

ST. KENTIGERN'S



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

The new extension to St Kentigern's Academy in Blackburn has been completed on time and on budget.

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Summer Offers with



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Special offers for the magnificent Hopetoun House and amazing Almond Valley.



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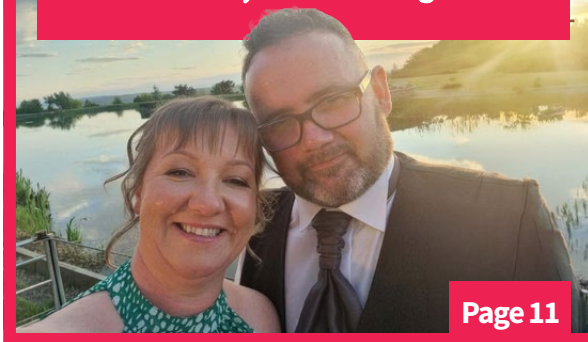
This Broxburn Boy's Life

Exhibition opens on life of director Michael Caton-Jones.



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"We just wish we became foster carers years ago..."



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Follow West Lothian's new **WhatsApp** channel

Scan the QR code to get the latest news and updates in your area by signing up to the council's WhatsApp channel





Contacting West Lothian Council



Visit www.westlothian.gov.uk for council services, payments, requests and general enquiries.

You can also submit enquiries online at www.westlothian.gov.uk/contactus

Call the Customer Service Centre on **01506 280000**, Monday to Friday, 8am–5pm, with Mondays, Friday and after public holidays the busiest days.

Please listen to the options and select the most appropriate option, so your call can be connected to the appropriate Adviser who can assist.

For urgent or emergency enquiries outside these hours, including homelessness, the Out of Hours team is available on the same number.

The **Social Care Emergency Team** can be contacted on **01506 281028** or **01506 281029**.

Accessibility and Support

Accessibility tools and translation services are available on our website at www.westlothian.gov.uk/accessibility.

For interpretation and translation services, please call **01506 280000**.

BSL users can contact the council through Contact Scotland BSL:

contactscotland-bsl.org/deaf-callers/

Text Relay users can dial **18001 + 01506 280000**.

Contacting Your Councillors

Details of West Lothian councillors and how to contact them are available at:

www.westlothian.gov.uk/councillors



Provost unveils memorial bench

A striking new World War 2 memorial bench is now in place at Fauldhouse War Memorial.

Provost Cathy Muldoon officially unveiled the custom metal bench after it was kindly donated by Fauldhouse Partnership Centre Management Committee.

The bench was donated on behalf of

the community of Fauldhouse, with a dedication plaque in place.

Provost Muldoon said: “Thanks to everyone from Fauldhouse Partnership Centre Management Committee for this generous donation of the World

War 2 bench to the local community of Fauldhouse.

“The memorial bench is a valuable addition to the war memorial site, providing much-appreciated seating for those attending the memorial.”

Provost Muldoon also recently took part in an event at Broxburn Parish Church to celebrate the amazing contribution of volunteers at West Lothian Foodbank.

Jim Hewie, Senga Brown, Trudy MacDonald, Janis Linton, and Heather Freeland were among those recognised for over ten years of service to West Lothian Foodbank, which provides vital support to those in need.

Provost Cathy Muldoon said: “I was delighted to have been asked to come along by West Lothian Foodbank to help recognise the contributions of some of their incredible volunteers.

“It was a pleasure to meet with them, and I hope they realise how important they are in supporting those in need in West Lothian.”

If you would like to volunteer or find out more about West Lothian Foodbank, please visit: westlothian.foodbank.org.uk



Enjoy these exciting **Summer Offers** for you and your family – brought to you in partnership with Visit West Lothian.



Visit **West Lothian**
www.visitwestlothian.co.uk



JOIN US FOR FUN, HERITAGE AND ADVENTURE IN OUR IMAGINATIVE WONDERLAND FOR ALL THE FAMILY!



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Set within magnificent grounds featuring scenic walks and nature trails, this stunning 17th-century Hopetoun House is renowned as Scotland's Finest Stately Home.

This exceptional example of Georgian architecture has also served as a filming location for numerous television productions and films, while offering breathtaking views across the Firth of Forth to Fife.

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Hopetoun House, near South Queensferry, EH30 9RW

This Broxburn Boy's Life – filmmaker honoured

A special exhibition charting the amazing career of renowned West Lothian film director Michael Caton-Jones has opened in his hometown of Broxburn.

'This Broxburn Boy's Life' free exhibition is now open in Broxburn and Uphall Community Museum in Strathbrock Partnership Centre until April 2027.

Organised by Broxburn and Uphall Community Museum Group with West Lothian Council's Museums and Archives Service, the exhibition gives fascinating insight into Michael's early life growing up in Broxburn through to directing major Hollywood movies such as Memphis Belle, Rob Roy and Doc Hollywood.

Michael is also credited with launching the career of Leonardo DiCaprio after casting him in his first lead role in This Boy's Life in 1993, with DiCaprio paying tribute to the director in his Oscar acceptance speech in 2016.

Michael Caton-Jones said: "It's a real honour to see this new exhibition of my life and career back in my hometown of Broxburn.

"I had a great childhood here, and my first experience of film was going along to the local Regal Cinema every week.

"It didn't seem like an option when I was growing up as a boy from Broxburn to become a film director, but my experiences of growing up working class here had a huge influence on who I am as person and on my career."

A launch event for the Broxburn community was recently held in Strathbrock Partnership Centre to give Michael and his family and friends the chance to view the exhibition, which includes personal family items



and memorabilia related to his movies.

The afternoon featured a Q&A session with Michael, a screening of the trailer for the documentary and music from his movie soundtracks, including a special clarsach performance of Rob Roy theme Aileinn Duinn and excellent performances from Broxburn United Sport Club's Sing for Fun community choir.

The exhibition has been created in conjunction with a new documentary about the life and career of Michael Caton-Jones, which is being co-produced by Glasgow-based Partickular Films and Two Rivers Media.

The documentary is being directed by Joseph McLean from Partickular Films director, who previously worked as assistant to Caton-Jones on his 2019

movie, Our Ladies, and features aspiring actor Nathan Malone from Bathgate, who plays young Michael in scenes recreating his childhood filmed in Broxburn and across West Lothian.

Actor Matthew Modine, who starred in Memphis Belle and is well-known for his roles in Full Metal Jacket and Stranger Things, is executive producer through his Cinco Dedos Peliculas company.

New hub for Stoneyburn on the way

Work is progressing towards delivering a new replacement community hub for Stoneyburn,

West Lothian Council has secured £1.2million of grant funding, in addition to the £3.1million it has already pledged, taking the total budget for the new centre to £4.3million.

The funding boost has been received from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, which is funded by the Scottish Government in partnership with local authorities.

Consultation will be held with the local residents over the best design of the inside space to meet the needs of the Stoneyburn community.

The current Stoneyburn Community Education Centre is being demolished after issues around reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) panels were found.

Independent structural investigations were carried out, and it was closed in January 2024 on structural engineers' advice.



West Lothian community heroes to be honoured

The **Provost's Award** aims to honour those who have made an outstanding contribution to community life in West Lothian.

The awards recognise the tireless and valuable work carried out by individuals and groups in their local communities. This could be any voluntary/charity work, or excellence in a chosen field, such as academia, the arts, culture, science, sport for example.

If you know someone who has made an exceptional contribution, or achieved something excellent that has benefited people in West Lothian, please let us know.

Nominate **your** community hero!



For more information please scan the QR code or visit westlothian.gov.uk/provosts-award



Best of West Lothian young musicians on show

Talented musicians from schools across West Lothian hit all the right notes at the annual Spring Concert Series.

Over 200 young people and 24 staff performed to audiences of over 300 people across two nights at Inveralmond Community High School in Livingston before the Easter break.

The number of West Lothian schools represented increased to 33 this year, with the number of student performers also increasing.

Bands performing included the West Lothian Schools Big Band, West Lothian Schools Brass Band, West Lothian Schools Junior and Senior Pipe Bands, West Lothian Schools Concert Band, West Lothian Schools Wind Ensemble and the West Lothian Schools Junior and Senior String Orchestras.

Both shows featured fantastic

performances from all our young musicians, and lots of really positive feedback from the delighted audience.

The finale of each concert was joint performances of all the ensembles performing together, with the Brass Band, Big Band and Pipe Bands performed *Carnival de Paris* by Dario G on the first night, and the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band and

String Orchestras coming together for *Viva La Vida* by Coldplay.

Rehearsals will begin again in September, and parents/carers of current ensemble members should look out for an email early soon asking them to complete an existing members registration form for next session.

Any instrumental pupils not currently in an Area Ensemble

should talk to their instructor if they are interested in joining one next session.

The Area Ensembles are open to any young person living in West Lothian who plays an instrument to the required standard for the ensemble. Please contact ims@westlothian.gov.uk for more information.

West Lothian school holidays 2026/27

SCHOOL'S OUT!!
FOR SUMMER

TERM 1 - RETURN AFTER SUMMER

Pupils Resume Wednesday, 12 August 2026

SEPTEMBER HOLIDAY

All break Friday 18 September 2026

All resume Tuesday 22 September 2026

OCTOBER HOLIDAY

All break Friday 16 October 2026

Pupils resume Tuesday 27 October 2026

LAST DAY OF TERM

All break Friday 18 December 2026

TERM 2 - RETURN AFTER CHRISTMAS

All resume Tuesday 5 January 2027

FEBRUARY HOLIDAY

All break Friday 5 February 2027

Pupils resume Tuesday 16 February 2027

LAST DAY OF TERM

All break Thursday 25 March 2027

TERM 3 - RETURN AFTER EASTER

All resume Monday 12 April 2027

MAY HOLIDAY

All break Friday 30 April 2027

All resume Tuesday 4 May 2027

STAFF IN-SERVICE (PUPILS OFF) THURSDAY 6 MAY 2027 FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

All schools except those at b) and c) below: Spring Holiday - Monday 24 May 2027

b) Bathgate Academy and feeder primary schools plus St Mary's, Bathgate & St Columba's, Blackburn and Murrayfield - Bathgate Local Holiday - Monday 7 June 2027

c) Linlithgow Academy and feeder primary schools plus St Joseph's Primary School, Linlithgow Linlithgow Marches - Tuesday 15 June 2027

All break Friday 25 June 2027

Staff in-service days, where pupils are off, are Monday 10 August, Tuesday 11 August and Monday 26 October in 2026, and Monday 15 February and Thursday 6 May 2027.

For more details, please scan the QR code or visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/School-Terms-and-Holidays-2026-2027



West Lothian's young musician of the year crowned



Amazing pianist Yani Chan from West Calder High School has been named West Lothian's Young Musician of the Year 2026.

Her amazing performance of *Il Porco Rosso* from the classic Studio Ghibli animation impressed the judges at the final in Deans Community High School, Livingston, recently.

This marks the third year of success for West Calder High School musicians, with tenor horn player Tyler Clark picking up the 2025 award and fellow pianist Latisha Chan achieving the 2024 trophy.

Solo performers from nearly every secondary school in West Lothian competed for the prestigious award after winning their school heat, in front of an audience of parents/carers and invited guests.

The performances showcased a variety of instrumental disciplines and musical styles – classical, jazz, traditional Scottish music, Musical Theatre and heavy metal – highlighting the depth of musical talent in West Lothian.

The runners up were classical guitarist Flynn Cameron from St Margaret's Academy, Livingston and alto saxophonist Elliot Robertson from Inveralmond Community High School, Livingston.

Trophies were also handed out for the West Lothian Ensemble of the Year competitions at the event, with Armadale Academy Brass Quartet as Brass Ensemble Winner and Linlithgow Academy Woodwind Ensemble for Open Ensemble.

The event was part of the Scottish Young Musician Competition and support from the Music Education Partnership Group, who provided the trophies and awards.

Special thanks go to the judging panel of former Deans teacher Carol Madden, previous Pipe Major of West Lothian Schools Pipe Band Gordon Bruce and local professional musician Amy Gray, as well as all the music Education staff, who go to huge efforts to provide opportunities for young people.

UNICEF Gold for Linlithgow

Linlithgow Academy has been awarded Gold status by UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA).

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school. Gold is the highest accolade given by UNICEF UK. As the third and final stage of the Award, Gold

recognises that children's rights are fully embedded throughout a school's policy, practice and ethos and are integral to daily life for both pupils and staff.

Linlithgow Academy previously received their Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award certificate in June 2023 and have been working consistently towards Gold since then, strengthening its whole-school commitment to embedding the United

Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) within learning, relationships, leadership and decision-making. Following a successful accreditation visit in March 2026, assessors recognised the school's strong rights-respecting ethos, inclusive culture and meaningful pupil participation, alongside the positive impact on relationships, wellbeing and engagement across the school community.



New Craigshill Primary underway



Construction of the new Craigshill Primary in Livingston has started.

Initial work to deliver the new state-of-the-art £25.8million school on the former site of Riverside Primary started in April 2026.

The construction process is expected to take around 15 months, with the new school open for the start of the August 2027 term.

The proposed new three-storey primary school with a sloped roof will bring both the current Letham and Riverside schools together. It will have capacity for 462 primary pupils as well as integrated early years facility, external play spaces, landscaping, and car park.

St. Kentigern's rebuild complete

The new extension to St Kentigern's Academy in Blackburn has been completed on time and on budget.

Pupils have been using the excellent new facilities since April 2026, after the council has invested £35million to rebuild the wing.

Over 60% of St Kentigern's had to be demolished due to issues with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). St. Kentigern's is one of the area's largest schools, and serves pupils from towns and villages across the west of West Lothian.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "It's fantastic to have the superb new replacement wing at St Kentigern's Academy up and running.

"It has enabled us to ensure pupils can sit all their SQA exams in school for the first time in three years, and all subject areas will now be delivered from within the school going forward.

"The excellent new facilities will make a real positive difference to the learning experience of St Kentigern's pupils for many years to come.

"Special thanks go to the St Kentigern's community for their understanding and support during the construction period, including school staff, parents/carers and especially our amazing young people.

The new building features a reception area, spacious canteen and dining area, a four-court Games Hall, Dance Studio, Fitness Suite and a changing village.

It also includes a performance area, a range of learning spaces, a café and nurture rooms, all designed to enhance the learning environment for all of the young people who attend the school.

The new extension has been completed on behalf of the council by development partner Hub South East, with Heron Bros as main contractor and BDP Architects.



Schools take part in Swift Conservation project

Three West Lothian schools (Winchburgh Academy, Sinclair Academy and Calderwood Primary) have been fitted with ten swift boxes each and a calling device to help attract these migratory species to use them for nesting.



The swift boxes are made from fully-recyclable and durable polymer and weigh less than 1.5kg each.

Swifts are protected, and the boxes will help support swifts by providing a nesting space for the species; a lack of nesting sites due to modern building

practices is known to be a factor in their declines.

The project will see participating schools actively engage with their new assets and monitor them. Schools will be able to add to the data sets on SwiftMapper (an RSPB conservation mapping tool)

and use the boxes and records as a tool to deliver learning for sustainability within the curriculum.

Cllr Tom Conn met pupils at the Winchburgh School Campus to learn about the project.

Pupils from Hawkhill Primary in Winchburgh have been helping keep the area tidy as part of the annual Spring Clean campaign.

They were joined by staff from the council's Cleaner Communities staff for their litter pick, and learned about the equipment used to help keep our town and village centres tidy.

Spring Clean is Keep Scotland Beautiful's (KSB) annual campaign which encourages thousands of volunteers spend time outdoors cleaning up the environment through sociable, fun, litter

At the time of writing, the West Lothian area was ranked third in the country for participation, with over 4,000 volunteering sessions taking place. The Cleaner Communities Team helped organise registered group litter picks, and provided litter picking equipment to support residents, local volunteers, schools, and businesses.








Your Day Your Way

West Lothian Council's Civil Celebrants can help create the perfect bespoke ceremony for your wedding or civil partnership.

Whether you dream of an intimate exchange of vows or a grand celebration in a historic venue, our experienced staff are here to make it happen

We offer:

-  **Total Flexibility:** Choose your venue. We can officiate at licensed hotels, rustic barns, historic castles, intimate community rooms, or even outdoors in designated areas.
-  **Personalise Your Vows:** add your own poems, readings, and music to make the ceremony truly yours.
-  **Symbolic Moments:** Enhance your day with modern, beautiful traditions, such as handfasting, sand-blending, or ring-warming ceremonies
-  **Legally Binding & Secure:** As official local government representatives, we ensure the correct legal wording is used to make sure your marriage is legally recognised and registered correctly, giving you peace of mind.
-  **Expert Guidance:** Our dedicated and professional team will work with you to plan every detail of the ceremony, from the arrival of the bride/couple to the final signing of the schedule.



For more information, please visit westlothian.gov.uk/marriage-and-civil

Perfect for any occasion, unforgettable for all

Linlithgow Burgh Halls blends modern design with beautiful period features, creating a stylish setting for your special day. With contemporary function rooms and a stunning roof terrace, it's the perfect venue for a romantic Scottish wedding while surrounded by centuries of history.



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CONNECTING WITH *nature*

VOLUNTEERING



WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL (WLC) HAS RECENTLY SIGNED UP TO THE NEW NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING AND CITIZEN SCIENCE FRAMEWORK (PUBLISHED ON NATURESCOT'S WEBSITE) REINFORCING ITS COMMITMENT TO WIDENING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN NATURE.

In the last year, over 800 Parks and Woodland volunteers played a central role in helping to deliver the LBAP, supporting habitat restoration, species monitoring, site maintenance and community events.

A new LBAP Volunteer Working Group, including council services, third sector partners and community organisations, is improving coordination, resource-sharing and opportunities to get involved. Over the past year, activities have included pond clearance at Calderwood, rhododendron clearance at Cambridge Park, tree planting in schools, species surveys with Central Scotland Wildlife Group, habitat restoration in Pumpherston to support great crested newts, and invasive species control along the Rivers Almond and Avon. Alongside environmental benefits, volunteering in nature can have health benefits too – reducing stress, improving mental health and strengthening community connections. With regular events led by council teams and partners, there are many different opportunities for people of all ages to take part, support local nature, and feel more connected to their communities. To book on to volunteering events led by the council's Ranger Service, visit this link <https://wlcangerservice.eventbrite.com>.



COUNTRY PARKS

Pop in to events at Beecraigs, Polkemmet, and Almondell & Calderwood Country Parks this summer, to learn more about each park, nature & biodiversity, and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Look out for the Parks & Woodland gazebo with educational resources, fun activities and games. The events will run from 11am-3pm, and you can drop in anytime.

- **Wed 8 July** – Almondell Country Park, walled garden next to Almondell Visitor Centre
- **Wed 15 July** – Beecraigs Country Park, grass area near Balvornie pond
- **Wed 22 July** – Polkemmet Country Park, play area, near the Driving Range

Look out for upcoming posts on the West Lothian Council Facebook page, as some activities may have scheduled times. Hope to see you there!



NATURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

OVER THE HOLIDAYS, REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE MANY OTHER LOVELY PARKS AND GREEN SPACES TO ENJOY ACROSS WEST LoTHIAN, FOR FREE!

Remember there are many free parks and greenspaces to enjoy across West Lothian this summer! In Livingston, **Eliburn Park** offers a playpark, woodland and reservoir, with off-road paths linking to other local greenspaces. Bathgate's **Balbardie Park** features a playpark, golf course, pumphtrack, woodland, meadows and café at Xcite, while **Blaeberryhill Park** in Whitburn combines woodland walks, a burn, community garden and playpark. In Winchburgh, **Auldathie Park** includes climbing boulders, playpark, walking routes, a community growing area and coffee stop.

For longer adventures, explore riverside walks and cycle routes along the River Almond from Mid Calder to Breich, the **River Avon Heritage Trail** between Linlithgow Bridge and Avonbridge, the **Union Canal** towpath through Broxburn, Winchburgh and Linlithgow, or the 16-mile **Shale Trail**. While you're out and about, help us to record local wildlife using apps such as iNaturalist, iRecord, Mammal Mapper, eBird and Merlin Bird ID.



WEST LoTHIAN BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN



The West Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) is now in a more user-friendly format. All the actions of the council's Ecology and Biodiversity Team relate back to this plan, and it's an overarching blueprint for action by everyone across West Lothian. View it on our webpage westlothian.gov.uk/lbap to see what actions you or your group / business / organisation can do to help achieve our goals.



BENCHES FROM THE ASHES

Visitors to Almondell and Beecraigs this summer may notice two beautifully crafted benches with a meaningful local story. Made from a mature ash tree felled at Almondell as part of essential work to manage ash dieback, the timber was milled onsite and transformed by carefully shaping the wood.

The benches now stand as a tribute to Scotland's declining ash trees and reflect the type of actions supported in the LBAP – reusing local, sustainable materials and raising awareness of environmental challenges. Visitors can scan the QR code at Almondell and Beecraigs Visitor Centres to learn more about ash dieback and the story behind the benches.



Improving recycling for flats in West Lothian

Communal bin areas are being introduced to increase recycling across West Lothian. Recycling in communal bin stores can be challenging, so the council is taking positive steps to help residents reduce contamination and boost recycling rates

 recycle for West Lothian

The scheme rolling out to flats across West Lothian will see the current twin stream recycling service available to more householders.

This will include new dedicated blue bins for paper and card only and green bins for plastics, cans and cartons introduced at flatted properties.

Communal bin areas will be expanded and will now have a more consistent layout and clearer, enhanced signage, to help residents manage their recycling and understand what goes in each bin.

Engagement will be carried out with the residents affected prior to implementation to make them aware of the changes and how it impacts on them.

Each site will have different solutions

put in place to best suit their specific needs and will be monitored to see what works best.

Why are flats getting blue and green bins?

Introducing separate blue bins for paper and card and green bins for plastics, cans and cartons has helped reduce contamination and improve the overall quality of the recyclable materials.

Improving recycling helps us all by reducing our impact on the

environment. It also helps protect local services we all rely on by increasing revenue.

Since the introduction of the twin-stream recycling to most homes in late 2022, there have been clear improvements in the quality of materials collected and processed across West Lothian.

We aim to give West Lothian residents access to recycling in line with Scottish legislation.

I live in a flat – when will I get twin stream recycling?

The scheme is rolling out now across West Lothian, so watch out for updates soon.

We will notify all householders directly when we are ready to make changes to recycling services in their flats.

We would encourage those affected to look at what is proposed in their area and consider what simple steps they can make to improve their recycling.

All items should be empty, clean and dry

Most importantly, when you receive your new twin stream recycling bins, please make sure only the correct items are placed in them to prevent contamination.

For more info visit westlothian.gov.uk/bins



Purchase your Garden Waste Permit



From 1 June 2026 you must display a new permit if you want to continue with your garden waste collection. If you don't purchase and display a valid permit, only food waste will be collected.

Permits are available to buy now and are valid until 31 May 2027.

You can purchase your permit at: www.westlothian.gov.uk/brownbins or scan the QR code or call 01506 280000.

- Once your permit arrives, please follow the instructions provided, remove your old permit and attach your new permit to your brown bin.
- A permit costs £55.75 per household (maximum two brown bins per household).

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



OPEN SPACE INVESTMENT

£2 MILLION INVESTED IN PLAY AREAS



IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PLAY AREAS ACROSS WEST LOTHIAN IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

West Lothian Council has used the £2 million funding to repair and refurbish play areas, as well as improve accessibility and inclusion.

A total of 34 play areas underwent wider refurbishment and improvement, with a focus on district parks across West Lothian. Work has included refurbishing full play areas when required as well as replacing and repairing damaged equipment and surfacing, improving paths, seating & fencing and providing natural play opportunities. In addition, 36 Play areas were made more accessible and inclusive to children and carers of all abilities by provision of accessible surfacing and/or inclusive play equipment.

Community Choices surveys were used in 19 play area refurbishments to make sure the views of the community were represented, with over 650 members of the public participating. The funding for the work was provided by the Scottish Government's Play Renewal fund.

REFURBISHMENT WORK @ THE ICONIC LIVINGSTON SKATE PARK

Refurbishment works have been carried out at Livingston Skate Park to maintain and enhance the iconic B-listed landmark.

The works were carried out by a specialist skate park contractor Betongpark on the council's behalf and will ensure the skate park remains a safe and functional public asset for many years to come.

Betongpark are also surveying and refurbishing the other 11 skate parks across West Lothian.

The £280,000 investment in Livingston Skate Park has seen

it closed since April. It was set to re-open as Bulletin went to press ahead of the school summer holiday period.

Some of the work carried out involved:

- Re-pouring of damaged and worn concrete sections
- Repairing cracks
- Sealing and polishing the surface

Proposals to introduce Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) in West Lothian

DPE could potentially see the council take over responsibility for parking enforcement on public roads and car parks from Police Scotland.

This would help to improve road safety, keep traffic moving, and support consistent parking controls in communities.



The consultation is open now and closes on Friday 3 July.



Have your say:
www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations

West Lothian 2026 GALA DATES

West Lothian's amazing gala season is continuing across the summer months in 2026.

Hard-working volunteers from towns and villages across West Lothian have been working hard to ensure that community celebrations can take place for everyone to enjoy.

Here's a list of all the confirmed events we are aware of so far, as dates for your diary:

Saturday 13 June

- Blackburn Children's Gala Day
- Harthill, Eastfield & Greenrigg Gala Day
- Livingston Village Gala
- Fauldhouse Children's Gala Day
- Torphichen Children's Gala Day
- East Calder & District Gala
- Uphall Children's Gala

Sunday 14 June

- Ecclesmachan & Threemiletown Gala Day

Tuesday 16 June

- Linlithgow Marches

Saturday 20 June

- Stoneyburn & Bents Children's Gala Day
- Kirknewton Gala Day
- Loganlea & District Gala Day

- Harburn Village Hall Summer Event
- Deans Gala Day
- Armadale Children's Gala Day
- Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Children's Gala Day

Saturday 27 June

- Winchburgh Gala Day
- Whitburn Gala Week
- Polbeth Children's Gala Day

Saturday 4 July

- Seafield & District Gala Day

Saturday 1 August

- Spark in the Park, Livingston

Wednesday 5 August

- Bridgend Family Fun Day

Saturday 15 August

- Broxburn Gala Day

Transfer of former nursery site for new music hub

A former nursery in Bathgate is set to become a new centre for music in the town.

West Lothian Council's Asset Transfer Committee unanimously agreed the transfer of the former Bathgate West Nursery building to Bathgate Band. Bathgate Band are proposing to turn the Millburn Road site into Bathgate Music Hub, a shared resource for music organisations in the town.

A community benefit lease will be put in place for a combined four-year period to allow them to establish the hub, with an option to purchase the property at the end of that lease period.

The former nursery is currently vacant and was declared surplus, after it was not required for service delivery by the council.

Chair of the Asset Management Committee,



Depute Council Leader Susan Manion, said: "I'm delighted to support Bathgate Band's request to transfer the former Bathgate West Nursery in Bathgate.

"Bathgate Band put forward a powerful case for their ambitious plans to create a music hub for the town. The plans have already received strong support from the local community, and I look forward to seeing the positive benefits of the hub in the future."

Making assets work for the community

West Lothian Council recognises that the ownership of property assets, such as land and buildings, can contribute to the empowerment of communities.

Community Asset Transfer involves the transfer of responsibility for an asset from the Council to a voluntary or community organisation.

A number of organisations have, or are in the process of, taking over former council assets for community use, such as the Eastfield Development Centre in Fauldhouse, The Low Port Centre in Linlithgow and Almondbank Library in Craigshill, Livingston.

To find out more about community asset transfer, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/community-asset-transfer



DELIVERING MORE COUNCIL HOMES FOR RENT

Work continues to increase the number of council homes available for rent in West Lothian.



The council has recently taken on 33 new homes at Woodland Gait on Houstoun Road in Livingston.

The Barratt Homes development includes six 1-bedroom cottage flats, twelve 2-bedroom cottage flats, four 2-bed houses, four 2-bed bungalows and eight 3-bedroom houses.

Elsewhere, work is nearing completion on the council's site at Almondvale Crescent where 48 homes will be delivered (This is a mix of affordable housing units and specific units for young homeless people.) Another site in Livingston remains under construction at

Simpson Parkway that will aim to provide 32 new homes for social rent.

These developments form part of the affordable housing programme. The latest version of the programme was launched in 2022 and sees the council working alongside Registered Social Landlords and development partners to increase the number of social homes available in the West Lothian

area.

Current approved sites within the programme of council and RSL housing developments will deliver a total of 1,920 additional homes over the programme period, exceeding the original approved minimum target of 1,621 by 18.4%. This has been possible due to additional funding, plus confirmation of grant funding for 2025/26 and reflects the strong demand

for development of affordable housing in the area.

Excellent progress is being made in delivery of the programme across the active sites, with a total of 1,386 units completed from the start of the current programme in 2022 to the end of December 2025/26, representing 85.5% of the overall Affordable Housing Programme minimum target of 1,621.

"The council continues to work with partners to increase the number of available homes for social rent across the area. It is pleasing to see these homes added to the social housing stock and I would like to thank all involved in delivering this project."

George Paul, Executive councillor for housing services.



Apprentice success

The apprentices from West Lothian Council were finalists at this year's APSE National Building & Housing Awards with one member of the team winning the fourth year award.

Congratulations to Adrian, Fay and Kaden and to all our staff who help to train and mentor our apprentices.

- 2nd Year finalist - Adrian Kubacki (Painter)
- 3rd Year finalist - Fay Greens (Electrician)
- 4th Year winner - Kaden Kelly (Plumber)

"We just wish we became foster carers years ago..."

Our **Family Based Care Service** are sharing stories from our incredible fostering families, and this one might just stay with you .



How long have you been fostering?

Over seven years with West Lothian Council.

What did you do before becoming foster carers?

Lisa: Dental Practice Manager for 28 years

Dan: Landscaping for 31 years—now retired to foster full-time.

How old are you now?

We've just turned 50... but 16 at heart (Dan)!

Tell us about your household right now?

We're currently providing long-term care for three children who have been with us for several years—they are truly part of our family. Two of the children are now with us permanently, and the third is in the process of becoming permanent too.

Each child has their own personality and story. One child has additional needs—she's our "little pocket rocket" who

keeps us busy but melts our hearts every single day!

We also have two sons of our own, now young adults, who still live with us. Having grown up around fostering, they play such an important role—showing kindness, understanding, and helping create a warm, supportive home for everyone.

What does a typical day look like?

There's no such thing as "typical"! It's school runs, appointments, laughter, tears, cuddles, chaos—and making sure each child feels safe, supported, and loved.

What is fostering really like?

It's busy, emotional, sometimes challenging... but full of moments that stay with you forever. The small wins, the trust you build, the smiles that slowly come back—it all means everything.

What are the best parts of fostering?

Seeing a child flourish—watching them enjoy new experiences, grow in confidence, and become relaxed and happy in a safe, caring environment.

What are the hardest parts of fostering?

When a child moves on. It's a mix of emotions—you feel happy for the child and their next chapter, but at the same time, there's real sadness in saying goodbye. It's everything all at once.

What qualities do foster carers need?

Patience, empathy, resilience... and the ability to see the fun side, even on the toughest days

What makes it all worth it?

Seeing them tucked up at night, feeling safe, sleeping soundly... that's what makes it all worth it. We just wish we became foster carers years ago. If you're thinking about it—do it!

Can **you** care for a west lothian child?

Children and young people in your community are in need of adoptive families to provide a safe and caring home to them.

If you are interested in finding out more information please contact the Family Based Care Service.



01506 284296

FamilyBasedCareService@westlothian.gov.uk

fosteringandadoption.westlothian.gov.uk



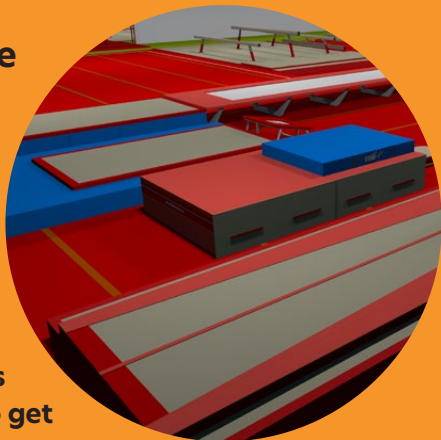
Scan to learn more about fostering and adoption

West Lothian
Health & Social
Care Partnership

NEW XCITE GYMNASTICS ARENA

A brand-new dedicated home for gymnastics is coming to Xcite Bathgate this June!

Our new purpose-built Gymnastics Arena will feature specialist equipment, dedicated learning zones and flexible spaces for all ages and abilities. From pre-school and recreational gymnastics to club training and adult sessions, the arena will create even more opportunities for children, young people and families to get active, build confidence and have fun. Learn more at www.westlothianleisure.com



COLOUR RUN @ XCITE CRAIGSWOOD

Get ready to run, slide and splash through colour!

The Xcite Colour Run returns to Craigswood on Saturday 8 August for another unforgettable family fun day. Take on colour stations, slip & slides, cargo crawls and more as our paint throwers cover you head to toe in vibrant colour!

Suitable for ages 5+ Book now at www.westlothianleisure.com

KIDS SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Keep the kids active, entertained and having fun all summer long!

From multi-sport camps, golf and tennis to swimming, mountain biking, archery and canoeing – there's something for every child this summer at Xcite.

View full timetables and book now at www.westlothianleisure.com



PUSH YOUR FITNESS FURTHER WITH BOX12 AT XCITE CRAIGSWOOD

BOX12 combines boxing-inspired workouts with functional training in a fast-paced, high-energy environment designed for all fitness levels. Whether you want to build strength, improve fitness or fit in a quick workout around a busy schedule, BOX12 offers a flexible training experience that works for you.

Book your session on the Xcite app or contact Xcite Craigswood on 01506 237940 for more information.



DOWNLOAD THE XCITE APP

Make the most of your membership with the Xcite App. Book classes, manage your bookings, stay up to date with the latest news and get instant access to what's happening across our venues – all in one place. Download today from the App Store or Google Play.



www.westlothianleisure.com

West Lothian Leisure (known as Xcite) is a Scottish Charity, SC027470.