an extremely positive step that the Chair of NHS Lothian has already given a commitment to the Stakeholder Group that we will be involved in shaping the services to be delivered from the new Surgical Centre.

"This undertaking provides a guarantee that the views of West Lothian people will be properly reflected in the future re-design of St. John's."

## Investments by NHS Lothian at St John's Hospital have included:

### Increased Staffing Levels

In 2008/09, 50% of the additional funding identified to meet the increased birth rate was invested in maternity services in West Lothian. This amounted to approximately £450,000.

NHS Lothian has employed two additional Consultant Anaesthetists and two Staff-Grade doctors to support the increase in surgical activity at St John's.

Within the General Medicine Directorate an additional Haematology Consultant has been appointed. In terms of nursing, a nurse practitioner and two registered nurses have been appointed to the service. These posts are to support the 19% increase in referrals that the service has seen in the past year.

Within Ear, Nose and Throat Service a nurse practitioner and two registered nurses have been appointed to St John's Hospital.

Two additional consultants were appointed (in Accident & Emergency) at St John's to provide a greater level of consultant cover and enhance senior decision-making.

### Short-Stay Elective Surgery Centre (including office accommodation and decant ward).

Plans are underway to build a revolutionary £8.2 million short-stay elective surgery centre at St John's Hospital. It is estimated that the centre will be completed by May 2010.

NHS Lothian will treat patients from all over Lothian in the proposed new unit, designed to reduce waiting times and cancellations and boost operating theatre efficiency. It will offer a flexible combination of beds, trolleys and chairs specifically to suit individual patient needs and provide overnight accommodation if required.

St John's performs 13,500 day cases a year. The number will increase to around 16,500 with the creation of the new centre – an average of over 60 cases per day. The centre will offer a nurse-led pre-operative assessment service for patients local to St John's, even if their surgery is scheduled to take place in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh or the Western General Hospital. Patients will undergo various checks to ensure they are medically fit for surgery, which in turn will help reduce late cancellations and lost time in theatres. This will hopefully see the end of West Lothian patients receiving appointments to attend the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary Hospital for 7.30am.

The development of this centre will bring together day surgery patients from different specialties, such as Ear, Nose and Throat;

Plastic Surgery; and Ophthalmology, who would previously have been in separate wards throughout the hospital. Patients will also be admitted on the same day as their surgery, which offers benefits for surgeons and anaesthetists, who will treat patients in one place, rather than different locations throughout the hospital. Procedures will be completed in the nearby theatres and patients will recover in a comfortable and safe environment in the care of the ward staff before going home.

The development holds several beneficial spin-offs for St John's. The creation of a 30 bed ward will also be used to carry-out roof and window repairs.

■ **Endoscopy and Decontamination Unit:** At a cost of £3.3m, the expansion of the Endoscopy Unit is to support the implementation of the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme for NHS Lothian. This was completed in May 2009

■ **Environmental investment to support university status - £20,000**

■ **As part of the NHS Lothian Maternity Strategy the birthing rooms at St John's Hospital will be expanded and upgraded**

## Message from the Council Leader and Chair of the St John's Hospital Stakeholder Group

Peter Johnston added: "We are delighted with NHS Lothian's further investment at St John's but the good news doesn't end there.

"With staff from the Community Health and Care Partnership (CHCP) at Strathbrock in Broxburn moving into the new Civic Centre, this vacated space will also be put to clinical use – bringing more service to West Lothian.

I also look forward to the upcoming programme of reports from the Director of Public Health to address key tasks. Firstly, the examination of West Lothian's health and healthcare need and secondly the extent to which current service provision rightly meets the needs of West Lothian.

"The reports will be delivered to the Stakeholder Group on a quarterly basis between January 2010 and March 2011 and will focus on the key ingredients for a successful St John's Hospital. Issues such as a short-stay surgical unit, a comparison between St John's hospital and other Lothian hospitals, health and healthcare needs, acute activity at St John's and the need for service redesign.

"The improvements made to St John's will make a real difference to the people of West Lothian and the Stakeholder Group will continue to work hard to help shape the future of our local hospital.

"The Stakeholder Group is keen to hear what members of the public have to say about St John's Hospital. I would welcome those who have questions or views to email me at: [peter.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:peter.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk)."

Statistics show that there have been large increases in the amount of people using St John's Hospital. Over the last four years:

■ **Emergency inpatient numbers rose from 12,833 in 2006-07 to 15,031 in 2008-09.**

■ **Elective inpatient numbers increased from 4,768 in 2006-07 to 5,319 in 2008-09.**

■ **Day case patients rose from 11,145 in 2004-05 to 12,061 in 2008-09.**

# Happy Christmas 2009

## Safe and healthy food at Christmas

West Lothian Council has produced this special festive season supplement for the winter edition of **Bulletin**. It provides a range of information for our readers.

Christmas is a time to enjoy. However, too many people suffer each year from food poisoning because they have not followed simple hygiene rules when preparing food.

Whether you're cooking for two or 20, follow the advice below to help your celebrations stay free of food poisoning this festive season.

- If frozen, defrost your turkey thoroughly. A large turkey can take days to defrost. Before you start cooking, make sure there aren't any ice crystals in the cavity. Test the thicker parts of the turkey with a fork, to tell whether the meat feels frozen. Always check the packaging for defrosting advice.
  - Keep raw meat and poultry away from ready-to-eat foods. Make sure anything that raw meat and poultry has been in contact with is thoroughly washed and cleaned before coming into contact with other foods. Always keep raw foods below cooked foods in the fridge, and keep foods covered.
  - Hands spread germs. Always wash your hands before handling ready-to-eat food. Never prepare food for other people if you are unwell.
  - Don't wash your turkey (or other poultry), because bacteria can splash onto worktops, dishes and other foods. Proper cooking will kill any bacteria, so you don't need to wash poultry.
  - Make sure your turkey is properly cooked before you serve it. Eating undercooked turkey (or other poultry) could cause food poisoning. The meat should be piping hot all the way through. If juices run out when you pierce the turkey, they should be clear. If they are not then continue cooking. Always check the packaging for cooking advice.
  - Cool leftovers quickly. Keep cooked meat and poultry in the fridge. If it's left out at room temperature, food poisoning bacteria can grow and multiply. If you are reheating leftover turkey, or other food, always make sure it's piping hot all the way through before you eat it. And don't reheat more than once. Ideally, try to use leftovers within 48 hours.
- Remember, at the very least food poisoning is unpleasant, at worst it is fatal. Follow advice and enjoy healthy eating.**



### Healthy eating

Avoiding food poisoning is just one way of staying healthy this Christmas. We all tend to eat more than normal at this time of year, but it is important to remember the benefits of eating a healthy balanced diet at all times. Longer-term damage to our health through a poor diet is becoming a huge problem for many people. A good diet with the right balance of different foods can protect against heart disease, cancer, obesity, etc.

For further information on all these issues visit the Food Standards Agency's website, at [www.eatwell.gov.uk](http://www.eatwell.gov.uk)

If you need any further information about food safety then please contact the environmental health team on: **01506 775400** or email [environmentalhealth@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalhealth@westlothian.gov.uk)

## Taking care of your home this winter

**In winter, burst pipes cause great inconvenience to thousands of people and much damage to buildings and furnishings.**

**Most of this can be avoided if simple precautions are taken at the right time.**

#### The danger is greater if:

- You have water pipes in the roof space
- The house is unoccupied and unheated, even during the day
- The bathroom and kitchen are on the north or east of the house

For advice on how to take care of your house and deal with these issues, pick up a leaflet from one of our area offices, libraries or Council Information Services (CIS) centres.

#### If you get a burst pipe:

- 1 Switch off electricity
- 2 Switch off the water at the stop tap
- 3 Open all the taps to drain down the system
- 4 If you are a council tenant call our Emergency Service on **01506 775000**.

#### Thawing pipes:

- Put an electric fan heater, or use a hair dryer, near the pipe
- Do not apply a direct flame
- Pour hot water over the pipe, or place cloths soaked in hot water on it

**Danger: If the hot water system is frozen do not light the boiler fire. If you go away on holiday during the winter period notify your area office and arrangements will be made to drain down the water system.**

**The service is free to West Lothian Council tenants.**



# Christmas in West Lothian

## Christmas events in West Lothian

### Linlithgow

#### Linlithgow Advent Fayre

**Saturday 28 November**

Throughout the day, at The Cross and along the High Street, music and family entertainment.

**10.00am – 2.00pm** Farmers' Market at The Vennel.

**10.30am – 3.00pm** Street Fair at The Cross.

**10.30am – 4.00pm** Craft Fair in the Cross House & Masonic Hall.

**4.30pm** – Distribution of the torches at Low Port Primary School.

**5.00pm** – Grand torchlight procession along the High Street.

**5.00pm** – Carol Service followed by switch on of Christmas lights.

#### Hopetoun House

##### Hopetoun's Christmas Shopping Fair - The Present Event

**Friday 27, Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 November**

**10.00am until 4.30pm** Cost is £5 per person with a donation to Teenage Cancer Trust. Celebrating its 10th year, our Christmas Shopping Fair will give you just the excuse you need to shop, shop, shop. There will be over 60 stands selling an exciting range of Christmas gift ideas including bags, jewellery, scarves and a range of Scottish foodstuffs.

### Livingston

#### Santa at Almond Valley Heritage Centre

**Weekends 28 & 29 November, 5 & 6, 12 & 13 & 19 - 24**

**December.** Meet Santa, receive an early Christmas present, join in Christmas crafts and enjoy the magic of a traditional Christmas. Almond Valley is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

Standard admission charges apply (children £3.50, adults £5).

For further information, phone Almond Valley on **01506 414957**.

### Bathgate

#### Santa's Parade and Torchlight Procession

**Saturday 21 November**

Throughout the day, in and around the Steelyard, music and family entertainment, including Santa's Grotto at 2.30pm.

**10.30am onwards** - Attractions and entertainment in the Steelyard and on George Street.

**2.00pm** – Santa's Parade from the Community Centre to the Steelyard.

**4.00pm** – Distribution of torches at the Steelyard.

**4.15pm** – Grand Torchlight Procession.

**4.30pm** – Carol Service.

**5.00pm** – Switch on of the Christmas lights by Princess Marjory and winner of Enterprising Bathgate's Design a Christmas Light competition, followed by Carol Concert.

Weekend of the 12 December and 19 December The Big Wheel in the Steelyard sponsored by Enterprising Bathgate.

#### Christmas time at the Regal Theatre: R3 Tenors

**Saturday 05 December, 7.30pm**

Bob Crowe, Bruce Davis, and Declan McCusker return to the Regal Community Theatre with a brand new programme. Two hours of musical delight from Scotland's classical tenor trio, R3 Tenors, is not to be missed. Tickets: £12 or £10 concession.

Box Office: **01506 630085**.

#### Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

**Wednesday 09 December to Sunday 13 December 2009**

The Millennium Stage School is back following the success and sell-out of 'Oliver'. Don't miss this much-loved pantomime which will delight all the family. Book early to avoid disappointment as tickets will go quickly. The Millennium Stage School is a cast of talented youngsters from the West Lothian area who are studying musical theatre.

Wednesday 9 – Friday 11 December 7pm,

Saturday 12 December 2.00pm, Sunday 13 December 4.00pm.

Tickets: Adult £10, concession £7

#### Holly at Christmas 2009

**Tuesday 15 December 8.00 pm**

Buddy Holly And The Cricketers. This special Christmas show has delighted audiences across the globe for 17 sensational years and is guaranteed to have everyone singing along to the music and dancing in the aisles. Tickets: £14, £12 concession.

Box Office: **01506 630085**.

#### Christmas Crackers

**Friday 18 December 2.30 pm**

Christmas Crackers with West Lothian Schools' Brass Band. A one-hour children's special with seasonal party-time songs, fun and games from West Lothian's very own winter wonderland band.

Tickets £6. Box Office: **01506 630085**.

#### Sleeping Beauty

**Saturday 19 December, 2.30pm & 7.00pm**

Sleeping Beauty is a magical fairytale told in a delightfully entertaining way. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets: £5. Box Office: **01506 630085**.

#### Festive Brass

**Sunday 20 December 7.00 pm**

A seasonal concert of best loved Christmas music by Whitburn Brass Band. This is a warm, traditional evening for families and friends to share. Tickets £9 or £7. Box Office: **01506 630085**.

Box Office for all Regal performances is **01506 433634**, and also see the Regal website at: [www.bathgateregal.org](http://www.bathgateregal.org)

### Broxburn

#### Santa arrives

**Saturday 12 December**

**11.00am** – Santa arrives by barge on the Union Canal at Port Buchan followed by a parade through Broxburn. The procession will end at the Broxburn Parish Church Hall, where Santa will meet children between **11.45am** and **1.15 pm**. After this explore the town and take part in the Treasure Hunt organised by Broxburn and Uphall Traders' Association. **1.00pm – 3.00pm** "Battle of the Bands", in Thomas Brown Funeral Directors Car Park, West Main Street, Broxburn. Listen to the local rock bands battle it out.

#### Santa Trips

**Dates see below**

The Bridge 19-40 Canal Society has again invited Santa to come on board *Bluebell* and chat to children and give them a gift.

The trips will be held on Saturday, 12 December and Sunday 20 December at 12.00pm, 12.45pm, 1.30pm and 2.15pm each day.

The cost of the trip is £6 and all children will receive gifts from Santa. Adults will be served tea, coffee and mince pies.

*Bluebell* can only take 12 passengers and to avoid disappointment, places must be pre-booked by phoning Ann on **01506 417685**.

### Uphall

#### Christmas Lights Switch On

**Tuesday 1 December at 6.30pm**

A one-hour children's special with seasonal party-time songs, fun at the side of the Community Centre. There will be carol singing and refreshments.

#### Torchlight Procession

**Friday 18 December at 6.15pm**

Leaving from the Uphall Community Centre.

### Howden Park Centre Livingston

#### Noor – Light/Knowledge by Ouzma Waheed

**Friday 4 December – Monday 11 January**

9am - 9pm (Monday – Saturday), 11am - 5pm (Sunday).

An exhibition of intricate geometric shapes and patterns. **FREE**

#### Wizard of Oz by New Town Entertainers

**Evening Shows: Monday 7 – Friday 11 December, 7.30pm.**

**Matinees: Saturday 5, Sunday 6, Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 December, 2.00pm**

Join Dorothy and Toto on their magical adventure in The Land of Oz as they follow the yellow brick road in with the Scarecrow, the Lion and the Tin Man... and Elvis.

Tickets: £7. Box Office: **01506 431803**.

#### Snow Baby by Catherine Wheels Theatre Company

**Wed 16 December - Thursday 21 December**

The Snow Baby is a magical, enchanting and funny Christmas show especially for children aged three and above, and their families and friends.

**Wednesday 16 December, 1.30pm**

Thursday 17, Monday 21, Tuesday 22 December **10.30am & 1.30pm**

Friday 18 December 10.30am

Saturday 19, Thursday 24 **11.00am & 2.30pm**

Sunday 20, Sunday 27, Monday 28, Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 December **2.30pm**

Tickets: £6. Box Office: **01506 777666**.

#### Festive Brass with Whitburn Band

**Wednesday 23 December, 7pm**

A seasonal concert of best-loved Christmas music by one of the most entertaining brass bands in the country. Enjoy complimentary mincemeat pies in the bistro.

Tickets: £9 or £7. Box Office: **01506 777666**.

#### The Nicht Afore Ceilidh Party with The Gallivanter

**Tuesday 29 December, 7.30pm - Midnight**

Dance the year away to Scottish and Irish tunes by five-piece ceilidh band The Gallivanter. There is a caller to lead you through the dances. Tickets: £15 including stovies and a dram.

Box Office: **01506 777666**.

Book for a special Christmas lunch or dinner in Howden Park Centre's bistro. For more information telephone:

**01506 773880**, email [muse.bistro@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:muse.bistro@westlothian.gov.uk)

or check [www.howdenparkcentre.co.uk](http://www.howdenparkcentre.co.uk)

westlothian.gov.uk

# WINTER SERVICES

## How we deal with roads and footways in West Lothian

Every winter West Lothian Council treats 950 km of roads and around 1,000 km of footways to combat the effects of bad weather.

Where possible, we treat major roads and important bus routes prior to the formation of ice. When it snows these important routes are treated first. We operate this service over 24 hours when necessary.

Once these primary routes have been completed, we treat secondary routes such as those in housing estates during normal working hours.

We also deal with footways on a priority basis. In icy and snowy conditions footways leading to schools, hospitals, health centres, shopping areas and where there is heavy pedestrian movement, are treated first. Main routes to residential areas follow, with internal footways in housing areas being treated as resources permit. In addition, over 1,600 grit bins are positioned throughout West Lothian for use by members of the public.

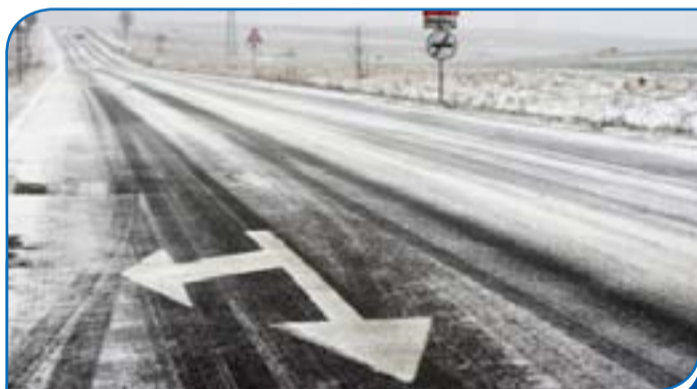
This policy of priorities ensures that the most important areas are dealt with as quickly as possible. The M8 and M9 motorways area maintained by Bear Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Executive. The contact numbers for Bear Scotland are given below.

- Policy on route priorities; requests for new grit bins or refills; general comments/ information on service provision: **01506 775000** (24 hours).
- M8/M9 – BEAR Scotland Ltd Call: BEAR Scotland Ltd 24-hour contact number **0800 1389903**.

## The service you can expect

West Lothian Council is responsible for providing a winter service on adopted roads and footpaths within the council area. The normal period of operation extends from 30 October – 1 April 2010.

It is important to appreciate that it is not possible to treat all routes simultaneously. In view of this, the council must adopt a priority system to ensure that the treatment is targeted to areas of greatest need first.



## tips for winter driving

- Clear all snow and ice from your car before you set off.
- In severe conditions – don't travel. Allow the roads to be cleared first. Remember, if you attempt to drive in such conditions, and get stuck, the gritter may not get through.
- Leave early. It takes longer to get about in bad weather.
- Reduce your speed – take care on the roads – you can't always tell if a route has been treated.
- Use dipped headlights in poor visibility.
- Drive in the highest gear possible and avoid harsh braking and acceleration.
- Keep a safe distance behind other vehicles.
- Watch out for pedestrians and cyclists, and be patient.

Carriageways		
Carriageways	Road type	Treatment
Primary routes	Important principal roads, major scheduled bus routes, routes to fire stations, hospitals, ambulance depots and local danger spots on highly trafficked roads and major industrial estates.	Gritting and/or snow ploughing 24 hours a day on all days. Pre-grit if required. Planned or reactive.
	Other classified routes and connecting routes between centres, accesses to residential areas.	Gritting and/or snow ploughing during normal working hours. Pre-grit if required.
Secondary routes	Residential areas, cul-de-sacs and other unclassified roads.	Gritting and/or snow ploughing during normal working hours. Reactive treatment only.
Footways		
Footway	Footway type	Treatment
Primary routes	Urban shopping areas and precincts. Routes to schools, health centres, hospitals, clinics, etc. Main routes to residential areas.	During November and March, gritting of widespread ice/snow clearing 5:00am to finish. Monday to Friday. During December, January and February the service will be extended to cover weekends and public holidays. Reactive treatment only.
	Other routes to residential areas and housing areas in general.	Gritting of widespread ice/snow clearing during normal working hours. Reactive treatment only.

## Christmas and New Year Bus Services

A special limited bus service will be operating on some routes on 25 and 26 December, and 1 and 2 January, funded by West Lothian Council and City of Edinburgh Council.

In summary, bus services will operate as follows: Thursday 24 December.

Normal services will operate though some late evening journeys will be withdrawn or will terminate early. Please contact service operator for details.

**Christmas Day: Friday 25 December and New Year's Day: Friday 1 January.** A limited service will operate only on the following routes:

- Service 10 Fauldhouse – Whitburn – Bathgate – Dechmont – Broxburn – Edinburgh
- Service 27 Bathgate – Livingston – Wilkieston – Edinburgh
- Service 28 Bathgate – Livingston – Kirknewton – Edinburgh
- Service 38 Linlithgow – Winchburgh – Edinburgh
- Service 212 Whitburn – Blackburn – Livingston – Broxburn – Edinburgh
- Service 400/401 St John's Hospital – Livingston – Edinburgh Royal Infirmary

**Boxing Day: Saturday 26 December and Saturday 2 January.** A limited service will operate only on the following routes:

- Service 10 Fauldhouse – Whitburn – Bathgate – Dechmont – Broxburn – Edinburgh
- Service X14 Bathgate – Whitburn – Glasgow
- Service 15A and X15 Livingston – Eurocentral – Glasgow
- Service 27 Bathgate – Livingston – Wilkieston – Edinburgh
- Service 28 Bathgate – Livingston – Kirknewton – Edinburgh
- Service 38 Linlithgow – Winchburgh – Edinburgh
- Service 212 Whitburn – Blackburn – Livingston – Broxburn – Edinburgh
- Service 400/401 St John's Hospital – Livingston – Edinburgh Royal Infirmary
- Service 466 Bathgate – Blackburn – West Calder – Livingston
- Service 484 Bathgate – Linlithgow – Broxburn

**Sunday 27 December to Wednesday 30 December** Normal services will operate. **Thursday 31 December** Normal services will operate though some late evening journeys are withdrawn or terminate early. Please contact service operator for details.

**New Year's Day 1 January - as Christmas Day above**  
**Saturday 2 January - as Boxing Day above**  
**Sunday 3 January onwards** Normal services will operate.

For more details of bus services over the Christmas and New Year period, please pick up the special booklet from your Council Information Service (CIS) centre and First travel offices from 8 December 2009.

For bus timetable enquiries call Traveline **0871 200 22 33**, open 24 hours a day, all year round. For rail timetable enquiries call National Rail Enquiries **08457 48 49 50**.

On other days normal services will operate but with some minor changes to some services, passengers should check with the service operator before travelling.

# Christmas in West Lothian

## Council Information Services

is happy to help you in all kinds of weather

Our friendly, trained advisers are happy to help you access any council service.

From repairs to revenues, travel passes to trading standards, bus timetables to bulky uplifts and much, much more.

Council Information Services (CIS) will deal with your enquiries, suggestions or complaints in a courteous and efficient manner not only during the winter but throughout the year.

### Why not pop into your nearest centre at:

- Armadale, 1/3 East Main Street
- Carmondean Connected, Carmondean Centre
- Bathgate, 5-9 Edinburgh Road, Bathgate
- Blackburn Connected, The Mill Centre
- Broxburn, Strathbrock Partnership Centre
- Fauldhouse, 10 Main Street
- Linlithgow, County Buildings
- West Calder, 24/26 Main Street
- West Lothian Connected, Almondvale Centre, Livingston
- Whitburn, 5 East Main Street

### Customer Service Centre

The Customer Services Centre complements Council Information Services, providing access to all council services by telephone.

You can contact us by phoning 01506 775000 or textphone on 18001 01506 651115 (for hard of hearing) or by emailing us at [customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk)



## Bad weather tune in for school news

Education and Cultural Services is gearing up to deal with every eventuality over the winter period whether it is severe weather or a power failure - plans are in place in our schools.

Head teachers in consultation with the senior management team within Education and Cultural Services may take the decision to close their school in the interests of the health, safety and welfare of all staff and pupils.

It's role is to ensure:

- parents are advised via groupcall
- transport is in place, where appropriate
- it is possible for pupils to go home to their parent or carer
- pupils who cannot go home are supervised in school until collected or normal closing time
- lunch is provided for those who require it, if closure is from midday.

If a school is to be closed at short notice, Radio Forth and Real Radio will give regular updates on closures and re-opening.

"The welfare of pupils and staff is paramount to West Lothian Council," said Executive Councillor for Education, Andrew Miller. "If we are hit by bad weather I would urge parents to tune into the local radio stations or log on to the council's website [www.westlothian.gov.uk](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk) for the latest news. In the rare event of an early closure we will advise parents."

## Special refuse collection arrangements



Arrangements are being made to collect refuse from homes over the Christmas and New Year periods.

There are no collections on Christmas and New Year's day and some other collections may be earlier or later than normal.

Detailed notification of these changes will be placed in the local press and on the council's website at: [www.westlothian.gov.uk](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk)

## Senior Citizens' Christmas payment 2009

Senior citizens can claim their £10 cash payment from West Lothian Council between Monday 9 November and Friday 18 December.

Payments are available to men and women who are aged 60 and over on 8 November 2009.

To receive your payment this year, you must complete an application form and present it between the dates mentioned above.

A combined application and information leaflet is available at all Council Information Services (CIS) centres, libraries and all Post Offices within West Lothian.



## Burgh Halls progressing well

The £5 million refurbishment of the Burgh Halls in Linlithgow is well on track.

The halls are due to re-open by Easter 2010 and are the third part of West Lothian Council's three-venue arts strategy which has already refurbished the Regal Community Theatre in Bathgate and is redeveloping Howden Park Centre in Livingston.

Executive councillor for culture and leisure, Jim Walker, commented: "We are very happy with the progress being made at the Burgh Halls.

"The previous internal structures on the ground level have been taken down and already it's possible to imagine the new layout and how much lighter, open and attractive it will be. The building will be wind and watertight very soon and the lift will be installed by the end of the year; and some landscaping/terracing has been done in the garden area.

"When it is completed the Burgh Halls will be an exciting and vibrant venue for events, exhibitions, celebrations and weddings."

## Sports boost for the north of Livingston

Two new soccer 7s pitches are planned for Mosswood in Knightsridge. The investment, which includes recent extensive drainage of the full-size pitch and a refurbished changing facilities, will provide a range of opportunities for local footballers of all ages.

The announcement marks one of a number of sporting boosts for the area.

Recent investment at Eliburn Park includes three full-sized football pitches and changing facilities. The facility will open early next year. Furthermore, an all weather pitch will be provided on the site of the old school building at Deans Community High School.

Plans for a new multi-use games area (MUGA) and improved access to the games hall at Peel Primary School were announced recently and plans to build a new centre and MUGA at Livingston Station are also in place.

Council Leader Peter Johnston commented: "There has been significant investment in sports and football in the north of Livingston which we are sure will be welcomed by local communities. There is a high demand for soccer 7s pitches in West Lothian due to the growth of the game through good development work by West Lothian Council, the Scottish Football Association, the Soccer Sevens Association and our local clubs. We expect this investment to contribute to the continued development of soccer 7s and football in West Lothian."

## Howdy pardner



Becky Prentice, the principal of Colleyville Heritage High School, Texas joins Linlithgow Academy Headteacher David MacKenzie to present medals to the school's new duxes, Fraser Dick and Kirsten Hall.

Picture courtesy of The Linlithgowshire Journal and Gazette

### Four visitors from Grapevine, Texas visited West Lothian recently.

The three teachers and one education officer lived with West Lothian teachers during their week-long stay and spent their time observing teaching and learning in several schools.

Their visit was part of the development of the education exchange between West Lothian and Grapevine.

Gordon Ford, director of education and cultural services, said: "The teachers from Texas were very positive about what they experienced in our schools.

"They were particularly impressed with the use of technology to support learning.

"The next stage in the process will see four West Lothian class teachers visiting Texas to see examples of best practice in the American school system, and bring ideas back to West Lothian.

"We are currently in discussions with authorities in Grapevine to discuss the potential of setting up a swimming exchange for pupils. Swimming is a high-performance sport in both West Lothian and Grapevine schools and our young swimmers would benefit from this unique experience."

## West Lothian Council has appointed its first Veterans' Champion.



Councillor John joins Corporals Tracey Paterson and David Grieve from 243 Provost Company, 5th Regiment Royal Military Police.

Councillor Carl John was chosen by his fellow councillors due to his family's long-standing relationship with the services, and currently has a son who serves as an officer in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Carl is also West Lothian's delegate to the Reserve, Territorial and Cadet Forces Association since his election in 2007, and has helped organise the East Calder and Kirknewton Remembrance Service for many years.

Councillor John said: "I was surprised and delighted to be put forward to be Veterans' Champion.

"Coming from a services family, I appreciate the dedication and selfless commitment that many of our young people give to their country and NATO.

"We must repay their loyalty by making the passage back into civilian life as trouble free and comfortable as we can. For veterans from previous conflicts and operations, we must be available to repay the debt of gratitude we owe them."

## SWINE FLU: The facts

**INFLUENZA A (H1N1) is a viral infection affecting the respiratory tract and is thought to have first been identified in Mexico.**

Like the rest of the UK, Lothian is now seeing increased numbers of the Influenza A H1N1 virus. Most people report mild symptoms and some people may have had it without realising.

### What are the symptoms?

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to the symptoms of regular seasonal flu. People with swine flu typically have a fever (a body temperature higher than 38°C) and two or more of the following symptoms:

- Respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose
- Sore throat
- Body aches/chills
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Diarrhoea or vomiting

Of those people experiencing flu-like symptoms, only around one in 10 people is likely to have the virus.

### I think I've got swine flu – what should I do?

You can check your symptoms using the Self-Help Guide on NHS 24's website or by calling NHS 24 on 08454 24 24 24. If you think you may be affected you can seek medical advice from your GP by phone or by contacting NHS 24. You should stay at home to avoid the risk of passing the virus to someone else.

The national vaccination campaign for Influenza A (H1N1) has now started and is being rolled out. Frontline health and social care workers, and people who are most at risk from the virus are being vaccinated first.

Get the latest information on NHS Lothian's dedicated website at –

[www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/swineflu](http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/swineflu)

## Diversity Week

West Lothian Diversity Week takes place between 23 and 29 November.

Last year's Diversity Week was hugely successful and saw a range of events taking place throughout West Lothian to promote and raise awareness of equality and diversity issues.

It is hoped that this year's range of events will prove even more popular.

For more information contact: 01506 777136 or visit [www.westlothian.gov.uk](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk)



## What you think about Miners' Play Park

**Bulletin visited the new Miners' Play Park, at Polkemmet Country Park this autumn and got the low-down on the facilities.**

West Lothian Council invested £200,000 in the facility, which is the result of partnership working between the council's Nets and Land Services, Countryside Section, and the specialist Livingston based company, The Play Practice Ltd.

The equipment includes Scotland's first giant rope swinger, a flying fox, grass mounds, a boardwalk over a wild zone, a giant sand zone, hill forts and lots more.

Lee Williamson from Stoneyburn said: "This is the first time I have been since it was done up. I am quite pleasantly surprised. I think it's fab and so do the kids."

Ann Marie Callaghan from Livingston said: "I'm here with three of my kids, and mum and dad are here too for a picnic. It's absolutely stunning, very impressive. There's things here for kids of all ages and we'll definitely be back."

Carol Pirie from Livingston said: "The kids loved it and had fun; the facilities are really good. We were here before it was upgraded and they have made a big difference to the park. There's lots to do."



INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

## Adult protection and support at the heart of campaign

**A national campaign – Act Against Harm - is raising public awareness of adult protection issues.**

Executive councillor for Social Policy, Isabel Hutton said: "West Lothian Council is clear that everyone has a right to be safe. Staff from West Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, and Lothian and Borders Police are committed to working together to protect 'adults at risk'."

Nick Clater, the multi-agency adult protection service development officer, added: "The council has a duty to inquire and investigate cases where harm is known or suspected. Social workers have powers to visit and interview people, to arrange

medical examinations and to examine records. Multi-agency Adult Protection Committees have been set up in each council area and the West Lothian Adult Protection Committee is well-established."

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 provides ways to offer support and protection to certain adults who may be at risk of harm or neglect.

Adult Protection concerns in West Lothian can be reported via the following telephone numbers:

- 01506 776 700 (for people aged 65+)
- 01506 777 777 (for people aged 16-64)
- 01506 777 401/2 (for all enquiries out with office hours)

Further information can be obtained by contacting Nick Clater (Multi-agency Adult Protection Service Development Officer) on 01506 775778 or via email: [nick.clater@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:nick.clater@westlothian.gov.uk)

## Claiming Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit?

Have your circumstances changed since you claimed Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit?

**If your circumstances have changed and you are claiming Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit, you need to tell the council's benefit team straight away, as the amount of benefits you are entitled to may be affected.**

**You still need to tell us even if you have told the Department for Work and Pensions or other council departments.**

**Don't delay - tell us today**  
Help us make sure that you get the right benefit

You must report all changes in writing and send to;

The Benefits Team  
Revenues Unit  
St David House  
South Bridge Street  
Bathgate  
EH48 1TT

or email: [benefits@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@westlothian.gov.uk)

If you need further help and advice your local council office can help you or you can telephone our Customer Service Advisers on 01506 776800

You can also visit our website at: [www.westlothian.gov.uk](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk)



## West Lothian Council is bidding for more cash to help build the new generation of council homes.

A bid has been submitted for Scottish Government cash to assist in funding more homes as part of the second phase of the new-build housing programme.

The Scottish Government has made £50 million available to councils for new homes

equally split over two funding rounds. West Lothian was awarded the largest grant of any council of £3.73 million in the first round, and is hoping to secure an even larger share of the £25 million available in round two.

**In the summer edition of Bulletin, readers were given the chance to win a Nintendo Wii games console, "Wii Sports" game, two controllers and two nunchuks.**

### The question we asked was:

According to the information above, why are our public open spaces important for the people of West Lothian?

- a) Park your car
- b) Exercise, relax and explore
- c) Watch tv

The correct answer was B and the lucky winner was Debra Mills from East Calder. Debra has generously donated her prize to The Rosebery Centre in Livingston, which provides mental and physical stimulation to dementia sufferers through specialist activities in a day-centre environment. It also provides

carers with help and support through various services. The day centre caters for 45 people per week.

Centre manager, Nancy Burgoyne, said: "We are over the moon with Debra's donation. Debra volunteers at the centre as a carer and sits on our management committee so she knew that we had been looking into the benefits of Wii's for people with physical and mental health needs.

"It is great fun and can be used by people of all ages."

**For further information on the Rosebery Centre call: 01506 497046**



Councillors Anderson and Hutton join Advice Shop staff to highlight the new campaign.

## Could your family benefit?

### A new campaign aims to make sure West Lothian families get the Welfare Benefits and Tax Credits they deserve.

More local families could be due more help with their rent and council tax, after the Child Benefit rules changed earlier this month.

Under the new system, Child Benefit is no longer counted as household income when calculating entitlement to Housing and Council Tax Benefit. This means even more families will benefit, especially those who narrowly missed out previously.

The experienced benefit advisors on West Lothian Council's take-up hotline on 01506 776453, can help local residents claim all the welfare benefits they are entitled to, as well as any other financial help available through tax credits.

A family with one child could find themselves up to £17 better off per week, whilst a family with three kids could receive as much as £40 per week more.

Isabel Hutton, Executive councillor for social policy, said: "We are committed to reducing child poverty in West Lothian, through helping less well-off families access the benefits and tax credits to which they are entitled.

"The Advice Shop in Bathgate's Waverley Industrial Estate, Waverley Street, will open every Saturday in November from 10am to 2pm with a team of experienced staff on hand to offer advice and take claims."



Councillor De Bold joins some of West Lothian's taxi drivers at the new rank at The Elements

## What do you think about taxi ranks?

### West Lothian Council is consulting with the local community about taxi ranks.

Local communities are being asked to comment on availability of taxi ranks. In particular the council is keen to know whether you think there are enough ranks and appropriate locations for taxi ranks to be sited.

A working group, comprising representatives from the taxi trade, Police and the council, will consider comments from the community.

Executive Councillor for the environment Robert De Bold, said: "We are very pleased to have been able to work in partnership with the taxi trade to take forward the issue of taxi stances and the continued development of appropriate sites."

If you have a view on taxi ranks, write to the Licensing Team,

West Lothian Council, West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6FF or email:

[licensing@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@westlothian.gov.uk)

#### Taxi for shopaholics

The council is pleased to welcome the new taxi rank which has been provided by Land Securities as part of The Centre in Livingston and hopes that this rank will prove as popular with the public as the ranks at Asda and the Designer Outlet. The new rank is situated adjacent to the outdoor disabled and parent and child car parking spaces near to the Debenhams store.

## in brief

Dechmont Infant School and nursery pupils are busy planning ahead for a morning celebration for St. Andrew's Day by learning Scots songs, dances and poetry. Parents and friends of the school will be invited to share in this early celebration in the Dechmont Memorial Hall on Friday morning on the 27 November.

The phone number for St John's Hospital has changed. The new number is **01506 523000**.

#### West Lothian Visit Grapevine 2009

Four delegates from West Lothian's visitor industry visited Grapevine, Texas in September.

West Lothian has a twinning relationship with Grapevine and several successful exchanges have taken place between the two areas over the last two years.

The delegates were invited by their Texas counterparts to visit Grapevine and take part in their annual Grapefest event which celebrates the Texas wine industry. Around 250,000 visitors attend this annual four-day event. The delegation estimated that they spoke to around 1,500 visitors over the four days.

The West Lothian group as hosted by members of the West Lothian Grapevine Sister City Committee for the duration of its stay.

Eleven pupils and one member of staff from Bathgate Academy headed out to Iceland for a two-week exploration of it's fantastic landscape. The group, with their leader from Outlook Expeditions, had spent 18 months fundraising for the trip, doing everything from painting desks in the school, clearing up litter after the Highland Games, a sponsored 'sky-walk', to bag packing in the local Iceland store. Over £2,000 was raised through these activities and the group would like to thank everyone who helped.

The group was Heather Wolfe, Callum Thomson, Imogen Beck, Gemma Taylor, Craig Holden, Craig McNeill, Samantha Armstrong, Ian Anderson, Mhairi Anderson, Ethan Kilpatrick and Conor McAlwee.

West Lothian is seeking male volunteers, living or working in West Lothian, to join the Children's Panel and make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and young people who are in need of care and protection. In recent years, the Panel has successfully recruited high numbers of excellent women volunteers, but now it needs more men to maintain the balance of gender that the legal system requires. If you are interested

and would like to find out more about the work of the Children's Panel, and how to apply, please contact the CPAC support team on **01506 777241** or [cpac.support@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:cpac.support@westlothian.gov.uk)

West Lothian held it's second Walking Week from the 21-27th September with over 200 people taking part, a 50% increase from the previous year. The week was arranged by local and national organisations, in partnership with West Lothian on the Move, which aims to encourage inactive people to participate in moderate intensity activities in order to improve their health and wellbeing. The walks offered the experienced walker or complete beginner, the chance to explore beautiful landscape, learn about the area's history, make new friends and take some important strides towards improving their health. Best of all, the guided walks and activities were absolutely free.

Whitburn Academy is opening the first credit union savings scheme in a West Lothian secondary school run by the pupils themselves, with the support of Blackburn, Seafield & District Credit Union. West Lothian Credit Union Forum have been working with S6 students for the last few weeks to enable them to set up a savings scheme. Over 150 pupils signed up on the day to start saving at the school collection. Pupils throughout the school will have the opportunity to learn about money management in a practical way by saving regularly for purchases such as games consoles, designer clothes or holiday spending money.

West Lothian's top tourist attractions are reporting a bumper summer for visitors. Historic Scotland recently reported that Linlithgow Palace was among its top 10 tourist destinations this summer, with an increase of 15,370 visitors over the course of this summer compared to last year.

This was boosted by high-profile events in the Palace grounds such as the Homecoming Party in May and the Jousting on the Peel event in August, which both attracted around 6,000 spectators, as well as the Taste of the Tattoo event, which was attended by about 5,000.

Almond Valley Heritage Centre in Livingston also saw a large surge in visitor numbers, with an average of over 15,000 visitors per month over the summer, peaking at over 17,000 through the turnstiles during July.

## Home and Away

Gerry and Jean Walter arrived back in West Lothian recently – 45 years after the couple emigrated to Australia.

The couple were married in the Church at Livingston Station and were welcomed back to West Lothian by Provost Tom Kerr.

Jean's maiden name is McLaren and she was born and bred in Livingston Station. When she was a teenager she was a famous runner and she is also the niece of football legend, Tommy Walker. Gerry is originally from Germany and was involved in the building of Bathgate Academy.

Visit: [www.homecomingscotland.com](http://www.homecomingscotland.com)



# Make winter carbon savings

Reduce your environmental impact this winter and save money, it's easy. The Energy Trust says that if you turn your thermostat down by just 1°C you could cut your heating bills by up to 10 per cent and typically saves around £55 a year. You can make a further saving if you programme your heating and hot water to come on only when you need them. If your hot water cylinder has a thermostat it is recommended that it is set at 60°C/140°F.

Executive councillor for the environment Robert De Bold, explained: "There are simple tasks that you can do to make a difference. For example, it's easy to close your curtains at dusk, turn off lights, turn off appliances rather than leaving them on standby, and only boiling as much water as you need to use - bearing in mind that you have to cover the elements in an electric kettle. For the price of a new washer on a dripping hot water tap you could save enough hot water to fill half a bath."

More information is available online: [www.westlothian.gov.uk](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk) or telephone the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512012.



# Flashlight on tackling crime

A unique initiative aimed at preventing crime in West Lothian has been launched.



Councillor Anderson and Constable Stuart Neilson get to grips with the crime fighting technology

The Flashlight Initiative is a combination of a state-of-the-art Forensic Property Marking System, an innovative electronic crime prevention toolkit and intelligence-led policing. The initiative has been developed specifically to prevent thefts and break-ins to households and businesses.

Members of the public and businesses are being encouraged to take part in the initiative by purchasing the Flashlight Crime Prevention Toolkit package which contains a special forensic property marking solution called EnigmaTag. The EnigmaTag solution is applied to items of property and sticks like superglue. It is discrete and is difficult to remove without damaging the property and reducing its value to thieves. EnigmaTag fluoresces in UV light indicating its presence on an item. Each bottle of EnigmaTag solution contains micro particles which give it a unique numerical code. The bottle is registered on a database linking any

property marked with the solution to its owner.

When property marked with the solution is identified it is scanned using a special optical reader known as a micro particle code verifier the micro particles are then decoded on the spot with the help of special computer software revealing the unique code.

Lothian and Borders Police is the first police force in Scotland to use the system. Over the coming months all vehicles and houses searched in West Lothian will be searched using UV light and all recovered marked property checked.

The Flashlight Toolkit also contains window stickers advertising that property is protected, and a specially developed electronic crime prevention toolkit on CD which gives access to a host of up-to-date crime prevention information. The toolkit package will be hand delivered by specially trained police officers who will explain how to use the property

marking solution, carry out a security check of the participating household or business and register details on the police Flashlight database.

Executive councillor for services for the community, Frank Anderson, said: "Research suggests that forensic property marking is more of a deterrent than security guards, burglar alarms or CCTV - it is also considerably cheaper.

"This is a fantastic initiative and we are recommending that schools in West Lothian purchase the flashlight package. The council is also looking into the possibility of adopting the package as part of our 'homecare' package for our older residents. It will allow the police to return recovered property to its rightful owner."

**Further information about the Flashlight Initiative can be obtained from Constable Stuart Neilson on 01506 445671.**

# Giant leap into Leadership

Youngsters from the West Lothian Youth Inclusion Project recently graduated from a week-long Leadership Academy on the Isle of Skye - which aims to unleash youngsters' potential.

The programme involved outdoor pursuits and self-reflection. The programme also helps youngsters understand the difficulties they have experienced, and how to put difficulties behind them whilst unlocking their leadership potential.



Councillor Hutton joins the youngsters to receive their certificates.

The Youth Inclusion Project is a pre-employability programme that assists young people to gain employment, training or education placements post 16-years-old. Mainly by equipping young people with the skills to gain placements or employment by raising their self-esteem, confidence and

general skills base.

Executive councillor for Social Policy, Isabel Hutton, said: "Completing the course is not an easy task and I'm delighted we have the opportunity to recognise their achievements."

# Centre on cancer support

A new drop-in service that offers support and information to people affected by cancer has been officially opened.

Based at Carmondean Connected on Deans North Road in Livingston, The West Lothian Cancer Information and Support Centre is staffed by an experienced Macmillan cancer nurse and trained volunteers.

The new service, which is already proving popular, is a partnership between Macmillan, West Lothian Council and NHS Lothian.

Councillor Ellen Glass, West Lothian Council's Executive member for health and care, said:

"We are pleased to be working in partnership with Macmillan, who offer invaluable support to those affected by cancer.

"The new support centre at Carmondean Connected in Livingston will give the West Lothian public access to specialist cancer advice on their doorstep, which will be of great benefit to many."



Provost Kerr congratulates Colin Stein, team manager, Gary Clelland, president, Steven Fleming and Gary Smith.

## West Lothian Bowling Association has won the bowling equivalent of football's Scottish Cup.

The elite team picked up the prestigious 2009 Andrew Hamilton Trophy (Scottish Cities & Counties competition) at the recent championship final held in Glasgow. It is the first time since 1997 that the trophy has been brought back to West Lothian.

President of West Lothian Bowling Club, Gary Clelland, said: "The Andrew Hamilton Trophy is highly regarded in bowling circles and it is the biggest team competition in the Scottish Calendar. This has been a fantastic team achievement and I was privileged to be part of this winning team."

The West Lothian Bowling Association is made up of top players from clubs across West Lothian and are selected on merit to play for the county. This year's team included seven Scottish internationalists.

**For more information on bowling in West Lothian contact: Gary on 07717262697**



### Santa Claus visits the Civic Centre for the first time

Along with some of his elves, he was helping launch the first 2,000 Santa Run, which will set off from the Civic Centre at 9.30 am on Sunday 6 December. The run is open to everyone over the age of nine and runners can take part as individuals or part of a family. Everyone taking part will be provided with a Santa suit, which can be picked up a few days before the event. Costs to take part in the fun run are: £7 for adults, £5 for juniors and £15 for a family of up to four people. Visit: [www.westlothianrun.co.uk/santa](http://www.westlothianrun.co.uk/santa)

### Website launched by WL Child Protection

West Lothian Child Protection Committee (CPC) has launched its own website. The website describes the work of the CPC, advises the public of who to contact if they have a concern about a child and what the agencies do once they receive information.

The website contains the contact details of organisations who can help adults deal with their own problems and contains information for children and young people about the child protection process, their rights and where they can get help.

The new website address is: [www.childprotectionwestlothian.org.uk](http://www.childprotectionwestlothian.org.uk)

## Memories of Burgh Halls

The history of Linlithgow Burgh Halls is fascinating and residents are being given the opportunity to record their personal stories for future generations.

West Lothian Council's Museum Service is looking for local volunteers to join a team of interviewers who will help collect stories about the Burgh Halls.

Trained by Sheena Irving, a specialist in oral history, the team will then go out and about recording local people who have stories to tell.

Sheena will assemble the stories into a vibrant oral history that visitors will be able to hear when the building reopens in 2010.

**For more information contact: Elizabeth Henderson, Museums Development Officer, on 01506 776347 or [museums@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:museums@westlothian.gov.uk)**

## Update on Operation Focus

So far Operation Focus has resulted in a total of 18 convictions, with sentences totalling more than 20 years' imprisonment – and the operation, which began in April, is still ongoing.

Superintendent Jeanette McDiarmid said: "Dealing in drugs continues to be a scourge in our communities and today's sentencing sends a strong message to those involved in such crime that their behaviour will not be tolerated.

"Anyone involved in any kind of illegal activity in the area should be left in no doubt, the operation continues, and, we will deal with you robustly."

The next stage of Operation Focus is coming to the end of the planning phase and it is intended to concentrate on thefts from homes, businesses and motor vehicles.

Leader of West Lothian Council Peter Johnston said: "Operation Focus is a wake up call to drug dealers. We are not willing to accept their activities in our communities. We will continue to work closely with Lothian & Borders Police and our Community Planning Partners to rid West Lothian of this menace."

Anyone with information relating to any illegal activity in the area is asked to contact Lothian and Borders Police on 0131 311 3131 or Crimestoppers in confidence and complete anonymity on 0800 555 111.

### Early Xmas present for shoppers

West Lothian Council has welcomed the decision to postpone car parking charges at Livingston's town centre.

Land Securities has announced that planned parking charges at the Centre and Livingston Designer Outlet will not be introduced until February 2011.

Council Leader Peter Johnston, said: "We are pleased Land Securities has decided to postpone introducing car parking charges in Livingston.

"We have consistently opposed the decision to charge for parking in Livingston. With the current economic climate in particular, it's the right decision to ensure Livingston continues to thrive.

Martyn Day, Executive councillor for transport and development added: "We fully support Land Security's decision, which is good news for both shoppers and retailers in the current financial climate.

"We will hope Land Securities will review the decision to introduce parking charges completely. However, we do fully recognise they are perfectly entitled to introduce the charges on their own property, and the proposed charges were relatively modest."



Windyknowe Primary School pupils show off their lush garden to Councillor De Bold and council staff.

# Waste not, want not

**A West Lothian school has been learning first hand how their waste can become a valuable resource.**

Green fingered pupils at Windyknowe Primary School in Bathgate have been using compost on their new flowerbed and plant containers, which could have originally come from their very own household brown bins.

Pupils learned how green waste, such as grass cuttings, placed in brown bins is picked up at the kerbside by staff from the council's Waste Services. It is then delivered to West Lothian Recycling (WLR) Limited in Addiewell, a joint venture between the council and Tarmac Recycling.

The material is then shredded to provide a 100% sustainable compost, unlike some composts on the market which incorporate peat in the mix. WLR Ltd has recently been awarded a PAS 100 certificate for the consistent high quality of the compost.

Robert De Bold, Executive councillor for the environment and WLR board member, said: "The pupils can see the whole recycling process, and understand how their waste can become a valuable commodity. It clearly shows how their household waste can be diverted from landfill and turned into a useful product once more."

Windyknowe teacher Claire Robertson added: "The pupils are all really excited about this, and were fascinated to learn more about the whole recycling process.

"It has really helped them understand how their recycling is important."

**Compost is available for sale to commercial businesses from West Lothian Recycling Ltd. Call 01501 762100 for more information.**

# Bathgate Council Information Services office has moved

**The Council Information Service (CIS) centre based in Lindsay House, Bathgate has moved to 5 - 9 Edinburgh Road, Bathgate, which is across from the Fairway and next to the BP garage.**

West Lothian Council's Head of Customer Services, Sandra Aird explained: "We hope that customers will understand that the move is necessary to allow work to start on a new council building in the centre of Bathgate. During the building period our advisers will continue to provide a local access to all council services including cash collection at their new location."

**Customers requiring access to council services can email the council: [customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk), visit any CIS centre, or telephone the council's Customer Service Centre on 01506 775000. Help and advice is also available online: [www.westlothian.gov.uk](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk)**

# Safer Neighbourhood teams (SNT) have been fully operational across West Lothian since January 2009.

**There is currently one (SNT) for each of the nine wards in West Lothian. Recent figures have highlighted the positive impact that they are having in towns and villages. A number of anti-social behaviour problems, such as under-age drinking, street disorder, vandalism and drug offences are all being tackled.**

In the Armadale and Blackridge ward there has been a consistent decrease in the number of youth calls since the introduction of the SNTs. There was almost a 40% decrease in the number of youth calls in the first quarter that the SNTs were in place.

In the East Livingston and East Calder ward, there was almost a 50% decrease in the number of youth calls in the first quarter that the SNTs were in place.

Executive councillor for services for the community, Frank Anderson, said: "The initiative heralded a unique, innovative and pro-active venture by West Lothian Council and West Lothian Police Division to tackle anti-social behaviour and provide a visible and committed resource within each area.

"The partnership between the council and the police has gone from strength to strength and the figures show their impact is clear and it is positive.

"We will continue to work in partnership with the police to further improve communities.

"This is only one aspect of our multi-faceted approach to make our communities safer."

# Community councils

**Thirty-three areas have successfully re-established Community Councils.**

**The areas still to establish Community Councils are:**

- Broxburn
- Carmondean
- Deans

- Eliburn
- Howden
- Livingston Village
- Seafield
- Kirknewton

**Anyone wishing information on setting up a Community Council should contact: Lorraine McGrorty on 01506 777239 or email: [lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk)**

## Customers with special requirements

Information is available in Braille, tape, large print and community languages. Please contact the interpretation and translation service on **01506 775000**

هذه المعلومات متوفرة بلغة بريل وعلى شريط وخط كبير وبلغات الجالية  
الرجاء الإتصال بخدمة الترجمة على الهاتف 01506 775000

এই তথ্য আপনি ব্রইল, টেপ, বড় অক্ষরে এবং কমিউনিটির বিভিন্ন ভাষায় পাঠাতে পারেন। আরও তথ্য  
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這份資料是可以以凸字、錄音帶、大字印刷及社區語言的式本提供。請聯絡傳譯  
及翻譯服務部。電話：01506 775000

ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ (ਜਿਸ) ਨੂੰ ਬ੍ਰੇਲ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ, ਤੇ, ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਂ ਸਰਲ ਸ਼ੈਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਸ  
ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ। 01506 775000

برای اطلاعات بیشتر، لطفاً با ما تماس بگیرید. ما می‌توانیم اطلاعات را به زبان بریل، نوار، چاپ بزرگ و زبانهای محلی  
تولید کنیم. برای اطلاعات بیشتر، با ما تماس بگیرید. 01506 775000

Informacje te mogą być przetłumaczone na język Braille'a, dostępne na taśmie magnetycznej lub wydane dużym drukiem oraz przetłumaczone na języki mniejszości narodowych. Prosimy o kontakt z Usługami Tłumaczeniowymi pod numerem **01506 775000**

Text phones offer the opportunity for people with a hearing impairment to access the council. The text phone number is **18001 01506 464427**. A loop system is also available in all offices.

Published by West Lothian Council.

## Freedom of information (Scotland) Act 2002

West Lothian Council publishes a range of information online and on paper. The council has developed a Publication Scheme to show the information we make available to the public and the available formats. Copies of the Publication Scheme are available at libraries and Council Information Services (CIS) centres.

It is also available online: [www.westlothian.gov.uk](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk)



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