

Williamston PS Parent Council

Meeting Monday 17 March 2025

Report from Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Attended: Holocaust Memorial Day - Theme 'For A Better Future'
Shakespeare for Schools – The James Young High School/Inveralmond and Bathgate Academy pupils re-enacted 3 Acts from Macbeth – incredible
Meeting Twinning Partnership – Hochsauerlandkreis

Met Cabinet Secretary for Education at St Kentigern's Academy. WLC have spent £35m on reconstruction due to RAAC... seeking £15m from Scottish Government.

Met with Eddie Kenna, new Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Commander for West Lothian/Falkirk

Friday 7th March @ 10am Civic Centre Livingston – Day of Reflection/brief service, large public attendance at special commissioned art remembrance sculpt.

Lanthorn Centre – celebrating opening event Sunday 23 March 2025

Community Centres – Council clearly confirmed none will close and will continue to work with Management Committees to agree operational solutions. WLC cannot continue with arrangements where Management Committees retain all income – Council pays for heat/light/staff/repairs.

BUDGET

Council rents will increase by 3¹/₂% - approximately at £89 pw
Council Tax to increase by 8.95%, roughly averaging the norm in Scotland
Between 2007/08 – 2024/25 Scottish Councils allocate share of Westminster block grant fell by one quarter, which when aligned to 10 years Council Tax freezes has required £179 million in cuts. Immense pressure on social care/education/homelessness
National 20mph speed limit strategy in Appropriate Urban Areas, implementation in West Lothian will follow Transport Scotland's Guide.

EDUCATION

Our Primary Schools continue to excel. Improvements in our County's quintile for numeracy & literacy attainment are well above national levels.
Validated Self-Evaluation continues to prove its worth, done on 3-year cycle

NURSERIES

Education Executive on 4 March agreed to closure of 8 nurseries with exception of Glenvue.

ENVIRONMENT

Blue Tongue disease which affects hoofed animals increasing

Dog walkers be careful to avoid droppings. It is not zoonotic

Council closed all schools and public buildings on 25 January – red alert status

Our operational staff worked to clear over 600 trees country wide throughout Saturday and Sunday. Heart-breaking to see so many beautiful trees uprooted – root bases weakened by such heavy rain over many months.

West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP2) – out for consultation

West Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2035 – superbly crafted, a must read for teachers.