

## Lenzie Community Council

Minutes of the monthly meeting in Dean House on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.00 pm

		Actions
<b>1.0</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
1.1	<b>Members</b> - Chris Gilroy; Aileen Mundy; Drena O'Malley; Jack Cook; Laura Henderson; Murdoch Wilson	
1.2	<b>Residents</b> - Wendy Stirling; Gordon Murphy; Patricia Middleton; Patricia Hendry; Gillian Herd; Steve Mason; David Woodier; Margaret Whitelaw	
1.3	<b>Guests</b> – PC Craig Addyman	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
2.1	Mark Billington; Tom Gray	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>TOPICS RAISED BY RESIDENTS</b> (Standing Orders were suspended for the duration of item 3, to allow participation of the residents noted in 1.2 and restored for later items.)	
3.1	<p><b>New Lenzie Academy Site</b> - Seven residents representing Save Whitegates Park attended the meeting to report their concerns regarding the decision by East Dunbartonshire Council to select Whitegates Park as the proposed site on which to build the New Lenzie Academy. The residents brought a number of documents to which they referred including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baker Hicks. <i>East Dunbartonshire Council. Replacement for Merkland/Campsie View ASN Primary Schools. Feasibility Study on Whitegates &amp; Bankhead Sites. (2018). Quoted in: East Dunbartonshire ASN School: ADDENDUM TO FEASIBILITY STUDY. (2018).</i></li> <li>2. <i>East Dunbartonshire Council. Agenda 2023 East Dunbartonshire Council Booklet 2 Agenda Item 11. 2023.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Mason Evans. Ground Investigation Report Initiative Road, Kirkintilloch. (2018).</i></li> <li>4. <i>McLaughlin and Harvey. EDC Lenzie Academy Redevelopment Feasibility Report. (2022). Quoted in: Agenda 2023 East Dunbartonshire Council Booklet 2, pp. 185-212</i> <i>These reports can be found in Save Whitegates Park Facebook Park or on EDC Council Website</i></li> </ol> <p>Thanks are due to Wendy Stirling and David Goodier for providing information on reports, their origins and their availability.</p> <p>The group shared at length their concerns with LCC and asked for LCC's</p>	

	<p>help to bring the group’s concerns and questions to the wider Lenzie community and to East Dunbartonshire Council.</p> <p><b>CONCERNS</b></p> <p>3.2 East Dunbartonshire Council members were recommended to select option 3, Whitegates Park as the preferred site for the redevelopment of Lenzie Academy (East Dunbartonshire Council, 2023 P 167. All councillors may not have been aware of the significantly heightened risks for Whitegates Park</p> <p><b>Contamination of Whitegates Park</b></p> <p>3.2.1 In 2018 twenty trial pits were dug on the site and a report by Baker Hicks detailed the contamination found, some of which was classified as “high risk to human health”. Mason Evans 2018 pp (8-12) report identified Lead, Nickel, and Benzene compounds. Asbestos was also found as well as potentially carcinogenic PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons). The report also said there may be significant made ground below the site plus possible PEAT. They considered that harmful gas emissions could be present at high concentrations. The UK Radon map suggests that the site is located within an area with a potential maximum radon of 5-10% (of affected properties in this area) As such a detailed radon risk report would be required as part of any Phase 1/11 site investigation report” (Baker Hicks, 2018, p.9)</p> <p>In the Mason Evans report pp 8-12, it is stated that gas preclusion measures would be required across the majority of the site and additionally should abnormal foundations be required this could create another pathway for gas migration. The remedial cost of mitigating the effects of ground contamination was not included in EDC’s estimated cost for the Whitegates Park site.</p> <p>Residents asked if the contamination present in Whitegates Park had been a factor in its rejection as a site for the ASN school now built in Waterside. It appears local people believe this was the case.</p> <p><b>Communication</b></p> <p>3.2.2 Concern was expressed at the low level of knowledge about the EDC proposal across the population of Lenzie, who had had no involvement in the decision-making process. Communication has not been sufficient to inform the population.</p> <p>The residents were concerned about the Education consultation currently being promoted to parents, carers, pupils and others. It uses a closed question, which, if answered “yes” prevents the participant moving on to the comments box to make a comment. The only access to the comments box is to answer “maybe” or “unsure” to the first question. This was thought to be misleading for residents. The residents were very clear that they support the building of a new Lenzie Academy. But it has to be a safe building on a safe site. And no green field facilities should be lost to the community as these are scarce in Lenzie.</p> <p>Of the 11 site options considered at the EDC meeting in December 23, Whitegates Park had 46 challenges associated with it and others had fewer challenges e.g. Boghead Road had 25 challenges associated with it. Were the number of challenges faced not taken into consideration?</p>	
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<p>3.2.3</p>	<p>Why was building on the existing site summarily dismissed, when this option has been favoured in recent years for many EDC schools, including Lenzie Meadow for primary pupils just a few years ago?</p> <p><b>Loss of Whitegates Park Green Space</b></p> <p>Residents were concerned that using Whitegates Park as a building site, and thus removing it from Community use as a park will contravene the intention of EDC to be a local authority which protects green spaces. The most recent feasibility study by McLaughlin and Harvey June 2022 states Whitegates Park is “allocated as protected open space in Local Development Plan. It also states, “loss of woodland would not comply with National or local planning policy” and there is “the potential for adverse impact on Local Biodiversity”. Whitegates Feasibility Report June 22 under challenges describes “loss of a community site which is beneficial to allow the community to access nature.”</p> <p>Concerns were expressed that the impact of losing Whitegates Park on the local community from Larkfield, Woodside, Moncreiff, Middlemuir, Laurel, Monklands, Sycamore, Douglas, Hazel, etc area - had not yet been fully taken into account. This area which houses c 3,500 people is hemmed in by busy roads on all sides Losing this green space would make walking, playing, riding a bike in pleasant surroundings much more difficult for young and old alike. This will have an impact on the Mental Health of Lenzie residents, particularly those living nearby, who use the park daily. It contravenes LDP2 policy 10 Design and placemaking, Policy 13 – Community Facilities and Open Space and LDP Policy 17 – Natural Environment; It is also contrary to NPF 4 – policy 1 Tackling the climate and nature crisis.</p> <p>Concern was expressed-about the high percentage of placing requests and acceptances into Lenzie academy from outwith both the catchment and local authority areas as this could potentially adversely affect educational experience and outcomes and create extra pressure on EDC resources. Does the proposed school need to house 1400 pupils? -</p> <p>Concerns were expressed about the safety of children getting to and from a new school in the tight streets around Whitegates Park if this site were used.</p>	
<p>3.3</p>	<p><b>Resident Interaction with East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC)</b></p> <p>Residents reported a range of experiences when interacting with the EDC regarding Whitegates Park. Not all were positive, and some examples given are listed below:</p> <p>There have been two meetings with Provost Renwick regarding the proposal and at the first meeting, when asked if the park was safe the provost replied, “The risk in the park is low if the topsoil is left undisturbed.”</p> <p>At a more recent meeting with the Provost when asked about the contamination present in the park she suggested that the report was four years old and rainwater over the last 4 years may have diluted the contamination.</p> <p>EDC have lacked transparency since 2017 with the residents who live close to the park and those who use it for recreation.</p>	

<p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>EDC have not adhered to the Equality Act of 2010 as they have not considered the effect on children, older people and disabled people if Whitegates Park is lost EDC's plans regarding Whitegates Park contradict the Local Place Plans, The Local Development Plans, and their commitment to protecting Green Spaces. Trust has gone. The residents felt there was much conflicting information coming from EDC and it was often a struggle to get information. We had to use FOIs. EDC had stated that the funding available was tied to Whitegates Park but when the residents contacted the Scottish Government the response was that the funding is not tied to any particular site.</p> <p><b>What did the Residents want from this Meeting?</b> To ensure that LCC had all the information needed and could better inform the community so that Lenzie residents could make an informed decision. Residents were concerned that an EDC decision having been made – without community consultation - to build on Whitegates Park site then there may be no further opportunity for meaningful community consultation. LCC understands that if this is a major project then community consultation will be a requirement. Discussions will continue between LCC and Residents.</p> <p><b>What is the LCC position?</b> <b>LCC have a position statement on this matter as stated below:</b> Lenzie Community Council has requested and are currently engaging in dialogue with East Dunbartonshire Council about this matter. It is our intent to gain more information about the proposal; this is with the goal of allowing Lenzie Community Council to onward inform the Local Community about the selected proposal and the rationale that led to the choice of this site for the redevelopment of Lenzie Academy. It is the intent of Lenzie Community Council to continue to seek local opinion and to do this with a wide range of residents within the Local Community and using a wide range of channels including PTAs, Churches, social media channels, businesses, and LCC's Community Newsletter. Throughout the process we will aim to inform the Local Community as new information becomes available and to help the Local Community to share its opinions on the proposal in an effective manner.</p> <p>Lenzie Community Development Trust agreed to help with funding a meeting in June to allow a community information and discussion to take place. This would be funded from a Local Democracy grant they had received.</p>	
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>POLICE REPORT</b> – PC Craig Addyman gave the report under a number of headings.</p>	
<p>4.1</p>	<p><b>Operation Close Pass</b> – This is the current police operation to reduce and eradicate the number of cyclists killed and injured on East Dunbartonshire's roads. Plain clothes police cycle on the roads and identify the drivers that do not give cyclists the mandatory 1.5 metres clearance when they pass cyclists on the road. The police will apply whatever sanction they deem appropriate to the driver.</p>	
<p>4.2</p>	<p><b>Traffic Free Schools</b> – There are three primary schools in East Dunbartonshire that are currently pilots for this initiative and Lenzie</p>	

	Meadow is one of the three. There are time periods when the children are arriving and leaving the school that the cars are excluded from driving on the road next to the school entrances. This is to increase the safety for the children and the police have the power to either give education to drivers who fail to comply or issue a £50 fine. There has been positive feedback regarding the quiet roads and increased safety for children and adults.	
4.3	<b>Youth Disorder</b> – Millersneuk is a hotspot for youth disorder and is one of the top ten sites in Scotland with regard to frequency of complaints and police attendances to the area that the young people congregate in.	
4.4	<b>Bogus Phone Calls/Impersonating a Police Officer</b> – Lenzie residents particularly vulnerable residents should be alerted to a number of types of bogus phone calls trying to get bank details or cash. One type of call is the bogus police call when people are requested to take money out of their bank as part of a police operation. Another bogus call is callers stating there have been unusual transactions on the person’s account. Another bogus call is callers stating the persons broadband or computer system has been hacked. Residents should be extremely wary of this type of calls. The police, banks and broadband providers do not ask for bank account details. Never pass on information over the phone	
4.5	<b>Bogus Workmen</b> - Lenzie residents particularly vulnerable residents should be alerted to bogus workman who will call at their door and offer to carry out house repairs and grossly overcharge for work that may not need to be carried out.	
<b>4.6</b>	<b>E-Bikes/E-Scooters</b> -There have been instances of E-Bikes/E-Scooters being used to travel along the pavement at Cowgate and along the canal which is both unsafe and anti-social. Modified types of scooters or bike which can travel at greater speed are illegal.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2024</b>	
5.1	It was proposed by Aileen Mundy and seconded by Chris Gilroy that these minutes are accepted as correct	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
6.1	<b>Local Place Plans</b> – see 7.1	
6.2	<b>Festival Update</b> – The Lenzie Community festival has been officially cancelled for 2024. The payment for a PA for use in the festival has now been transferred to the Christmas Lights switch on. There is a need to start planning the Community festival for 2025 and the first planning meeting will be arranged for June 2024.	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>	
7.1	<b>Local Place Plans</b> - An email update was received from Mr McNally for the local place plan which gives the format to use, and more detail is expected to be received.	
7.2	<b>For noting</b> - Sainsburys will open their shop in Millersneuk in the old Coop in September 2024.	
7.3	<b>Application for additional House Build</b> – At Lenzie station car park one of the residents has applied for planning permission to build a new house on native woodland close to Lenzie moss. This may be contrary to the LDP. LCC agreed to write to the planning department objecting to the proposal to build on native woodland.	Jack Cook

<b>8.0</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	
8.1	Murdoch Wilson was voted in as a new member.	
8.2	<b>New Members and Volunteers</b> - It was noted that one other person was interested in becoming a member and another two persons would be happy to be volunteers at events. These people will be contacted to confirm if they wish to join LCC. An events list will also be created.	Laura Henderson Chris Gilroy
<b>9.0</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
9.1	<b>Invitation</b> - Margaret Whitelaw invited LCC to the Open Garden event on 01/06/24 at Myrtle Garden. She invited them to bring a table to display the work of LCC and recruit new members. Newsletter to be available.	Drena O'Malley
9.2	<b>Minutes</b> - Margaret Whitelaw requested if the minutes of the previous meeting could be circulated prior to the meeting to appropriate guests/residents so they had prior sight of the issues. This will be discussed with the Secretary Tom Gray It was agreed that information LCC gained from EDC would be made generally available unless there was a good reason for not doing so.	Chris Gilroy Tom Gray  LCC
9.3	<b>Millersneuk Primary Survey</b> – Laura reported on the results of the survey she and others had carried out at Millersneuk. The survey had forty-seven respondents. Parking on the pavements is an issue and 50% of the respondents were concerned with the safety of children and adults walking through the tunnel under the railway at seven sisters. This is an ongoing unresolved issue which needs addressed. One suggestion was to change that road into a cycle and pedestrian way only.	
<b>10.0</b>	<b>DEAFBLINDNESS RECOGNITION</b> - There is a campaign to have the Scottish Parliament agree to the recognition of deafblindness as a distinct disability. It was agreed that Drena could sign the petition as a representative of LCC.	Drena O'Malley
<b>11.0</b>	<b>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING -</b> Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm in Dean House	