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## DOUBLE SUCCESS AT SCOTTISH EDUCATION AWARDS

● Lisamaria Purdie from St. Ninian's Primary School and Nursery Class in Livingston received the coveted Head Teacher of the Year Award for her inspiring work in the school, and will now go forward to the UK-wide finals.

● Knightsridge Primary School in Livingston led by Allison Kennedy has been awarded the fantastic Raising Attainment in Literacy Award for their excellent work to promote reading and writing.

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### Investment in play parks

West Lothian Council will invest around £350,000 this year on building and renovating play parks.

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### Council performance highest in Scotland

West Lothian Council's performance is the best in Scotland, according to data collected from across Scotland's councils.

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### New council homes

Over 500 new build affordable homes have been provided in West Lothian over the past 14 months.

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**School Clothing Grants**  
Over 6,240 pupils in West Lothian were awarded School Clothing Grants last year

Is your child eligible?  
Turn to page 8 for more information ➔

**For general enquiries:**

The council's Customer Information Services (CIS) centres offer face-to-face advice, information and assistance on council services, including: council tax and benefits; housing; concessionary travel; and waste and recycling.

CIS centres in Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn, Carmondean Connected (self-service kiosk only), Livingston Arrochar House and Whitburn also offer payment facilities for rent, council tax and service accounts.

The council's Customer Service Centre (CSC) lines are open from Monday-Friday, 8am to 10.30pm. Thereafter a number of staff are on-site to deal with emergency calls. The CSC lines are also open from 10.30pm on Friday to 8am on Monday for emergency calls relating to noise, homelessness, repairs to council houses, roads, street lighting and environmental health.

➔ [www.westlothian.gov.uk/contactus](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/contactus)

☎ Call the CSC on: **01506 280000**

✉ [customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk)

**There are other direct numbers for specialised services as follows:**

- Antisocial Behaviour **01506 282000** or contact the Police on **101**
- Gas servicing **01506 280000**
- NETS and Land Services **0800 616446**
- Pupil Placement **01506 280000**, select option 4
- Council Tax and Benefits **01506 280000**, select option 2
- Social Care Emergency Team (SCET) **01506 281028** or **281029**
- Crisis Care Team **01506 418784**
- Textphone for hard of hearing **01506 454427**
- Homelessness **0800 0323 450**

If you have an emergency, and need to contact the council outwith normal business hours (between 10.30pm and 8am) then please dial **01506 280000**.

**Other useful contacts:**

West Lothian Advice Shop, Bathgate Partnership Centre

☎ **01506 283000**

✉ [advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk)

➔ [www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice-shop](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice-shop)



## New trim trail opens at Bellsquarry Primary

Pupils at Bellsquarry Primary are staying active thanks to a new trim trail.

The trail is designed to keep children active in a fun way, while developing their balance, core stability and motor skill development.

Bellsquarry Primary's Parent Council asked about improving the playground and school grounds to be a more engaging environment for the children.

After getting playground games painted in the playground, the Parent Council suggested a trim trail and set about raising money through events such as a movie night and donations from AEGON, Morrison's, Stonehouse Carvery, Sykes Global Enterprises and Tesco.

Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick (pictured right) said: "A huge thanks to the Parent Council for all their amazing work to get the money together to deliver the

trail, which will help encourage all the children at Bellsquarry to stay active and healthy."

Chair of Bellsquarry Primary Parent Council Nikki Cooper added: "It's been a worthwhile project to provide a stimulating and adventurous piece of equipment which enhances the school's outdoor provision for our current and future pupils to enjoy."

Pupils also played a major part in the trim trail project, voting on their preferred design from three possible options. Primary 7 pupils also created a rota to ensure every class could have a slot as part of their problem-solving work, and have taken on the extra responsibility of overseeing and assisting the pupils on the trim trail.



## FLYING THE FLAG FOR ARMED FORCES DAY



West Lothian Council joined organisations across the country in flying the flag for Armed Forces Day.

The Armed Forces Day flag was raised at West Lothian Civic Centre on Monday 24 June in honour of our country's armed forces.

A special ceremony was held to mark the occasion, hosted by Provost Tom Kerr with invited guests including representatives from the West Lothian

Armed Forces Day Organising Committee, West Lothian Council, Police Scotland, elected representatives, Lord Lieutenant Moira Niven and members of the public.

Cadet Declan Fell had the honour of raising the flag, with music from members of West Lothian Schools' Pipe Band.

Is your child eligible?



School **Clothing Grants**



**FREE** School Meals



**600 hours** of early learning and childcare and more

Turn to page 8 for more information ➔

# Parklife

West Lothian Council will invest around £350,000 this year on building and renovating play parks.



Councillor Tom Conn joined pupils from Linlithgow Nursery and the council's Open Space officer, Simon Scott at the recently refurbished park off Preston Road.

Road has been refurbished at a cost of £20,000, ensuring that it remains fit for purpose for at least 10 years. The council will complete a number of play area refurbishments, play area upgrades and installations of brand new play parks. These include:

- Burnside Terrace Play Area, Polbeth
- Avenue Park, Mid Calder
- Birniehill Crescent, Bathgate
- Burnlea Drive, Bents/Stoneyburn
- Croftmalloch Play Area, Whitburn
- Kingfisher Brae, Livingston, play area refurbishment
- Limefield Play Area, Polbeth
- Beechwood Road, Blackburn
- Kidz Grove/Sandy Park, Blackburn
- Marrfield Park, Uphall Station
- Eastfield Park, Fauldhouse
- Russell Road, Wester Inch, Bathgate

- Longridge Primary School
- Glebe Play Area, West Calder

**Five play parks have already been refurbished this year.**

**These are:**

- Preston Road Play Area, Linlithgow
- Douglas/Mains Park, Linlithgow
- Water Yett, Linlithgow
- Cardross Play Area, Broxburn
- Bailielands Park, Linlithgow

Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn said: "Opportunities to participate in play activities are essential to the healthy mental, physical, social and emotional development of children. We are committed to ensuring that West Lothian's play parks provide a safe and enjoyable environment for young people and their families and our officers put in a tremendous amount of work to ensure they are of the highest standard".

This year the council will undertake approximately 20 projects across West Lothian. The park at Preston Road,

Linlithgow is just one example from the series of work due to take place over the course of the year. The play area at Preston



## The Best Start Grant

The school age payment is part of Best Start Grant, a package of three payments that will give extra money to low income families during the early years of a child's life. It is a £250 payment made around the time a child normally starts Primary 1 to help with the costs of a child starting school. The money can be used for anything from school uniform and shoes to a school bag, books or days out.

Applications will remain open until 29 February 2020. Parents who have deferred entry to August 2020 should still apply before 29 February 2020.

If they wait until after then it will be too late and they will miss out on their payment.

Apply online at: [www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant/](http://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant/)  
If you are not sure if you qualify you can contact the Advice Shop for more information. 01506 283000 option 4

PLAY PARK FACTS



**THE COUNCIL INSPECTS AND MAINTAINS PLAY AREAS ALL YEAR ROUND WITH REGULAR SAFETY INSPECTIONS TAKING PLACE EVERY 10 DAYS.**



**EACH PLAY AREA IS REVIEWED EVERY 10 YEARS AT LEAST FOR REFURBISHMENT PURPOSES AND TO DETERMINE IF EQUIPMENT NEEDS REPLACED.**

## Plan sets out actions to tackle child poverty in West Lothian



West Lothian's first Annual Local Child Poverty Action Report sets out actions taken to address child poverty and has been produced by NHS Lothian, West Lothian Council and the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Task Force.

All councils in Scotland have to produce a report in line with the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, which sets out ambitious targets for the Scottish Government to reduce child poverty in Scotland significantly by 2030. West Lothian's first plan sets out the action being undertaken and planned to reduce child poverty locally.

A report to the Council Executive in June set out the complex reasons for households falling into and remaining in poverty. The report highlights that poverty is fundamentally about a lack of disposable income.

The average level of child poverty in West Lothian is 22%, which is comparable to the Scottish level. This means that 8,551 children in West

Lothian live in relative poverty after housing costs are taken into account. The national Child Poverty Act set out that by 2023 fewer than 18% of children should be living in relative poverty. Whilst the West Lothian average is 22% this figure is higher in some areas of West Lothian (ie Whitburn & Blackburn are 32%).



Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick

*"The scale of the challenge to reduce poverty at a local level should not be underestimated, especially as funding available to local authorities is limited. The fact is many of the most effective long-term interventions for alleviating child poverty sit with national government, most notably in Westminster.*

*However, we can't focus on what we can't control; the council is focusing on what we can do to improve the life chances for young people in West Lothian, and all agencies must work together to make progress. Ultimately we are investing in work that will hopefully reduce poverty in West Lothian, including child poverty. Our plan has a strong focus on interventions and approaches that will reduce child poverty in West Lothian."*

# Broxburn Academy girls triumph in Scottish Shield final

Broxburn Academy's under 18 girl's football team have been honoured for their victory in the Scottish Schools' Football Association Senior Shield final.



Provost Tom Kerr (centre) joined Depute Chief Executive Elaine Cook (back left), Peter Reid and Peter Swindell to present the pupils with their award.

Provost Tom Kerr recently visited Broxburn Academy to present the team with a Silver Salver in recognition of their fantastic victory against Turnbull High School from Bishopbriggs.

At the start, it looked like Broxburn's team of mixed age players might struggle against a team of bigger, mainly S6 Turnbull girls at Petershill Park in Glasgow. However, Broxburn went on to win 7-0 thanks to a goal from Rosha Muirhead and six goals from Emma McFadyen. Emma is believed to be the first player in the history of the competition to hit a double hat-trick in a final.

Provost Tom Kerr said:

"I'm delighted to recognise the talented Broxburn Academy under 18 girls' football team for their superb victory.

"To win by a 7-0 margin in a final is an incredible achievement, and the girls deserve full credit for their hard work that has resulted in them lifting the top trophy."

Broxburn Academy Headteacher Peter Reid added: "It's great to see the incredible achievement of our under 18 girls honoured by the Provost of West Lothian.

"Everyone at Broxburn Academy is immensely proud of the team and their

coach Rab Swindells for their amazing feat. The dedication shown by the team that has led them to bring the Scottish Seniors Shield back to Broxburn for the second time in three years is outstanding."

The Broxburn Academy under 18s squad is made up of captain Tegayn Hamilton, Ellie Morgan, Leah Clark, Anna Dickov, Intira Saman, Madison Emms, Morgan McCauley, Nicole Aitken, Aylee Ross, Emily Grant, Molly Baxter, Rossha Muirhead, Zoe Evans, Eilidh Howard, Emma McFadyen, Tora Wik, Sandy McLean, Jessica McFadyen, and Shanon Green.

## Work set to begin on new Livingston North Partnership Centre

Further progress has been made towards the development of a new £1 million partnership centre in Livingston.

A community and stakeholder engagement exercise took place before the summer on proposals to redevelop the Ability Centre in Carmondean to create a new, Livingston North Partnership Centre.

The proposals received positive feedback from the majority of those engaged including Scottish Library Information Council (SLIC) with the new centre incorporating the co-location of Library, Customer Information Services and the Ability Centre.

The Partnership Centre will also provide communal space for the public including an enlarged café area and dedicated space for partners such as Macmillan Cancer Support.

Stakeholders have been assured that engagement will continue as

the project progresses with regular user meetings and information briefings. A project web-site and dedicated e-mail will continue to allow project information to be communicated to stakeholders.

Arrangements to temporarily decant services from the Ability Centre to Deans Community High School have been finalised. Groups who use the existing Ability Centre are being engaged on alternative arrangements.

It is proposed that services currently at Carmondean Connected will be re-located the very short distance to the Ability Centre.

The current Carmondean Connected will no longer be required for the delivery of services.

Officers will continue to progress the project on a timescale approved by Council Executive and aim to have the new partnership centre fully operational by August 2020.



## Council performance highest in Scotland

West Lothian Council's performance is the best in Scotland, according to data collected from across Scotland's councils.

Data produced by the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) is focused on providing a consistent approach to benchmarking local authority performance in Scotland, with the results reported each year to the public. Overall, West Lothian Council ranked an average of first in Scotland out of all 32 local authorities in 2017/18.

The comparative performance of the 32 Scottish local authorities is published in an annual report that identifies national trends across eight categories of council activity. The report also highlights local challenges and priorities, how this varies across councils and the subsequent impact on performance.

At the council's Policy and

Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (PDSP) the findings of the 2017/18 evaluation were published which highlighted that West Lothian Council was rated an average of number one in two of the eight categories (Corporate Assets and Economic Development).

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "The Benchmarking Framework is intended to support councils to improve performance in key activities, inform strategic planning and forms a critical part of the sector's response to requirements for public performance reporting and benchmarking.

"Despite facing huge challenges West Lothian Council continues

to provide excellent local services for local people and the Benchmarking Framework report confirms that. The council is West Lothian's largest employer and all staff members should be proud of the council's performance.

It is very pleasing to see that West Lothian Council continues to perform well in comparison to other authorities across a range of key indicators and had an average ranking of first overall in Scotland in 2017/18."

Pictured are staff representing all the services provided by the council join to together to mark the achievement, joined by Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick, back left, and Chief Executive Graham Hope, back right.



Executive Councillor for Culture & Leisure  
Dave King

*"The council is investing £1 million to facilitate the transition into the new partnership centre and all activities and services currently provided by both the Ability Centre and Carmondean Connected will be retained. The proposed delivery of a partnership centre in the north of Livingston will continue to build upon this approach, securing the future and enabling the modernisation of services involved. It will be a great boost to Livingston North."*



Photo courtesy of Stuart Vance, West Lothian Courier

# WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

An event recently took place in Blackridge which gave female students the chance to see what it is like to be involved in the construction industry.

The 'Women in Construction' event was organised by Equate Scotland and Constructionarium Scotland, hosted at Sibbald Training, Blackridge and part funded by CITB.

The event gave those in further education in 'Built Environment' courses a chance to put the theory into practice. Women currently working in the industry also came along to lend their support and give guidance to the group.

The project brought together 25 women from across Scotland where they were supported by Dale Lyon of Constructionarium Scotland and Lindsay Neill, a local

contractor, and staff of Sibbald.

The teams each had an empty site on which to set out, excavate, create formwork, tie steel rebar, lay concrete foundations and erect a wind turbine and then connect that to the power house panel. One of the participants, Jade Shearsby from Mid Calder, said:

"It has let me see how the calculations and problem-solving work done in the class can be used and is very much vital when working on site." She also felt that the practical experience gained will help her put academic problems into perspective.



Depute Leader, Kirsteen Sullivan

*"I was delighted to attend the event. It's important that women are aware of the many possibilities and opportunities of a career in the construction industry. The event organisers and sponsors deserve great credit for hosting sessions such as this to allow students to see that it is achievable if they put the work in."*

## Community Access to Sanitary Products

Free sanitary products will be made available in community venues across West Lothian to ensure that products are available for anyone who needs them.



In West Lothian, a range of high-quality, environmentally friendly sanitary products will be available within Partnership Centres initially. Products will be displayed in the ladies' and disability accessible bathrooms, freely available for individuals to take what they need. Plans are in place to expand availability over the next year into local community centres, GP surgeries and third sector organisations whose service users may benefit from improved access to products.

Funding has been allocated by the Scottish Government to all Scottish local authorities to take

forward plans to provide a range of products in places that people use within their local community. The main intent of the funding is to help those on low incomes by improving access to safe, hygienic and appropriate sanitary products.

Depute council leader Kirsteen Sullivan said: "Sanitary products are not a luxury and it's essential we take action now to support those in need."

Look out for the posters and window stickers which will be displayed in all venues where free sanitary products are available.

## Works starts on bridge replacement

Construction has started on the replacement for Skolie Burn Bridge between Addiewell and Loganlea.

The major project to deliver the £2.4 million new bridge started recently and is expected to be completed by spring 2020.

The project will involve the construction of a temporary bridge during the works to ensure vehicle and pedestrian access is maintained, before the old bridge can be demolished and a new permanent bridge built in its place.

Executive councillor for development and transport Cathy Muldoon said: "I'm delighted that the £2.4 million project to replace Skolie Burn Bridge has now started.

"The new bridge is a key piece of

strategic infrastructure and has a design life of 120 years, and will restore full access between Addiewell and Loganlea for many generations to come."

As this is a major construction project, local residents will notice a significant amount of work on the site to enable the construction/removal of the temporary and permanent bridges, divert utilities such as gas, electricity and water, and landscape the site afterwards.

Traffic management, such as temporary traffic lights, and new layouts, will be in place during the project. Both vehicle and pedestrian

access will be maintained, except for essential short-term closures in order to construct parts of the temporary road safely.

Executive councillor for the environment Tom Conn added: "The new £2.4 million bridge will be a major boost to the local road network when completed.

"It will allow two lanes of traffic to cross without any weight restrictions when completed in 2020, improving access for the local community."

For more details and updates on the project, please visit [www.westlothian.gov.uk/skolieburnbridge](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/skolieburnbridge)



Pictured left to right are engineer Graeme Barr and foreman William Paterson from RJ McLeod, Councillors Tom Conn and Cathy Muldoon, contracts manager Robert van Beek from RJ McLeod and engineer Adam Watt and senior engineer Alistair Williamson from West Lothian Council.

# LAST CHANCE TO APPLY FOR A FULL-TIME COURSE

JOIN OVER 8000 OTHER  
STUDENTS STUDYING  
WITH US

**COURSES  
FILLING FAST**



**PART-TIME  
ENROLMENT EVENING  
TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AUG  
4PM - 7PM**

## RECONSIDERING YOUR SCHOOL SUBJECT CHOICES?

**IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO CHOOSE A  
FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP!**

If you have just gone into 5th or 6th year at school, it's not too late to choose a Foundation Apprenticeship at West Lothian College alongside your other school subjects.



  
**west lothian  
college**

**Courses on offer for 2019 include:**  
Business Skills, Creative & Digital  
Media, Civil Engineering, Engineering,  
IT Software Development, Children &  
Young People and Healthcare

**[www.west-lothian.ac.uk](http://www.west-lothian.ac.uk)**

# Council takes on rogue businesses in effort to reduce fly-tipping

Householders in West Lothian are being urged to play their part in tackling illegal fly-tipping.

Householders are being encouraged to check that their tradespeople have a valid waste carriers' licence before employing them.

The cost of disposing of waste in landfill sites has risen consistently over recent years for business, with the Scottish Government continually increasing the landfill tax rate (now £92.61 per tonne) in an attempt to encourage businesses to recycle more of their waste. Some businesses try to cut costs by not having a waste carriers licence, with waste often ending up being illegally dumped.

In an effort to raise awareness around illegal fly-tipping, the council will be more proactive in highlighting illegal dumping that occurs in West Lothian. The council will take photos and

share them on social media and with the local press. The council will also encourage more local residents to contact the council if they are aware of people who are deliberately fly-tipping or if they recognise any of the materials that are being dumped. The council will investigate reports and involve Police Scotland where required.

Executive councillor for the environment Tom Conn added: "It's important for residents to know that they can be fined if their waste is illegally dumped, even if it is not them that physically dumped the waste. However that can be avoided by simply asking to see a valid waste carriers licence. If a tradesperson has a waste licence and materials are still dumped residents should report the tradesperson as the

contractor is responsible. "However residents have a responsibility to check that their tradesperson has a valid waste carriers' licence in the first instance. If they don't have a waste carriers' licence, residents should ask themselves where their waste is going to end up and think twice about using their services.

"A tradesperson without a waste carriers' licence, might be able to offer a householder a slightly cheaper rate for work, but is a small saving worth a fine and/or court action?"

He added: "Fly-tipping is illegal and we will step up our efforts to catch those responsible. However, we can't do it on our own and we need residents and tradespeople to work with us."



Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn joined Andy Johnston and staff from the council's NETs, Land and Countryside Services team

## FLY-TIPPING FACTS

The council's data show that **80% of fly-tipping locally** is caused by commercial businesses/tradespeople dumping materials such as large quantities of garden waste, old kitchens and bathrooms, building materials and items such as old car tyres.



**Both tradespeople and householders are legally responsible** for ensuring that they dispose of their waste items legally and safely.



**The majority of fly-tipping hasn't been caused by the introduction of slim bins, bulky uplift charges or opening hours at recycling centres.**

The vast majority of fly-tipping is materials that would never be placed into a household bin, picked up via a bulky uplift or taken to a council-run recycling centre.

# FLY-TIPPING IS CRIMINAL



## RECOGNISE THIS MESS?

**THIS COMMERCIAL WASTE WAS FOUND JUST OUTSIDE LOGANLEA.**

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

## HOUSEHOLDERS CAN HELP:

Always check that the tradespeople you employ have a Waste Carriers' Licence. Don't use tradespeople who can't provide you with a Waste Carriers' 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](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/report) or **01506 280000**

# Double success at Scottish Education awards



Lisamarie Purdie (left) joined Knightsridge Primary School Head teacher Allison Kennedy and Knightsridge pupils

## West Lothian celebrated a fantastic achievement at the recent Scottish Education Awards.

Lisamarie Purdie from St. Ninian's Primary School and Nursery Class in Livingston received the coveted Head Teacher of the Year Award for her inspiring work in the school, and will now go forward to the UK-wide finals.

Knightsridge Primary School in Livingston has been awarded the fantastic Raising Attainment in

Literacy Award for their excellent work to promote reading and writing.

Both West Lothian entrants faced tough opposition from schools and teachers across Scotland to win the top prizes.

Head teacher Lisamarie Purdie said: "It has been my privilege to be head teacher of St Ninian's Primary

School and Nursery Class for the last six years and I am so proud of what we have achieved together as a school community.

"This award is testament to the hard work and enthusiasm for learning from our children, staff, families and community partners. We all work in partnership to make St

Ninian's a special place for children to learn.

"I would like to thank the St Ninian's Parent Council and staff team for nominating me for Head Teacher of the Year. It was a special surprise to find out people had taken the time to do this and to win the award really was the icing on the cake.

"All of this for doing a job that I love!"

Knightsridge Primary School head teacher Allison Kennedy said: "We are all thrilled to have received this award from Education Scotland. It is a huge accolade for our whole school community and for West Lothian.

"We have been on our reading and writing journey for a number of years now and this award is a culmination of all our hard work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Scottish Book Trust and our partners and parents for their support and encouragement.

"I am very proud of this award as it reflects the hard work and relentless commitment of all the staff who work tirelessly to raise attainment in

literacy."

Executive councillor for education David Dodds added: "Many congratulations to Mrs Purdie and Knightsridge Primary on their success in the Scottish Education awards.

"To win the top awards against the best in education from all around Scotland is a fantastic achievement. I hope that other schools and teachers will use their excellent work as an inspiration for the future."

Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "Everyone in West Lothian can be rightly proud of Mrs Purdie and Knightsridge Primary for winning these highly prestigious Scottish Education Awards.

"Both have shown hard work and complete dedication to education in West Lothian to secure the top awards.

"With attainment continuing to rise for six consecutive years now, it's another good example of the excellent work taking place in schools around West Lothian."

## Help towards the cost of school



### Free breakfasts

The council 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 National Entitlement Card (NEC)/Young Scot Card. All other secondary pupils can purchase the same breakfast for 57p.



### West Lothian pupils living in a low income household could be entitled to extra help with the costs of uniforms, lunches and staying on at school.

Help is available for parents towards the cost of a school uniform, through West Lothian Council's School Clothing Grant scheme with over 6,240 pupils awarded grants in the last year.

A payment of £125 could be provided to help parents/carers with the costs of school uniforms for primary school pupils and £135 for secondary school pupils.

To qualify for a school clothing grant and free school meals, parents/carers must be in receipt of Income Support / Pension Credit, Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance, Any Income-Related element of Employment and Support Allowance, Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit with an annual income of £6,900 or less or Universal Credit where "take-home pay" does not exceed £610 per month.

Families in receipt of Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit with an annual income of £16,105 or less or, Universal Credit where "take-home pay" does not exceed

£1,342 per month will be eligible for a Clothing Grant only. All children in primary 1, 2 and 3 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.

Applications can be completed online at [www.westlothian.gov.uk/mealsandclothing](http://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: [educationcustomerservices@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:educationcustomerservices@westlothian.gov.uk).

The council also provides a free breakfast to all pupils in primary schools who want it.



### Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of £30 per week is also available to help students to stay on at school, and 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.

Applications are being accepted now. A student must be born between 1 March 2000 and 29 February 2004 to be eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance from West Lothian Council.

- Students born between 1 March 2000 and 30 September 2003 can start receiving payment from week beginning 19 August 2019. The form must arrive at the Civic Centre by 30 September 2019.
- Students born between 1 October 2003 and 29 February 2004 may start receiving payment from 6 January 2020. The form must arrive at the Civic Centre by 29 February 2020.

Application forms which do not arrive 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 2020. No application will be accepted after this date.

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.

Further information on is available from [www.westlothian.gov.uk/helpwithcosts](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/helpwithcosts) ➔

# West Lothian Council is to invest over **£60 million** to deliver three new schools in **Winchburgh**.



**Winchburgh is one of West Lothian's three Core Development areas which will see a significant number of new homes being built over the next ten years.**

**The council's investment will deliver:**

- A replacement Holy Family Primary School with initial capacity of 231 pupils to be open by August 2022
- A non-denominational secondary school with initial capacity of 660 planned to be open by August 2022
- A denominational secondary school with capacity of 660 planned to be open by August 2023
- Separate physical education and facilities management accommodation to be available from August 2022.

The council has given the go ahead for a formal submission of a New Project Request for the delivery of the new education facilities to Hub South East Territory Partnership, who will

lead on the build project on behalf of the council.

As with all new school projects where there are changes to school catchments, a formal statutory education consultation is undertaken. The council has already commenced an initial pre-consultation exercise on the proposal to establish a new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh and to establish the catchment area of the school. This will be followed by a statutory consultation and it is anticipated that the final report and decision on the catchment will be made in early 2020. The council has also started the initial pre-consultation on the re-location of Holy Family Primary School with reporting of the outcomes for decision also in early 2020. The council's

Education Executive will consider a report this September seeking approval to commence the public consultation on the establishment and catchment area of the denominational secondary school in Winchburgh.

Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick, said: "We believe

that this is one of the largest investments in Education anywhere in Scotland and the largest single location investment made by the council. West Lothian is one of the fastest growing areas in Scotland and more and more people are choosing to make West Lothian their home."



## Consultation

Public drop in sessions are being held where you will be able to find out more about the progress so far and share your thoughts and comments. Staff involved in the development will be available to answer any questions you might have and your views will help shape the planning application which will be submitted in the Autumn.

A questionnaire will be handed out to those in attendance to allow them to leave their comments, suggestions, concerns or further questions. Feedback and comments will be accepted until 29 August.

Further to this, comments and suggestions will be considered and used where appropriate to inform the planning application which should be

submitted in the summer, so any draft architect plans are subject to change.

### Drop In Sessions

- Monday 19 August 4-8pm, Winchburgh Community Centre
- Monday 26 August, 4-8pm, Winchburgh Community Centre

For more details visit: [www.westlothian.gov.uk/newwinchburghschools](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/newwinchburghschools)

## West Lothian Council has approved plans for a new primary school to be built at Calderwood, East Calder

The council will spend over £14.5 million on the school and propose to have the school opened by August 2021. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2020.



The Council Executive has approved the formal submission of a New Project Request for the delivery of the new primary school to Hub South East Territory

Partnership, who will take forward the build project on behalf of the council. As with all new school projects where there are changes to school catchments,

a formal statutory education consultation is undertaken. The council has approved the commencement on formal public consultation to review admission arrangements to

establish the catchment area of the school and review the admission arrangements arising from a variation of the catchment area of East Calder Primary School.

Executive councillor for education David Dodds said: "The council is committed to ensuring that we have sufficient education capacity for our area and we deliver modern and innovative schools to ensure that our children and communities are provided with the best possible environment and opportunities for quality learning and life chances."

## Additional teaching in-service days approved

West Lothian school pupils will start back at school a day later after both the summer and Christmas break during the 2019/20 term.

Two additional in-service days have been agreed on Tuesday 20 August 2019 and Monday 6 January 2020, to support professional learning for teachers.

The additional days were proposed by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, as part of the recent pay award negotiations with teachers' professional associations.

The changes will mean that pupils will resume school a day later on Wednesday 21 August following the summer break, and will also resume school a day later after the Christmas break on Tuesday 7 January 2020. This affects all West Lothian Council-run secondary, primary, nursery and special schools.

The dates were chosen after consultation with parent and teacher representatives, and aim to minimise disruption to pupils' education, particularly those preparing for SQA examinations.

For full details of school term dates for both the 2019/20 and 2020/21 school terms, please visit [www.westlothian.gov.uk/schoolholidays](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/schoolholidays)

# Dangers of bin fires



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has warned of the dangers of deliberate fire-setting.

Last year, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended over 140 wheelie-bin fires in West Lothian. While the Service continues to attend at every emergency, these incidents can impact on firefighting resources – costing around £2,000 to respond each time.

And, on occasion, firefighters have also required to call upon the assistance of police partners after coming under attack while working to protect the community.

Watch Manager Lee Clark is the SFRS Local Area Liaison Officer for

West Lothian and works closely with communities to raise awareness of the dangers and the consequences.

He said: “There is always a concern around any deliberate fire raising as it has the very real potential to not only cause injury but damage property, affect the environment and impact on surrounding businesses.

“While attending deliberate wheelie-bin fires some of my fire and police colleagues have actually been attacked while simply trying to do their job.

“This is completely unacceptable

behaviour.”

Mr Clark added: “Members of the public can help us prevent rubbish fires by considering some simple but effective safety advice.

“This includes: storing rubbish in a secure area if possible; not overflowing bins and refuse areas with excess rubbish; not putting bins out for emptying until the day of collection; being alert to strangers loitering in your street; and reporting any build-up of rubbish to your local authority or community fire station.”

You can help prevent these incidents by following this advice:

## DO

- store your wheelie-bin in a secure area if possible
- take your bin in from the roadside, as soon as it's been collected
- be alert to strangers loitering in your street
- report wheelie-bin theft to the Police immediately
- warn others if fire breaks out. Call 999

## DON'T

- store bins up against your home as fire can quickly spread to buildings
- overfill your bin or leave rubbish around it
- put bins out for emptying until their scheduled day
- accept deliberate fire-setting in your community.

It's a crime that threatens lives – **REPORT IT** to the Police or Crimestoppers Scotland on **0800 555 111**

You can help prevent these incidents by following deliberate fire-setting and wheelie-bin fire advice on our website [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk) or by notifying Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or through their website at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

# Opening hours at Recycling Centres

## West Lothian Recycling Centres opening hours from Monday 27 May 2019

Recycle Centre	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday *	Sunday *
Oakbank, Livingston	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm
Whitburn	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm
Blackburn	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm
Broxburn	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm
Linlithgow	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm

\*No Commercial waste accepted on Saturday and Sunday

By making changes to opening hours, the council can continue to keep all five sites in West Lothian open





Councillor George Paul joined council housing staff and Lovell representatives at Kirkhill in Broxburn. One of Scotland's largest new build council housing sites which has been completed.

**Over 500 new build affordable homes have been provided in West Lothian over the past 14 months.**

This figure contributes to an overall target of delivering 3,000 affordable homes in West Lothian from 2012 - 2022 with West Lothian having one of the most ambitious affordable housing programmes in the country.

In order to meet this target, the council has made a commitment to increasing the number of affordable homes available in West Lothian through the New Build Council Housing Programme and also by working in partnership with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).

Since the start of 2012/13, 1,857 affordable homes have been delivered across West Lothian with the majority of these being delivered by West Lothian Council.

A further 410 houses are currently under construction at 10 sites across West Lothian. Five of the sites

are part of the council's new-build programme with the remaining five sites being developed by RSLs.

Several new affordable housing developments are also in the pipeline, including several sites for new-build council housing with the construction of 250 units across numerous locations set to begin later this year.

Executive councillor for services for the community George Paul said: "We are committed to increasing the supply of affordable housing in West Lothian. The council has one of the most ambitious and robust strategies in the country to deliver housing for its local residents. Progress has been made and we will look to continue in this manner moving forward."

**230 new homes delivered at Kirkhill**

**Building work has been completed at one of Scotland's largest newbuild, social rented homes sites.**

Work began at the site at Kirkhill in Broxburn in 2015 to construct 230 new council homes for social rent.

The site features a mixture of cottage flats, one-to five-bedroom houses and bungalows. The first tenants moved into the area in September 2016 with handover of the final properties recently taking place in July. Executive councillor for services for the

community George Paul, said: "The Kirkhill project represents one of the largest affordable housing developments undertaken by any council in the country in recent times. The completion of building work marks a significant milestone and highlights West Lothian's commitment to delivering affordable homes for residents."

**A local plan to tackle homelessness in West Lothian has been approved by West Lothian Council.**

**The council will aim to focus on early intervention and prevention.**

The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) aims to implement a West Lothian wide approach to homelessness through increasing access to all social rented housing and reducing the reliance on council properties and temporary B & B accommodation. All Scottish councils must have a plan to reduce homelessness and the council's plan will now be submitted to the Scottish Government for approval.

In West Lothian, one of the key aims is to improve access to affordable housing options and reduce the length of stay in temporary accommodation. The council will aim to focus on

early intervention and prevention.

A report to the Council Executive in June highlighted that good progress has been made in the first stage in the process and a strategy on the way forward has been established. Delivery of the plan however will require resources from the Scottish Government and improved partnership working across the council, Registered Social Landlords (RSL) and community planning partners. The council has submitted a resource bid to the Scottish Government of £3million over the five years of the plan.

**Homelessness at a glance**

Homelessness is often associated with people sleeping rough. However, in West Lothian homelessness often means having to sleep on a friend's sofa, staying in a B&B paid for by the council or living in temporary accommodation.

Many people who present as homeless are young people who have been thrown out of their family home or have experienced a relationship breakdown whereby a couple split up.

Despite increasing the affordable housing portfolio by over 900 homes over the past five years, the waiting list for a council home is still over 8,000.

The RRTP aims to increase access to all social rented housing and reduce the reliance on council properties and temporary B&B accommodation.

Many of those who present as homeless are in employment and have various housing options available to them.

# WEST LOTHIAN 'BUZZING' THROUGH NEW B-LINES PROJECT

Wildflower meadows, such as this one in Bo'ness, Falkirk, will become more common across West Lothian



**Buglife Scotland has received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of over £40,000 for an exciting heritage project in West Lothian.**

Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, alongside extra funding of £12,000 from West Lothian Council, the project will work closely with the council, local community groups and schools to create accessible, wildflower-rich green spaces across West Lothian for the benefit of both

people and pollinators. The project will run for two years from June 2019 until April 2021.

West Lothian B-Lines project will see the creation of seven species-rich wildflower meadows across West Lothian, resulting in enhanced habitat connectivity along the route of the recently-

mapped West Lothian B-Line. Community groups, schools and local residents will also be invited to take part in the project through a range of fun and enjoyable events including wildflower planting days, bug walks, and pollinator identification and survey workshops.

The West Lothian B-Lines

project has a vision to help by transforming intensively managed amenity grassland into colourful species-rich habitats and thus more healthy functioning ecosystems.

West Lothian Council's open space officer, Becky Plunkett, said: "This is fantastic news for West Lothian, as we are committed to improving biodiversity in our parks and greenspaces, as well as providing more landscape interest and informal learning opportunities for local residents."

Riona McMorro, acting head of The National Lottery Heritage Fund Scotland, said: "We are delighted to support West Lothian B-Lines that will stimulate people's interest in the natural world and so help them conserve it for future generations."

## Grass-cutting services



A number of changes to routine services such as grass cutting and grounds maintenance were made in April 2019.

The council isn't stopping any parts of the service and the council still maintains a large number of areas, but the level of service and frequency of grass cutting in some areas has been reduced.

No reductions have been made in town centres or residential areas.

### Why?

The level of budget reductions that the council has to manage is going to have an impact on local services and it is impossible to continue to keep all services operating as they currently do. There is just not enough funding available to maintain the current level of service.

Some services, which are non-statutory (this means the council does not have a legal responsibility to provide the service), must be delivered in another way, which impacts upon this service standard.

Savings of £15million will be made in 2019/20. The council is expected to have delivered nearly £157 million of savings between 2007/2008 and March 2023.

For details on the council's Grounds Maintenance Service Standards please visit: [www.westlothian.gov.uk/groundsmaintenanceservice](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/groundsmaintenanceservice)

## Broxburn Flood Protection Scheme update



Work on the Broxburn Flood Protection Scheme is set for completion.

The Broxburn Flood Protection Scheme was designed to mitigate the risk of flooding to residential and business properties in the West Burnside and Burnside Village areas of the town from the Brox Burn and Caw Burn, and mitigate the flooding of residential properties in the Nicol Road, Pyothall Court and Galloway Crescent areas from out-of-bank flows from the Liggat Syke.

Plans to construct the final component of the scheme are

on track with sufficient funding in place and construction will provide a greater standard of protection than previously envisaged.

In addition to finalising the scheme, the paper recommended that officers are given authorisation to augment existing defences at West Main Street, Broxburn and promote a property-level protection scheme at New Holygate and Parkwood Gardens.



Executive councillor for the environment  
Tom Conn

*"The flood prevention scheme at Broxburn is a vital project and with the final elements set for completion it will continue to reduce the risk for local residents and businesses from the devastating effects of flooding."*



## RiverLife and the Almond Barriers

As part of the RiverLife: Almond & Avon project, the Forth Rivers Trust, City of Edinburgh Council, West Lothian Council and SEPA are working in partnership to improve migration of fish into the River Almond and its tributaries.

The aim of this catchment-scale project is to make over 200 km of river accessible to migrating fish for the first time in generations, and improve the resilience of fish populations.

Eight redundant weirs have been identified for action by 2021, with a variety of solutions planned such as full removal,

rock ramp construction, installation of a technical fish pass or creation of a fish bypass channel.

This work is funded by Scottish Government through the Water Environment Fund and National Lottery Heritage Fund. The City of Edinburgh Council and West Lothian Council are

leading the Almond Barriers' projects in their respective areas. More information about RiverLife: Almond & Avon and how it is improving rivers in Falkirk, West Lothian and City of Edinburgh for the benefit of wildlife and communities can be found at: [www.river-life.org.uk](http://www.river-life.org.uk)

# Plans to boost Blackburn economy

West Lothian Council is working to protect and enhance business and employment opportunities in Blackburn.



Council Executive considered two papers on the range of work being carried out across council services to support and boost economic activity in the village.

Officers are continuing to engage with Mill Centre owner, G. Dunbar & Sons (Builders) pension scheme, on options to support retail in Blackburn.

Marketing has also taken place of the nearby former filling station

site in Ashgrove, and the demolition of the adjacent former community centre is being progressed to allow this site to be redeveloped.

West Lothian Council's Business Gateway team have supported 22 Blackburn-based businesses in the last three years, investing £473,178 to create 120 additional jobs and support 450 individuals to gain training and employment support. They have helped 10 new business

start-ups during this time, with Start-up advisers and access2employment services based in Blackburn Partnership Centre to support employment opportunities.

Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "We will continue to make every effort to support economic prosperity in Blackburn."

Depute Council Leader, Kirsteen Sullivan added: "A range of council services are very active in the village, carrying out a variety of vital activities to make sure that there are opportunities available for residents to train for and find work, as well as businesses to relocate or expand.

"We believe that a solution is possible to support retail provision in Blackburn and discussions are ongoing to find a way forward.

"Regeneration plans for Blackburn are already ongoing through the local steering group, Blackburn's Future, as we seek to identify the best way forward to ensure the village economy flourishes."

# Summer schools, programme of works

Over £5 million of improvement work to West Lothian schools took place over the summer holiday period.



West Lothian Council used the extended break for school pupils to carry out essential works on the school estate across the whole of West Lothian.

The programme comprised work to support the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare from August 2019, and included refurbishment and extension work at the Polkemmet Primary School nursery (Whitburn), refurbishment work at Carmondean and St Nicholas Primary Schools and the installation of new kitchens at Simpson Primary School (Bathgate) and St John the Baptist (Fauldhouse).

Work took place at schools across the area including: significant investment in refurbishment and internal works at Ogilvie School Campus (Livingston); toilet refurbishments at Our Lady's Primary School (Stoneyburn), Williamston Primary School (Livingston) and Springfield Primary School (Linlithgow); roof replacement works at St Ninians Primary School (Livingston) and St Nicholas Primary School (Broxburn); and phase four of the science lab refurbishment at Linlithgow Academy.



**WHEN PEOPLE PUT FOOD, LIQUID OR THE WRONG ITEMS IN THE BLUE BIN, IT CONTAMINATES THE CONTENTS OF THE LORRY AND THE CONTENTS CAN'T BE RECYCLED**

**ONLY PUT THESE MATERIALS IN YOUR BLUE BIN**

**PLASTIC**



**PAPER/ CARDBOARD**



**CANS/TINS**



**MAKE SURE THEY ARE CLEAN, DRY AND FREE OF FOOD AND LIQUID TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION**

Plastic bags can be placed in the blue bin but they need to be clean and empty.

Visit: [www.westlothian.gov.uk/bluebin](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/bluebin) for details on what can be recycled



# It's okay not to be okay

Pupils in West Lothian's secondary schools have been offered anxiety management group sessions this year as part of the council's programme to allow more young people to have access to emotional and mental wellbeing support in school.

The council's approach mirrors the Scottish Government's mental health initiative - prevention and early intervention approach.

The programme was piloted in 2017/18 with five schools, resulting in a reduction in anxiety levels for 80% of pupils who completed the sessions. Feedback from pupils was also positive, with pupils reporting that they had more confidence to tackle anxious situations. The programme was offered to all secondary schools in 2018/19 with approximately 53 young people attending the course.

Jennyfer McNiven, principal educational psychologist said: "This programme consists of ten weekly anxiety management sessions. The programme uses approaches such as Solution focused and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy techniques to support young people to develop an awareness of their anxieties in a supportive environment along with

peers who share similar experiences. The main focus of the programme is to encourage each pupil to recognise their anxieties, learn ways of managing these, identify individual strengths, learn new coping skills and take control of their thoughts, feelings and behaviours."

Executive councillor for education, David Dodds, added: "Addressing children's mental and physical health is one of the most important things we can do for children and their families so that they can thrive and lead fulfilling and productive lives. Schools in West Lothian have really embraced the mental health agenda and this programme is very important. It's important to break down the barriers and taboos that exist around anxiety and mental health issues and I'm delighted to hear from our team that the feedback from pupils is so positive."



Councillor David Dodds (standing right) joined Gai McKelvie, Educational Psychologist, Whitburn Academy's Paul Durkin, Sarah Booth, Research Assistant and pupils from Whitburn Academy

## Bulletin special offers

In association with



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visitwestlothian.co.uk



### SCOTTISH OWL CENTRE AT POLKEMMET COUNTRY PARK CHILD GOES FREE!

Have a great day out this summer at The Scottish Owl Centre. One free child per full paying adult per voucher.



No photocopies. Valid 1st - 30th September. Open times: 11.30am - 4pm. Flying displays 12.30 and 2.30pm. Scottish Owl Centre, Polkemmet Country Park, Whitburn, West Lothian EH47 0AD.  
Tel. 01501 228184 [www.scottishowlcentre.com](http://www.scottishowlcentre.com)



Receive 10% off your Escape Experience if visiting during the school holidays  
Set down your modern tools and discover the past by visiting eek! Escape Rooms this summer. Just enter promo code: EEEKITSSUMMER at checkout for 10% off. Book online at [www.eekescaperooms.com](http://www.eekescaperooms.com)



The escape rooms can accommodate between two and six people. Please pre-book your session online. If your preferred time is not available, please contact us directly. 18 High Street, Linlithgow, EH49 7AE  
Tel. 0730 562 7750 [www.eekescaperooms.com](http://www.eekescaperooms.com)



### WILLIAMSCRAIG HOLIDAY COTTAGES £50 OFF EACH BOOKING MADE BEFORE 31 AUGUST 2019

Seven comfortable and stylish self-catering holiday cottages in one of the cosiest retreats, with some of the best views in the land. Cottages come with a jacuzzi hot tub, badger cam and bird-cam, and are close to a large swing park and woodland walks.



Voucher must be presented on arrival. Photocopies will not be accepted. Offer valid until 31st August 2019. The Horsemill, Williamsraig, Linlithgow, EH49 6QF, 07795040608. [www.holidaycottageslinlithgow.co.uk](http://www.holidaycottageslinlithgow.co.uk)



### Military Museum Scotland 20% discount off an Adult Entry

An award-winning museum offering a fascinating insight into Scotland's military past. Visit before the end of October to receive a 20% discount on the cost of Adult Entry. Recently awarded "Scottish tourist attraction of the year".



Offer not valid on event days or for group bookings. Valid until 31st October 2019. No photocopies accepted. Legion Hall, Wilkieston, Kirknewton, West Lothian, EH27 8DU. Tel. 07799 565243 [milmussco@aol.co.uk](mailto:milmussco@aol.co.uk)



# COMMUNITY PAYBACK BOOST FOR LOCAL GROUPS



Local good causes have benefited from £4,000 raised through West Lothian Council's Community Payback unpaid work order scheme.

West Lothian Women's Aid (WLWA) have been given £3,000 and the Dignity Boxes charity received £1,000 from money generated through the sale of scrap metal.

Many people given a Community Payback Order (CPO) by the courts take part in unpaid work as part of their community sentence. One of the projects they undertake involves repairing bikes which are then passed on to local charities, and any bikes which cannot be repaired are then sent to scrap to redeem the value of the metal.

WLWA provides safe, temporary accommodation to women, children and young people in West Lothian who have

experienced domestic abuse, while Dignity Boxes Free makes basic toiletries available to people across the Lothians experiencing social deprivation.

Executive councillor for social policy Angela Doran added: "As well as local charities benefiting from free refurbished bikes, the money generated from scrap metal is now helping local good causes."

Community Payback is a community sentence which can be imposed by Scottish courts, which requires anyone given a CPO to give back to their local community. This is supported by targeted intervention programmes to address the issues that led to the CPO.

WLWA manager Ilena Brown said: "West Lothian Women's Aid are delighted to benefit from this valuable donation at this time.

"The funds will go towards the provision of group support and counselling to enable women to recover from their experiences of domestic abuse."

Depute Council Leader Kirsteen Sullivan said: "It's great to see two fantastic charities benefit from the council's Community Payback Unpaid Work scheme. Both West Lothian Women's Aid and Dignity Boxes carry out important work to help the local residents and deserve this additional support."

West Lothian Council is proposing to build a new complex care housing development at Cawburn Road, Pumpherston.

The Council Executive has approved plans to seek the necessary consents for the proposed new £3 million project, which will allow the project to progress.

It's expected that building work will begin next summer subject to all approvals being obtained, with a completion date expected in the autumn of 2021.

West Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is working with NHS Lothian and other Lothian HSCPs on a redesign and modernisation programme for adults with learning disabilities which will see a significant shift in the balance of care from hospital to community settings by 2020/21. The programme focuses on

people receiving care, support and treatment within the community where possible.

Executive councillor for social policy, Angela Doran said:

"The council is committed to supporting the most vulnerable members of our communities and delivering services to support them that are accessible. To achieve this it is essential that we have appropriate property assets from which to accommodate these essential services within our communities. The proposed

project for the development of a Complex Care Housing facility supports these principles."

Research already undertaken has included visits to similar facilities to those proposed and engagement with stakeholders and potential service providers has contributed to an outline design to be developed.

As part of the planning application process the council will consult with the community who will have the opportunity to provide comment on the application.

## Advice Shop offers dementia support

The council's Advice Shop offers a wide range of support for anyone living in West Lothian who has dementia, along with their families and carers.

The staff have all been trained in dementia awareness and the Bathgate Partnership Centre is a dementia-friendly building. For those who cannot come to Bathgate, there are appointments and drop-in sessions offered throughout West Lothian and where required a home visit can

be arranged. The service will help customers to access a wide range of other types of support.

If you or your family would like support you can contact the Advice Shop by completing an online form, e-mailing PIMS@westlothian.gov.uk or calling 01506 283000 (option 2).

West Lothian Council's Advice Shop recently hosted a vintage-themed tea party in support of Dementia Awareness Week.

The event at Bathgate Partnership Centre was a great success as people came together for a cup of tea and blether all in order to share information on what we can all do to support friends, family and people in our communities who are living with dementia. This year, the key theme focused on dementia research and local support.





## Get Xcited about swimming!

**Swimming is one of the best loved family activities throughout the UK and many children say it is their favourite family pastime.**

Learning to swim is an important milestone in a child's life and one that they should absolutely love. If your child learns to love the water from a young age, it will help provide you with peace of mind that they are safe and make them aware of the dangers. It can open up exciting opportunities too... water activities on holiday, having fun at pool parties or perhaps even an Olympian in the making!

At Xcite, our swim teachers create a fun-filled adventure that is motivating and encouraging every step of the way. We are passionate about teaching an essential life skill – how to swim. Our Learn 2 Swim programme is affiliated with Scottish Swimming and helps develop core aquatic skills before moving on to developing techniques and other competences. There are a number of levels your child can

progress through so they can reach their full potential from baby, pre-school to rookie lifeguard, club-ready with progression on to local swim clubs. We also offer online updates so you can track your child's progress through each lesson!

Lessons are available daily across West Lothian at Xcite Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn, Linlithgow, Livingston and Whitburn.



## Adult and Baby Lessons

Babies can start swimming lessons from birth as they don't need to have completed their injections. Our early years programme has three levels: Adult & Baby, Adult & Toddler and Adult & Child. Each level has one thing in common, to develop confidence in the water through songs, structured games and play. Each level has an overall aim, objectives, content and tasks to guarantee you and your baby are relaxed and enjoy the water. The benefits to both parent and baby of swimming together is immense!

- It's great for physical and mental health.
- Helps your baby's heart, lungs and physical respiratory system.
- Helps stimulates all five senses: taste, smell, touch, sight and sound.
- Helps develop their co-ordination.
- Builds their strength.
- Helps aid bonding.
- Boosts their overall wellbeing.
- Can improve their eating and sleeping patterns too

## Top-quality Teachers

Xcite reached the final for the 2018 Scottish Swimming Learn 2 Swim Provider of the Year Award!

Our Learn 2 Swim teachers are fully trained to UKCC Level 2 in Teaching Aquatics and have the most up-to-date expertise so they can deliver a high level of teaching to you and your child. They bring together ideas on how to keep lessons current, fresh and fun! Our teachers regularly attend training so they can continually improve their skills and so they can support you and your child in reaching your swimming goals.



## It's never too late to learn!

Our adult lessons introduce a range of aquatic skills and stroke techniques to help you achieve your goals. It's perfect for those who are looking to get involved in swimming for the first time or just want to build confidence around water. Swimming can help both mentally and physically as it has been proven it increases overall general wellbeing.



For more info about our swim activities visit

[www.westlothianleisure.com](http://www.westlothianleisure.com) or download the WLL Xcite App!

We have a range of payment options from pay-per-visit, memberships and the Concession Scheme. Learn 2 Swim is included in our Junior Membership from £15.00 per month and adult lessons are included in Adult Memberships from £20.00 per month.

## Buddy Swimming

Are you 50yrs+ and want to increase your confidence in the water? Did you get a fright when you were younger or have you never had the time to get started? Then Buddy Swimming is for you!



As part of our Ageing Well project, one of our volunteers will provide you with support and encouragement to feel comfortable in the water. There is also an emphasis on meeting new people and making physical activity accessible and enjoyable. Buddy swimming is available @ Xcite Armadale and Xcite

Livingston. When you are feeling more confident, why not visit your local Xcite Swim Venue. Over 60yrs can swim for only £1.00 a session. It's a great way to stay active! Check out our full senior timetable and Ageing Well programme on our website.



Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

For more info on all our activities visit [www.westlothianleisure.com](http://www.westlothianleisure.com)  
 Membership, pay-per-visit and concession scheme payment options are available.  
**Try your local venue today – what's stopping you?**

**We Are Winners!**

