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THINK LOCAL WITH WEST
LOTHIAN GIFT CARD

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Free school
meals for all
primary and
nursery
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NEW CEDARBANK SCHOOL ON THE WAY



Exciting times ahead as new £7 million state-of-the-art replacement school for pupils with additional support needs takes shape.

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Road and bridge upgrades

West Lothian's bridge network will see over £1.3million of investment this year to improve key areas of infrastructure.

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New bike route links West Lothian towns

Cycling between Armadale and Whitburn has just become a whole lot easier.

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COVID-19
Beat the
spread.



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& PROTECT
WEST LOTHIAN

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OPEN DAILY



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Road and bridge upgrades

West Lothian's bridge network will see over £1.3million of investment this year to improve key areas of infrastructure.

Councillor Conn joined engineers from the council's roads team and contractor Taziker under the Cousland Interchange Bridge to hear about the project.

The programme is part of West Lothian Council's capital programme for 2021/22 – 2027/28. The council will continue to invest in West Lothian's growing road and footpath network, including town centre street improvements, bridges and street lighting, with over £53 million to be invested by 2028. Bridges in West Lothian will receive over £7million of upgrade works by April 2028. In West Lothian, the council is responsible for the

maintenance of 558 number of bridges which are key parts of West Lothian's infrastructure.

The works this year include underpass refurbishments, surfacing repairs, joint replacements and other general maintenance.

Some specific projects include: Deans High School Underpass (£100,000) and Almond Valley Bridge (£370,000). The council has a number of projects beginning this

month including a series of masonry repairs to Polkemmet Road Bridge, Mains Burn Bridge, Annetscross Bridge, Lochmill Bridge, Lodge Bridge, Stepend Bridge.

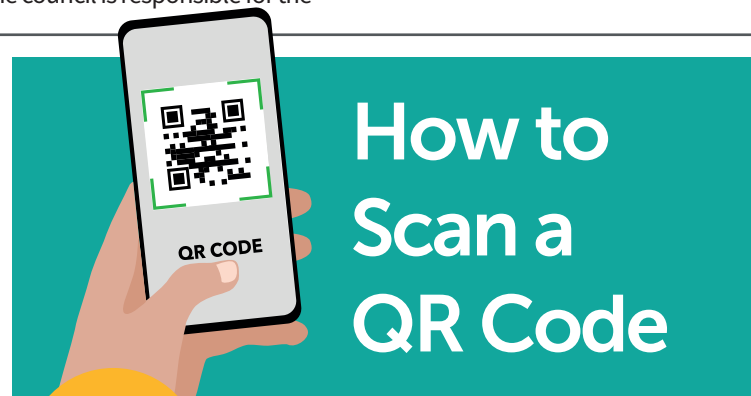
Tom Conn, Executive councillor for the Environment, said: "West Lothian's road and footpath network is growing and with that comes continued investment.

"Our road network is independently assessed and we have one of the

best road networks in the country.

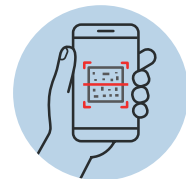
"The programme overall is huge and includes significant projects and general maintenance, but it all comes together with one aim and that is to improve the road and footpath network for customers. You can't undertake all road and infrastructure improvements without some disruption to traffic, but I'm sure people know that and we appreciate their patience."

Councillor Conn joined engineers from the council's Roads team and contractor Taziker under the Almond Valley Bridge earlier this week to see the progress. The Cousland Interchange Bridge and the neighbouring Almond Valley Bridge carry the A899, Livingston Road and the dual carriageway over the A705, Cousland Road.



Open the QR Code reader on your phone.

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The phone automatically scans the code or on some readers, you have to press a button to snap a picture.

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THINK LOCAL WITH WEST LOTHIAN GIFT CARD

A new West Lothian gift card is set to encourage more people to support local businesses.



Council Executive have approved plans to create a specific gift card for use in West Lothian launching later in the year, with the aim of helping local business within our towns, town centres and communities recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Research shows that two-thirds of the money spent in shops and services in the local economy is then re-spent locally, meaning more money spent in West Lothian will protect the economy and jobs and allow West Lothian to recover faster.

There is also evidence from gift card schemes that indicate that recipients of a gift card, their spending using such cards is up to

an additional 65% over its actual value.

The scheme is part of the Scotland Loves Local national gift card campaign, with support from the Scottish Government and Scotland's Towns Partnership towards the initial costs of getting the scheme up and running.

Executive councillor for development and transport Cathy Muldoon said: "I am delighted to support plans to create a new West Lothian-only gift card.

"It's a great way for everyone to think local first, to show their support for local and national businesses, who are located and operating in West Lothian, and

ensure their money is spent where it benefits us all the most.

"Covid-19 has had a huge impact on businesses all over Scotland, including many in West Lothian. This scheme is a positive step forward to help local businesses bounce back from the challenges of the last 15 months, protecting jobs and supporting our local communities.

"I'm sure it will prove popular with local businesses and residents alike, making it not only a great gift for friends and family, but also an investment in the local community."

More details of the gift cards will be publicised in future editions of Bulletin.



Name change in tribute to former Depute Provost



East Calder Partnership Centre has been renamed in honour of the late Councillor Dave King.

The decision to rename the centre the “The Dave King Partnership Centre” was unanimously approved by the Full Council recently.

Councillor Dave King represented the East Livingston and East Calder ward on West Lothian Council. He had been a councillor since 1992, previously representing the East Calder ward on West Lothian’s District Council. He was elected Depute Provost of West Lothian Council in 2012.

He was also Executive Councillor for Culture and Leisure and had an active role on numerous committees over his time as councillor.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: “Dave was an incredible public servant for over three decades, firstly on West Lothian District Council and then West Lothian Council as a councillor including more recently as Depute Provost. He was highly respected in his community and

in particular his village of East Calder. I’m sure I speak for many when I say it was a privilege to spend time with him and to have the opportunity to work alongside him over the years.

“East Calder was the centre of the universe for Dave and he done everything in his power to make sure everyone else treated it as such.”

Provost Tom Kerr also paid tribute. He said: “I considered

Dave a good friend and we worked closely in the Civic office. He was so proud to be Depute Provost of West Lothian and I know how much that role meant to him. His work ethic and commitment to the people within his community were legendary.

“I know how highly respected Dave was within the council and within his local community. His legacy will live on within East Calder and I’m delighted that the Partnership Centre in his own village has been named after him.”

Lanthorn roof repairs approved

West Lothian Council has agreed a budget of over £3million to repair the roof deck at The Lanthorn Centre, Livingston.

The Lanthorn Centre closed in April and is anticipated to remain shut for a period of two years after significant structural issues were identified within the roof structure of the building.

The council will remove and replace the existing roof deck at The Lanthorn Centre and Chapel Annexe.

Works are proposed to start on site in early spring 2022 and works will last approximately fourteen months. It is hoped that the project will be complete by May 2023.

A period of remobilisation will then be carried out before the building can fully reopen in the summer of 2023.

Extensive engagement has been undertaken by council officers, the Lanthorn Centre Education Association and the Trustees to ensure that all user groups and the public are aware of the circumstances around the closure of the building.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: “I’d like to thank the efforts of staff, Trustees and the LCEA who have helped ensure that the majority of groups who used The Lanthorn Centre have now found alternative, suitable accommodation. Work will continue to ensure that the council works closely with local groups and provides necessary updates throughout the construction and remobilisation phase.

Development work well underway for new partnership Centre in Whitburn

If you have any questions about the ongoing work for the new Whitburn Partnership Centre or are interested in the services set to be included at the new facility then please email whitburnpartnershipcentre@westlothian.gov.uk.

West Lothian Council is investing nearly £5 million in the new facility which will see the redevelopment of the Burgh Halls on East Main Street to create a Partnership Centre. Work restarted on the site towards the end of 2020 with Livingston-based company Maxi Construction, who recently celebrated their 50th anniversary, appointed as contractor with the facility anticipated to open in Spring 2022.

Progress continues to be made on site and with the framework of the building in place, contractors have begun work to shape the interior of the building.

West Lothian Council Depute Leader Kirsteen Sullivan joined a small group on a site visit where they got to witness the progress

being made first hand.

Councillor Sullivan said: “It was pleasing to see how work has progressed on the new partnership centre for Whitburn. You can see the building is starting to take shape and we are all looking forward to its completion.

“This is a significant investment towards delivering a modern facility which will provide the ideal setting to deliver vital services for the local community and enhance the experience of customers and service users. Located in the heart of the town, the finished Partnership Centre will also hopefully serve as an important hub for the local community by adding to the existing community facilities in Whitburn.”



Building for success at Cedarbank



A group of Cedarbank pupils were treated to a sneak preview of their superb new school recently.

The steel frame of the new building is now in place and work is progressing on track towards opening to pupils in 2022.

Currently, Cedarbank currently provides quality education for secondary pupils with additional

support needs from around West Lothian from three different locations.

The superb new stand-alone, modern purpose-built facility will bring up to 130 Cedarbank pupils from S1 to S6 together under one

roof, in the campus of The James Young High School in Livingston, allowing opportunities for partnership working between the two schools.

Cedarbank Depute Headteacher Alison Lindsay said: "All the pupils

and staff at Cedarbank are excited to see our amazing new school under construction.

"It will be fantastic to have all our pupils together in one place at last, and it's a great opportunity to build partnerships with our new neighbours at The James Young High School."

The facilities within the new Cedarbank school include a multi-purpose hall, specialist classrooms for CDT, Music, Science, Home Economics, Art, IT and life skills as well as base classrooms. There will also be a kitchen/dining area within the school and landscaped external areas which will include varied accessible and natural hard and soft landscaping, space to hold lessons outside and an outdoor allotment.

The school is part of a £26.5 million investment in schools dedicated to

supporting pupils with additional support needs, which also includes a new £14.7 million Beatlie School Campus in Livingston and a £5.8 million redevelopment of Pinewood School in Blackburn.

Executive councillor for education David Dodds said: "I was delighted to join Cedarbank pupils and see how the new school is progressing.

"We are determined to ensure the best possible specialist facilities are available for our pupils with additional support need. This investment will make a positive difference in the lives of many young people from all over West Lothian."

Hub South East is delivering all the new facilities on behalf of the council, with BAM Construction appointed as the main contractor for both Cedarbank and Pinewood.

New home for £14.7 million Beatlie School Campus identified

A site in the Craigshill area of Livingston has been earmarked as the new home for Beatlie School Campus.



Scottish Government's Learning Estate Investment Programme, and is expected to be completed by late 2023.

Along with the core education facilities for nursery, primary and secondary pupils, plans for the new school also include a hydrotherapy pool, two general purpose rooms, a life skills area, multi-purpose hall and sensory garden.

Plans for the new school will include the most up-to-date assistive technology products which are designed to help facilitate greater independence for wheelchair users to explore their surroundings by increasing, maintaining or improving their functional capabilities.

In addition to the education facilities, the new school will have enhanced energy reduction measures and provide parent support facilities, including accommodation for partner agencies and support services including the NHS Child Development Centre (CDC), which currently support pupils throughout West Lothian

NHS Lothian are contributing around £1.5 million to the project cover the cost of the new CDC facility.

A formal public consultation on the proposal to relocate Beatlie School to the new purpose-built facility at Craigshill is expected to be approved by Education Executive later this month.

Council Executive have approved plans to locate the new state-of-the-art £14.7 million school in council-owned land off Grange Road, east of the Xcite Craigshill Leisure Centre.

Beatlie provides specialist education for pupils aged three to eighteen with severe and complex support and profound medical needs.

The new purpose-built facility will be a centre of excellence for children and young people, providing cutting-edge educational facilities alongside partner health and wrap around support for children and families.

The move will be subject to formal education consultation with all stakeholders.

Executive councillor for education David Dodds said: "It's fantastic to see work progressing on a superb new

campus for Beatlie, that will fully meet the needs of pupils.

"The new location at Craigshill looks ideal, as it allows the school to remain in Craigshill and build on their existing positive relationships with the local community.

"West Lothian already has one of the best school estates in Scotland, and we are investing over £29 million in schools for pupils with additional support needs such as Ogilvie, Cedarbank, Pinewood as well as Beatlie.

"This will ensure all our young people have the best facilities for learning we can provide for them, to help them achieve their full potential in the future."

The new school is being developed with council investment and additional funding as part of the



First Headteacher for new £14.7 million Calderwood primary appointed

Sarah Burton has been appointed as the first ever Headteacher of the new Calderwood Primary School in East Calder.

Miss Burton has moved after three and half years in the same role at Pumpherston and Uphall Station Community Primary School (PUSCPS), and will play a key part in establishing the new state-of-the-art £14.7 million school.

Calderwood Primary is expected to be open to pupils from October this year, with arrangements in place for nearby schools to temporarily host Calderwood classes from the start of the new term in August.

Prior to her time as Headteacher at PUSCPS, Sarah also worked as deputy Headteacher of Mid Calder Primary School and as a Development Officer for Education Scotland, working on the Scottish Schools National Intranet, Glow.

Sarah Burton said: "It's a huge honour to be appointed as the first ever Headteacher of Calderwood Primary School. "I'm excited by all the many opportunities of setting up a new school, in a superb new modern building, specially designed for education.

"I would like to thank all the parents/carers who made me feel so welcome at recent online meetings. I'm really looking forward to building positive relations with you all, as we create a supportive, innovative and inclusive school community together."

Executive councillor for education David Dodds said:

"I'm delighted to welcome Sarah Burton to the prestigious role of Calderwood's first Headteacher. Her strong track record and vision for the school made her the ideal candidate for the job. The £14.7 million investment in a superb new Calderwood primary school is part of a massive £144 million education investment programme planned by West Lothian Council over the next seven years, to ensure our learning estate remains one of the best in Scotland."



Kylie crowned Scotland's Bookbug Hero

A West Lothian nursery practitioner has received national recognition for her fantastic work using reading to make a real difference to the lives of the young children and their families.

Kylie Watt from Longridge Primary received the Bookbug Hero Award 2021 from the Scottish Book Trust, the national charity for changing lives through reading and writing. Nominated by her colleagues, Kylie has been recognised for dedicating her working career of over 20 years to children and early years education.

Bookbug has been central to the nursery's inclusive and nurturing approach as they returned after a prolonged lockdown due to Covid-19. Kylie's work helped transition the children back into the nursery environment and also helped make parents feel involved and valued.

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said: "Congratulations to Kylie Watt on winning the 2021 Bookbug Hero Award.

"In an especially difficult year, Kylie has gone above and beyond to support the children of Longridge Nursery, their parents and her colleagues. It is wonderful to hear how Bookbug has been used to assist transition back into the nursery, and how a strong reading culture has supported the young people's health and wellbeing."

Kylie Watt, who also received £500 of picture books for Longridge Primary from sponsor Walker Books along with her award, said: "I am so proud to be announced as the winner of the Bookbug Hero Award.

"It was a lovely surprise that my colleagues and parents from Longridge Nursery Class nominated me and gave me recognition for doing a job that I love.

"The award confirms that what I am doing to promote literacy development within our early year's setting is having a positive impact on our families and children. Bookbug Explorer Bags have been an important part of promoting a love of books and the book bags have really helped us on our literacy journey because they give all children the opportunity to access high quality children's literature and literacy resources."

Free school meals for all primary and nursery pupils



All West Lothian primary pupils will be entitled to a free school meal in future

P1-P3 are already entitled to a free school meal. The Scottish Government announced in 2021/22 budget that they will provide free school meals for all P4-P7 children as well.

In West Lothian, extending it to other year groups will be done on a phased basis from August 2021.

Phase one: P4 will be able to access free school meals from August 2021

Phase two: P5 will be able to access free school meals from January 2022

Phases three: P6 & 7 will be able to access free school meals from August 2022

The programme is being rolled out on a phased basis to allow for equipment, staffing numbers, dining capacity and storage capacities to be changed to meet the increase in lunches being provided.

In addition, it was already planned as part of the Early learning expansion that meals for nursery children would be provided by August 2021. When all phases have been put in place, the council will deliver over 2.5 million meals in primary schools and nurseries each year. Over 12,800 meals will be produced daily from 41 locations in West Lothian.

David Dodds, Executive councillor for education said: "The numbers of meals provided will increase significantly and we are preparing for that by assessing capacity and resources available to us.

"Phases one and ELC will be delivered from this August with the installation of new equipment. In order to deliver phases two and three there will be a significant amount of funding required and the council is seeking additional funding from the Scottish Government."

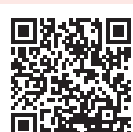
Nursery hours extended to 1,140 per year



West Lothian Council has increased the number of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) hours per year to 1,140 from 19 April 2021. This means that parents/carers of all West Lothian three and four year olds, as well as eligible two year olds, will receive the increased hours for their child (pro rata) until the start of the new academic session in August 2021.

A range of attendance patterns across 50 weeks of the year are available.

For more details or to apply, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/apply-for-an-elt-place



WEST LOTHIAN SCHOOL TERM DATES 2021/22

TERM 1

starts for pupils, Tuesday, 17 August 2021

SEPTEMBER HOLIDAY

All break: Friday, 17 September 2021

Pupils resume: Wednesday, 22 September 2021

OCTOBER HOLIDAY

All break: Friday, 8 October 2021

Pupils resume: Tuesday, 19 October 2021

LAST DAY OF TERM

All break: Wednesday, 22 December 2021

TERM 2

starts for pupils Thursday, 6 January 2022

FEBRUARY HOLIDAY

All break: Friday, 11 February 2022

All resume: Wednesday, 16 February 2022

LAST DAY OF TERM

All break: Friday, 1 April 2022

TERM 3

starts for all Tuesday, 19 April 2022

MAY HOLIDAY

All break: Friday, 29 April 2022

All resume: Tuesday, 3 May 2022

● **Staff In-Service (school pupils off)** Thursday, 5 May 2022

● **One day local holiday** of Monday, 23 May 2022, except for schools on Bathgate and Linlithgow.

● **Bathgate schools** are closed on Monday, 6 June 2022 and

● **Linlithgow schools** are closed on Tuesday, 14 June 2022 instead, subject to confirmation.

● **Last Day of Term** Friday, 24 June 2022

Staff in-service days take place on Monday, 16 August; Tuesday, 21 September; and Monday, 18 October 2021; as well as Wednesday, 5 January and Thursday, 5 May 2022.

Early Learning centres are open for 50 weeks per year, and are only closed for the same two weeks as Christmas as above.

More details and the 2022/23 school calendar are available at www.westlothian.gov.uk/schoolholidays



FINAL SPACES REMAIN

**DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE
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Vital support service celebrates two nominations at national education awards



West Lothian Council's Inclusion and Wellbeing Service (IWS) has been shortlisted twice for the Times Education Supplement (TES) Schools Awards 2021.

Connolly School Campus has been nominated for the UK Best Alternative Provision School of the Year, while Tracey Dudgeon is in the running for UK Classroom Support Assistant of the Year. The IWS supports over 500 children and young people with additional support Needs across West Lothian, with Connolly School Campus in

Blackburn providing a nurturing and inclusive environment for children with a variety of needs, including social and emotional challenge. IWS Headteacher Andrew Millar said: "It's a fantastic achievement for the IWS to be shortlisted twice at the TES Schools awards 2021. "The dedicated team at Connolly

Campus provide tailored support, with a focus on key areas such as inclusive practice and removing barriers for children. "Tracey Dudgeon has been a valued member of the IWS team for two years and richly deserves this nomination, following in the footsteps of colleague Anne Harkness who was shortlisted last year. "Her commitment to her own professional development to support the needs of some of our authority's most vulnerable children is second to none." Executive councillor for education David Dodds added: "Congratulations to Tracey Dudgeon and everyone at Connolly School Campus on being shortlisted for these awards. It shows the fantastic work being done within the IWS to support our children who need help the most."

Euroquiz trophy comes to West Lothian



A West Lothian school has achieved a fantastic first place finish in the Scotland-wide Euroquiz competition.

The team from St Joseph's Primary in Linlithgow of Eric, Beatrix, Connell, Anna, with Finlay as reserve, finished top out of over 2,200 pupils from over 440 schools from all over Scotland.

Euroquiz is run by the Scottish European Educational Trust (SEET). It sees teams of four working together to broaden their knowledge of Europe and the wider world.

The team demonstrated an impressive level of knowledge about European languages, history, geography, culture and

European affairs to finish first.

St. Joseph's Linlithgow Headteacher Ann Smith said: "We are all extremely proud of the team and their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm.

They demonstrated our school values throughout and showed that hard work and commitment pays dividends.

"It was very impressive to win the West Lothian heat against strong competition, and to go on to win the Scotland-wide event is a superb accomplishment."

The Euroquiz final can viewed on SEET's YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/lWHoWt63XXg>



Help towards the cost of school

See page 2 for guidance on how to scan QR codes



Support with meals

The council also provides a free breakfast to all pupils in primary schools who want it. Breakfast is also free to those entitled to free school meals in secondary schools. Please contact your child's school direct for further details of the breakfast club times.

In Secondary Schools pupils entitled to free school meals will have a breakfast provision allowance included on their ipayimpact account. All other secondary pupils can purchase the same breakfast for 57p.

Children in receipt of Free School Meals will also qualify for additional Financial Support. Those entitled to Free School Meals because they are living in low income families will be entitled to a Winter Family Pandemic Payment, paid by West Lothian Council on behalf of Scottish Government. Financial support will also be paid during school holiday periods to help parents/guardians deal with the additional financial burden on households during the Covid 19 pandemic.

10% reduction in school meal prices

- West Lothian Council is reducing primary school meals to £1.96 (a 30p reduction from budgeted prices) and secondary meals to £2.12 (a 31p reduction). This will be in place for pupils from the new term in August 2021 and run until March 2023.



Help is available for parents towards the cost of a school uniform, through West Lothian Council's School Clothing Grant scheme with over 8,000 pupils awarded grants in the last year.



A payment of £150 could be provided to help parents/carers with the costs of school uniforms for primary school pupils and £180 for secondary school pupils.

All children in nursery and in primary 1, 2, 3 and 4 will receive free school lunches, regardless of financial circumstances, however families who are in receipt of the above benefits should complete an application to ensure their child receives free milk and a clothing grant.

For eligibility criteria and to access the online form please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/mealsandclothing

Anyone who thinks that they may qualify for a School Clothing Grant can contact West Lothian Advice Shop on **01506 283000** (and select option 4) for further information and details on how to apply. Alternatively contact your child's school for information or e-mail: EducationBenefits@westlothian.gov.uk



Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

A payment of £30 per week for EMA is also available to help students to stay on at school.

This is payable depending on the household income which is assessed in the same way as for Tax Credits provided by HM Revenue & Customs. Students estranged from parents or in care of West Lothian Council can also be paid.

If the applying student is the only dependent child in the household – taxable income must not exceed £24,421, or if there is more than one dependent child in the household – taxable income must not exceed £26,884.

Online applications are being accepted now and the link can be found on West Lothian Council's website at www.westlothian.gov.uk/ema. You can also get a form from your school or email EducationBenefits@westlothian.gov.uk and one can be emailed to you.

A student must be born between 01 March 2002 and 28 February 2006 to be eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance from West Lothian Council.

- Students born between 01 March 2002 and 30 September 2005 can start payment from week beginning 16 August 2021. The online form must be completed by 30 September 2021.
- Students born between 01 October 2005 and 28 February 2006 may start payment from 03 January 2022. The online form must be completed by 28 February 2022.

Application forms which are not submitted by the deadlines can only be paid from the week in which the application is received. The closing date for application forms is 31 March 2022. No application will be accepted after this date.

TEAM WORK TACKLING LITTER

Team work is helping to reduce the amount of litter on West Lothian's streets and open spaces.



West Lothian Litter Pickers (WLLP), River Almond Action Group (RAAG), community councils and hundreds of other local volunteers organise and participate in litter picks each year.

These community efforts are supported by West Lothian Council – whose street cleaning team lift litter daily from roads, streets and open spaces around West Lothian. They also empty the 2,000 litter bins.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all those that volunteer and we will continue to support groups where we can

The council supports local groups with equipment to help collect rubbish. 800 pickers and hoops have been donated by the council to local groups

The council has provided groups with approximately £16,000 of bags to allow groups to bag their litter. The council then collects the

litter from the kerbside

Recently the council has put in place a mechanism whereby local volunteers can email the council when they have collected litter and our team will go out and remove it

There have been no cuts to the council's Street Cleansing budget despite significant reductions in the council's budget over the past decade

Litter Plan picks up pace

Changes to litter bins could be on the way as part of a new local Litter Plan being introduced by West Lothian Council.



The plan aims to ensure that bins are more effective and efficient in helping to reduce litter overall.

The plan will include a review of litter bins in West Lothian which could see:

- A review of all existing bins to ensure that type, size and location of existing bins are correct and meet community needs
- An increase in the size capacity of some bins

- Introduction of technology by placing sensors in bins that inform the council when they reach capacity and inform the council where usage is low, helping to identify when bins need to be removed or relocated

The new Litter Bin Plan will be part of the overall Litter Policy which is recommended under the national Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Invest to support Volunteers & reduce Fly Tipping

Since the pandemic, there has been a substantial increase in litter picking volunteers. Community participation in improving the environment & is fully supported by the council.

To continue to encourage community volunteering, whilst also improving the external environment by removing litter from public

spaces, the council has agreed to recruit staff to remove the bags of litter collected by volunteers and address fly tipping. This will enhance partnership working between volunteers and the council. It is hoped that this funding will reduce litter and fly tipping and improve the overall standard of cleanliness locally, especially in rural locations.

“

We really do appreciate the effort that local volunteers go to, to help their local community. The council's street cleaning team concentrate resources on busy high streets and other priority locations, but we can only do so much. Working in partnership with WLLP has benefited the council greatly as the groups often target areas that the council cannot cover, and they support the council with litter picking hotspot areas. As much as we applaud the efforts of volunteers and council staff, the disappointing aspect is that the litter shouldn't be there in the first place. There needs to be a change in the littering culture to reduce litter and the focus going forward needs to be on preventive measures and behavioural change, not simply on removing more litter. Everyone needs to take responsibility for their actions and do the right thing - Put your own litter in a bin or, if there isn't one nearby, take your litter home with you or keep it until you reach the nearest bin.”

Executive councillor for the Environment, Tom Conn



FLY-TIPPING IS CRIMINAL



RECOGNISE THIS MESS?

DUMPED AT NELSON PARK, ARMADALE

The owner didn't check that their tradespeople had a valid Waste Carrier Licence, which allows them to dispose of waste legally and safely.

HOUSEHOLDERS CAN HELP:

Always check that the tradespeople you employ have a Waste Carrier Licence. Don't use tradespeople that can't provide you with a Waste Carrier Licence.

You should ensure that the removal of waste is included in any quote for work and get a waste transfer note/receipt for taking your waste away.

If you have not made these checks, and your waste is dumped illegally, you could share liability jointly with your tradesperson and be subject to enforcement action, a fixed penalty notice or court action.

REPORT IT:



www.westlothian.gov.uk/report
or 01506 280000

See page 2 for guidance on how to scan QR codes

New bike route links West Lothian towns

Cycling between Armadale and Whitburn has just become a whole lot easier.



Executive councillor for the environment Tom Conn was joined by Sustrans infrastructure officer, Adrienne Acioly (left) and West Lothian Council, roads and transportation engineer, Martin Wilkinson (right)

A new, off-road cycle path joining the two communities along the east side of the B8084.

In total £1.2million has been invested in the project, with the majority of funds contributed by Sustrans in addition to Cycling Walking and Safer Routes grant funding from the Scottish Government.

The cycle path/shared use path which runs along the east side of the B8084 "Tippethill" road

between Whitdale Roundabout, just north of Whitburn, and Southdale Way in Armadale.

Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn said: "It is pleasing to see work complete on this project which provides a sustainable, active travel link between the communities of Whitburn and Armadale.

"Thanks must be given to Sustrans and Transport Scotland for their support and

collaboration on this important route which will only help to promote active travel in the area and I'm sure cyclists and pedestrians alike will enjoy it greatly."

A toucan crossing and 30mph speed limit allows path users to safely cross the A706 at Whitdale Roundabout. The path also extends down Southdale Way past Southdale Primary School and then into Southdale Avenue,

where it connects into the existing National Cycle Network Route No.75 near Armadale Railway Station.

The cycle path was delivered with support from Sustrans and Transport Scotland through their Places for Everyone initiative to create safe, attractive, healthier places by increasing the number of trips made by walking, cycling and wheeling for everyday journeys.

Head of Infrastructure Delivery for Sustrans Scotland, Chiquita Elvin said: "This is a fantastic new walking, wheeling and cycling connection that has been created by West Lothian Council for the area, making it safer and easier for people to make the journey between the two communities on foot or by wheel.

"The connection to National Cycle Network Route 75 opens up easier access to space for exercise as well as day-trips to the surrounding area."



3G pitches investment kicks-off

The whistle has blown on a £1.5 million project to deliver new synthetic sports pitches in West Lothian.

As part of the council's Capital Investment Programme to deliver new 3G pitches and improving existing surfaces in West Lothian, £810,000 is being invested in the current year.

Work already underway on a brand-new pitch in East Calder, with further projects to take place this year include the upgrading of synthetic surfaces at Inverlomond Community High School and St Margaret's Academy.

Executive councillor for the Environment Tom Conn said: "The council is investing significant sums across the entirety of the Capital Investment Programme. Investment in facilities such as the new 3G synthetic surface in East Calder will provide further opportunities for people to participate in sports, maintain an active lifestyle."



Visit West Lothian

WEST LOTHIAN IS GOOD TO GO

Whilst restrictions may be easing, it's still important to keep safe when we're heading out to help keep the places we love open.

Many of West Lothian's tourism and hospitality businesses are taking part in the Good to Go scheme, a collaboration between Visit Scotland and the UK's other national tourism agencies, where businesses receive the certification for adhering to measures such as through having enhanced cleaning procedures.

Look out for the Good to Go logo on their website, or on www.visitwestlothian.co.uk where you'll find more details of the scheme.



Also on www.visitwestlothian.co.uk you'll find our new walks section, allowing you to head out and explore the countryside in our area with ease. You can see walks nearby, filter by difficulty and see businesses such as attractions and cafes on the route.

Once you're ready to go, use your phone to follow the route turn by turn, and with what3words codes you'll know exactly where to turn making getting lost will be a thing of the past

New Hopetoun Garden Centre

FREE TEA OR COFFEE FOR TWO GARDENING LOVERS

Present this original voucher in the Orangery tearoom any day in August or September to receive free tea or coffee for two people.

Terms and conditions: Original voucher must be presented. Not exchangeable for cash or other goods. Expires 30 September 2021.

New Hopetoun Gardens, by Winchburgh EH52 6QZ.
01506 834433,
www.newhopetoungardens.co.uk



HOWDEN PARK CENTRE IS BACK!



Get married with us!

A unique Wedding Venue. Packages available.

Find out more at www.howdenparkcentre.co.uk

Women's safety consultation to launch

West Lothian Council will undertake a consultation with local women on the issue of safety in public places and spaces.

Council officers will conduct a consultation with women in West Lothian and organisations/agencies working with local women on the general concerns about safety in public places and spaces, and how public safety fears manifest changes in women's behaviour overall.

A report on the findings of the consultation and the legal powers available to the council will be brought back to the council's Policy and Resources scrutiny panel later in the year. The exercise will also seek to identify areas of good practice that have been undertaken elsewhere in the UK or further afield. Depute Council Leader Kirsteen

Sullivan, said: "Violence and abuse of any kind is, of course, abhorrent, but particular emphasis is rightly being placed upon the issues that women can face.

"The recent murders of Sarah Everard and Julia James have brought into sharp focus the safety fears and concerns of women across the country in going about their daily lives.

"This work will identify what, if any, actions can be taken locally to improve the safety of women in public places. It will also determine what safety considerations can be embedded into planning and design of public places going forward."

Whitburn Brass Band strike up a winning tune



Whitburn Brass Band received the congratulations of West Lothian Council following the groups success at the Kapitol Cory Online Brass Band Championships.

The achievements of the group were recognised at a recent meeting of West Lothian Council with the groups exploits showered with praise especially in light of the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the ability of musicians to rehearse in groups.

The group claimed top prize at the Kapitol Cory Online Brass Band Championships which saw bands from across the United Kingdom come together to perform virtually and compete with one another.

Whitburn Brass Band also claimed the prizes for 'Best

Euphoniums/Baritones', 'Best Trombones' and 'Best Percussion'.

West Lothian Council is now set to invite the group to perform in public at West Lothian Civic Centre as soon the public health measures allow it.



Success for Broxburn Academy debaters

A group of pupils from Broxburn Academy are the talk of West Lothian following success at an International Competition for Young Debaters.

At a meeting of West Lothian of Council, members unanimously agreed that the two teams of young debaters, should be congratulated on their outstanding feats at the international competition which saw them debate with peers from across the globe.

Broxburn Academy had two teams in the finals of the International Competition for Young Debaters after they qualified to represent Scotland earlier this year. This is a competition open to all under 16 debaters in the world.

Emma and Ruby in particular enjoyed incredible success at the competition on Saturday 1 May.

In a competition which started with nearly 500 teams from across the world, Emma and Ruby ranked as the third top team, and the top UK team. The only teams above them were international schools from India and Hong Kong. The only other UK team in the top 10 were from Eton, who came 8th. Emma and Ruby were both top ten speakers, ranked jointly fourth and just one point off the best speaker.

Meanwhile Luke and Finlay who are both S2 pupils at Broxburn Academy, performed excellently in the finals.

Robbie McDonald, history and debate teacher at Broxburn Academy worked with both teams at the competition, added: "The whole school community is extremely proud of Emma, Ruby, Luke and Finlay for their incredible achievements.

"For Emma and Ruby to place so highly against illustrious private and international schools from across the world is a testament to their hard work and partnership. We're very lucky to be represented by such excellent pupils!"

Former library to become community hub

Linlithgow Community Development Trust are set to transform the former library into a community resource.

The trust aim to turn the building into a hub for local businesses and community organisations in the town, acting as the umbrella group for co-ordinating access for any other groups looking to occupy the building.

Proposed facilities include flexible working spaces, break-out areas and a tool library.

The property is located at 6-7 The Vennel, Linlithgow and is a standalone building within the Vennel courtyard. It was declared surplus to operational requirements by West Lothian Council following the relocation of library services to nearby Tam Dalyell House / Linlithgow Partnership Centre.

Council officers subsequently undertook an extensive marketing exercise for the vennel area which also included engagement with the local community to establish

interest from groups to develop a proposal to create and manage a community resource hub within the former library building.

A meeting of West Lothian Council Executive has now granted approval for council officers to conduct property lease negotiations with the Linlithgow CDT.

West Lothian Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "Council Executive approves the letting to Linlithgow CDT on the terms set out within the report as they represent best value for the council."

"With the library relocated into the fantastic facility that is Tam Dalyell House (Linlithgow Partnership Centre) it is pleasing to see that the building will continue to serve local people, businesses and organisations of Linlithgow."

AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR FORMER LIVINGSTON DEPOT SITE



George Smith and Ros Edgar, from the council's Housing team, Councillor Paul (right) and Jim Smith, Site Manager with contractor CCG visited the site last week to see how work was progressing.

Construction work to build new council homes at Eagle Brae, Livingston is now well underway.

Twenty nine new council homes are currently being built at the site, with a further 29 homes being built nearby at Deans South.

They include a mixture of one, two, three, four and five bedroom houses and two and three bedroom bungalows.

Construction work is ongoing and expected to be complete by spring next year.

Overall, over 3,000 new affordable homes will be made available by

March 2023 including a mixture of new build homes and homes purchased from the open market and made available for social housing. The 3,000 homes are made up of council and Registered Social Landlord properties.

Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul, said: "The site at Eagle Brae was formally a council depot but the building was deemed surplus to requirements. It's fantastic to see

that an unused site will be turned into affordable new homes which are in much demand.

"Livingston is the most sought-after location in West Lothian in terms of those looking for affordable homes. We are committed to increasing the availability of affordable homes in West Lothian and it is always pleasing to visit sites where new build homes are being built."

Keeping communities **safe**

Community safety partners involved in the West Lothian Community Safety Unit (CSU) continue to work to try and ensure the safety and well-being of communities across West Lothian.

The CSU regularly share guidance on a wide range of topics such as incidents of anti-social behaviour, safety around fire or open water and hate crimes in the community.

You can find information on these topics and much more via the Community Safety section of the West Lothian Council Website.

Here you will also find which Community Safety Partner is most appropriate to provide you support and the means to contact them.

Whether it's the council's Safer Neighbourhood Team, Police Scotland or The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, the Community Safety Unit is available to help you.

More information:

www.westlothian.gov.uk/community-safety



Council sells land to help regenerate Deans South



Public owned land at Deans South, Livingston has been sold to Springfield Properties PLC as part of an overall plan to regenerate the estate.

Deans South is currently undergoing a huge regeneration programme that will see over 200 affordable homes built. The homes will be for social rent and will be a mix of council and houses provided by registered social landlord partners.

As part of the first phase of the programme, the council has already successfully built 54 new council homes on part of the estate and work commenced on a further 29 affordable homes in May this year.

However, the council was never in a position to develop the remainder of the estate on its own, with some homes in the area remaining in private ownership.

Last year, West Lothian Council's Executive agreed to sell 4.4 hectares of land to Springfield Properties PLC. The sale of land

is now concluded and Springfield will be moving forward with their development plans in the next few months.

The Springfield Properties PLC proposal will provide an additional 127 new homes for social rent in an area of key demand in West Lothian, and will contribute significantly to the overall affordable housing investment programme.

Springfield Properties PLC is a developer of both private and affordable rented housing operating across the whole of Scotland. They already own one property in Deans South and have now purchased the council's land interests, which includes 46 unoccupied council owned properties with a view to developing 136 new homes (of which 127 will be of social rent, and nine new homes for the

existing private owners) on the site.

Executive councillor for services for the community George Paul said: "The council is delighted to have reached this point. This deal with Springfield Properties represents a positive outcome for all parties.

"The successful regeneration of Deans South will be aided by Springfield Properties and the remaining residents reaching an agreement."

Springfield Partnerships Managing Director, Tom Leggeat, said: "There is a significant opportunity to create a thriving community within Deans South that local people can be proud of.

We are excited to continue to work with residents and West Lothian Council as we develop our proposals further."

Improving the customer experience

A new team has been set up to proactively improve relations between the council's Housing, Customer & Building Services and its customers.

The Customer Experience (CX) Team has been created to build knowledge of our customers, their circumstances, and future needs through various forms of engagement.

Through this, they aim to proactively improve how we help customers, for example to prevent issues that could become complaints before they can happen.

All the data collected will be used to build a Customer Journey Map,

which is an overview of every contact the customer makes when requesting a service from us, how they felt at that point of contact, what was good about that experience, and where improvement was needed.

The CX will use this information to identify, recommend and implement changes to current processes based on our customers' needs and wants, removing barriers and delays where possible.

Council call for quick action on River Almond sewage issues

West Lothian Council is calling on the Scottish Government to upgrade wastewater treatment in Almond Valley as quickly as possible.



This follows reports of sewage finding its way into the River Almond, prompting serious concerns for public health and the environment.

The council has no statutory responsibility for the treatment or discharge of sewage from wastewater works or in coordinating the investment necessary to ensure continued capacity for new developments within the area.

The council does not have powers in relation to the river quality or enforcement, or the protection of persons or animals who may come into contact with the river.

Executive councillor for the environment,

Tom Conn said: "Protecting the local environment is one of the council's priorities and we share the concern that local groups and individuals have expressed about sewage being discharged into the Almond.

"We are all highly concerned about the adverse impact on the ecology and biodiversity of the River Almond corridor. We are calling on the Scottish Government to ensure that the plans for the East Calder Wastewater Treatment are undertaken as quickly as possible and before the planned dates that are currently in place. It's vital that these works are undertaken as quickly as possible.

"River Almond Action Group (RAAG) was established by a local activist and the group, along with a number of well attended community litter picking and river scavenge events linked to RAAG, are rightly gaining local support.

"The group aim to drive change and improve the river and should be applauded for their efforts to improve the local environment."

An officer working group – co-ordinated by Scottish Water and involving SEPA, Veolia and the council – has been established to improve communications with the local community and increase transparency and knowledge.

A number of outcomes have been delivered, however, the council is calling for more to be done. The Council and local elected members have also been invited to join a wider stakeholder group, which meets for the first time later this week.

The Council Executive has instructed the council's Chief Executive to write to the First Minister of Scotland requesting that a robust capital investment programme is designed for the Almond Valley without delay and that works to complete the project are carried out as quickly as possible.

West Lothian working group to look at legacy of slavery

The first meeting of a working group looking at the legacy of the slavery in West Lothian has taken place.

The group met for the first time on 15 June 2021 and was attended by leading Scottish human rights activist, Sir Geoff Palmer as well as members of the West Lothian Race Forum, representatives from various groups and interested individuals.

During the meeting, the group discussed the importance and ways of raising the awareness of the legacy of slavery and the impact it has within our communities today. There was a recognition of the work to date and the need to build upon the activities underway in schools, communities and the third sector.

The group will be meeting again in August to agree their remit going forward, and an action plan which will be reported at a meeting of West Lothian Council Executive later in the year.

Council officers will continue to work with the Race Forum and other key stakeholders in furthering this work over the coming months.

The council will also be working with the Race Forum to develop plans to mark Black History Month which takes place in October. Further information on activities will be revealed in due course.

Meet Sophie*

In lots of ways, Sophie is like many other teenage girls:

She is very active, has lots of energy and thoroughly enjoys gymnastics



She loves to dance and show off her moves and routines on "Tik Tok"



She is interested in arts and craft activities

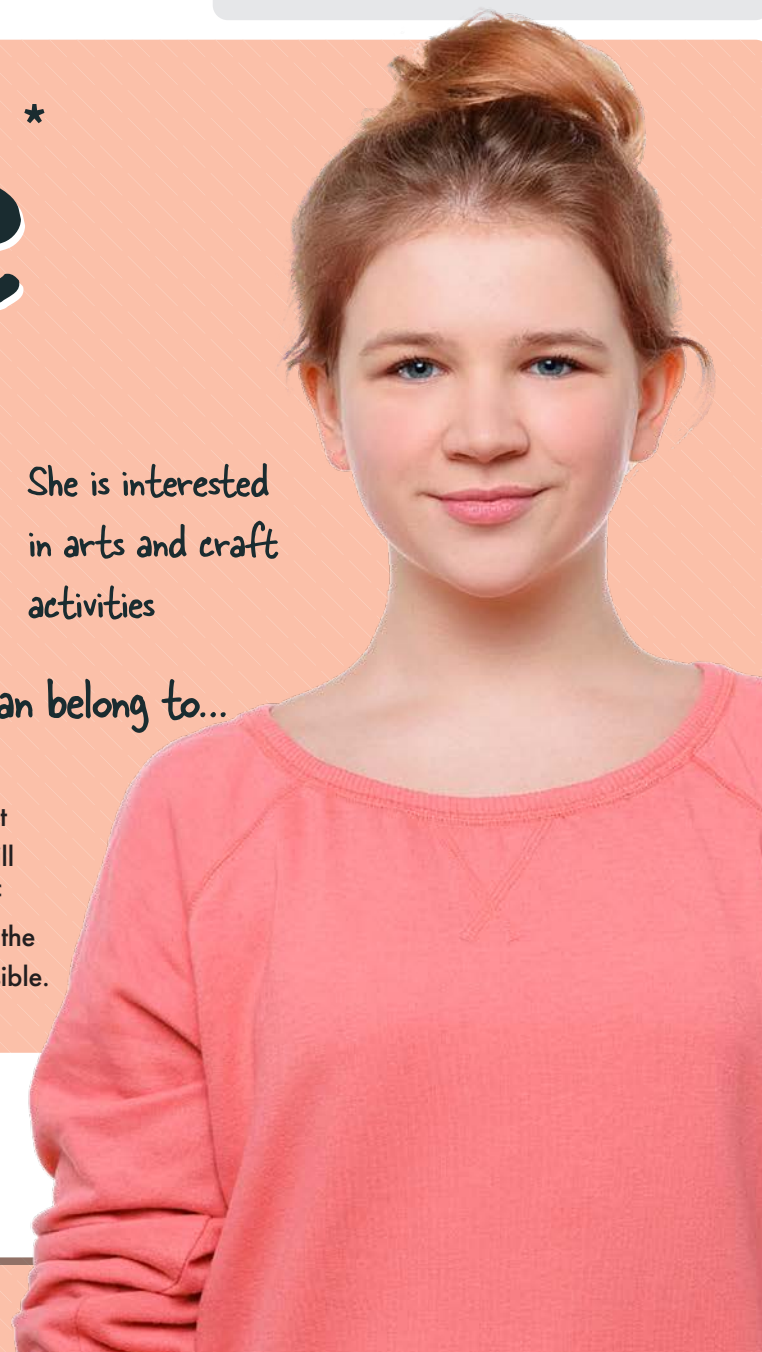
But unlike most other 14 year olds, Sophie doesn't have a family she can belong to...

We want to find a permanent family for Sophie who can love and care for her until she is grown. All of the people who care about Sophie have talked about the sort of family who would be best for her. Sophie needs to have consistent routines and boundaries at home. Sophie needs a family who will offer her a stable, loving and nurturing home environment; who will be understanding and supportive of her. A family who is active, energetic and creative would be best for Sophie. She loves to chat and be in the company of others. Sophie is a big sister, however she would be best as an only child in the family if possible.

You could be the family we are looking for

If you are interested in finding out more about Sophie or other children than need a family, please contact the Family Placement Team on 07863557552.

*Sophie is a pseudonym to protect her real identity.



West Lothian Community Choices

westlothiancouncil.communitychoices.scot

Communities and service users in West Lothian have the chance to influence spending through a process called Community Choices.

West Lothian Community Choices is West Lothian's version of Participatory Budgeting - a democratic process which **empowers people and communities** to have a greater say in how public money is spent. West Lothian Community Choices empowers everyone from community groups to individual service users to get involved in local decision making via a democratic Participatory Budgeting process. Community Choices can be carried out in lots of different ways ranging from public events to digital-only experiences.

SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA TO TAKE PART! *



“A GREAT IDEA AND ALLOWED THE WHOLE OF THE COMMUNITY TO GET ON BOARD AND GET INVOLVED”

A number of Community Choices exercises have already taken place or are underway. One such process was undertaken in Blackburn where the community were asked to vote on funding for projects which would focus on Mental Health & Wellbeing, Children Living in Poverty and Healthy Living. With nine of the eleven projects receiving funding.

One of the successful projects was Screen Memories and a spokes person from the group has said “Community

Choices gave us an ideal opportunity to design an inter-generational project which was centred in the community of Blackburn itself and gave local people a chance to be directly involved in a reminiscence activity. The application process was very simple and straightforward and the questions were very relevant, community-specific and easy to follow. The idea of allocating Council funding support to meet identified local needs is a sensible model for future development.”

Community Action Blackburn said about the launch of the Community Choices initiative in Blackburn “a great idea and allowed the whole of the Community to get on board and get involved”

A number of Community Choices processes will be undertaken throughout West Lothian, enabling local people to be more involved in decisions that affect them and their community.



You can find more detail on the individual Community Choices projects by going to westlothian.gov.uk/communitychoices or get involved by visiting the Consul community engagement platform westlothiancouncil.communitychoices.scot

Grounds Maintenance

There is an opportunity, via Community Choices, to enable members of the community to influence the future work of the Grounds Maintenance Service. This process commenced with a grounds maintenance survey over a 4 week period 7 June to 4 July 2021.

Operational Services would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who completed the grounds maintenance survey. At the time of writing, over 1000 people had completed the survey.

The survey results will be reviewed and options developed which will then be presented to communities on a ward basis for decision making during the Autumn of 2021. It is planned that the community involved decision-making process will be undertaken during Autumn 2021. This will be undertaken online using the Consul community engagement platform, and will be supported via staff presence within open space areas, partnership centres and popular locations to encourage discussions and engagement with people in their local area on their local area.



Tenants Environmental Improvement Projects

Housing currently engage with service users for ideas for projects that will improve the environment within council housing areas. Following discussions with the Tenants Panel it was agreed that this process could be positively updated to incorporate West Lothian Community Choices.

The process will be undertaken in three stages:

Stage 1 – Idea Generation

Communities will be supported to determine their priorities and generate proposals and ideas via the council's community engagement platform Consul.

Stage 2 – Idea Refinement

Officers will work with the Capital Working Group to develop the ideas into viable projects, this could include Community Councils and Third Sector organisations looking at opportunities to widen the scope of the projects.

Stage 3 – Decision Making

A public vote will be held using the Consul platform and support will be available for people to engage in this process.

The Community Choices process will take place in different areas at different times of the year, following the same schedule as the annual cyclical repairs programme on council properties. Bathgate, Blackburn and Whitburn are the first areas involved with idea generation starting on 2 August. Updates will be issued via social media and regular tenant communication channels to let tenants know when the process will kick off in their area.

The overall process allows people to have a say on their local area and how the tenant's environmental improvement budget can be used to deliver improvements in the local area. This will allow communities to put forward project ideas for areas of housing land, for example ideas could range from community gardens and grow your own spaces to improving hedging and open spaces.

The process will be completed online using the Consul platform and a MyWestLothian login and sets out the areas for consideration as well as some examples of potential improvements:

westlothiancouncil.communitychoices.scot

Communities will be supported through this process by face-to-face support within popular local areas to engage people in how they would like their communities enhanced. Information on the support available will be promoted via the councils Facebook page, the tenants Facebook page as well as via partner organisations.

REMINDER TO CHECK YOUR HOME COMPLIES WITH UPCOMING CHANGE IN SMOKE DETECTION LEGISLATION



West Lothian households are encouraged to make sure they comply with new Scottish Government laws relating to smoke detection.

In February 2019, the Scottish Government announced that the law relating to smoke detection in the home was changing to ensure all homes in Scotland, whether owned or rented, have the same levels of detection, thereby increasing fire safety.

Home owners had been set a deadline of February 2022 to ensure their property is compliant.

As it stands, the law requires that all homes must have:

- One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes e.g. the living room.
- One alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings.
- A heat alarm installed in every kitchen.
- Carbon monoxide detectors must be fitted where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance (such as boilers, fires (including open fires), heaters, stoves and gas cookers).

Please note that all alarms are to be ceiling mounted and interlinked where possible (this does not include carbon detectors which are not required to be interlinked into a smoke and heat detector system)



Landlords and home owners have full responsibility to ensure that their home meets the new criteria by the new implementation set by the Scottish Parliament.

As a social landlord, West Lothian Council is responsible for making sure that all council homes comply with this new safety standard and a programme of interlinked smoke detector upgrades across council houses is already well underway.

Tenants are asked that should they receive a notification regarding an installation to please contact the council immediately and please provide access for operatives to safely carry out the work when appropriate.

If council tenants have any questions in relation to the installation programme then please contact Customer Services on 01506 280000.

Details of what the new law means for individuals who rent from other Registered Social Landlords, rent privately or own their home are listed below:

Homes rented from Housing Associations

Each housing association is making its own arrangements to ensure its homes meet the new requirement. Any questions should be directed to your housing association.

Private Rented Homes

Private rented homes already have to meet this standard and there is no significant change. If your private rented home does not already have the right number of interlinked detectors in place, contact your landlord in the first place. If your landlord doesn't fix the problem, you should report the matter to the First Tier Tribunal.

See rentingscotland.org/tenants/repairs/ for more information.

Licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation

The law has required higher standards of fire detection and warning for many years. This is checked as part of the licensing process and there is no significant change.

Bought Homes

Only the most recently built homes are likely to meet the new standard. Homeowners are responsible for making sure their home meets this new requirement. You can buy and fit the long-life battery versions yourself if you have the skills or you can get a tradesperson in to do it for you. Our Trusted Trader scheme: www.westlothian.gov.uk/trustedtrader will help you find a reputable local business to do the work.

If you are buying a home, make sure it meets the standard already, or that you know how much it will cost to bring it up to the new standard.

Remember that where long life battery versions are fitted (instead of mains powered), these will need replaced every 10 years.

Please note that a building warrant may be required to install hardwired smoke detectors depending on the kind of property you own. A warrant will not be required for majority of houses however, if hardwired (electrical) smoke detectors are being installed to any existing flats or houses with a storey height above 4.5metres then a building warrant should be applied for and granted prior to carrying out the works. If lithium battery type detectors are installed then a warrant would not be required.

Further information on the new law is available at: www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-tolerable-standard-guidance/



MACMILLAN @WEST LOTHIAN

new partnership and charity investment to transform support for cancer patients in west lothian

People affected by cancer in West Lothian now have access to a pioneering new service that will help them with much needed emotional, practical and financial support.

Macmillan Cancer Support is investing £2.8m across Edinburgh and the Lothians to introduce a new programme which will provide seamless, accessible and personal support for people affected by cancer. Working in partnership with West Lothian Council, the service started recently and is open to anyone

locally with a cancer diagnosis.

While it's good news that advances in treatment mean that more people than ever are surviving, it also means that people living with cancer are living longer, often with long-term effects of treatment or other health conditions that have a huge impact on health, wellbeing and independence.

Many of them don't know where to go for help coping with the non-medical effects of the illness.

To get in touch with the service or find out more call 07977 307 286 or 07929 784315 or email loth.icj@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Community Recycling Centres

Whilst our Recycling Centres are returning to a more normal way of working some things have changed.

All five Recycling Centres are still open 7 days a week, from 10am and 6pm, with the last entry at 5.45pm.

Now that restrictions have eased somewhat we are collecting some materials separately again. Individual skips are available for garden waste, scrap metal, wood and laminates, soil, rubble, and electrical appliances. Household and automotive batteries, fluorescent tubes, used engine oil and empty gas bottles are also being collected.

As we are collecting material separately now, please try to separate your material before arriving to make your visit quicker and easier.

Containers have also been reopened for cardboard, glass and textiles, but as these materials can be recycled elsewhere in West Lothian please consider recycling your cardboard in your blue bin, or visiting a glass Recycling Point instead of making a special trip.

Cars and queues

Social distancing is still in place on site to protect customers and staff. The number of cars on site is still limited so please be patient if you have to queue. We are operating a barrier system to control admittance, please be aware of this and consider whether your journey can wait until a less busy time. If you do have to

visit please be patient and respect other road users while you are in the queue.

So, if you are visiting one of West Lothian's Recycling Centres please keep these new ways of working in mind and remember that although our staff are unable to help you unload your recycling due to current restrictions, they are on hand to guide and advise you during your visit.

Book if you have a van or trailer

Things have also changed if you plan to visit a site with a van or towing a trailer. You are now required to book a time slot in advance to gain entry to a Recycling Centre. This helps keep traffic flowing and reduces the risks of skips filling up too quickly causing sites to close while they are serviced.



The team at Blackburn Recycling Centre are always on hand to offer help and advice. They have done great work in making the centre welcoming to customers.



All our information can be found on our website: www.westlothian.gov.uk/local-recycling-centres

SHOP FRONT GRANTS TO HELP BOOST WEST LOTHIAN BUSINESSES

West Lothian businesses are being encouraged to check if they are eligible for grants to improve the visual appeal of their commercial premises.

Shop front improvement grants are available for various businesses across the whole of West Lothian and can help towards covering the costs of external frontage improvements such as painting or new signage.

The West Lothian Council-funded initiative offers local businesses the opportunity to apply for one-off grants of up to £750, subject to applications meeting the criteria. Business are being encouraged to apply soon so they can take advantage of the financial support available to enhance their properties.

Whilst the scheme aims to supporting businesses in West Lothian traditional town centres such as Bathgate, Linlithgow, Armadale, Whitburn and Broxburn/Uphall, applications are accepted from any West Lothian-based trader.



Cathy Muldoon, Executive councillor for development and transport said:

"Our Shop Front Improvement Grants scheme is a fantastic chance for business to get support from the Council to help change the visual appearance of their shops and premises. Simple changes such as new signage and fresh paint can make a real difference to the look and feel of a business and our town centres as a whole, providing a real boost for trade. Businesses should get their applications in as early as possible as funding is limited and grants are issued on a first-come, first-served basis."

For information on how to apply, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/shopfrontgrants



Green bin for householders from June 2022

West Lothian's recycling rate is expected to increase further over the next few years following changes to the household collection service. One of the current barriers to household recycling is the high rate of contaminated waste material being placed in blue bins.



You can contaminate your recyclable material by putting items like paint tins or used nappies into your blue bin.

Contamination is caused when householders place food, liquids and wet paper/cardboard into their blue bin. Unfortunately even one householder placing, for example, a carton of milk or bottle of juice into their blue bin can contaminate an entire waste lorry full of blue bin materials. Contaminated products can be rejected for recycling at recycling plants and have to be sent to landfill or energy from waste facilities (incinerator).

What's changing from June 2022?

To help make it easier for households to recycle, a new green recycling bin service is being introduced to West Lothian households from next summer which will help to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

- The new 240 litre green bin – the same size as the current blue bin – will be collected every four weeks.
- Plastics and metal will be placed in the new green bin.
- Once green bins are in place, only paper and card will be placed in the blue bin which will also be collected every four weeks.

Increasing the West Lothian recycling rate

Recycling rates in West Lothian have increased steadily over recent years and increased significantly since the introduction of slim grey bins in 2017. Approximately 8,500 tonnes more materials were recycled in 2019 compared to 2016 and this has translated to a rise in the council's annual recycling rate from 48.5% to 58.2% (latest official figure 2019: SEPA).

Executive councillor for the environment Tom Conn said:

"The introduction of the slim bins has highlighted that changes to bins and the collection service can result in positive changes that help our local environment. This does require behaviour change on the part of local people but the positive results are very clear.

"We, like many people, are committed to improving the environment and cutting back on the impact waste has on the planet.

"We understand that people who put items into their blue bin want to help, and they recycle with the best of intentions. But by not ensuring materials are clean and dry, the outcome isn't often positive.

"Many other councils in Scotland already have similar arrangements in place and we know this change will reduce contamination and increase the amount we recycle. It will also reduce the amount of money the council has to spend on sending waste to landfill. Money that can be used to improve other local services."

For details on what should be going into your blue bin, including self help videos, visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/bluebin



KEEP WELL

MEET FRIENDS

FEEL GOOD

HEALTHY BODY

ALL WELCOME

HEALTHY MIND

FRIENDLY STAFF

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