

## **Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick – Update for Parent Council on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

- Parking query – I delivered a letter to residents in Bankton Wood/Wester Bankton confirming that our Roads section have painted road markings at entrance to Bankton Wood prohibiting parking, as it was being used as a drop off for school and obstruction to street with deliveries/waste collection occurred. Unfortunately, the school unfairly attracted some blame.
- Council engineers examining entrance at Murieston Road East/Bankton Lane with a view to ease queuing at pick up time.
- I attended Armed Forces Day on 5<sup>th</sup> October – delighted to see Williamston pick up a prize in recognition of their pandemic efforts.
- Council had introduced free school meals with effect from August 2021 – progressing to deliver P5 in January 2022 and P6/P7 from August 2022.
- Council officers have developed school roll forecasts for next decade. They are a starting point for house builders pursuing planning applications which will have an impact on education capacity. The paper considered at Education PDSP meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (item 11) includes scenarios based on projected house completions (can be viewed on council Coins system).
- Brown bins – changes being introduced from w/c 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Households will be provided with calendars.
- First Bus No 27 Service – Murieston – services being withdrawn by operator on 8<sup>th</sup> November due to driver shortage. Horsburgh No 9 continues with service
- Community Safety – Chief Superintendent John McKenzie (his wife Carol worked in office in Williamston in recent times) to retire. Replacement will be Chief Superintendent Catriona Paton.
- “Queens Green Canopy” Initiative – council have put forward Calderwood (Mid Calder) to be considered by Queens Green Canopy Board who will select Ancient Woodland sites in the UK. They are rare and special and critical for biodiversity. Calderwood is a fantastic walk for those who have yet not ventured.
- Linhouse Glen – this popular walkway now completely repaired – drainage and water logging sorted.
- Cable connection for electricity – Longhill Burn Wind Farm to Lizzie Brice substation - route Murieston Road/Murieston Valley/Bankton Lane/Murieston Road East/A71 to Lizzie Brice – will impact on 5 walking/cycling routes as well as drop off/pick up ... consultation with contractor ongoing.
- Women’s Safety – council further developing critical policy advice have to date received circa 3000 responses from community.
- Place Based Investment/Community Wealth Building – of the £1.3m available of capital funding delighted to advise Council Executive awarded:
  - Crofthead Centre £350,000 expansion which is carbon neutral build – popular and growing facility
  - West Lothian College - £547,000 – to build eco house training/educating centre
  - West Lothian Foodbank - £188,697 – market garden project which will benefit foodbank – college students’ placements and 1 job for a young person

- Ash Die Back – this fungus disease *Hymenoscyphus Fraxineus* is sweeping Britain – council Arborists are busy identifying at risk trees on near footpath/roadsides over 5 years at a cost of £5m – estimated 17000 trees to be felled in our county and many in Murieston