

DDCC MEETING MINUTES, 1 AUGUST 2022 (by zoom)

Present: Constance Newbould, Helen McKay, Kate Holbrook, Jo Gillies, Stuart Clark, John McLean, Ailsa Carlisle, Victoria North, Julian Holbrook

In attendance: Cllr Pauline Winchester

Apologies: Duncan MacAuslan, Graeme Buchanan, Pippa Thomson

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Ratification of minutes, June 2022, and update on actions not on agenda.
The minutes were proposed by Constance Newbould and seconded by Ailsa Carlisle.

3. Police Report

Our contact officers are PC Julie Hand and PC Euan Lennox. The covering email summarised the last report for June to 28th July as a quiet period (see Appendix). We were alerted to a survey of local policing priorities. **ACTION:** JG to circulate survey.

4. Traffic, roads and pavements

- Constance Newbould had not been able to attend the last MTRAP meeting.
- A701 Relief Road

CN has spoken to Savills and RPS who say they will pass on the information DDCC provided on community prerequisites and identified needs in relation to the new road to the Planning Authorities.

Although the preferred option has been chosen, the detail of the exact route has not been decided. Furthermore, we have not been forwarded the report that included our comments about active travel and core paths. **ACTION:** CU to follow up re active travel report.

We have contacted Siobhan Kennedy seeking information about the timings of surveys and the species included in the environmental impact assessment of the relief road but no additional information was provided. **ACTION:** CN to follow up. Although Midlothian Council is facing major financial constraints (£36m deficit over next 5 years forecast), the A701 relief road will be funded by the City Deal.

It was noted that 85-90 m of hedging on the A703 has been grubbed out by Taylor Wimpey, possibly to create a clear line of sight for entrance to building site. CN contacted Taylor Wimpey but the relevant staff were on holiday.

There was a query as to whether/when the wood pile would be moving, possibly because Pentland Biomass's application to move south of Auchendinny has been approved. **[Post meeting note: Pentland BIOMASS have confirmed they have no plans to relocate the timber yard, as the preferred road route misses the yard].**

- Junction at Snowsports Centre. As far as we know there has not been any development at the junction to the site. A representative was invited to come to our meeting but was on leave. **ACTION:** JG to follow up with Montague-Evans.

5. Planning and Development

- 21/00148/DPP [Erection of 9 dwelling houses at Hillend] was declined by Midlothian. On appeal the application has been called in by the Scottish Government (and thus will be reviewed by the Reporter).

- 21/00338/DPP [ALDI at Junction of the A701 and Old Pentland Road] was approved despite the objection of 3 local Community Councils because of individual emails in support for Aldi sent to Councillors. This prompted a lot of resentment and concern about loss of Green Belt. PW explained that all the Councillors on the Planning Committee voted for ALDI's application and the roads team had no objection, despite Midlothian Council officials recommending that the application be declined. The default for the Councillors on the Planning Committee is to agree unless the objections are strong enough. The decision was justified by jobs and to give people a choice.
- Planning application for Beeslack replacement. Proposals will be described at events in September/October (dates to be notified in due course). It will be an ASN Centre of Excellence, and part of the Veterinary Clinic will relocate from Bush to the new site.

6. Community Climate Action Plan.

HM and JH commented on the tender for a consultant to generate the plan – the deadline for applications was 1 August, with interviews planned to take place w.b. 22 August. JH expressed concern that no-one has been appointed to develop Midlothian's climate emergency plan and asked if PW would raise it with the rest of the council, particularly given that action being taken by the Council will not meet current pledges. **ACTION:** PW will ask about appointment.

PW outlined some Midlothian's actions: more electric vehicles and passive housing. Uncertain whether the councillors have had any training, they seem to be depending on their own reading. **ACTION:** JH to draft letter to all Midlothian Councillors explaining DDCC's concerns about the inadequate actions in Midlothian to address climate change.

7. Community Superfast Broadband.

Some residents have sent JG information about actual broadband speeds. We expect that everyone should have superfast by one or other method by the end of 2022; Community Fibre Partnership currently expected to be rolled out July and remainder of R100 programme by September. Even where superfast broadband has been provided in theory, it seems unlikely that everyone is getting their 30 mbits. **ACTION:** All those who, in theory, already have superfast broadband should test their speeds – if this is under the 30mb commitment given by SG they should inform JG.

8. AOB.

- Joyce Learmount, Planning Officer at Midlothian Council, has retired. There is some uncertainty about who has taken over her role.
- The new junction at the Snow Sports Centre is expected to have a pelican crossing or pedestrian crossing at lights which should help pedestrians to cross the A702. We noted that the lights could create tailbacks to the 3-way junction making it even worse. PW says a roundabout is not possible at 3-way junction because of the different ground levels. **ACTION:** CN will try to find AMEY's 3-way junction options.
- Landfill/agricultural improvement appears to be near completion although there is no sign of the replacement pond that was supposed to be installed. **ACTION:** CN will check for any planning conditions relating to a pond.
- Next Federation meeting is 17th September – Constance attending.

9. Date of next meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 3 October 2022 (by zoom).

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

3 October 2022

5 December 2022

Appendix 1

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report

June & July (to 28th only) 2022

Information

PC Graham Black will be moving Posts to the Penicuik Community Policing Team. PC Julie Hand will be joining PC Euan Lennox in covering the Damhead and District area from August 2022.

Crimes & Incidents

On the 15th of June 2022, Police received a report of an off road motor cycle performing wheelies on Old Pentland Road, Damhead. Community Police officers attended the area with no trace of the vehicle.

About 0200 hours on the 10th of July 2022, Police Received a report of a male being abusive near to Esso Garage, Biggar Road. Police attended and observed a 27 year old male shouting and swearing at the nearby Service Station. The male was issued a Fixed Penalty Notice for a breach of the Peace and taken back to his home address.

Vehicle Collisions

In the 1st of June 2022, Police received a report of an RTC where an unknown vehicle had damaged fence posts on Old Pentland Road, Damhead. Police Enquiries are ongoing.

Around 1745 hours on the 24th of July 2022, Police received a report of a 3 Car RTC on the A702, near to the Ski Slope entrance. Police attended and assisted with vehicle recovery. There were no injuries and no crimes or offences were detected.

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 Julie Hand, 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).