

WINTER 2017/18

WILL THE OLD COOP BAKERY BUILDING BE DEMOLISHED?



RECORD NUMBERS ENJOY FIREWORK EVENT



West Lothian Council have made it clear that demolition is the likely option if there is no appetite from the community to take it on in some form.

No buyer has been found for the building, which is an ongoing cost to an already cash-strapped Council.

The Co-operative is a major part of our West Calder & wider Five Sisters Communities heritage.

Many of us remember our - or indeed a relative's - "divi number" or someone who worked there.

The future of the Old Bakery Building has been raised again and again since

The Workspace closed its doors.

Now we need, as a Trust and as a community, to move towards a decision as to whether or not to try and redevelop it.

In the 2013-18 Community Action Plan Theme 5 (under Developing an Enterprising Community) identifies as a priority:

"A big new project to underpin the revival of the community 'Destination West Calder' and suggested we draw up a brief for an Urban Realm Study; approach a range of consultants and develop imaginative ideas and options for the use of our public buildings and outside spaces"

The Urban Realm Design Study produced in 2013 showed a project developing the Workspace/ Bakery as the second most important project, jointly with Improving Main Street, and following improvements to Union Square, according to community feedback. A range of potential uses were suggested by the community and were presented by the consultants for feedback.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO COMBINE A PROJECT AIMED AT MAKING WEST CALDER A DESTINATION AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE OLD BAKERY BUILDING?

In the Summer of 2017 The Council requested that the community give a formal but non-binding expression of interest by the end of 2017. This would allow the start of negotiations and take the building off the market. The Trust commissioned a physical building survey (condition and structure) and indicative costings for both improvement and demolition. In order that we knew what we were potentially dealing with. The results in a nutshell, it is structurally pretty good and capable of being converted to pretty much any use the community has so far suggested but it will cost up to £3million to turn into a good clean, dry and sound shell ready for redeveloping. Following on from this we have hired consultants Community Enterprise to conduct a community consultation and business feasibility study to see if any of the ideas are viable and whether there is enough community buy-in for such an ambitious project.

Please take the opportunity to share your opinions by completing the questionnaire at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WCBakery> or get in touch via rd1@westcalder.org

And please do. We want to hear all opinion – for and against. Paper copies of the survey are available at many locations in West Calder & Parkburn and from The Trust office on Union Square and all survey documents are available for download on www.westcalder.org.

So far, at time of writing, the response has been highly positive towards the idea of, at least further investigation but these have been primarily online responses and perhaps the paper surveys will bring the views of a different demographic to light. There have also been concerns raised including, for example, the sheer cost and risk of such a project, potential displacement (taking trade away from other businesses and venues), the management structure required and traffic and parking.

In order to keep our options open into 2018, the board of trustees has submitted this expression of interest on behalf of the community - which is a non-binding commitment - but effectively takes the property "off the market" while discussion and consultations continue.

There is a lot more opinion, and many more ideas, to be gathered over the next while and there will be public events and discussion groups as well as, yet more, consultations (including the full results of the current surveys). It is important to remember that this is just the first stages of a long process and no decisions have been taken and will not be without wide community engagement.

What is Community Asset Transfer?

Community Asset Transfer is where a community organisation makes a request to take control of an "asset", a building for example, that is owned by a public body, The Council for example. They may do so because the building is at risk, is lying undeveloped or just because the community believes they can offer a better service themselves.

The "asset" can be sold, sold at a discount, given for free or taken on a long term lease. There are many options depending on the nature of the "asset", the level of community benefit and the plans for the future of it.

This process is supported by the recent Community Empowerment Act introduced by The Scottish Government.

FIVE SISTERS SKATEPARK UPDATE

Plans are still on track to build a new skatepark between the new West Calder High School and Parkhead Primary in time for the new school opening in Summer 2018. A designer/contractor has been chosen and following a session for the public at The Trust Open Day, in September 2017, a design has been finalised. We have raised £93,000 to date and aim for another £40,000 with funding applications currently being prepared.

Asset Transfer
Under the
Community Empowerment
(Scotland) Act 2015
Community Enterprise



A YEAR IN BLOOM

What an amazing floral display we have had this year in the village and it is with thanks and credit to our amazing groups of volunteers. They along with Trust Staff have kept the village looking lovely through all the seasons. Our groups of hardy volunteers were out again throughout the autumn and early winter planting out the Winter bedding plants. They are now planted out in containers and hanging baskets and beds around the village and in Union Square.

With wish to thank our volunteers from: St. Mary's Primary, Parkhead Primary, Dickson Court, Polbath & West Calder Community Garden, The Guerrilla Gardeners, The Village Gardeners and of course Angela Costance who come along to help out!



CLEUCH BRAE

Cleuchbrae improvements are continuing with more vegetation clearing and the start of a loop footpath. We have been very busy throughout the autumn with our groups of amazing volunteers planting out daffodils and spring bulbs throughout both the village and on the brae. A special mention goes to Parkhead Primary's Parky Pals who were out recently on a very cold day doing their community planting with us. Also special thanks goes to Carillion, Network Rail and B&S staff for boosting to do their 'day to make a difference' with us. We got so much done and they really enjoyed being out of the office and out in the countryside for a day.



TRUST OPEN DAY

The Trust Open Day in Sept was aimed at letting people know what it is that The Trust does, and has been doing. We had a fantastic turnout but are aware that not everyone in our community knows who, what or why we are. We presented our history since incorporation as a timeline which you can see below. We hope it shows many things but importantly that The Trust was created out of an initiative of the Community Council to create a community controlled body that could negotiate for and receive windfarm funds on behalf of the community and to apply for more from elsewhere to deliver the aims of the Community Action Plan.

We hope it also shows that the funds from the windfarm didn't actually come on stream until summer last year which, after four years of building up, was when there was a bit of an explosion of activity. It confirms what we all know: you need time, people and some money to get stuff done!

The funding from windfarms is generous but not exhaustive. Funding has been raised from many other sources for specific projects – in fact it is the capacity to do this that is one of the most important things that the windfarm money has bought.

There is no huge pot of millions waiting for us to spend. There is a decent chunk we can use to seed projects and there is what we manage to raise. What we raise money for is ultimately up to the community and our trust members and the best way to let us know your opinion is just to tell us. Or become a member; everyone is welcome.

You are invited to do both. Contact us now thro the website or email us at cdt@westralder.org



Aspiring West Lothian

We were honored to be joined by our own MSP and Cabinet Secretary Angela Constance in October when she announced the launch of the Aspiring Communities Fund across Scotland. She also took time to help out with planting out some winter colour in Union Square.

The Trust has led a West Lothian wide consortium which successfully bid for nearly quarter of a million pounds to help particularly deprived areas by providing development workers to support communities in developing their own future plans. One of these workers will be employed by The Trust and will work in our sister community of Polbeth. Recruitment is currently underway.



The Christmas Fayre in The square

The annual Christmas Fayre in the Square was a huge success again this year with lots happening for all the family. Santa was in his grotto seeing the children, the Christmas Market had lots of handmade items and craft stalls, there were hot food vendors and local charitable and voluntary organisations with lots of interesting things to buy as Christmas gifts. A special thanks to all who came to sing carols on the day and to West Calder Brass Band for the live music. A very special light switch on was the climax of the event with thanks to Cathy Muldown who launched the new village Christmas lighting scheme and announced the top three prize winners for The Grand Christmas Raffle. New this year was the extremely popular Children's Santa Parade. Santa and his sleigh left from the Community Centre at 3pm, and led the Children in a parade down to Union Square following West Calder Brass Band's festive tunes. Over 150 adults and children joined the parade, wearing elf and Santa hats to keep warm. It was so popular that we plan to make this a regular feature in the events programme.



Fireworks

The Fireworks Event this year was a huge success for The Trust with record numbers attending. Up to 2500 this year from 300 last year. We had people travelling from across the whole of

West Lothian and further afield to West Calder. It was excellent event all round with music, new stalls, bar by Alchemy, the Candy Van and a hot food snack van. The novelty LED light up toys were a big favourite and we want to say a special thanks to all of you who chose to come and buy from the Trust Stall in the park on the night. The Event wouldn't have been possible without the support of over 30 volunteers setting up, stewarding and tidying up. Thank you all for your time and energy. What an amazing job you all did!



Do you remember the old West Calder Postal District before post codes? It encompassed Harburn, Pulbeth and Addiewell. We all know that it is more than just the people who actually live in West Calder who make up our wider Community. That is why we called our website The Five Sisters Communities.

So much goes on in and around our wider community and we are not always aware of all that is already there. The aim of The Five Sisters Communities Hub was to be a place where people could contribute their information and find out what was on and to help promote it

by sharing with family and friends. It's quite a job but we are getting there. Traffic is building but it's really there for the community to use. So please do. It is the communities' space so we want to give any community group, event, service or local business website and pages for free. So send us your news, events and information by going to the website and clicking "add your group or business". It's a quick easy form and we will help do the rest. Email us your stories & events. Don't forget to add images or posters too. Go to www.westcalder.org or email edt1@westcalder.org



OLD PHONE BOXES

The West Calder Youth Forum and WCHS Charity group have agreed to take over restoration of the two West Calder phone boxes adopted by the community. Early plans include another de-fib, an art gallery and a heritage map. I think we all agree they need smartening up and we look forward to supporting them in doing that early in the New Year.

Remembrance

A record number came together to remember those that have been affected by war on Remembrance Sunday this year at the refurbished War Memorial Garden. Thanks to all who gave their time and energy to make this event happen and to those who laid wreaths for the fallen. The charity donation lunch provided by Thistles Coffee Shop & Catering was held at West Calder Bowling Club after the event was also well attended with all donations going to Poppy Scotland.



COME ALONG TO WEST CALDER COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY MORNING BETWEEN 10:00 & 12:00 JUKEBOX GENERATION



Jukebox Generation

Vinyl does not slip! Music based social club for the silver generation. A six week pilot has been running on Tuesday evenings between 10:00 and 12:00 in West Calder Community Centre. Participants are invited to bring along their music and discuss their favourite song and reminiscing about former musical experiences from concerts to local dance halls there is a variety of musical based activities from Name That Tune, Quizzes to Bingo. PDP along!

FIRST AID

Back in November staff and volunteers from The Trust and The Community Garden hosted a two day course in activity first aid. This allows us to offer and organize more volunteer activities for local folks which help improve our local community. If you are interested in attending the next training session please contact us on info@westcalder.org.

PUBLIC ART PROJECT - ARTIST COMMISSIONED

The Trust, Polbeth Community Council and West Lothian Council are very pleased to announce that award winning artist Kate Ive has successfully won the contract to design and build an artwork which will sit beside the A71 between West Calder and Polbeth, by the entrance to the New West Calder High School. Kate Ive will come along to our Christmas Fayre on the 9th December to meet the community and get to know our village.

Kate said: "I am delighted to have been awarded this project and am looking forward to working with many different groups from the villages to develop art that will really say something meaningful and positive about your communities".

Kate Ive is an Edinburgh-based artist and works from her studio at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop. She has created a number of notable artworks, including for the Helensburgh Outdoor Museum, the City of Edinburgh Council's Promenade, Falkland Conservation Park in Fife and a number of sculpture commissions for Scottish Government campaigns. Kate is currently lead artist for the Art & Therapeutic Design Project 'Old to New' for the new hospital being built in Edinburgh.

There will also be artworks created for display in the new West Calder High School and possibly elsewhere. If you or your group are interested in being involved in one of the artist's community sessions please get in touch at cdt@westcalder.org and let us know.



UNION SQUARE LIGHTS

The new Union Square lights were installed in early December in time for the Christmas display. Thank you for your positive support in this and we hope this is the start of many more improvements to the village's open spaces.





Thank you for all your support over 2017
and we look forward to a productive 2018.

Wishing you all the best for the
festive period and New Year.

Allan MacLaughlan - Chair

WEST CALDER & HARBURN

2018
CALENDAR

**WEST CALDER & HARBURN 2018 CALENDAR
ON SALE NOW**

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West Calder &
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Community
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14 Union Square
West Calder
EH55 8EY

T: 01506 872931

E: cdt@westcalder.org

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The Trust Website

www.westcalder.org

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