

## **WLLP AGM minutes 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022**

### **Opening address/Apologies of absence**

Introduction from the admins;

Chair – Jason Wilcox

Secretary – Becky Gallagher

Treasurer – Carol Salem

Fundraiser specialist – Jim Allan/John Matthews

IT – Mark Reilly (unable to attend)

### **Minutes previous AGM**

Previous AGM minutes agreed. Constitution explained to members.

### **Chair report – Jason Wilcox**

Special thanks given to Mark Reilly who has recently resigned as admin for WLLP. He has given up his time to make WLLP a better place and he will be a big miss. We wish him luck in his house move and have no doubt he will be litter picking in pastures new before long. Our gratitude and thanks was also extended to every individual member and group for all of their hard work and dedication. In particular the Dedridge group who have gone above and beyond this last year. It was acknowledged that there has been litter picking groups established in East and mid Lothian. Our partnership with West Lothian council continues to grow. We are grateful for the many donations received over the last 12 months and it was an honour to receive the Jim Walker Memorial Award. Final thanks went to Kris McAlpine for his amazing short documentary on The Litter Pickers. This will be an invaluable tool in our mission to tackle litter and fly tipping.

### **Secretary report – Becky Gallagher**

Role of secretary is to co-ordinate quarterly meetings between WLC/WLLP. The agenda is made up of ideas/suggestions/questions/common themes gathered from Facebook posts and direct messages from our members and admins. At the end of each meeting, action points are agreed upon. This year saw a formal service level agreement between WLC/WLLP which John Mathew's worked hard to formalise. WLLP saw its first wildflower project on Alderstone road, Livingston, this summer. Many thanks to Marcus Hanratty for helping make this happen. WLLP have been working closely with councillors across all the parties to get everyone united in an attempt to tackle the issues surrounding litter/fly tipping. A meeting was set up with Fitzpatrick (leader of council) and Tom Conn

(environment councillor) in a bid to get a motion put forward within the council. After agreeing to this unfortunately both Fitzpatrick/Conn have ignored any correspondence since from WLLP. Hannah Bardell has agreed to try and take some of the issues direct to Parliament. There was a national consultation on litter and fly tipping, results were published in July. WLC informed us the findings were to support a fly tipping campaign, create a single UK database for fly tipping and support incremental fines. The strategy from this will be announced in November. Recent government correspondence has been predominately about urging the government to carry out enforcement. WLLP held a meeting with the Road Haulage Association; they were in agreement about the lack of facilities and agreed to some action points. Unfortunately correspondence from WLLP has since been ignored. Jenny Gilruth (Minister for transport) commented on the issues but offered nothing productive in an attempt to tackle any of the issues. Becky and Pavlo (group member) have also been attempting to tackle litter issues in and around St Margaret's Academy Livingston. The head teacher, Mrs Wright, has agreed to make some changes and be more proactive about the environment and community.

On a personal note Becky extended her thanks to all of our members and especially the admins who give up a lot of their time despite work and family commitments. Jim Allan has had a particularly busy year but despite this continues to amaze the group with his dedication and hard work. As a wee tribute we read out;

### An ode to Jim

There once was a man called Jim

Who couldn't bear to see West Lothian looking grim

Lucky for us, he passed a group pick

He's been hooked ever since and at the ready with his stick

When he's not picking up Tizer, dog muck or trash

He's trying to secure some much needed cash

He could give Del boy a run for his money

Full of charm and occasionally funny!!!

A big strong guy with a heart of gold

Stubborn, determined – never afraid to push beyond the threshold

West Lothian's a better place for knowing him

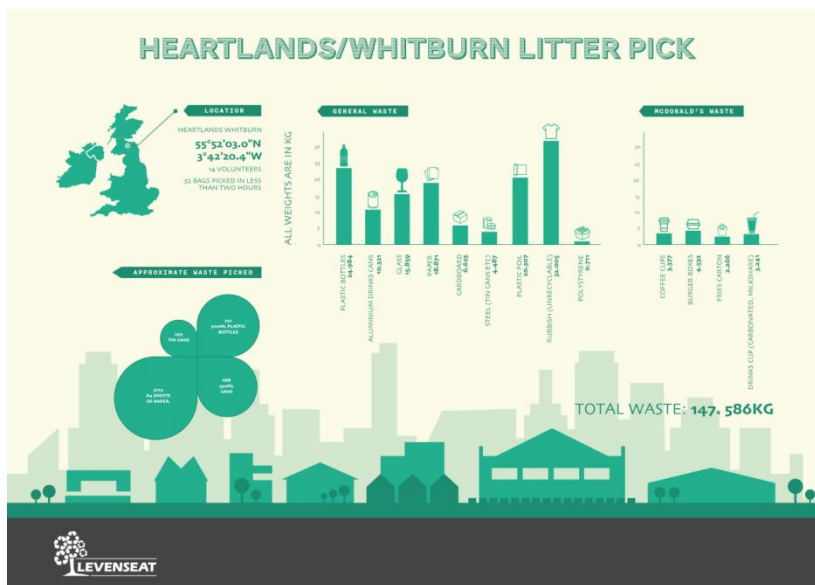
From the bottom of our hearts – thank you Jim

## Financial report -Carol Salem

Carol continues to keep immaculate records in her role as treasurer. WLLP books were independently audited this year, no discrepancies identified. Carol gave a talk about income and outgoings between 2021-2022. Financial records are available for anyone who wishes to see them.

## Fundraising report – Jim Allan/John Matthews

Jim went through a detailed account of all monetary donations, grants, fundraising events and equipment/items donated to WLLP. The fundraising report is available for anyone who wishes to have a look. Special thanks were given to Marcus Hanratty for his work in securing donations, equipment and items used in a raffle. Jim has also been busy working with staff and students at Inveralmond Community High School in an attempt to reduce the amount of litter particularly in the surrounding woods – Duke of Edinburgh awards have been a hot topic for litter picking. Pavlo (group member) successfully got Livingston Football club to finally engage with WLLP after previous attempts failed. Jim, Pavlo, Becky and Marcus are currently working in partnership with LFC to address the issues of litter in and around the club post-match day. John finished off by showing an interesting report produced by Levenseat following a litter pick at Heartlands/Whitburn. A total of 52 bags were collected in two hours and the contents analysed.



### **Election of committee**

As per clause 32 of the constitution all members of the management committee were asked to resign from office. They were subsequently all re-elected by their own wishes. There were no objections from member's attending the meeting. No other member's wished to stand on the management committee.

### **Acknowledgements**

Special thanks were given to Kris McAlpine who has recently produced an amazing short documentary called The Litter Pickers. The film was shown at the AGM. Heather McLaughlin (Keep Scotland Beautiful) agreed to share the video with schools across West Lothian. The video will be a huge benefit to WLLP. High Vis jackets embossed with WLLP were handed out to members who have shown outstanding efforts within the community;

Peter and Vicki West, David Wilson, Isabel Taggart, Kay Redmond and Sandra Meek.

### **Guest Speaker – Andy Johnston WLC (NET's, Land and countryside manager)**

Andy started off by thanking all of WLLP members for their continued hard work throughout West Lothian. He also had some key updates;

WLC to launch new fly tipping campaign soon 'Don't Waste West Lothian'. This will involve advertisement and working alongside rural Police Scotland. WLC have also purchased solar/mobile CCTV with 24 hour capability.

Lynn Yuill is leaving WLC so her job role will be advertised shortly – Strategy officer.

Additional Nets team due to finish in November but Andy has guaranteed that despite budget cuts he will keep the extra team going.

WLC asked WLLP to let them know where any new signage is to be placed due to a recent issue with signage in a play park.

Strike action – it is anticipated that approximately only 50% of the work force will be at work next week.

New compact sweepers due to be delivered this month.

45 old bins are available to be relocated since the arrival of the new smart bins. WLC is working with WLLP on locations – list should be finalised this month. QR codes to be placed on bins hopefully in 6-9 months.

Grass cutting – recent public consultation highlighted issues with state of roundabouts/road side verges/relaxed grass cutting. WLC to look in to all of this and weed management. WLC have been asked to provide WLLP with a grass cutting rota to avoid members having to pick up shredded litter.

### **Guest Speaker Heather McLaughlin (Keep Scotland Beautiful)**

Covid presented a challenging time for KSB due to working from home. Post covid they are working at reconnecting groups. There are now 90 community hubs in general, WLLP being one of them. KSB continues to focus on the impact of litter, the environment, climate crisis and impact on mental health. KSB like WLLP would like to see a clearer national campaign and message throughout not only education/schools but adults and looking at behavioural changes. A recent perception survey asked the question ‘who is responsible for litter’, they received a unanimous answer being every individual. They will support Zero Waste Scotland in their marine and litter strategy and fly tipping as well as looking at an online national hub. Ultimately though KSB need an injection of money to try out new ideas.

### **Audience questions to Andy Johnston**

Vaping devices are a huge litter problem, can the batteries be put in general waste bags? Yes.

Will NET’s team collect fly tipped tyres? Yes but tyres will not be accepted at recycling centres.

Grass cutting rota requested again – told will be available for next year.

Can road management clean up cones/signs etc after completion of a job? Advised they should do and the road manager is frequently reminded to do this.

Issue of slip roads brought up after failure to clean them for three years – advised it is due to covid then health and safety restrictions. WLC assured us they are close to resolving this and are still keen to work in partnership with WLLP.

Update on deposit launch scheme – due to be introduced in 2023 which will allow Scots to recycle hundreds of millions of cans and bottles every year. No one could comment on how successful the scheme had been at Lidl's.

Asked to clarify cost of WLC bulky items uplift – currently £35.