**Dechmont Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting, 28 August 2019**

**Present:** Gillian Anderson, Vikki Kennedy, Sarah Macdonald, Lynda Mcgivern, Ian Ferrel,

Siân Williams

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Chris Horne, Grant Martin, Bob Burnett, Lachlan McIntyre

**Apologies:** Amy Waterston, Julia Barnes, Cllr Diane Calder, Cllr Janet Campbell, Liz Swarbrick

The minutes from the previous meeting were proposed by Vikki Kennedy and seconded by Sarah MacDonald.

**Transport**

* West Lothian Council are to remove the bus subsidy which means that there will no longer be a service running through Dechmont Village after 29th September. Cllr Chris Horne explained that Horsbourgh have handed in their notice to cease provision of the 31 service. The route went to tender and SD could potentially take up the contract. Concerns were voiced about the effect on the local community in particular those who rely on the service for transportation to attend doctors and hospital appointments.

**Action: Cllr Horne to investigate how Dechmont will be affected. Sarah MacDonald volunteered to go to the LAC to represent the views of Dechmont Community Council.**

**Bangour development**

* Gillian (Chairperson) has noticed that there are rumours circulating which are causing confusion and misunderstanding about proceedings related to the Bangour Village development. To clarify, she explained that the only planning application that has been submitted is for the infrastructure and NOT housing. As the land is now privately owned they are entitled to commence work such as removal of asbestos and demolition of un-listed buildings. Gillian has been in contact with Ross Burton to voice the Community Council’s concerns and requested that we are consulted with regards to all aspects of the proposed planning. She stressed the need for regular public consultations with regard to schools, transport and health facilities. It was agreed that Dechmont Community Council will be ‘kept in the loop’ and involved.
* It was noted that the evidence used to assess future requirement for roads is outdated and would not facilitate the potential amount of traffic generated by 800-900 houses. Ian Ferrel suggested that Dechmont Community Council have a representative on the Transport Consultation (traffic management).
* Concerns were expressed about building site traffic potentially going through the village. Gillian explained that as it’s a public road we cannot prevent site traffic from using Dechmont Main Street however they will be required to follow a ‘Traffic Management Plan’.
* There are worries about the asbestos on site and Gillian explained that the contractors are obliged to provide detailed information on the location of asbestos.
* Cllr Horne informed that he had read a pre-consultation paper about the Council’s proposals for a new primary school (there are 4 potential locations to consult on). Several decisions need to be made about how to accommodate secondary school pupils and where they will go e.g. Winchburgh or Deans. He expects to hear from the Council by the end of September in time to allow Counsellors to put in their views/comments. The Council will need a full consultation from local communities before making any decisions.
* Gillian provided copies of a report from the Ambassador Group (Pre-Application Consultation)

**Action**

**Invite Ross Burton to next meeting and let him know of our intention to make representations at various stages as work progresses on the planning and building of Bangour Village. Ian will compile information regarding traffic and forward to Gillian who will then submit it.**

**Sculptures**

* Gillian explained that the designated flower beds at either end of the village do not belong to the community but we will apply to the Council for ownership.
* The artist who has been commissioned to design and create the village sculptures has submitted her designs for members consideration. Gillian distributed copies of the designs and explained the differences between the two designs.

**Action-Community Council members to notify Gillian of their preferences between the two designs. Apply to council to take over ownership of the flower beds**

**AOB-**

Lachlan McIntyre complained about the condition of the football pitch in the park and would like the council cut it more regularly.