Bulletin

West Lothian Council

WINTER 2026 EDITION



ST. KENTIGERN'S CELEBRATES NEW EXTENSION

A special ceremony has been held to mark the official opening of the excellent new £35million extension for St Kentigern's Academy in Blackburn. Turn to page 5 for more.



West Lothian PROVOST'S Award Page 7



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Follow West Lothian's 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

Looking for a venue for your event?



Whether it's a **party**, **fitness class**, **meeting**, **workshop** or **celebration**, West Lothian's community facilities offer flexible spaces for every kind of event.

Book today!

Ten new defibrillators have been gifted to West Lothian schools by St John Scotland.



A defibrillator is a device that gives a jolt of energy to the heart. It helps get the heart beating again when someone is in cardiac arrest and their heart has stopped.

St John Scotland works with communities to increase access to Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) and improve survival rates. Through their Community Defibrillator Scheme, they support community groups, charities, businesses and individuals to install lifesaving defibrillators in locations where they're needed most, alongside free CPR and defibrillator training for local people.

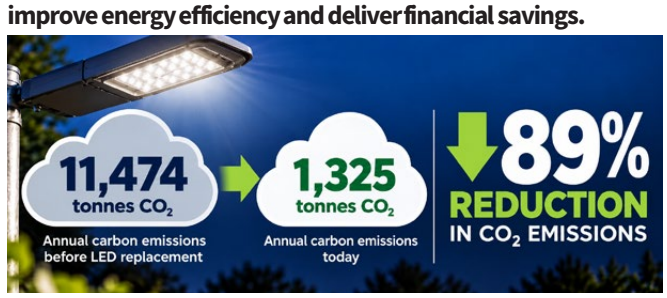
They have recently gifted and installed defibrillators at local schools including:

- Addiewell /St Thomas Primaries
- Balbardie Primary, Bathgate
- Calderwood Primary
- St Mary's Primary, Bathgate
- St Ninians Primary, Livingston
- Sinclair Academy, Winchburgh
- Winchburgh Academy
- Whitdale Primary, Whitburn
- Woodmuir Primary, Breich
- Our Lady of Lourdes Primary, Blackburn

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "I'd like to thank St John Scotland for this generous donation.
"Their incredible generosity is providing life-saving equipment that keeps our community safe."

LED street lighting delivers

The completion of the council's street lighting LED (Light-Emitting Diode) replacement programme marks a significant milestone in the council's efforts to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency and deliver financial savings.



The programme has resulted in every council-owned street light being converted to energy-efficient LED technology, creating one of the most extensive LED street lighting networks in Scotland.

Prior to the project commencing, the council managed around 30,000 street lighting units which produced approximately 11,474 tonnes of CO_2 emissions and incurred annual electricity costs of around £2 million.

Today, despite the network growing to just over 50,000 lighting units, annual emissions have fallen dramatically to around 1,325 tonnes of CO_2. This represents an 89% reduction in emissions over the period, despite a 60% increase in the number of lighting units across West Lothian.

The programme has also delivered substantial financial benefits = meaning more money is available for local services. Annual electricity costs for 2026/27 are expected to be in the region of £1.7 million, equating to a reduction of approximately £300,000.

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 413309
  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)**
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  andrew.mcguire@westlothian.gov.uk

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

Significant progress is being made on repairing potholes in West Lothian.



Earlier this year, West Lothian Council invested in new equipment and additional staff aimed at increasing the number of permanent pothole repairs.

New dedicated pothole repair teams, along with the addition of three new Pothole Pro repair machines, have been put to work on carrying out permanent repairs on the road network.

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

The investment is having a significant impact already. Since May, the percentage of permanent pothole repairs completed in West Lothian has increased significantly - May 2026 (30%) to August 2026 (75%).

Pothole repairs are broken down into emergency/ temporary repairs and permanent repairs. Permanent repairs take significantly longer to undertake – with additional resources, time, planning and road disruption in comparison to temporary repairs.

Whilst the new resources will not drastically impact the number of pothole repairs overall (temporary and permanent), they will significantly increase the number of permanent repairs carried out. Over time, this will reduce the number of potholes on West Lothian's roads.

Tom Conn, Executive councillor for the Environment & Sustainability said:

"Our roads crews undertake several roles across all elements of road and footway infrastructure such as planned/routine maintenance works, winter maintenance (gritting) and emergency roads maintenance. This is over and above carrying out pothole repairs."

"Previously, the available resources, combined with the volume of work and timescales for making safe, meant that it was not possible to undertake permanent repairs on the first visit - at most locations. Our additional investment - announced in the budget earlier this year - will ensure that dedicated staff resources are available all year round to undertake permanent carriageway repairs – drastically increasing the amount of permanent repairs on our roads."

Just some of the permanent repairs undertaken in West Lothian over recent months*

August:
- Craigshill North and South
- B8047 from junction with A801
- Cousland Terrace and Redhouse Road Seafield
- Manse Road Whitburn
- A71 Breich to West Calder
- B8046 Ecclesmachan to Threemiletown
- A705 Toll R/A to Mill R/A and Simpson Parkway
- Sheephousehill Fauldhouse
- Almondvale Boulevard
- A899 Northbound at Cousland Interchange

September:
- Mains Road, Linlithgow
- Hardhill Road, Bathgate
- Bellsquarry South Road
- Murieston East Road
- A89 Est Main Street, Armadale
- Craigton Place, Winchburgh
- Residential areas in Bathgate, Deans & Dedridge

October:
- Alderstone Road
- B7015 Guns Green
- Deans Road, Deans
- A89, Blackridge
- Kirkton North Road
- Blackburn Road, Bathgate
- East Mains Industrial Estate
- Broxburn and Uphall residential areas
- Residential areas in Eliburn & Howden

*Info accurate when Bulletin went to print



The refurbished Livingston Skatepark has proved hugely popular over the summer.

The full refurbishment works were carried out by a specialist skate park contractor. The project was fully funded by West Lothian Council.

The works included:
- Re-pouring of damaged and worn concrete sections
- Repairing cracks
- Sealing and polishing the surface

The skatepark, which opened in 1981 and later extended, achieved international renown within the skate scene from its earliest days due to its scale, ambition and quality. Known for its very deep Double Bowl and finely-tuned transitions, the skatepark is an enduring icon of the Scottish skate and bike scene.

Improving Edinburgh Road, Bathgate

Work to deliver significant road and infrastructure improvements on Edinburgh Road, Bathgate began in September.

The 24-week programme of works includes a complete resurfacing of around 1.2km of road and footpath from the Guildiehaugh Roundabout to King Street, the construction of a cycle way, improved pedestrian crossings and other road improvements.

Phase 1A of the project will see the resurfacing of the south footway and the cycle track construction with kerbing, drainage and street lighting alterations between Guildiehaugh Roundabout to just opposite Lindsay Gardens.

This phase of works is expected to take around six weeks, finishing around Friday 6 November.

Edinburgh Road project overview

The major works to revamp and renew Edinburgh Road in Bathgate is expected to continue until March 2027.

Part of the works is funded through Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund, which is ring-fenced funding to deliver active travel improvements and cannot be used for any other works.

A segregated two-way cycleway will be installed, with the replacement of several uncontrolled crossing points with new controlled crossings.

The entire carriageway and most of the southern footway, approximately 1.2km in length, will also be resurfaced from Guildiehaugh Roundabout to the crossing point at King Street car park with funding provided by West Lothian Council.

Other improvements work will include the installation of the new kerb lines, traffic lights, street lighting, removing existing traffic islands and resetting of ironwork such as drains and manholes.

The work is planned to be completed over several phases, starting towards the east end at Guildiehaugh Roundabout and moving westwards. The resurfacing element of each section takes less time to complete but the traffic management will need to be in place throughout to ensure there is sufficient space for the contractor to work safely and efficiently.

Visit **www.westlothian.gov.uk/edinburgh-road** for further information



West Lothian Ambulance staff honoured for 240 years of service

The staff and their families were joined by SAS Chief Executive Michael Dickson and Deputy Chief Executive Paul Bassett along with colleagues.

Four SAS staff were recognised for 30 years' service, six for 20 years' service and six also received Long Service and Good Conduct Medals.

Chief Executive Michael Dickson said: "These staff have been wonderful ambassadors for the Scottish Ambulance Service and their communities.

"Throughout their respective careers, countless lives will have been saved and they have responded to hundreds of thousands of incidents over their time."

Cathy Muldoon, Provost of West Lothian, said: "It was an honour to welcome colleagues from the Scottish Ambulance Service to the Civic Centre."

Recipients of Award

Julia Barnes – 30 years

Carole Black – 30 year and Long Service Good Conduct

Andrew Lambe – 20 years

Gail Topping - Long Service Good Conduct

Jane Muir - 20 years and Long Service Good Conduct

Ruth Anderson – 20 years

Catriona Seligman – 20 years

Deborah McGowan – 30 year and Long Service Good Conduct

Diane McQuade – 30 year and Long Service Good Conduct

Craig Steel – 20 years

Paul Coyle - 20 years and Long Service Good Conduct

THINK LOCAL, SHOP LOCAL THIS FESTIVE SEASON



West Lothian residents are being encouraged to think local and back their local businesses over the upcoming festive period.

Local shoppers are being asked to support small and independent business, such as those that can be found in West Lothian's traditional town centres of Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn and Uphall, Linlithgow and Whitburn.

Small Business Saturday takes place on Saturday 5 December 2026, the first Saturday in December.

Now in its 13th year in the UK the campaign has grown significantly year on year encouraging millions to shop small and have lasting impact on your local small businesses.

More details on how you can take part can be found at smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com

WORKING TOGETHER FOR NATURE

The Ecology & Biodiversity team works with others to realise the Local Biodiversity Action Plan - delivering projects that support wildlife, improving habitats and helping to create a greener, more nature-rich and resilient West Lothian.

Here are some of the latest highlights.

GROWING WEST LOTHIAN'S CLIMATE FOREST

West Lothian is set to benefit from a share of £1 million to support tree planting and woodland creation through the new Lothians Climate Forest initiative.

Working with Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, local communities and landowners, the programme will help expand tree cover where it is needed most, particularly in urban areas with limited access to green space.

More trees can improve biodiversity, air quality, wellbeing and resilience to climate change, while also creating better connections between woodlands for wildlife.

One project already underway is the Tree Equity Project in Craigshill, Livingston, led by Woodland Trust Scotland.

The project will identify opportunities for new trees and woodland, with residents invited to help shape plans through upcoming community engagement events.

PUTTING PEATLANDS ON THE MAP

This year, a detailed survey was carried out to identify where peatlands are located and assess their condition, helping to fill an important gap in our understanding of local habitats.

Healthy peatlands are valuable habitats for wildlife and play an important role in storing water and carbon and in tackling climate change.

The information gathered will help to inform West Lothian's Nature Network, and future river catchment planning. The survey may also help peatland owners access funding for peatland restoration projects.

Anyone interested in learning more can contact the Ecology & Biodiversity team at **ecology&biodiversity@westlothian.gov.uk**



ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND BIODIVERSITY MONTH

Connecting people with nature was a key focus throughout the year. We celebrated the contribution of local volunteers at a Nature Volunteer event at Beecraigs Country Park, while Country Park pop-up sessions gave the public opportunities to discover more about insects, grasslands and their importance to healthy ecosystems.

Schools also got involved, with curriculum activities and a poster competition helping raise awareness of swifts. Winning entries came from Armadale Academy, Blackridge Primary School and St Nicholas Primary School in Broxburn.

August saw the return of Biodiversity Month, with around 26 events covering Habitats, Species, Nature and Climate Resilience, and Citizen Science. From bat walks to the "Weed or Wildflower?" chalk walk, the programme offered a range of ways for people to discover and enjoy West Lothian's natural environment. Planning is already underway to build on this success next year.



CELEBRATING A YEAR OF SUCCESS

Over the past year, our graduate placement, Fiona, has made a fantastic contribution to the Ecology & Biodiversity team. During her time with us, she has supported important wildlife surveys for bats, badgers and great crested newts, updated the council's Developing with Nature guidance, and authored management plans for numerous WLC Local Biodiversity Sites.

She also created an attractive and informative leaflet, with simple tips and advice on creating a wildlife-friendly garden.

We would like to thank Fiona for all her hard work and wish her every success in her new role.

GET INVOLVED!

Biodiversity is all around us, and there is always something to discover, record, and learn from. Whether it's recording wildlife on your daily walk or joining a local conservation project, there are many ways to help protect and enhance West Lothian's natural environment.

To help people feel more connected to nature and their local area, we have created a new Nature Volunteering and Citizen Science webpage, which includes the Nature Meets Technology webinar explaining what citizen science is and how to get involved.

Places to visit in winter

Go for a walk around the reservoir in **Eliburn Park in Livingston**, note which birds can be seen, and test your Winter Tree ID using a handy guide by scanning the QR code or us an app such as iNaturalist.

Walk up a hill on a crisp, clear day, admire the awesome rocks and get an amazing view. Try out **ockleroy Hill near Linlithgow, Binny Craig near Broxburn and West Cairn Hill near Kirknewton in the Pentland Hills.** Scan the code to the left for information on more Local Geodiversity sites.

Teacher receives award for anti-racism work

A Bathgate Academy teacher has received a special award for his work to tackle discrimination.



French and Spanish teacher Arnault Kasa was presented with a Highly Commended award at the Herald Saroj Lal Award 2026, which celebrates the work of teachers who promote and facilitate a culture and ethos of equality and diversity.

A special assembly was held where staff, pupils and Mr Kasa's family saw him receive the award from Vineet Lal, award panellist and son of the trailblazing teacher, race relations campaigner and community activist Saroj Lal who the award is named after.

Throughout his teaching career, Mr Kasa has been driven by a commitment to ensuring every learner feels represented, respected and valued. His work helped embed anti-racist practice into everyday school life and encouraged meaningful conversations around identity, inclusion and representation.



Young leaders' success for Cedarbank pupils

Two young people from Cedarbank School in Livingston have been showing their skills at top national leadership programme.

Rhys and Brogan from the Livingston secondary school for children with additional support needs earned places in the prestigious Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) programme recently.

RYLA is a leadership adventure camp with young people building their communication skills and problem-solving abilities. There are opportunities to discover strategies for becoming dynamic leaders in school as well as learning from community learners, inspirational speakers, and peer mentors. Most importantly, there was lots of fun and an opportunity to form lasting friendships.

Both boys showed great resilience and confidence at interview and throughout the RYLA experience at Castle Douglas, with Rhys awarded the John Mair Award (the highest accolade at RYLA) for achieving the highest degree of personal development over the course of the programme by his peers.

New extension for **St. Kentigern's** celebrated

A special ceremony has been held to mark the official opening of the excellent new £35million extension for St Kentigern's Academy in Blackburn.



Pupils, staff and invited guests enjoyed music from talented St Kentigern's students during the moving event, which saw the Most Reverend Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh diocese which includes West Lothian, carry out a dedication and blessing of the new facility.

Former St Kentigern's pupil Gerry Bann was invited back to the school to carry out the official opening. Gerry has been a leading criminal defence lawyer for many years and is a founding partner of successful West Lothian-based legal firm, Adams Whyte.

Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick, who delivered the introductory remarks at the ceremony, said:

"It's been a remarkable job by all those involved to deliver such a major project in such a short space of time, so special thanks to everyone who has worked tirelessly on this project, as well as the St Kentigern's community for their understanding and support during this process."

"West Lothian Council has already paid £20 million towards the £35 million cost of this essential project, and we are still awaiting confirmation from the Scottish Government over their promise to pay the remaining funding gap of £15 million."

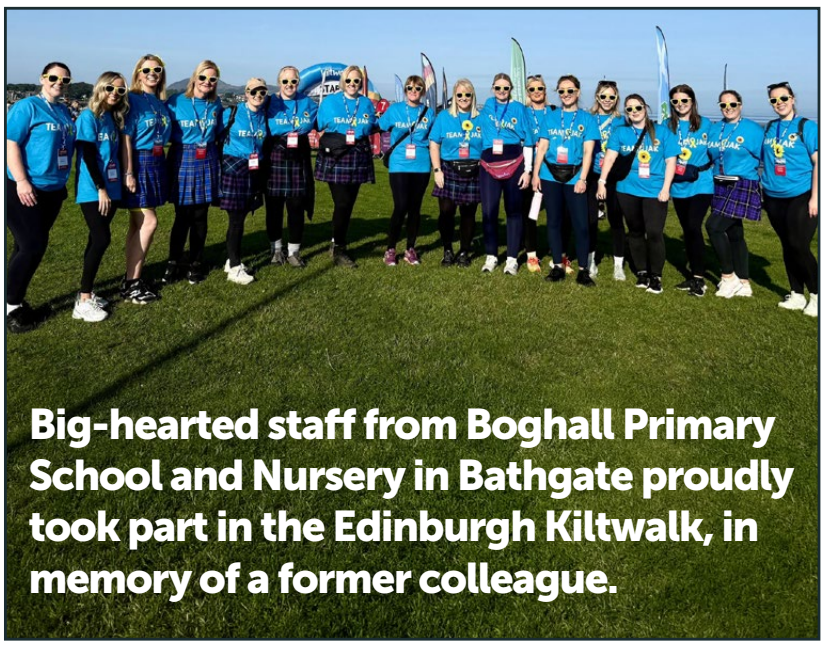
Headteacher Dr. Gerry Burns added:

"It's already delivering real educational benefits for our pupils, as we were able to host all our Qualification Scotland exams here for the first time in three years and we can now deliver the whole curriculum from within the school once more."

Over 60% of St Kentigern's had to be demolished due to issues with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

The new building has been funded by West Lothian Council, and features a reception area, spacious canteen and dining area, a four-court Games Hall, Dance Studio, Fitness Suite and a changing village.

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



Big-hearted staff from Boghall Primary School and Nursery in Bathgate proudly took part in the Edinburgh Kiltwalk, in memory of a former colleague.

The team raised an incredible £4,500 for Team Jak Foundation- Jak's Den the West Lothian-based children's cancer support charity that held a special place in the heart of former Boghall teacher, Lee Duffy (Buchanan).



The walk was completed in Lee's memory following her sad passing in October 2025. For 19 remarkable years, Lee dedicated her career to Boghall Primary, inspiring generations of children and colleagues through her passion, warmth and unwavering commitment to education.

She played a leading role in the school becoming West Lothian's first Rights Respecting School in 2009 and later championed the International Schools Award following her work in Malawi.

Above all, Lee will be remembered for the joy she brought to the school community, particularly in the Primary 1 classroom, where her laughter, kindness and love of singing brightened every day.

Staff walked to celebrate Lee's life, remember her lasting impact and raise funds for a charity close to her heart, with Allison, Jak's mum and the founder of Jak's Den, also a former Boghall Primary School teacher.

Make sure you have recycling all wrapped up this Christmas

Top tips to **recycle** more over the festive season



It's not bright to put old Christmas lights, used batteries or anything electrical in any of your bins



Never put anything with a battery, plug or cable in any of your bins and always recycle anything electrical separately from your household recycling. When electrical items such as vapes are binned, their hidden lithium batteries can be crushed in bin lorries and recycling centres lead to dangerous fires.

Many items, like vapes, can be taken back to retailers visit recycleyourelectricals.org.uk for details of where to dispose of them

Don't be foiled by shiny wrapping paper and card with glitter



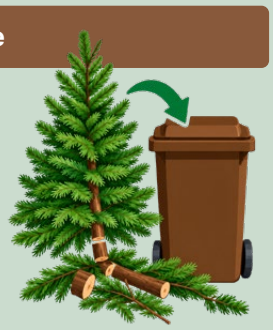
Foil wrapping paper and glitter cards can't be recycled, so please consider what you buy. If you receive any, please make sure they are disposed of in the grey bin only.

Make no bones about food waste



Leftover food including bones can go into your food waste bin. Please drain excess liquids as these can freeze in your bin if temperatures fall.

Go green with your tree



Real Christmas trees can be cut up and placed in your brown bin, as long as you have a garden waste permit. Please make sure your bin lid is closed, so our staff can safely collect it.

Fake trees can't be recycled but can be donated, with care homes often looking for good quality donations.

Box clever



Break down your cardboard boxes so they take up less space in your blue bins. Please remove as much plastic, such as sticky tape, from them as possible.

Tis the season to recycle glass



Glass can be completely recycled over and over again, which makes it one of the most important things to recycle. There are glass collections points in every community in West Lothian, please visit **www.westlothian.gov.uk/Glass-Recycling**

Don't let your waste and recycling snowball

Our five Community Recycling Centres can be busy over the festive season, so book your slot in advance at **www.westlothian.gov.uk/crcbooking** (QR code). Don't forget to cancel any slots you don't need as soon as possible, so other local residents can make good use of them.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER KEEP YOURSELF SAFE ON 5TH NOVEMBER

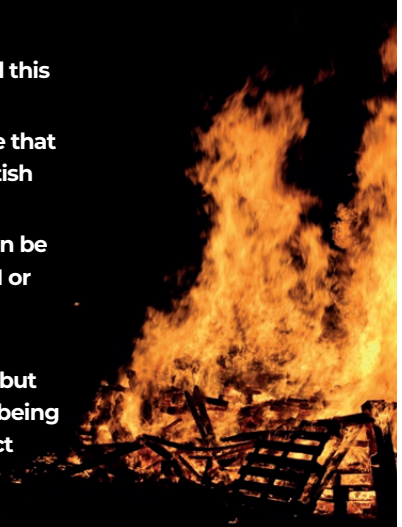
West Lothian Council

The West Lothian Community Safety Partnership is working to ensure that everyone can enjoy a safe bonfire period this November.

If you encounter an unregistered bonfire that is already alight please contact the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on 999.

Illegal or any other suspicious activity can be reported to Police Scotland by calling 101 or alternatively contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

On finding bonfires under construction but not yet lit or combustibles suspected of being used for bonfire purposes, please contact West Lothian Council on 01506 280000.



FOR MORE GUIDANCE ON SUBJECTS SUCH AS THE ILLEGAL SALE OF FIREWORKS AND MORE, PLEASE VISIT THE WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL WEBSITE: WWW.WESTLOTHIAN.GOV.UK/BONFIRE

West Lothian **Disability Access Panel**

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

West Lothian Access Panel works with Council partners, service providers, and local businesses to improve accessibility for people with physical disabilities and sensory impairments, with a particular focus on the built environment, transport, and streetscape

We are a group of volunteers including parents, carers and friends, who are committed to supporting those living with disability in whatever form – both physical and sensory including neurodiversity by:

- Providing a forum for discussion of issues of accessibility relevant to disabled people
- Informing and educating the public of disability access issues in association with the statutory, voluntary and other agencies
- Promoting equal access for disabled people to the built environment, information, facilities and services

The group meets every couple of months to consider various issues and decide on the focus of activities going forward. These may include advising on Council planning applications particularly for public spaces; transport and travel issues; accessing disability support services and any other matter brought to the attention of the group.

SO CAN YOU HELP?

Why don't you note interest and come along to see and hear what is happening locally.
You do not need any lived experience to join in and contribute to making the lives of your neighbours, family and friends better.

If you would like information about the next meeting, please email us: wlaccess@outlook.com

West Lothian
PROVOST'S Award

Congratulations to the amazing winners of the **Provost's Awards**.



Now in its second year, the Awards aim to recognise individuals and voluntary groups who have made an outstanding contribution to the community in West Lothian; who provide support to those most in need; and who deserve special acknowledgement for the impact they have had on the local area.

Over 280 nominations were received from members of the public. The winners were revealed at an event at Linlithgow Burgh Halls.

> **"Each of the finalists are so deserving of their award. They all do incredible work, and it has been my privilege to recognise their work and contribution to community life in West Lothian. They all do incredible work and it was an honour to meet them all and thank them on behalf of our community."**
>
> **Cathy Muldoon, Provost**

Significant Achievement Award



The 2026 Significant Achievement Award was awarded to Candice McKenzie and Endo Warriors West Lothian.

For more than nine years, Endo Warriors West Lothian, led by Candice, has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of a condition that is often misunderstood, underfunded, and overlooked despite its significant impact on people's lives.

What began as a much-needed support group has grown into a thriving community of more than 1,400 members, providing a safe space where individuals can access support, understanding, friendship, and information from others who truly understand the challenges of living with endometriosis.

Their fundraising efforts have also been remarkable, raising more than £40,000 for endometriosis research, helping to improve understanding of this complex condition and support the search for better treatments in the future.

The Provost Award



The overall 2026 Provost's Award was awarded to Candice McKenzie and Endo Warriors West Lothian, an individual and organisation that have transformed the lives of countless women and families affected by endometriosis.

Community impact Award



The Community Impact Award was awarded to Paddy and Lizette Bingham, from Livingston Rotary Club. Paddy and Lizette are two remarkable individuals whose dedication, generosity, and community spirit has made a lasting difference to countless lives across West Lothian.

Through their tireless volunteering and commitment to supporting local causes, Paddy and Lizette have become exceptional champions of community organisations, charities, and vulnerable groups throughout our area.

One of their most significant achievements has been leading the hugely successful Rudolph Project.

Community Wellbeing Award



This award aims to recognise the individual or group who made the greatest contribution to those who need the most support.

The 2026 Community Wellbeing Award was awarded to Hazel Orr, and Breast Friends and Family.

Breast Friends and Family has become a lifeline for people across West Lothian affected by breast cancer. The charity has grown from a small support group into an extraordinary organisation that reaches hundreds of people every year.

Entirely volunteer-led and funded through donations and fundraising events, Breast Friends and Family provides practical, emotional and wellbeing support to people at every stage of their breast cancer journey. Through their partnership with St John's Hospital, they deliver treatment support bags to patients facing surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Volunteer of the Year



This award recognises those who volunteer in their local community, either as an individual or as part of a wider group.

The 2026 Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Daniel MacIntyre and Carla McKay for their leadership of Elevate.

For several years, Daniel and Carla have been dedicated volunteers for Stoneyburn and Bents Future Vision Group, giving their time, energy, and enthusiasm to support a wide range of community activities. From Santa Parades and fun runs to community events and afternoon teas for the Young at Heart group, they have always been willing to step forward and help wherever needed. Their positive attitude and commitment have made them valued and respected members of the organisation.

Daniel and Carla are inspiring examples of what young people can achieve when they are given the opportunity to lead, contribute, and make a difference. Their passion for supporting others, their willingness to give back, and the positive impact they have had on so many lives is truly remarkable.

Community Group Award



The Community Group Award aims to recognise a group or organisation which has a positive role in the local community.

Lynne Jack and the Singergie Choir were awarded the Community Group Award.

Five years ago, as communities emerged from the isolation of lockdown, Lynne saw a need to reconnect people. Believing in the positive impact that singing can have on both physical and mental wellbeing, she founded Singergie, a free community choir in East Calder, with the simple aim of bringing people together through music.

Today, Lynne leads two thriving choirs in East Calder, with more than one hundred members attending each week, and has helped expand Singergie to eight choirs across Scotland.

What makes Singergie truly special is that it is open to everyone, regardless of age, background or musical ability, and remains completely free to attend.

"My daughter said, 'Why don't we foster? We love kids!"



How long have you been fostering?

13 and a half years. I became a foster carer when I was 55.

What did you do before becoming a foster carer?

I worked as a nurse, managed a community care project, ran crafts business with my sister and later worked in a pottery. My sister was a social worker and had done respite fostering, so fostering was something I had thought about for a long time. Then my daughter said, "Why don't we foster? We love kids!" It felt like the right time to take the step.

Tell us about your household right now?

I've cared for two siblings for many years. They're both adults now—one lives independently and the other is 18 and still lives with me. I also care for a five-year-old who has been with me for a few months now. I have done both permanent and shorter-term fostering, along with our two cats and dog!

In one word, how would you describe fostering?

Rewarding.

What does a typical day look like?

School runs, packed lunches, walking the dog, housework, activities and meetings. It's busy, but it's simply become part of family life.

What is fostering really like?

There are challenging days, but there are so many wonderful moments too—laughter, cuddles, little achievements and seeing a child grow in confidence. For me, it's about opening your home and your heart and helping a child feel safe, loved and that they belong.

What are the best parts of fostering?

Seeing children happy, settled and becoming more confident. Watching them grow and eventually become independent is incredibly special.

What are the hardest parts of fostering?

Sometimes children's past experiences can affect their behaviour in difficult ways. It takes patience, empathy and understanding to help them through it.

What about training and support?

I've had a lot of support from the team around me, including my supervising social worker, the children's social worker and other professionals. Knowing there is someone there when you need advice or support makes a huge difference.

Lots of training is also available, and I try to attend when I can. There is always something new to learn, and it helps me understand the children's needs and support them in the best way possible. There are also foster carer support groups where we can catch up for a coffee and blether.

You're not doing it all on your own, and that support really matters!

What qualities do foster carers need?

Patience, empathy and a big heart. You need to listen, understand and be willing to give your time and love.

What makes it all worth it?

Taking my girls to Disneyland is something I'll never forget. Seeing their faces light up and watching the excitement through their eyes was magical. It wasn't really about Disneyland—it was about giving them an experience, creating a happy memory and seeing them feel special. Those moments make everything worth it.

We are looking for more foster carers like Michelle 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**.



New supported housing for young people ready





A major new supported housing development for young people in Livingston is now complete and ready to welcome its first residents, providing high-quality accommodation and dedicated support for young people experiencing homelessness.

The purpose-built development at Almondvale Crescent has been delivered by West Lothian Council in partnership with Hub South East and Ogilvie Construction Ltd and represents an innovative approach to supporting vulnerable young people as they take their first steps towards independent living.

Designed for young people aged 16 to 25, the development provides 28 self-contained one-bedroom flats, giving residents the opportunity to live in their own home with the support of a dedicated team of tenancy support officers available on-site 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Sixteen of the flats have also been designed to provide flexibility for future use as mainstream housing, helping to meet future housing needs across West Lothian.

The development includes flexible office space for support staff and overnight accommodation, ensuring support is always available while allowing residents to enjoy privacy and independence in their own homes.

Residents will receive person-centred support tailored to their individual needs, helping them develop the skills, confidence and resilience required to sustain a tenancy and achieve positive outcomes.

This includes support with financial management, benefits, education, training and employment opportunities, housing and resettlement, access to health and wellbeing services, maintaining a safe and secure home and connecting with local community resources. Staff will also provide advocacy, mediation and referrals to specialist agencies where required.

Located close to West Lothian College and the Almondvale Centre, the development benefits from excellent transport links and access to education, training and employment opportunities, helping residents build positive futures within their local community.

New council homes delivered

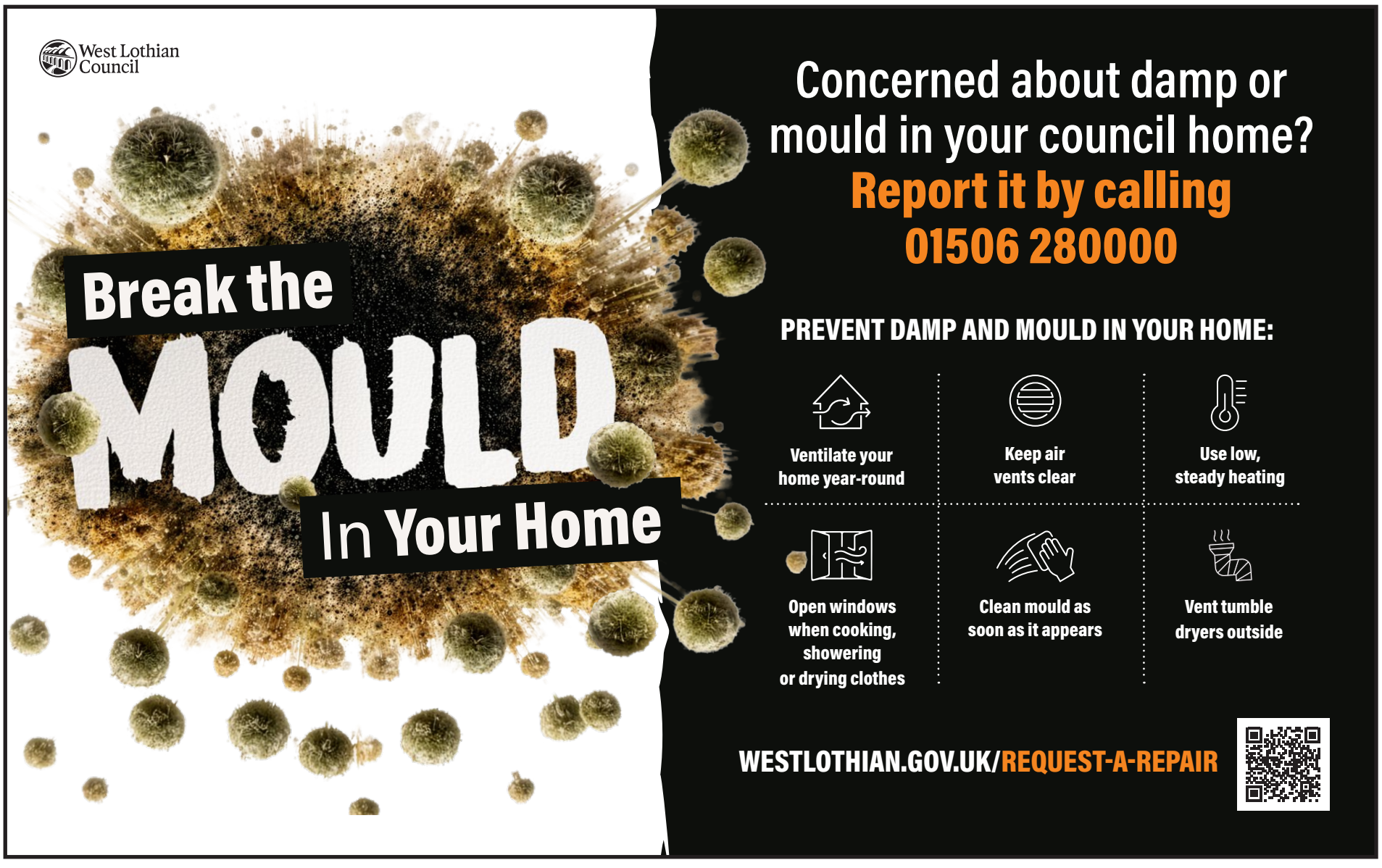
Alongside the supported housing provision, an additional 20 council homes, including a mix of two and three-bedroom family houses, has been delivered at the site.

The project utilised modern modular construction methods, with housing units manufactured off-site before being transported to Livingston for final assembly and completion.

Executive Councillor for Housing Services, Councillor George Paul, said:

"I am delighted to see this important development completed and ready to welcome its first residents.

"Almondvale Crescent represents an exciting new approach to supporting vulnerable young people and providing them with the best possible start to independent adult life."



Winter Ready 2026/27

Please plan ahead and be WinterReady

This special *Bulletin* supplement provides you with an overview of how West Lothian Council has prepared for winter.

West Lothian Council plans to have 30,000 tonnes of salt available for the winter period. This represents three times the amount that is needed for a 'normal' winter.

It is not possible for support to be provided everywhere at the same time. Please note our priority system routes, which can be found at **www.westlothian.gov.uk/winter**



Self-Help Salt Pick-Up Points for Winter 2026/27

- **Addiewell Loganlea**, Garage Site at Loganlea Place
- **Armadale**, Garage Site at McNeil Crescent
- **Bathgate**, Xcite Centre, Torphichen Road
- **Bathgate (Wester Inch),** Car Park adjacent to play area in Leyland Road
- **Blackburn**, Partnership Centre, Ash Grove
- **Blackridge**, Craig Inn Community Centre, Main Street
- **Bridgend**, Car Park at Community Centre
- **Broxburn**, Xcite Centre, Church Street
- **Craigshill**, Tower Public House Car Park, Adelaide Street, Livingston
- **East Calder**, Xcite Centre, Langton Road
- **Ecclesmachan**, Oatridge College Access Road
- **Eliburn**, Livingston North Train Station (South Car Park)
- **Fauldhouse**, Eastfield Road Car Park near the Bottle Banks
- **Greenrigg**, Polkemmet Drive Garage Site
- **Kirknewton**, Sports Pavilion
- **Linlithgow**, Xcite Centre, McGinley Way
- **Livingston Village**, Car Park at rear of Livingston Inn
- **Longridge**, Car Park at Playing Field, School Road
- **Murieston**, Livingston South Train Station Car Park
- **Newton**, Community Education Centre
- **Philpstoun**, Church Court opposite number 25
- **Polbeth**, Sports Pavilion Car Park, Chapelton Drive
- **Stoneyburn**, Health Centre Car Park, Main Street
- **Threemiletown**, Play Park Car Park, Ecclesmachan Road
- **Torphichen**, Community Centre, Bowyett
- **Uphall**, Community Centre Car Park, Strathbrock Place
- **Uphall Station / Pumpherston**, Train Station Car Park
- **West Calder,** Business Centre, Dickson Street
- **Westfield**, north end of Strathlogie
- **Whitburn**, Xcite Centre, Jubilee Road
- **Wilkieston**, Linburn Park
- **Winchburgh,** community centre**,** Craigton Place

Gritting

In the winter months, West Lothian Council has to treat over 1,000 km of roads and around 1,300 km of footways to combat the effects of bad weather.

We cannot treat every road or footpath, we just don't have the resources, so we must prioritise certain routes.

The Council's Winter Service Policy has classified specific roads and footpaths within West Lothian as either a Primary or Secondary gritting route.

You can view these routes on the council's website: **www.westlothian.gov.uk/winter** - then look under Gritting & Winter Maintenance.

Road & footpaths in 'extreme' weather

An extreme weather event will be considered to be an event where continuous snow is forecast and likely to give significant accumulations in excess of 10cm covering the whole of the north or south expanse within the council area.

The snow will also be expected to remain in untreated areas for a prolonged period due to low temperatures before a natural thaw disperses it.

During periods of extreme weather, treatment may be limited to primary carriageway routes and primary footpath routes or 'snow routes'.

Gritters and footpath resources will be deployed on these specified 'snow routes' continuously until satisfactory snow clearance has been achieved before resources are deployed to any secondary routes, to maintain access to key facilities and other transport needs.

Let's talk potholes

Repairing potholes is one of the most talked about council services.

West Lothian Council carries out numerous permanent and temporary pothole repairs each month. In addition, owners of private roads and car parks are responsible for carrying out their own repairs.

Why the weather is bad for roads

According to the RAC, the combination of heavy rain and freezing temperatures create a perfect recipe for potholes on the UK's roads.

Potholes form due to freeze/thaw action, hence there are always more potholes over the winter months.

Water will find its way into any cracks in the road surface. If this freeze, the ice formed will put pressure on the road surface, forcing the cracks open.

When the ice thaws, the gap left is a weak spot, which can become a pothole as traffic runs over the area.

Focus on repairs

David Maule, the council's Head of Operational Services said: "Our safety inspection programme is ongoing and we also respond to all reports of road defects. We would encourage people to use the web form on the council's website to report any potholes or other road defects.

"We fully appreciate that potholes are frustrating but they certainly aren't limited to West Lothian. The process of reporting potholes online has enabled residents to report potholes using a map within seconds and this has increased the number of enquires and reports. That way, the repairs get carried out more quickly."

How do we repair potholes?

David added: "Our primary concern with potholes is to ensure that the road network is safe and every defect is inspected and a risk assessment is carried out to determine the response time required for a repair.

"Once a pothole is reported to the council, the roads team normally attend within 24 hours to carry out an assessment.

"Defects assessed as presenting a critical risk will be infilled within 24 hours of inspection and those assessed as high risk (but not critical) will be infilled within 5 days. We will then return at a later date to undertake permanent repairs.

"Permanent repairs require more extensive traffic management or even temporary closures so interim repairs are helpful to both ourselves and the public as they ensure that roads are kept safe whilst the permanent repairs are scheduled.

"Defects assessed as presenting a lower risk have longer response times meaning there is an increased opportunity for the council to plan and execute first time permanent repairs".

Potholes and road defects can be reported by scanning the QR code or by visiting: www.westlothian.gov.uk/report

The Winter Ready plan is subject to Council Executive approval

Staff Dedicated to Grit Bins

The council has over 2,000 public grit bins across the authority area for the public to use on a self-help basis.



In recognition of the role grit bins provide in assisting communities during periods of winter weather, the council will employ four seasonal staff to replenish grit bins on an ongoing basis for winter 2026/27. In periods of severe weather public grit bins can be emptied on a daily basis and it is important to appreciate that the additional resource will not have capacity to meet this level of demand.

Salt conservation

In periods of extreme weather, it may be necessary to restrict the use of salt to 'snow routes' only. West Lothian Council reaches a minimum stock level when there is only enough salt for six continuous days.

Please note: Salt is less effective at minus six degrees and has minimal impact on ice and snow below minus 10 degrees. Heavy rain following a treatment of salt can wash the salt from the road meaning we often need to return to the beginning of the priority cycle before many secondary routes are reached. Unfortunately this familiar pattern can prevent any significant progress through the various priority levels.

Schools

Safety is a top priority for West Lothian Council and the decision to close a school or nursery to pupils is one which is not made lightly.

The Headteacher has responsibility for undertaking a risk assessment in the event of severe weather or building difficulties. There are several factors which may impact on this decision, which is made in consultation with an education manager.

West Lothian Council will provide as much notice as possible of any school closure so that you can make alternative arrangements for your children. We will contact you via Group Call, provide information to local radio stations, and update the council's website and social media channels. Many schools can also contact parents/carers by email.

Travelling to school

In extreme weather conditions, parents/carers should assess whether they consider it safe for their child to travel or walk to school, and alert the school of their decision at the earliest possible opportunity.

Please check that your child knows how to access the online education community GLOW, where pupils can access educational material online.

Waste collections

During the winter, please continue to present your bin as usual. Please ensure snow has been removed from the lid. The council will only suspend the household waste collection service in extreme situations, for example, where there is widespread heavy snow which makes it impossible for the bin lorries to enter residential areas.

If the service is suspended, updates will be provided via local press and the council's website and social media channels.

Protect your property from winter flooding



Winter flooding in Scotland is increasingly problematic due to more frequent and intense rainfall.

While public bodies like councils and SEPA play a proactive role in managing and mitigating flood risk, the primary responsibility for protecting individual properties lies with land and property owners.

This 'first rapid response' is a self-help exercise, where residents and business owners are expected to implement measures such as flood plans, resilience products (flood barriers, air vent covers, sump pumps), and signing up for SEPA's Floodline service for flood warning alerts.

Councils, under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, are responsible for preparing flood risk management plans and assessing bodies of water, but they are not required to prevent flooding of individual properties. Instead, they may provide assistance, such as sandbags or advice on watercourse management, where possible.

Landowners must also maintain their property's defences and manage watercourses to prevent flooding, while Scottish Water is responsible for addressing flooding from sewers.

By taking these proactive steps, individuals can reduce the risk and impact of flooding on their properties.

For more information on protecting yourself from flooding scan the QR codes below:

West Lothian Council

sepa

Scottish Water
Always serving Scotland

Scottish Flood Forum
supporting flood risk communities

Self help – what can you do?

There is no law preventing members of the public from clearing snow and ice from public roads and footways outside their properties and businesses. However, people should exercise care and caution when attempting to undertake any snow clearing so that they do not create any further hazards through careless or inconsiderate actions.

Being a good neighbour during severe winter weather is usually welcomed. Here is some government advice on clearing roads and footways yourself:

- Do not use hot water as this could freeze, increasing the risk of injury to persons.
- If shovelling snow consider where you are going to put it to avoid shifting the problem elsewhere, for example, avoid blocking other footways and drainage features such as gullies.
- It is easier to remove fresh snow before pedestrians have compressed the snow into compacted ice.
- Clear a line down the middle of the area to be cleared first to create a safer surface to work from.
- Spread some salt on the area cleared to prevent the formation of ice.
- If there is no salt available then a little sand or grit is a reasonable substitute. It will not have the same de-icing properties as salt but will improve grip underfoot.
- Salt applied to the road or footway could be washed away by rain or snow and subsequently freeze – in this case a further application of salt should be used soon after the rain has ceased and before temperatures approach freezing.

Park sensibly:

Abandoned cars hamper access for snowploughs and diggers, emergency vehicles, bin lorries and other road users.

Have your own stock of salt

Please purchase salt for use in your own garden and paths. Remember, grit bins aren't in place to provide all residents with a means of treating their own gardens and paths each day during periods of winter weather. They are for use on the public highway and public paths in an emergency. Salt is cheap to buy and can be purchased from a wide variety of retail outlets, so please keep your own stock for use in your own property.

XCITE CELEBRATES NATIONAL FITNESS DAY





Customers, staff and local school pupils got moving on 16th September as we celebrated National Fitness Day with a programme of free activities.

Organised by UkActive, National Fitness Day celebrates the positive impact physical activity can have on our health and wellbeing, and there were plenty of ways to get involved across Xcite venues. From fitness classes and gym-floor challenges to swimming, racquet sports and wellbeing activities, there were free activities for all ages and abilities.

P5 - P7 pupils from Linlithgow Bridge Primary School joined in with a HYROX Youngstars session at Xcite Linlithgow, taking on cardio and functional challenges designed to build confidence, teamwork and physical fitness.

The thirty P7 pupils went one step further, cycling to and from the venue with our Bikeability Coordinator, Nicola Fell - adding some active travel to an already energetic day!

National Fitness Day is a great reminder that getting active doesn't have to mean making a big lifestyle change. Whether it's trying a new class, cycling to school, going to the gym or walking a little more each day, every move counts.





GIVE GOOD BOOST A GO - FOR FREE

Want to move more, build strength and feel better in your body? Good Boost might be for you.

Good Boost is a gentle, water-based exercise programme that creates a personalised routine for you, delivered on a poolside tablet to guide you through each exercise. You can work at your own pace and ability, while the water helps reduce the impact on your joints.

Available at Xcite Bathgate, Xcite Linlithgow and Xcite Whitburn - just ask at reception to book your free taster or scan the QR code for more details.



BIG SKILLS START HERE

Swimming. Football. Golf. Gymnastics. There's plenty to discover with Xcite Academy Coaching.

We've opened new spaces across our coaching programmes, where children can learn new skills, build confidence, get active and make new friends - all with support from our experienced Xcite coaches.

Scan the QR code to explore Xcite Academy Coaching and book your space.



DISCOVER YOUR WELLNESS AGE

How well do you really know your health and fitness? Find out with a Technogym CheckUp appointment at Xcite Bathgate or Linlithgow.

This 60-minute assessment looks at areas including body composition, balance, strength and cardio to build an overall picture of your fitness - including calculating your Wellness Age.

You'll then get a personalised programme through the Technogym App to help you improve or maintain your Wellness Age and track your progress along the way. The CheckUp assessment is included in Xcite membership, or available on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Book your CheckUp appointment via the Xcite app.

Xcite IN YOUR POCKET

Classes, bookings, news and everything happening across Xcite - all in one place!

Download our new and improved Xcite app and make more of your membership.



www.westlothianleisure.com

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