

How to Have Your Say in Blackburn...

People are often frustrated by the lack of influence they have over local decisions or about how they can have their say with regard to what's happening in their community. Much of this is because people are unaware of the different groups that either make decisions locally or seek to influence decision-makers elsewhere.

One of Community Action Blackburn's aims is to advise local people about the opportunities that exist in Blackburn to influence decisions. The following is a list of groups that seek to be involved in this process with contact details should you require more information, seek advice or become involved.

- **Blackburn Community Education Association** Is the membership of the Community Centre in Blackburn. They manage the Community Education Centre for the benefit of the community and members/user groups for social recreational and educational purposes. Individuals and groups can become members of this organisation which is governed by a Management Committee. For more information on what is available in the Community Centre or to contact the Management Committee please contact Ralph Bell on 01506 653014 or email ralph.bell@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Blackburn Community Council** is an independent body elected by the community whose purpose is to express the views of all residents in relation to the local and public authorities that cover Blackburn. It acts as a voice for local people and the committee has recently been elected so if you have specific concerns or a general interest in your community or would like to join the Community Council please contact the Chairperson, Alison Kerr at akerr1960@btinternet.com or by leaving your contact details with staff at the Library. The Community Council meet the first Wednesday of every month, 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.
- **Riddochhill Drive Tenants and Residents Association** is a small group that have been meeting for 11 years and deal with issues relating to housing and the environment by working closely with the Council and other partners. Membership area is No's 1 – 71 Riddochhill Drive, the group meets the first Monday of each month at Trindleyknowe. For further details please contact Alison Kerr at akerr1960@btinternet.com
- **Blackburn Family Centre's** work focuses on education, health and personal development and is targeted from babies to grannies. The family Centre is run by a Board of Trustees comprising local people and service users. For more information on this, or to raise issues in regards to how the family centre is run or could be improved please contact Valerie Strachan, Manager on 01506 653324 or email blackburnfamilycentre@googlegmail.com
- **Fun to Five Parents Committee** is a committee for parent of early years children in Blackburn. It is an over-arching parents committee which aims to encourage parent-led activity in the community as well as a group for services to work alongside in planning those services. For more information on this group, please contact Tansy Lee Moir on 01506 281104 or email tansy.moir@westlothian.gov.uk

- **Parent Councils/Parents Forums.** All parents of children at a school can participate in the Parents Forum and they select what parents represent them on the Parent Council. If you want more information on this, please contact Mary Hunt on 01506 281254 or email parentcouncils@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Pupil Councils.** All schools in West Lothian have pupil councils in which pupils are either nominated or elected onto, to represent the views and concerns of their peers with the school. For more information on this, please contact the headteacher within your or your child's school.
- **Primary 7 Community Action Group** is a group of Primary 7 class representatives, 2 from each of the three Primary Schools in Blackburn who meet quarterly to discuss organising next year's Primary 7 Conference to follow the success of the conference in February 2009. They are supported by Community Action Blackburn who liaise with relevant services to help address the issues identified by the young people.
- **West Lothian Youth Congress** is where young people from all over West Lothian come together to discuss issues affecting young people and to tell services what they would like to see happening for all young people in West Lothian. If you are interested in this contact Colin Wilkinson at Colin.Wilkinson@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506 776479.
- **West Lothian Citizen's Panel.** This panel of 2,700 members helps identify local people's views on a whole range of issues relating to life in West Lothian. If you joined this, you would have the opportunity to participate in various surveys and focus groups around particular issues. If you would like more information on the panel please contact Jackie Leeds on 01506 281086 or email: lackie.leeds@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Community Action- Blackburn** is a partnership group of local community representatives, services and organisations working within Blackburn who are aiming to "Change Attitudes to Alcohol". Key Priorities identified through extensive community consultations are the focus of the Steering group and co-investigative groups that have been formed with representations from all partners. For more information on this please contact Charlie Bryceland, Community Project Officer on 0141 572 6704 or email Charlie.Bryceland@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk
- **West Lothian Council.** Blackburn is part of the Whitburn and Blackburn multi member council ward in West Lothian. It has four local elected members who are:
 - Councillor Gordon Beurskens (Action to Save St. John's Hospital)
 - gordon.beurskens@westlothian.gov.uk
 - Councillor Jim Dickson (SNP)
 - Jim.dickson3@westlothian.gov.uk
 - Councillor George Paul (Labour)
 - George.paul@westlothian.gov.uk
 - Councillor Jim Swan (Labour)
 - jim.swan@westlothian.gov.uk

To contact them with any enquiries or concerns you may have, please use the above details or phone the council's general number on 01506 775000 and ask to get transferred to their office. They also form the Whitburn and Blackburn Local Area Committee which meets regularly to discuss ward issues.