

21st November 2015

Response to West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) – Proposed Plan

Please find below a response to the consultation on the above on behalf of East Calder and District Community Council.

Infrastructure and Travel

The land allocated for potential development across West Lothian will if built upon result in a significant increase in the population to the area with commensurate increase in commuters and general movement of people across the region. While the LDP recognises this in principle the proposed measures lack detail and substance in addressing the issues of WL as a whole as well as East Calder and surrounding areas.

A71 Corridor

East Calder is already experiencing the impact of increased traffic from the Seven Well and Calderwood development using the A71 at peak times of the day which when added to the volume of traffic on the stretch of the A71 from Lizzie Brice to Wilkieston is causing considerable congestion. This congestion then breaks up to re-bunch again with additional congestion at the Hermiston and Newbridge round about. As a result of this this more and more traffic is using Clifton Hall Road as a 'rat run' to avoid joining congestion going into Edinburgh or as a short cut to Newbridge. This is what we experience now on a daily basis and while the left hand turn at Wilkieston and re phasing of traffic lights has been held up as a panacea to improve the situation current evidence suggests this is not the case. Mainly because the left hand turn will only hold about 3 cars which can't access it until about 50m from the junction. Also large vehicles have to straddle both lane to get around the corner. The proposed Wilkieston 'by pass' as part of ongoing planning permission will help the congestion at Wilkieston and just push it to Newbridge where the current situation will just be exacerbated.

A more comprehensive management of the A71 corridor is essential if it is to be able to manage along with complementary public transport along the lines of the following:

- Improved rail service to Kirknewton train station – while the increase in parking spaces planned is welcome without a better service and improved rolling stock the station is likely to be underused
- More car park spaces at Uphall Station – this station is currently beyond capacity and needs to be addressed
- Closing Clifton Hall Road to through traffic
- Improved bus service – more regular and reliable bus service
- Resurfacing of and street lights on A71 at Edinburgh end. The surface from Dalmahoy onwards is awful and the lack of lights make this section of the road unsafe at night for cars and deadly for cyclists.
- Cycle lane/footpath along the A71 from East Calder to Hermiston

Housing Type to Support Changing Population

Section 5.76 of the LDP details the following:

West Lothian's population is one of the fastest growing in Scotland. Population growth has generally been concentrated in the older age groups with people aged 65 to 79 increasing by 8.5% and those over 80 increasing by 20% across the SESplan area. However, in West Lothian, the increase has been more substantial. 32.5% of the population is aged 65 to 79 and an almost 31% increase in the population aged 80+. An ageing population will have implications for health and social care provision. There may also be significant challenges for the housing sector as demand for types of houses change and lead to increased demand for supported living and sheltered housing.

From our experience of development thus far in our community at Seven Wells and Calderwood the housing type and infrastructure makes no attempt to address the housing needs of an aging population. Additionally, detailed plans currently submitted by Cala and Persimmon for the Raw Holdings development show multi story, family homes being proposed across the whole site. Many people in the village have lived here all their lives and now in their older years would like to remain in the village and move to smaller more easily accessible homes thus freeing up larger family properties. It would therefore seem appropriate to ensure that all new developments in an around East Calder include provision of this type.

Protection of Formal and Informal Open Space (POLICY ENV 21) – East Calder Park

In the absence of a masterplan for the Raw Holdings area of East Calder, it is very difficult to respond specifically to potential changes to East Calder park and the immediate surrounding area with related improvements. However, we believe that the area known locally as 'The Muddies' and the areas within Raw Holdings West which are used recreationally, should be covered by the policy 'ENV 21'.

Correction of Errors/Clarification

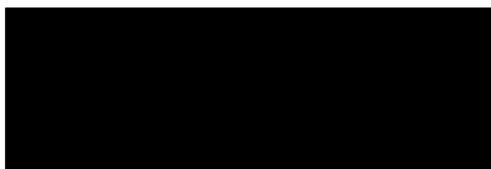
Raw Holdings House Numbers

There appears to be a discrepancy between the housing numbers stated for the Raw Holdings West area. The numbers, indicated on page 85 are correct, albeit, now out of date and therefore somewhat misleading. The numbers shown on page 181 do not appear to align to those on page 85 or any other combinations of approved applications we are aware of.

Mansefield Park Extension

Page 86 of the LDP details 'Park improvements at 'The Muddles' in association with Calderwood CDA. The extension of Mansefield park is mentioned again on page 124 with the area being referred to as 'The Muddies'. The correct term for this area of ground is '**The Muddies**' and should therefore be amended on page 86.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Herron (Chair), for and on behalf of East Calder and District Community Council