Bulletin

West Lothian Council

AUTUMN 2026 EDITION

BUILDING BETTER FOR CRAIGSHILL



First Headteacher appointed for new Craigshill Primary as construction gathers pace. Turn to page 4 for the full story.









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

Diamond couple celebrated

Many congratulations to Will and Monica Mackay who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary recently.



Provost Cathy Muldoon and Lord Lieutenant for West Lothian, Moira Niven visited the couple to help them mark the special occasion.

The future Mackays met at folk/jazz club The Place in Victoria Street, Edinburgh in January 1964.

Civil engineers Will's career saw him working on projects in Edinburgh and Winchburgh at the start of his career, while domestic science teacher Monica started her career at Broxburn Academy and then onto schools in Edinburgh.

The family relocated to Banff, where they raised their four children. Katharine, and triplets Andrew, Ailsa and Rosie.

The couple now have six grandchildren - Dougie, Elizabeth, Hannah, Anya, Solveig and Emily.

The couple then moved to Linlithgow in 2023 after they retired.

If your family is celebrating a special anniversary or birthday – such as a 100th birthday, or a Diamond (60), Blue Sapphire (65) or Platinum (70) wedding anniversary, please get in touch with us at: llclerk@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506 281675 to arrange for the Provost and Lord Lietenant to visit you or family member



West Lothian Council is looking for local residents to join our award-winning Citizen Led Inspection programme.

If you think you could play a vital role in reviewing and improving council services, please visit **westlothian.gov.uk/cli** for more info or to apply.

Citizen Led Inspection

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

There are 33 councillors in West Lothian representing nine different wards.

Ward 1: Linlithgow

- **Tom Conn (Labour and Co-operative)**
  01506 281759
  tom.conn@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Pauline Orr (SNP)**
  01506 281714
  pauline.orr@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Sally Pattle (Lib Dem)**
  01506 281760
  sally.pattle@westlothian.gov.uk

Ward 2: Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh

- **Tony Boyle (Labour)**
  01506 281727
  tony.boyle@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Janet Campbell (SNP)**
  01506 281708
  janet.campbell@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Mike Carlin (SNP)**
  01506 281749
  mike.carlin@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Angela Doran-Timson (Conservative)**
  01506 281744
  angela.doran-timson@westlothian.gov.uk

Ward 3: Livingston North

- **Alison Adamson (Conservative)**
  01506 280988
  alison.adamson@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Robert De Bold (Independent)**
  01506 281715
  robert.debold@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Anne McMillan (Labour)**
  01506 281740
  anne.mcmillan1@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Andrew Miller (SNP)**
  01506 281734
  andrew.miller@westlothian.gov.uk

Ward 4: Livingston South

- **Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Labour)**
  01506 281731
  lawrence.fitzpatrick@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Peter Heggie (Conservative)**
  01506 282004
  peter.heggie@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Maria MacAulay (SNP)**
  01506 281725
  maria.macaulay@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Moira McKee Shemilt (SNP)**
  01506 281737
  moira.mckeeshemilt@westlothian.gov.uk

Ward 5: East Livingston and East Calder

- **Damian Doran-Timson (Conservative)**
  01506 281822
  damian.doran-timson@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Carl John (SNP)**
  01506 281726
  carl.john@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Danny Logue (Labour)**
  01506 281729
  danny.logue@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Veronica Smith (SNP)**
  01506 282246
  veronica.smith@westlothian.gov.uk

Ward 6: Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley

- **Pauline Clark (SNP)**
  01506 281732
  Email: pauline.clark@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Craig Meek (Labour)**
  01506 281733
  craig.meek@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Cathy Muldoon (Labour)**
  01506 281738
  cathy.muldoon@westlothian.gov.uk

Ward 7: Whitburn and Blackburn

- **Jim Dickson (SNP)**
  01506 281716
  jim.dickson@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Mary Dickson (SNP)**
  01506 281701
  mary.dickson@westlothian.gov.uk
- **David McLennan (Reform UK)**
  01506 281736
  david.mclennan@westlothian.gov.uk
- **George Paul (Labour and Co-operative)**
  01506 281739
  george.paul@westlothian.gov.uk

Ward 8: Bathgate

- **William Boyle (SNP)**
  01506 281703
  william.boyle@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Harry Cartmill (Labour)**
  01506 281748
  harry.cartmill@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Tony Pearson (Labour)**
  01506 281751
  tony.pearson@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Pauline Stafford (SNP)**
  01506 283073
  pauline.stafford@westlothian.gov.uk

Ward 9: Armadale and Blackridge

- **Lynda Kenna (SNP)**
  01506 281724
  lynda.kenna@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Susan Manion (Labour)**
  01506 281702
  susan.manion@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Andrew McGuire (Independent)**
  01506 281717
  andrew.mcguire@westlothian.gov.uk

Further details of West Lothian councillors and how to contact them are available at: **westlothian.gov.uk/councillors**

Award for refurbished West Lothian war memorial



The renovated Livingston Village War Memorial has won a top award in the Royal British Legion Scotland's Best Kept War Memorial Competition 2026.

The awards celebrate the dedication of communities, volunteers, local authorities and Legion volunteers, who work tirelessly to care for Scotland's war memorials, with Livingston Village winning in the New Entry category for the Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders area and joint overall for Scotland.

Volunteers from the Royal British Legion Scotland (RBLS) Livingston branch embarked on the project to restore the memorial, which is dedicated to those from the village who have paid the ultimate sacrifice during WW1, WW2 and other conflicts around the world.

The memorial sits in the cemetery of Livingston Old Parish Church, the oldest church in Livingston, which is used by RBLS Livingston for dedication events. The renovation work included cleaning the memorial, improving the landscaping, and installing a new bench and flower planters.

Chair for RBLS Livingston branch Tim Smalley (MBE) explained: "We are delighted to win the New Entry category for Livingston Village memorial in the Edinburgh Lothian and Borders section and joint first in the Scottish National Competition.

"We thought the memorial was looking a bit tired, so volunteers from the Livingston Legion decided to tidy it up and put it forward for the award.

"We received support from Sky TV veterans, Klondyke Garden Centre and West Lothian College among others, and it's great that the judges have recognised all our hard work."

Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpartick and the council's Armed Forces and Veterans Champion, Councillor Damian Doran-Timson visited the memorial to congratulate all those involved.

Councillor Fitzpatrick said: "Livingston Village War Memorial is looking better than ever thanks to the hard work of the volunteers from RBLS Livingston and the companies who supported them.

"Well-done to everyone concerned for helping this important project to succeed and achieve national recognition."

Councillor Damien Doran-Timson, who is a Royal Air Force (RAF) veteran, added: "Congratulations to Tim Smalley and the volunteers from RBLS Livingston for ensuring this memorial received the care and attention it deserves.

"It's fantastic to see West Lothian veterans continuing to give back to the local community, and it's a real honour to advocate for them as the council's Armed Forces and Veterans Champion."

The champion role involves making sure that the West Lothian Armed Forces Community Covenant (WLAFCC) is delivered, and former service personnel and their families are not discriminated against due to their role with the armed forces.

Service families can face issues when accessing essential public services such as housing, education and health due the nature of their role.

For more information, please visit **www.westlothian.gov.uk/wlafcc**

Appeal for Tartan Day support



Help is being sought to support West Lothian Schools Pipe Band members taking part in the world-famous Tartan Day parade in America.

The schools pipe band are heading to New York in April 2027 to join the big event, as part of the celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the band.

This year's Tartan Day saw an estimated 40,000 spectators lining the streets of Manhattan to watch the parade of over 1,500 bagpipers, Highland dancers, and Scottish clan organizations, led by Grand Marshall Sam Heughan, star of the Outlander TV series.

The special trip-of-a-lifetime has been organised by the council's Instrumental Music Service as part of their area ensemble programme.

It is being supported by the fundraising committee of the West Lothian Schools Pipe Band, parents and family members who help cover the additional costs associated with running a pipe band, such as kilts, uniforms and some travel costs.

To ensure all members can take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience without financial barriers, the committee are aiming to raise £5,000 to subsidise costs for the talented young musicians.

If you are able to support their appeal, please visit **www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/wlspbnewyork**

£25million funding boost for new skills training centre



West Lothian has been named as one of five new skills training centres across South East Scotland to be created with £25million of UK Government funding.

The investment is part of an overall award of £37.8million for Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region from the UK Government's Local Growth Fund and will support future housing delivery, retrofit and green economy jobs in the region. Additionally, the funds will drive regional employability and business growth initiatives, while financing transport planning and research into the impact of AI.

The UK Government has now released £14.09million to Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Partnership after signing off on its locally designed three-year Local Growth Fund investment plan, which targets areas with the lowest household incomes to create jobs and boost living standards. Funding for Years 2 and 3 will be rolled out as the region progresses through its plans.

Another record exam year for West Lothian pupils



Pupils across West Lothian schools were celebrating receiving their Qualification Scotland awards recently.

Pupils, supported by teaching staff, worked hard to achieve their results and there has been continued improvement in the key indicators on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

Students in S4 achieving five or more level 5 qualifications has increased across West Lothian.

Pupils in S5 achieving three or more Level 6 qualifications, which includes Highers, has also increased. Both the number of S5 and S6 pupils achieving five or more Level 6 qualifications, such as Highers, saw rises.

Pupils across the local authority had the opportunity to undertake a wide range of courses either in their own schools or in conjunction with partners through the West Lothian Campus and at West Lothian College. As well as National Qualifications, pupils have achieved National Progression Awards, HNCs, Skills for Work courses and Foundation Apprenticeships among others.

Executive councillor for education, Andrew McGuire said: "Congratulations to all young people in West Lothian who have received their exam results.

"The results from across the county reflect the commitment and hard work of pupils and are also a tribute to the immense support and professionalism of teachers and support staff across our schools."

First for Winchburgh Academy pupils

Special congratulations to Winchburgh Academy's first ever group of pupils presented for national qualifications.

Pupils from the school received their first event National 5 results, taking West Lothian up to 12 presenting schools this year.

Next year will see their first S5 students taking Higher level qualifications, with their neighbours at Sinclair Academy presenting their first S4 group for national qualifications during 2027.



Continued from page 1

Building better for Craigshill

Work is progressing well to deliver a fantastic new primary school for the £25.8million Craigshill community in Livingston.

Current Riverside and Letham Headteacher Angela Downie has been appointed the first Headteacher of the brand new Craigshill Primary School.

Wick-born Mrs Downie has extensive experience of leading schools, after serving as Headteacher at schools in London and Inverness for 20 years, before joining West Lothian eight years ago.

She said: "It is a huge honour to be the first Headteacher of the excellent new Craigshill Primary.

"My vision for Craigshill Primary is that I want every child in our school to believe in themselves, to dream big and to realise that their aspirations can become reality.

"My dedicated staff and I want every child to leave Craigshill Primary with confidence, ambition and the belief that they can achieve great things."

The steel frame of the three-storey primary school with a sloped roof is now in place, to replace the current Letham and Riverside schools.

Local residents will see major changes to the site over the coming months, as the landscaping work starts and the building is made wind and watertight by the end of the year.

Executive councillor for education Andrew McGuire added: "Congratulations to Angela on becoming Craigshill Primary's first Headteacher.

"It's fantastic to see work on the state-of-the-art school is progressing well, which will provide the Craigshill community with a superb hub for learning for many years to come."

The new school will open in August 2027 with capacity for 462 primary pupils as well as integrated early years facility, external play spaces, landscaping, and car park.

It is funded by West Lothian Council and the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP), with the project procured through Hub South East and lead contractor Morrison Construction delivering the new school on behalf of the council.

Hat-trick of awards for Harrysmuir



A West Lothian primary school has been celebrating winning three top awards recently.

Harrysmuir Primary School in Livingston was recently awarded the Eco-Committee of the Year in the Eco-Schools Scotland awards, run by environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB).

They have also become the first school in West Lothian to achieve the Equitable Creative Coding Award (ECCo), and have been awarded the Hedgehog Friendly Schools Gold Award for a fantastic fourth year running.

KSB made Harrysmuir their Eco-Committee of the Year for work including planting 200 trees and growing, weekly litter picks, and leading environmental events.

The ECCo award saw the school highly commended for the "imaginative ways" it has embedded coding and computational thinking across all stages, and for the "positive engagement of the school community" in digital learning.

The school have also retained their Hedgehog Friendly Schools Gold Award for their work to support the vulnerable species locally, including appointing Hedgehog Ambassadors from each class, and creating a hedgehog friendly haven with nesting sites.



Double vision for P1 start

An incredible 25 sets of twins and one set of triplets started West Lothian schools in August 2026. Some of them joined us for a special photograph ahead of starting school to mark the big occasion.

Lisamaria Purdie, Interim Head of Education, said: "It was wonderful to meet a lot of the very excited twins and triplets ahead of the start of the new school term. The first day of school is always a special milestone for children and their families."

Gold for Kirknewton

Kirknewton Primary School has been awarded Gold by UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting School programme.



UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights and their Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights.

The external assessor noted that the pupils were confident and knew their views were taken seriously, and that they were making a positive difference in school and the wider world.

It was noted that there were strong relationships with families, including high levels of engagement with the overall life of the school, and that there was a caring and nurturing environment where values of dignity and respect were valued by all.

Headteacher Kimberley Hughes said: "I am immensely proud of our school community for achieving the UNCRC Rights Respecting Schools Gold Accreditation.

"This reflects the dedication of our staff, the support of our families, the passion of our pupils, and the commitment of our wider community."

Exam performance continues to rise

The exam performance of West Lothian pupils has improved significantly in the last seven years.

Local school pupils are now achieving more National 5s, Highers and other Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SQCF) awards than ever before.

Every key measure for local S4, S5 and S6 pupils shows a rise in the percentage achieving awards from 2019 to 2025, with every measure also above the Scottish average.

Initial results from 2026 also show the improvement continuing this year, but will not be verified until later in the year and the appeals process is concluded.

Key highlights include:

The percentage of S4 pupils achieving five or more Level 5 qualifications including National 5s has risen from 57% in 2019 to 79% in 2026. West Lothian is significantly above the national average of 58% for 2025.

West Lothian S5 pupils being awarded five or more Level 6 qualifications such as Highers rose from 41% in 2019 to 51% in 2026. This is nearly double the national average of 27% for 2025.

For S6 pupils, 56% of pupils passed five or more Higher or Level 6 level qualifications in 2026, a rise from 44% in 2019 and far above the national average of 39% in 2025.



"Huge congratulations to all our West Lothian pupils over the last seven years who have helped deliver huge improvements in exam results. Thanks also to all our dedicated teaching and school staff, as well as all the parents/carers and families, who have supported them to achieve these fantastic qualifications. Whilst exams are not the only measure of success, they can provide a strong platform to help young people achieve their goals in life."

Andrew McGuire, Executive councillor for education.

Praise for Windyknowe nursery

The nursery at Windyknowe Primary School has received top marks from the Care Inspectorate

An unannounced inspection from the Care Inspectorate took place in March 2026, which saw inspectors spend time speaking with children and their families/carers, as well as observing and speaking with members of staff.

The Care Inspectorate have evaluated the nursery at the top of their six-point scale indicators, which gave the nursery top marks of 6 - Excellent for 'Leadership' and 5 - Very good for both 'Children play and learn' and 'Children are supported to achieve'.

These are two of the highest marks a nursery can receive from the Care Inspectorate with the final report detailing the major strengths found throughout the nursery, with inspectors that the service was exceptionally well led, and the dedicated staff team had created a very positive and nurturing ethos.

Windyknowe Headteacher John Cloherty said: "We are very pleased with the outcome of the inspection from the Care Inspectorate.

"This is a true reflection on the excellent commitment of the nursery staff who go that extra mile for our children every day, and who are a privilege to work alongside. It is hard to believe that the team have been working together for less than two years and achieve this in such a short period."





Works are underway to upgrade a key transport link between Fauldhouse and Stoneyburn.

The project to upgrade around 3km footpath from the B7010 to the A706, following the historic railway line, is expected to be completed in Autumn 2026.

Some re-surfacing and white lining of the B7010 and the entrance to Fauldhouse railway station will also be completed.

The surface of the path will be tarmac up until it reaches Quarry Road, where the surface material changes to a resin-bound rubber material, ensuring suitability for all users, including horse riders.

The project has been funded through Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund grant funding, which is ring-fenced for active travel improvements.

Executive Councillor for the environment and sustainability Tom Conn said: "This is an exciting project and this is the delivery of the first phase of the full route that will connect the two communities of Fauldhouse and Stoneyburn by an active travel off-road facility."

Bin project aims to improve conditions for residents

A pilot project is being undertaken by West Lothian Council aimed at improving recycling at flatted properties, whilst creating cleaner, better-managed bin stores and improved living conditions for residents.



The recycling experience for householders in flatted properties can be quite different from that of residents with individual bins, because residents share communal bin stores.

The 12-week pilot began in September and is taking place in the areas of Forrestbank, Cloverbank and Fernbank in Livingston, Church Place in Fauldhouse, Beechwood Road in Blackburn and Whitburn's North Reeves Place.

The aim is to test practical changes and establish which approaches have the greatest impact on recycling behaviour. Some interventions are specifically aimed at trying to reduce fly-tipping with the council monitoring this as well as side waste and recycling.

Some flats are trialling individual 140 litre grey bins, along with other measures such as internal recycling bags, improved bin layouts, signage and labelling and bin-store improvements.

Different approaches will be evaluated to see which are most effective at improving recycling, reducing waste and keeping the areas cleaner.

Look out for more updates on the council's Facebook page and in the next edition of Bulletin.

Generation Arts is an arts, health and wellbeing charity based in West Lothian. We provide an inclusive programme of **FREE** arts activities delivered by professional artists.

Come and join us in one of the workshops below.

Generation Dance

- ***Thursday 10:30 - 11.30am at Livingston United Parish Church, Fells Rigg, EH54 8AX.***

A fun and energetic class suitable for older people of all abilities.

- ***Thursday 12.15 to 1pm at Livingston United Parish Church, Fells Rigg, EH54 8AX.***

A gentle seated dance and movement class for older people with limited mobility.

- ***Friday 10.30 - 11.30am at Rosemount Gardens, Mid Street, Bathgate, EH8 1QW.***

A gentle seated dance and movement class for older people with limited mobility.

Arts In Mind Music Group

- ***Thursday 12-1pm at Bathgate Partnership Centre, 55 South Bridge St, Bathgate EH48 1TJ.***

This project is for anyone aged 16+ looking to boost their mood, connect with others and support their mental health through music. All abilities are welcome - bring an instrument, choose a song, or simply come along and listen. We also offer three weekly online one-to-one sessions.

Community Cinema

Generation Arts support a network of community cinemas across West Lothian. Current funding from Film Hub Scotland is supporting Murieston Community Cinema, Reconnect Cinemas at Reconnect Regal Theatre and Reconnect Howden Park, Fulshie Films run by Stoneyburn and Bents Future Vision Group, and The Wee Cinema at Winchburgh to deliver cinema screenings and associated workshops for all ages.

For further information please scan the QR code, contact, generationarts.info@gmail.com or visit our website generationarts.co.uk/community-classes

Fund to grow **West Lothian woodlands**



West Lothian is set to receive a share of a £1million fund to plant more trees and increase woodland in central Scotland.

The Clyde, Fife, Lothians and Forth 'Climate Forests' targets investment in communities with the fewest trees and greatest climate vulnerability across central Scotland – expanding tree canopy cover by protecting existing woods and planting more.

Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) will receive £277,000 from the Scottish Government fund to increase canopy cover where it is needed most in West Lothian, East Lothian, Midlothian and Edinburgh.

West Lothian Council will work in partnership with ELGT, local communities and private landowners to focus on areas identified as having low "tree equity". This includes urban communities, where access to trees and green space is limited, and increased canopy cover can deliver the greatest social, environmental and health benefits.

The funding will also support projects looking to improve connectivity of trees and woodland habitats across West Lothian and between our neighbouring local authority areas. Strengthening our ecological networks will enhance biodiversity, improve climate resilience, and help landscapes better withstand pressures from habitat fragmentation.

Established in 2021, Climate Forests are working with local councils, community groups and landowners on projects to plant 35 million trees by 2035. Backed so far with almost £13 million in Scottish Government funding, around 5 million trees have been planted in this area to capture carbon, protect the environment, increase biodiversity, improve access to nature, and support local communities to become more climate resilient.

RECYCLE YOUR VAPES AND ELECTRICAL ITEMS



Never put anything with a battery, plug or cable in any of your bins

When electrical items such as vapes are binned, their hidden lithium batteries can be crushed in bin lorries and recycling centres.

This has led to dangerous fires in bin lorries and at recycling centres and wasting valuable materials. **Always recycle anything electrical separately from your household recycling.**

Up to 75% of materials in electrical items can be recycled into new items, and sending anything electrical to landfill can results in harmful chemicals like lead and mercury seeping into the soil.

All shops that sell vapes and vape pods are legally required to take back old ones for recycling, so it should be as easy to recycle them as it is to buy them

Other electrical items can be taken back to participating retailers, please scan the QR code to find our more.

You can also use any of our Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) to responsibly dispose of any electrical items. Scan the code to book your slot.

West Lothian Council

Recycling saves money and the environment

Please ensure the right materials go in each bin to stop valuable resources going to waste. Contaminated items in recycling bins means additional disposal costs that could be better used for vital public services, and has a negative impact on the environment.



Your blue bin is for clean & dry paper, card and cardboard only.

- Newspaper and magazines
- Cardboard boxes
- Mail and envelopes
- Office and shredded paper
- Kitchen and toilets roll tubes



Your green bin is for empty, clean & dry plastic, tins, cans and cartons only.

- Plastic bottles
- Pots, tubs and trays
- Empty aerosols
- Cartons
- Tins and cans
- Empty plastic bags



We do not currently recycle the following items in either the blue or green bin, so please place them in your grey bin:

- Greasy pizza boxes
- Tissues/kitchen roll
- Bubble wrap
- Polystyrene
- Nappies
- Crisp packets and tubes
- Clothes hangers
- Pill/blister packs
- Wet cardboard
- Black bin bags.

For more details of what can be recycled in your blue and green bins, please visit **www.westlothian.gov.uk/blueandgreenbins**

Residents in flatted properties who only have a blue bin should visit **www.westlothian.gov.uk/bluebinonly** instead.

LOVE West Lothian

West Lothian Council

ACTION ON POTHOLES



Action is being taken to improve West Lothian's roads. West Lothian Council has invested in new state-of-the-art equipment and additional staff to tackle potholes.

The council took delivery of three new Pothole Pro machines recently and put them to work immediately to tackle potholes across the county.

Potholes repairs take place all year round and the council - along with other local authorities - has seen an increasing backlog in road maintenance works over recent years, resulting in a higher number of potholes across the road network.



The new equipment will result in three-times as many permanent pothole repairs being carried out going forward.



What is a Pothole Pro?

The Pothole Pro has been in use in West Lothian since 2024. The machine excavates the surface from the road then sweeps and removes the excavated material and finally prepares the excavation for a permanent repair. This piece of equipment has been proven to speed up the repair process.

Whilst the machines are an added benefit, our crews are still required to complete the permanent repairs by reinstating the excavations with new material. However, the new equipment will play an important role in helping the team to carry out more permanent potholes repairs.

Ideally all potholes would be repaired permanently on the first visit, however there is a limit on the number of permanent repairs that can be undertaken with the resources the council has available.

Permanent road repairs require teams to excavate, cut and lift the road surface, before a new surface can be put in place. This takes time and temporary traffic management, such as traffic lights are required to keep the operational staff and the public safe. To do that, in some cases, the council has to put in place Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) to impose traffic restrictions such as road closures and parking restrictions to carry out the work safely. This takes time for this legal process to be put in place and we also have to co-ordinate with other contractors and utility companies that require to carry out works to their infrastructure on the roads.

Therefore, temporary and permanent repairs are both essential parts of our pothole repair work. Our staff are aware of the importance of carrying out these works to the highest standard possible to keep roads safe and minimise repeat visits.

Records are kept of all temporary repairs so that a programme of works can be put in place at a later date to carry out permanent works.

Urgent deadlines are in place for higher priority defects.

Those classed as critical risk are made safe within 24 hours and those classed as high risk are made safe within 7 days.

During July, 40% of all potholes completed fell within these categories, a total of 618 temporary repairs, thereby triggering urgent response times for making safe.

Our level of resource combined with the volume of work and timescales for making safe mean it is not possible to undertake first time repairs at many of these locations. We then return to these locations at a later date to carry out permanent works.



"We are delighted to have this additional resource and it will have a lasting impact on the quality of West Lothian's road network. West Lothian's roads are comparable with the majority of other council areas but we believe this additional investment and programme of works will bring West Lothian's roads in line with the best performing areas. We recognise that nobody wants potholes and to help address this, additional funding has been invested in pothole and road repairs. The funding has been used to recruit additional staff who will work solely on road repairs throughout the year which will increase the amount of permanent pothole repairs that can be undertaken across West Lothian. Whilst it is still necessary to carry out a range of planned works, our Roads team prioritise two main areas during the winter months; winter maintenance (gritting) and emergency roads maintenance. The new investment announced in the budget last year will ensure that dedicated staff resources are available all year round (depending on winter weather conditions) to undertake permanent carriageway repairs."

Tom Conn, Executive councillor for the Environment and Sustainability

9400

FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 JULY THE COUNCIL REPAIRED OR MADE SAFE MORE THAN 9,400 POTHOLES ACROSS WEST LOTHIAN

Excellent progress has been made to maintain and improve West Lothian road network over the summer months. The arrival of the Pothole Pros in mid-July, together with the programme of planned investments, have delivered results in every council ward across West Lothian.

These were some of the key sites for road repairs and planned investment in West Lothian during July and August 2026. Please note this list does not capture every repair, with many more permanent repairs carried out across West Lothian.





Armadale and Blackridge
- A89 Entryfoot
- A89 Standhill
- A89 Woodhead Grove
- West Craigs Road
- Craig Street
- Main Street, Blackridge

- B8047 Westfield Road between A801 Westfield Roundabout and A706 Torphichen
- A801 Westfield Roundabout to A706

Bathgate
- Whitburn Road
- C17 Bathgate to Linlithgow
- A801 Boghead Roundabout

Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh
- B8046 Ecclesmachan to Threemiletown

East Livingston and East Calder
- A70 to boundary with Edinburgh
- Craigshill Road
- B7015 Main Street, East Calder
- B7015, Bank Street, Mid Calder

Fauldhouse and Breich Valley
- Shotts Road, Fauldhouse
- A71 Breich to West Calder
- Sheephousehill, Fauldhouse
- A70 to boundary with South Lanarkshire
- B715 from boundary of North Lanarkshire to boundary with South Lanarkshire
- C3 from B7010 Fauldhouse Main Street Fauldhouse to A706

Linlithgow
- Philip Avenue
- Springfield Road
- St Ninians Road
- Douglas Avenue
- Sheriffs Park
- B8046 Threemiletown to Philipstoun

Livingston North
- A705 Toll Roundabout to Mill Roundabout
- New Killandean Bridge
- Deans East Railway Bridge
- A899 Houston Interchange Bridge
- Moss Interchange Bridge over Houston Road

Livingston South
- Simpson Parkway from junction with A705 to Lister Road
- Howden South Road
- Crofthead Interchange Footbridge

Whitburn and Blackburn
- Manse Road, Whitburn
- Cousland Terrace and Redhouse Road, Seafield
- B7066 Heartlands to Whitdale Roundabout

Areas highlighted for priority roads repairs during September:
- Armadale - A89 East Main Street
- Bathgate - Hardhill Road and residential areas
- Linlithgow - Braehead Road, Moray Drive and Mains Road
- Livingston - Bellsquarry South Road and Murieston East Road, residential areas in Deans and Dedridge
- Winchburgh - Craigton Place

Homes for rent target reached in West Lothian



The target for delivering new homes for rent in West Lothian has been reached two years ahead of schedule.

West Lothian Council and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) had a target of delivering 1,621 additional social homes in West Lothian between 2023 and 2028.

The handovers of the final 10 council homes at Winchburgh Grange in July 2026 have now seen this target reached early. This is a particularly significant achievement in the context of the housing emergency declared by West Lothian Council in 2024.

A further 356 homes for rent across West Lothian are expected to complete by December 2027, exceeding the target by 22%.

All homes have been constructed by developers securing employment opportunities for people in West Lothian, and will be rented out either by West Lothian Council or RSL partners.

Julie Whitelaw, Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services, said: "It is pleasing to reach this milestone early and I would like to thank our staff and partners for their commitment to increasing the number of available social homes in West Lothian."

Anyone looking to apply for housing is encouraged to consider making an application to local RSLs as well as West Lothian Council.

A tenant who has recently moved into a new build home at Winchburgh Grange said:

"Our new home has truly changed our lives in ways we never imagined.

"Our previous house simply wasn't suitable for our family's needs, and it brought a lot of daily stress and worry. Moving into this beautiful home, in such a lovely area, has given us the fresh start we desperately needed.

"For the first time in a long time, we feel settled, secure, and able to simply enjoy being together as a family. The difference it has made to our happiness and wellbeing is incredible, and we wake up every day feeling grateful. It's not just a new house - it's given us a better quality of life and a future we can look forward to."



"The council and our RSL partners have remained focused on delivering high-quality homes for rent and have successfully reached the target ahead of schedule. I'd like to thank all involved and I hope all of our tenants at Winchburgh Grange enjoy living in their new homes."

George Paul, Executive councillor for housing services.

A list of RSLs and their developments is available: westlothian.gov.uk/RSLs

We are a **Fairtrade Community**

FAIRTRADE

All FAIR in West Lothian

The Fairtrade Foundation have confirmed that West Lothian will continue to be recognised as a Fairtrade Community until 2029.

This acknowledges the hard work and dedication from local groups and individuals across West Lothian to make sure that workers globally receive a fair price for their goods.

To find out more about Fairtrade in West Lothian, and how you could get involved, please visit westlothian.gov.uk/fairtrade

New Sunday bus service to improve access to essential services in West Lothian

Residents in Armadale, Bathgate and Livingston will benefit from a new Sunday bus service thanks to funding secured through the SEStran Transport to Employment Fund.



Residents in Armadale, Bathgate and Livingston will benefit from a new Sunday bus service thanks to funding secured through the SEStran Transport to Employment Fund.

West Lothian Council has successfully secured £250,000 through the fund, part of which, will support the introduction of a pilot Sunday service on Service 73, operated by Lothian Country.

The new Sunday timetable will begin on 13 September 2026 and will provide direct public transport links between Armadale, Bathville, Bathgate, Livingston Village and Livingston Centre. The route connects communities with key employment locations, retail destinations, healthcare facilities, education opportunities and rail connections, including Livingston North Railway Station.

The funding has been awarded through the Scottish Government's Transport to Employment programme, which aims to tackle transport barriers that can prevent people from accessing employment, education, training and healthcare.

The service was originally expanded in September 2025 following community engagement and customer feedback that highlighted the need for improved local connections between Armadale, Bathgate and Livingston. The new Sunday operation represents the next stage in the route's development and will provide an opportunity to assess demand for weekend travel within communities that currently lack direct Sunday connections.

"Fostering changed our lives just as much as it changed theirs"

Meet foster carers Colin and Vikki, who were both NHS workers, before Colin took on a full-time foster carer role. We asked them to share their real experiences of fostering so far:



In one word, how would you describe fostering?

Rewarding.

What does a typical day look like?

Every day is a little different, which is part of what we love about fostering. Most days are busy filled with school runs, outings to the park or local groups, fun times and changing lots of nappies!

What is fostering really like?

It's emotional, busy, sometimes challenging, but incredibly meaningful. Building trust takes time, patience, and consistency, but seeing a child begin to relax, smile, and feel secure is something truly special.

What are the best parts of fostering?

Watching children grow in confidence is the best part for us. Seeing them laugh more, enjoy being children again, achieve small milestones, or simply feel comfortable enough to be themselves makes every effort worthwhile. The relationships you build are amazing, and knowing you've made a real difference in a child's life is something hard to put into words.

What are the hardest parts of fostering?

The hardest part can be knowing what children have already been through before they arrive. Some children struggle to trust adults or express their emotions, and that can take time and patience. Saying goodbye is so emotional, especially when you've built such a strong bond. But even then, you know you've played an important role in their journey.

What qualities do foster carers need?

You don't need to be perfect — you just need to be caring, patient, understanding, and open-minded. Most importantly, children need people who genuinely care and are willing to open their home, lives and heart and welcome them in.

What about training and support?

The support has been amazing from our allocated social worker and the wider social work team. We received training before we started and continue learning all the time. There's always someone to call for advice, and we've connected with other foster carers who understand exactly what the role is like. You never feel like you're doing it alone.

What makes it all worth it?

The little moments. A child finally sleeping peacefully, laughing and smiling, getting excited about playing, or giving you a hug for the first time. Seeing them feel safe, valued, and happy again makes everything worthwhile. Knowing you've helped change a child's future — even in a small way — is the greatest feeling.

We are looking for more foster carers like Colin and Vikki to come forward to help give children the best possible start in life.

To find out more, please email: **FamilyBasedCareService@westlothian.gov.uk** or **scan the QR code**.



XCITE TEAM PRAISED FOR LIFESAVING RESPONSE



A huge well done to the team at Xcite Craigswood, whose quick thinking helped save the life of a customer after he suffered a cardiac arrest while playing badminton.

Ian Muir, 75, collapsed at the venue earlier in May, with Duty Manager David Mowat and colleagues responding immediately to carry out CPR and use a defibrillator before paramedics arrived. After undergoing a double bypass, Ian is recovering well and recently returned to Xcite Craigswood for an emotional reunion with the team who helped him.

Ian thanked the team for their professionalism and teamwork and hopes to return to playing badminton later this year. A fantastic outcome and a huge well done to everyone involved.



OCTOBER HOLIDAY KIDS CAMPS

Looking for ways to keep the kids active during the October holidays?

Our multi-sports holiday camps are a fab way for children aged 5–12 to get active, have fun and try a range of different sports.

These full-day sessions are packed with fun activities, from old-school games, tennis and hockey to dodgeball and lots more!

This year, our multi-sports camps will be running at Xcite Bathgate and Xcite Winchburgh from 19th -22nd October. Scan the QR code to find out more and book your child's space.

XCITE NAMED FINALISTS AT THE UKACTIVE AWARDS 2026

We're delighted to share that Xcite has been named a finalist in three categories at the UKActive Awards 2026!



- Regional Public Club / Centre of the Year
- Refurbishment of the Year
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Award

After celebrating two UKActive Award wins last year, it's fantastic to see our teams and venues recognised once again on a national stage.

As one of only a small number of Scottish providers shortlisted, this recognition reflects the passion and dedication of colleagues across Xcite who help make our venues welcoming and inclusive places for our communities every day.

A huge good luck to everyone involved in the final stages of judging. We'll be keeping our fingers crossed ahead of the awards ceremony this October!

TRY THE TRACKMAN GOLF SIMULATOR AT XCITE BATHGATE

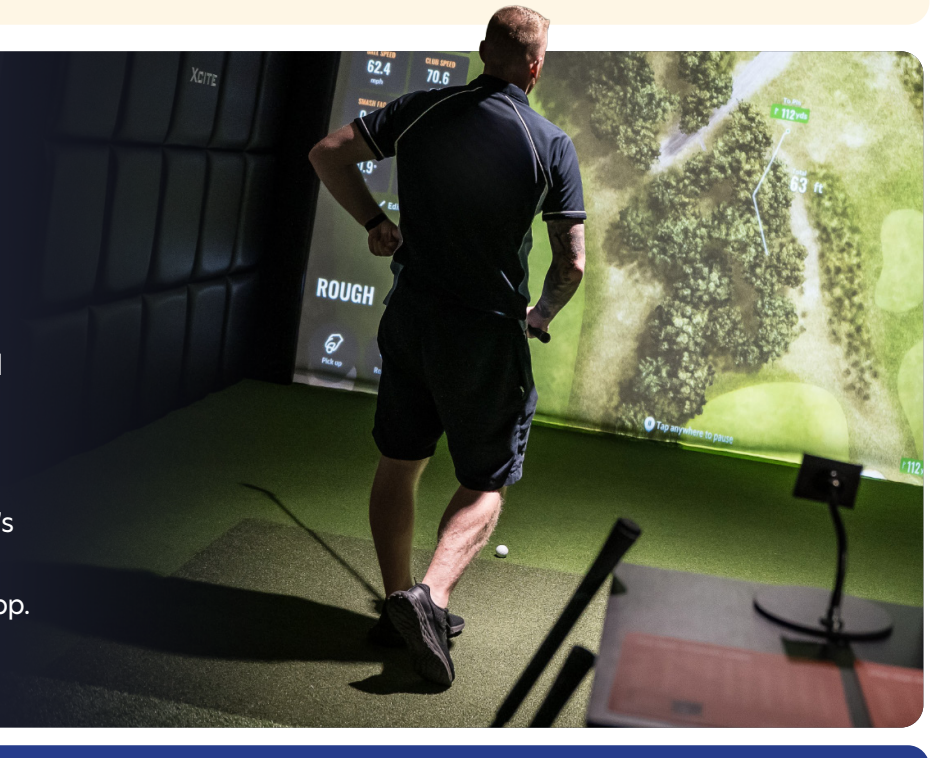
Rain keeping you off the course? With our Trackman Golf Simulator at Xcite Bathgate, you can enjoy a round whatever the weather!

Using the latest golf simulation technology, Trackman lets you:

- Play world-famous courses including St Andrews and Pebble Beach, plus more than 240 others
- Track the full trajectory of every shot with pinpoint accuracy
- Analyse your swing and compare your performance with tour pros
- Put your skills to the test with fun games including Bullseye and Capture the Flag

Whether you're a seasoned golfer looking to work on your game or simply fancy some family fun, there's something for everyone.

Book via our website or the Xcite app.



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