

DDCC MEETING MINUTES, 4th April 2022 (by Zoom)

Present: Jo Gillies, Helen McKay, Ailsa Carlisle, Duncan McAuslan, Gareth Derbyshire, Pippa Thomson, Robin McBride, Victoria North, Mark Hartree, Keith Burwell, Stuart Clark, Liz Junor

In attendance: Paul Johnston MLC (part).

Apologies: Constance Newbould, Catriona Umpleby, John McLean, Janice and Ian Milne, Alexis Moyer, Councillor Winchester,

1. Welcome from the new DDCC. JG is grateful for the additional members which provides a little resilience. The committee is open and keen to co-opt members if they're taking forward particular issues that are of common concern.

2. Ratification of minutes, February 2022, and update on actions not on agenda. PT proposed and RM seconded.

- There has been a change in our Police contacts so we will re-establish links with them
- JG has still to report the problems with the sequencing of traffic lights at Bush crossroads
- Litter pick weekend still to be arranged.
- Changes to the Constitution still to action.

3. Police Report

The full report is given in Appendix 1. The police officer has just newly taken up the post and he acknowledged that there may be some missing information. Thefts from the garage at the Snow Sports Centre seem to be high.

A resident described an accident on Seafield Road (12th Feb) which was attended by 5 fire engines and 7 police cars; the road was closed for 8 hours. There were no injuries so the emergency service input seems disproportionate.

4. Traffic, roads and pavements

The preferred route of the A701 relief road has still not been decided. Our position is still that we doubt the justification for the road in the first place. DDCC will continue to feed in. PJ has no recent information but will try to get an update on the preferred option/ timeline from planning colleagues and pass to JG for circulation. Residents have seen surveyors (in RPS vans) in the field next to the log pile but this might be for housing. There is still a view among residents that we should feed in our least worst option but JG explained that the CC could not agree on a single (least worst) option and in the meantime, CN has established a small working group from across DDCC and other experts. One resident doubts that we can make any difference at all and at the moment the best way forward is just to say "no". Another view is that the road is servicing housing so it should stick to the planned housing not going through green belt. JG says we're working with other communities to lend weight to our opinion.

Roads in general are a concern especially Old Pentland Road. PJ reported from a MTRAP meeting earlier that day. Capital works are still catching up from last year. DDCC could have input in Oct-Dec on the following year's work plan. The post of 'Access Officer' is still not filled which delays decisions to core paths for example.

Although community grit bins are often missing, grit has been applied (in response to actual conditions rather than the forecast).

PT reported that the A703 was swept so thanks to PJ who confirmed that pictures are powerful in raising issues and should be included where possible in our continuing efforts to improve the condition of our pavements and roads. The Burnside potholes have been filled in but the railing is still subsiding.

An additional gutter cleaning machine will be delivered in October (2022) so we hope there will be an improvement in DD gutters. A superfast pothole filling machine is being trialled.

5. Planning and Development

Very little change apart from the SnowSports Centre. Looks like the phasing has gone through but junction needs to be considered first because of implications for the 3-way junction even though it could be favourable for pedestrians trying to cross the A702.

A resident has heard that apparently the new school is to be built in the first field on right after Bush traffic lights (travelling from Edinburgh to Penicuik on A703) and first on left (towards Bilston) will be playing fields. It's not clear what the implications for/from the proposed A701 relief road would be.

6. AOB

- Litter pick – we should try to organise another date before grass growth starts again. **Action:** JG to agree with AH.
- Summer gathering will be on 4th June. Bird and bat boxes will be made either at the Summer Gathering and/or a separate event. **Action:** JH to consider dates.
- It is now 6 months into the 1 year allowed by the Scottish Government for Open Reach to complete the contract for high speed internet connection. RM hopes to get feedback on the programme for the next 6 months. Vouchers are valid for only 1 year - if Open Reach do not complete the vouchers revert to the householder.
- MH has complained formally about speeding, litter from lorries exiting from the site of agricultural improvement, and the muddy condition of the pavements on Old Pentland Road. David Hamilton called back promising action. Haig Hamilton has an obligation to pay 50% of the cost of repairs to Old Pentland Road once the works have been completed.
- JH is organising Damhead patchwork farm and is also looking for Climate Change Group; he'll be grateful for any volunteers.
- Information is sought on Old Pentland School from someone with links to previous headmaster – thanks for all feedback. **Action:** JG to follow up.

7. Date of next meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 6 June 2022 (by zoom).

In general, meetings will take place at 7.30 by zoom on the 1st Monday in every second month.

1 August 2022

3 October 2022

5 December 2022

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report

February 2022 to March 2022

Crimes & Incidents

- 02/02/22 – About 2010 hours, report of a theft of fuel from a garage on Biggar Road. Enquiry's are ongoing.
- 09/02/22 – Between the hours of 1am and 5am, 6x fake £20 notes were used to pay for goods from a garage in Biggar Road. Enquiry's are ongoing.
- 16/02/22 – About 1833 hours, report of a theft of fuel from a garage on Biggar Road. Enquiry's are ongoing.
- 18/02/22 – About 1600 hours, report of a theft of fuel from a garage on Biggar Road. Enquires have established a partial Registration of the vehicle involved.
- 20/02/22 – About 1330 hours, report of a vehicle allegedly overtaking a horse too closely on Old Pentland Road, Midlothian. Police attended with no offences detected.
- 17/03/22 - Report of a theft of fuel from a garage on Biggar Road. Enquiry's are ongoing.

Vehicle Collisions

- 12/02/22 – About 1328 hours, report of a 3 vehicle Road Traffic Collision on Seafield Moor Road. A 28 year old male has been charged with careless driving and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal. All 3 drivers and passengers were taken to ERI as a precaution however no serious injuries were reported.
- 18/02/22 – About 0700 hours, a vehicle has collided with metal barriers on the A702 near to the Ski Centre. Police attended and assisted with Traffic until vehicle was uplifted. No offences detected and no injuries.
- 18/02/22 – About 0845 hours, 2 Vehicle Road Traffic Collision on A702 near to Lothianburn house due to black ice on the road. Police attended and closed the road until vehicles were uplifted. BEAR Scotland attended prior to Road Re-Opening to Grit the road. No offences detected and no injuries.
- 19/02/22 – About 1330 hours, Report of a vehicle parked on the pavement on Old Pentland Road. Police attended later that evening and there was no trace of the vehicle.
- 23/03/2022 – About 0750 hours, report of Two vehicle RTC on the A702 near to Boghall Farm. Police attended to close the road until vehicles were uplifted. 1 person treated for minor injuries at the scene. A 51 year old male was charged with Dangerous driving and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Further Information

Hate crime and domestic abuse can now be reported online via the official Police Scotland website at www.scotland.police.uk or by visiting a Third Party Reporting Centre – details of which are also on our website.

Information regarding crime can be passed to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or through an Online Form - both of these routes are completely anonymous and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

If any person has any information about the incident(s) listed above or indeed any other issue please contact your Community Policing Officers PC Graham Black, PC Euan Lennox or PS Kris Burns.

E-mail : LothianScotBordersPenicuikCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Police Scotland use social media to circulate the latest news, events and information to the public via Twitter (@policescotland) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/policescotland).