



## TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

West Lothian Council supports the development of thriving local town centres in the five traditional towns of Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn & Uphall, Linlithgow and Whitburn. West Lothian's traditional town centres have, over recent years, felt the impact of economic change and changing shopping patterns. These changes also offer opportunities, and the Economic Development service works closely with Town Centre Management Groups, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), Local Trader and Business Associations, all of which bring together organisations, businesses and individuals with the collective aim of creating more vibrant, sustainable and prosperous communities in our traditional town centres.

There are well-established Town Centre Management Groups in Bathgate, Broxburn, Linlithgow and Whitburn. These groups co-ordinate or support social, cultural and economic events / activities within the town and also strive to promote the town as a good place to live, do business, shop, socialise and enjoy.

In Bathgate the Town Centre Management Group meets mostly every month and the following are all represented on it

- All four Local Councillors
- The Community Council
- Local Traders
- Bathgate Community Development Trust
- Bathgate Town Centre Manager

The committee is only advisory and has no decision-making power. It monitors the Town Centre Action Plan and Capital Investment Programme and can recommend projects and highlight problem issues. A Shop Front improvement scheme is also available to local traders. The committee is chaired by a councillor appointed by the council and that is currently Councillor Tony Pearson.

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) exist in Linlithgow and used to exist in Bathgate. BIDs are a geographically defined, business-led initiative where businesses agree to invest collectively to improve their trading environment within a fixed period of time (e.g. 5 year term).

Bathgate town centre was Scotland's first BID in 2008, and Linlithgow town centre (and Mill Road Industrial estate) became BIDs in 2014.

The Town Centre Manager is Nairn Pearson who advises and administers the Committee. His contact details

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