

Ecclesmachan & Threemiletown Community Council - Newsletter

August 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4

“Carpe Diem”

Community Council - Boundary issue

Following proposed boundary changes where the Community Council's very existence was threatened, a recent decision has seen a reprieve.

In a recent letter from West Lothian Council's Committee Services, the Community Council was informed that a proposal had been made to align the Community Council boundaries and the Multi-member Council ward boundaries.

This in effect would have meant that Threemiletown would become part of the Linlithgow ward and the residents of Threemiletown would only be eligible to join the Bridgend Community Council... In turn Ecclesmachan would then have been a stand-alone area with only residents from Ecclesmachan being eligible to join the then named Ecclesmachan Community Council. If this change had been implemented then the Ecclesmachan Community Council would have instantly ceased to exist, as we would have needed at least 4 members to operate at all and there was only 3 members from Ecclesmachan.

Thankfully at a recent meeting of the Partnership and Resources PDSP, it was confirmed that the Ecclesmachan and Threemiletown was to be retained as one joint community council.

The Community Council would like to thank everyone who supported them in their cause... local residents, elected members and other Community Councils.



Community Council - Elections

The Ecclesmachan & Threemiletown Community Council is **urgently** looking for members to come forward during this 4 yearly election period. To continue to represent the community we need at least four members, if we cannot meet that criteria then we will not be able to establish a new Community Council. We do need **your** support if we are to continue to represent the local community. If you are at all interested in supporting us then please fill in and return a nomination form, contact us, or come along to our next meeting.

The Community Council elections will be held on the 8th October 2009 however, nomination forms must be completed and returned to West Lothian Council before 27th August 2009.



We meet only eight times per year so we are not asking for a huge commitment from you. Our meetings are held in the Ecclesmachan village hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm and usually last approximately one hour. The meeting schedule is as follows:

- **September 2nd 2009**
- October 7th 2009
- November 4th 2009
- December 2nd 2009
- February 3rd 2010
- March 3rd 2010
- April 7th 2010
- May 5th 2010 (**AGM**)

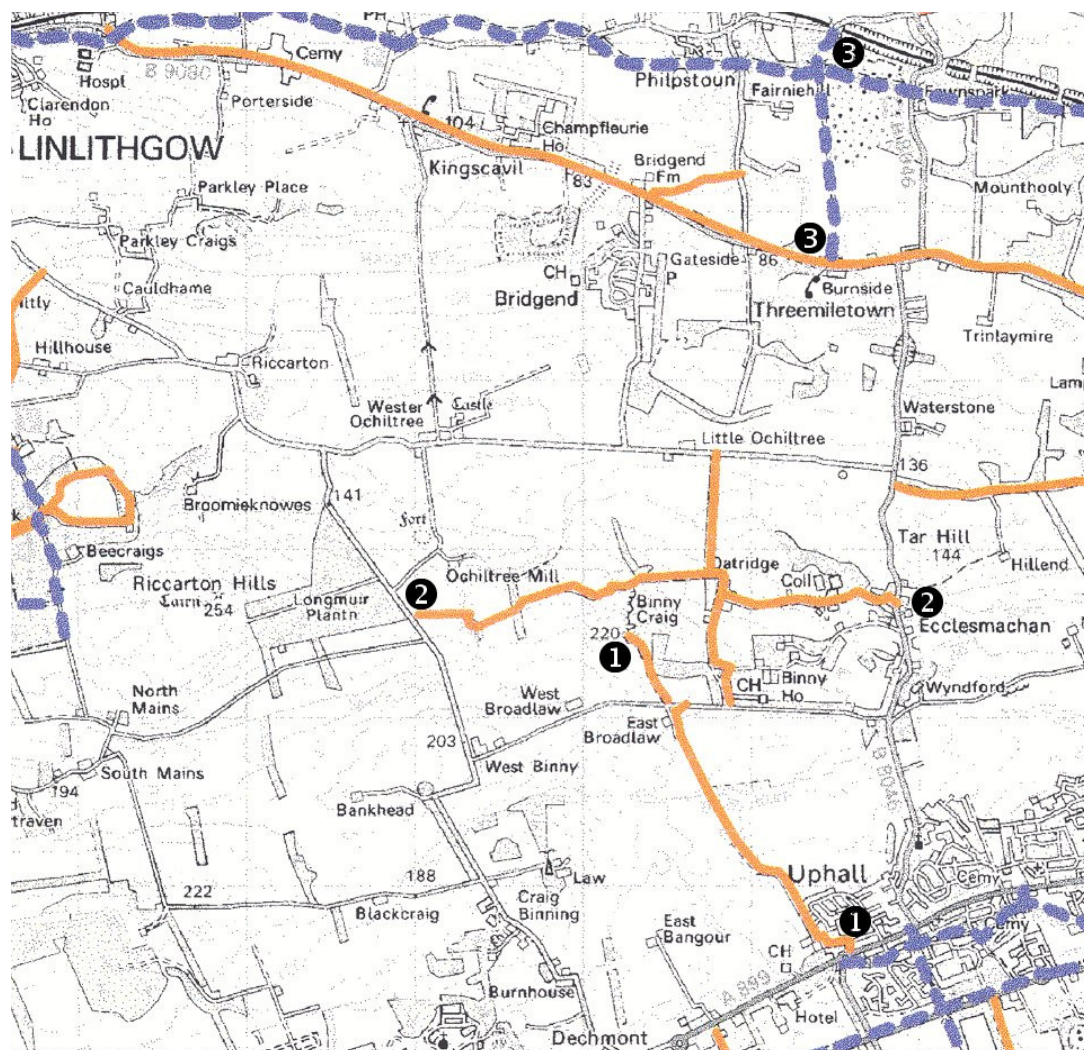
If you would like to know more about the Community Council then please contact our secretary, Bill Davidson on 01506 834278.

Alternatively you can e-mail us at:
ecclesmachan-threemiletown@yourcommunitycouncil.co.uk

The Local Paths Project

Brought about by an initiative presented from the West Lothian Council proposed Core Paths Plan, the Community Council have been working on a long-term project to improve and re-open or maintain some important and historic local walks. This has been an active project since November 2007.

These walks include Uphall to Binny Craig (1), Longmuir to Ecclesmachan (2) and Burnside to Philpstoun (3). Path 3 is already included as a nomination on the Core Path Plan but is being partially maintained by the Community Council Paths Sub-Committee. Paths 1 and 2, however, require so much work that we are currently attempting to raise funds to complete a schedule of upgrade work to re-open them and in doing so help ensure that they are included on the next round of inclusion nominations for the Core Paths Plan.



Following an initial photographic survey carried out by the Community Council in May 2008 and after seeking permissions from the various landowners in early 2009, a detailed survey has just been completed (July 2009). The aim of this detailed survey was to establish a schedule of work, complete with outline costs. This will be used to invite contractors to provide quotes and in turn allow for funding applications for the project.

Support for this project has been tremendous, letters of support have been received and held on file from our four local Ward Councillors, Scotways, a local GP Practice, Lothian & Borders RIGS Group, Put Your West Foot Forward Walking Group, Uphall Community Council, the West Lothian Council Access Officer and Visit West Lothian.

It is hoped that the formal applications for funding will be made later this year, if this is successful the work will be scheduled for early 2010. Meantime, **we need more volunteers** to work on the path from Burnside to Philpstoun (3) - So if you feel inclined and would like to help, call our Secretary Bill Davidson on 01506 834278 and he will co-ordinate support for this local amenity to ensure it stays on the Path Plan.



Neighbourhood Watch Update - Report on Neighbourhood Watch/Community Council Meeting at Livingston Police Station - June 2009



Neighbourhood Watch

We can confirm that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Ecclesmachan is still current and registered with Lothian & Borders Police. Three new signs have been put in place in the village to replace the old broken and discoloured ones. Do remember that the existence of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme means that you could be eligible for a discount from your home insurance, please check with your Insurance company if they include such a discount.

The scheme in Threemiletown is also still current and registered with Lothian & Borders Police. However, that scheme requires someone from Burnside / Rosebank or Canal Court to provide a contact for the north side of the village. Anyone interested should contact the Community Police Section of Lothian & Borders Police. They can be contacted at Livingston Police Station on 01506 431200 or by contacting the local officer, Lynette Cousins, at Broxburn Police Station on 01506 852121. Alternatively, contact Angela Carmichael from Redhouse Cottages, the scheme co-ordinator for The Cottages and Redhouse Cottages.

Both Villages are now registered as "Cold Calling Control Zones" a scheme supported by Lothian & Borders Police and the Trading Standards Office. Signs are now in place throughout the villages clearly indicating this status to everyone passing through. **Have you displayed your "Red Card"?**

New Theft Prevention Initiative

The Community Council members were invited to a meeting held at Livingston Police Station recently to view and discuss a new theft prevention scheme about to be launched across West Lothian.

This presentation was very interesting, a very hi-tech security solution using nano-technology responsive to Ultraviolet light. L&B Police (West Lothian Division) have made an investment in the product and will be rolling it out as an initiative for break-in crime prevention very soon. A first in Scotland following trials and live use successes in a few regional areas in England.

It takes UV marking to a new and higher platform, a high-tech glue deposited discretely on removable and re-sellable possessions which will identify the item(s) to the registered owners address. Cost to buy as a consumer direct is around £44.00, cost to buy from L&B Police £22.00 - the £22.00 includes a visit from 2 trained officers to deliver a kit comprising the marking glue, a leaflet, window warning sticker and a CD. They will survey your house and give general security recommendations, explain the system, mark your goodies and register them on a database against the nano-code contained in the UV glue delivered and registered to you (or tell you how to do this if you prefer to do it yourself via an internet connection). The glue will mark up to 100 items and lasts for approx. 2 years before fading. All your goodies will be registered with item/model number/serial number/owners address/contact details on a central protected database called Immobilise - which is free to register for and to user maintain.

All police patrols will be issued with ultra violet torches, every vehicle search and household search will then include a UV marker scan to search for marked equipment perhaps in the wrong place. Reading equipment will be available at several locations to scan the glue and provide owners ID with approx. 10 minutes - this compares to other solutions like smartwater which requires sending to a specialist laboratory and a 2 week waiting time. It is hoped to have a demonstration of this scheme locally for residents in the near future.



Aggregate Recycling Plant Philpstoun South Bing



You will remember that Neil Wilson Haulage (NWH) had submitted plans to West Lothian Council for an aggregate recycling plant in Philpstoun South Bing, which is owned by Hopetoun Estates. Over 230 objections were lodged against this application including objections from Community Councils in Ecclesmachan & Threemiletown, Linlithgow, Kirkliston, Newton, Philpstoun, Uphall and Winchburgh.

The South Bing is on the south side of and adjacent to the Union Canal just off the B8046 and contains a crater where most of the recycling work would be carried out. The site would encompass the entire bing which will be off-limits for at least 10-15 years until the site is finally landscaped by NWH. Access would be from the B8046.

Lorries would bring building waste into the bing. This would be screened, crushed, washed and sorted using large diesel powered machines including, massive conveyor belts, rinsers, hoppers and powerscrubs. Large excavators would then move the sorted materials into stockpiles for re-use as building sand and aggregate. It is expected that there would be approx. 150,000 tonnes per annum imported into the site. 92% of the incoming material will be recycled for re-exporting and 8% of un-sellable waste used to infill the crater. The site would operate from 6am until 9pm weekdays and from 7am until 2pm Saturdays and carry out maintenance on Sundays. The expected number of traffic movements per day for this operation is 100, i.e. 50 lorries in and out.

The Development Control Sub-committee of WLC rejected this application and NWH then took it to a Scottish Office appeal. A public enquiry was held in Philpstoun 15th - 19th June 2009 which was well attended, particularly on the last day when the local concerns were heard. Witnesses included M Mulligan MSP, Provost T Kerr & Councillor A Davidson. We will not know the outcome of the appeal until late August, keep an eye on the local press or check the news items at: www.yourcommunitycouncil.co.uk or www.ecclesmachan.org



Keeping the Bye-Ways Litter Free and the Paths Open.

A big thank you to Rita Calder, a member of the Community Council and a resident of Threemiletown. Rita picks up the litter from the road verges along the B9080 and B9046 around Threemiletown on a weekly basis and regularly from the shale bing and footpath between Threemiletown and the canal. A big thank you also to Bill Davidson for all his hard work keeping the path between Burnside and Philpstoun maintained.

Events Information

Mother and Toddlers Group

The mother and toddlers group meet in the village hall on a Wednesday morning 10 - 11:15am. Mums (dads, nannies etc. are welcome too!), babies and toddlers are all welcome to join this small friendly group. Further information can be obtained from Mary on 01506-830020 or Fionna on 01506-890064.

ET Scottish Country Dance Group

This group meet in the village hall on a Monday evening from 7:30 - 9:30pm between September-December and January-April. They are mostly experienced dancers, but basic steps and new dances are taught (usually at the start of each term, especially if there are new members). The classes are for age 16+ and new members are always welcome.

Part of the group also go out to residential homes in the area from time to time, to entertain the residents. Further details about the ET Scottish Country Dance Group can be obtained from Agnes McMichael on 01506-500457.

Hall Committee

As well as the day to day administration of the village hall, they organise dances, whist drives, the hogmanay party and a Burns supper. The hall can also be hired for private functions etc. Contact Joyce Hornby on 01506-853194 for more details.

Leisure Group (Over 60's)

This group meets in the village hall every Wednesday 2 - 4pm, Sept-June, dominoes, snooker and cards are on the table. There are also occasional events held throughout the year, a Christmas party, a 'day out' in June and another in August. Contact Margaret Allan on 01506-857726 for more details.

Weblinks:

<http://www.yourcommunitycouncil.co.uk>
<http://www.ecclesmachan.org>