

## DDCC MEETING, 7 FEBRUARY 2022 (by zoom)

### 1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Jo Gillies, Duncan Anderson, Helen McKay, Pippa Thomson, Catriona Umpleby, Graeme Buchanan, Steve North, Ailsa Carlisle, Duncan McAuslan, Elsie Wood, Liz Junor.

In attendance: Pauline Winchester

Apologies: Constance Newbould, Ian and Janice Milne, Gill and Gordon Gray, Paul Johnston.

### 2 Ratification of minutes, 6 December 2021

Minutes proposed by Catriona Umpleby, ratified by Duncan McAuslan.

Actions:

- JG mentioned residents' concerns about the rash of local break ins, theft of bicycle etc. to the police. Police were not able to pursue the youths because of lack of evidence. Residents are advised to remain vigilant and report any incident.
- The 3-way junction will not be changed directly by the Ski Slope developments but lights at the Ski Slope access will influence traffic at the 3-way junction.
- BT OpenReach were contacted and DDCC representatives will speak to them on Friday about extending fibre to additional areas of the community.
- CU had a phone call with the consultant who was compiling data on Old Pentland Road traffic incidents (not Damhead as a whole). These had been badly under estimated so CU provided as much additional information as she had. We noted that data should be available in all DDCC minutes.  
**ACTION:** PW to check if the report can be circulated.
- Contact details at Edinburgh University had been sent to CN to follow up on their position re the proposed A701 Relief Road.
- **ACTION carried forward.** CU to follow up on road survey methodology and provide RPS contacts to CN.
- **ACTION carried forward.** JuH to provide list of topics and questions to be explored re the proposed A701 Relief Road to JG to circulate widely.
- The SYSTRA map was circulated with instructions on how to add local information, and submitted by the deadline.  
**ACTION** CU will find out if there has been progress.
- CN objected on our behalf to the proposed Aldi development because of Green Belt designation.
- Housing quota – Cllr Winchester reported back that as far as she is aware there will be no additions over and above the current quotas.  
**ACTION** PW to confirm.
- Gritbins. **ACTION carried forward** CN to ask the Council for gritbins particularly on the Burnside.
- Road damage along Burnside: CN had contacted Derek Oliver who is supposed to send out an engineer. Saty Kaur is Derek's business manager and therefore potentially a useful alternative contact.

3. **Police Report** was circulated in advance (see Annex 1).
  - Community contact. Graham Black will cover Damhead in the future, plus AN Other still to be confirmed.
  - **ACTION** JG will pass on a resident's information about vehicle debris on the pavement between Secret Herb Gardens and Tarmac on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.
  
4. **Traffic, Roads and Pavements: Realignment of A701 / new road proposals**
  - We had expected to hear about priority options by end of 2021 but so far nothing further.
  - RPS seem to have answered some questions that we submitted during the consultation webinar.
  - However, we have no evidence that consultants have been back to owners affected by the various options. It was noted that same company is responsible for the consultation on Active Travel.
  - The bus stop at Tigh na Geat has been bumped so the Perspex is broken and a danger to pedestrians **ACTION:** JG will follow up.
  - Flooding on Old Pentland Road recently has been significant.
  - New signage at Erraid Cottage. No-one had any background information or could provide a justification for the signs. Co-ordination should come via MTRAP.
  - Chevrons at Seafield Mill have been obscured by overgrown bushes and in recent gales there has been dangerous debris on the roads. We should phone the council contact centre asap using WHAT 3 WORDS to pinpoint the problem(s) which helps the council to respond. [Note post meeting: the contact centre tel no is 0131 663 7211].
  - Sequencing of lights at Bush crossroads is slightly out which often results in near misses. **ACTION:** JG to report.
  
5. **Planning and Development.** List of current applications in annex 2, plus the following:
  - University of Edinburgh Long Term Forest Plan, deadline 4 February 2022. Contact is Stuart Tooley. HM had responded noting support for widening and long-term retention of the shelterbelts within DDCC that were covered by the plan. For further details go to <https://www.ed.ac.uk/local/campus-development-and-consultations/consultation-long-term-forest-plan>  
**ACTION:** HM to revisit plan to check any woods on the Pentland side of the A702.
  - National Planning Framework 4 consultation (including allocation of 8,050 houses for Midlothian), Scottish Government deadline 31 March 2022. For details go to [www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/get-involved/](http://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/get-involved/) . On-line events planned through Feb and March  
**ACTION:** anyone with comments that we wish to feed in to pass them through to JG.
  - New Pentland proposal has been submitted. We noted the other supermarkets in the vicinity, e.g. LIDL at Straiton. ALDI at Hermiston Gait and

Oxgangs and queried whether there would be sufficient demand for a further ALDI at New Pentland.

- Phase 3 of Taylor Wimpy is waiting formal agreement
- Calderstone developments are on hold because sale to a hotelier is under discussion.

## 6. **Community events and activities**

- Litter pick. We agreed that it would be useful to have a litter pick before the grass begins to grow again but that rather than have an organised event anyone who wished would do it at their convenience but to fit in with an organised Council pick-up of the collected rubbish. **ACTION** JG to contact Anna Henly.
- There was general support for a Get Together Lunch (potential date and venue of Pentland House to be agreed). This could possibly be combined with building the bird and bat boxes.

## 7. **AOB**

- Amendments to the DDCC Constitution to encompass online meetings, and to make BACS payments **ACTION:** JG to circulate proposals with the minutes for formal agreement at the AGM.
- Preparation for DDCC AGM and elections in April 2022 when we will need to elect officials to DDCC as well as office bearers. **ACTION:** ALL any suggestions for speakers to be sent to CN and/or JG.  
**ACTION:** JG will send round details for people to consider putting themselves forward for nomination.
- Small Grants Fund application update: HM had submitted the application which had 4 parts: £90 for running costs; £180 for active travel (if possible speed warning signs); £565 for trees and shrubs under the Natural Environment priority; and £560 for bird and bat boxes under the Community driven citizen science heading. Thanks to JuH for supplying costs for trees and boxes.
- Midlothian Active Travel Strategy. **ACTION:** HM and CU will represent DDCC at a video consultation on Thursday
- Secret Herb Garden has come up for sale.
- Council tax will be decided on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- The site of the new secondary school is not in the public domain yet.

## 8. **Date of next meeting and AGM (including elections): 7.30pm, Monday 4 April 2022 (by zoom).**

In general, meetings will take place at 7.30 by zoom on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in every second month:

6 June 2022

1 August 2022

3 October 2022

5 December 2022

## **Annex 1 Police Report**

### **Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report**

#### **December 2021 and January 2022**

#### **Crimes & Incidents**

- Around 6.35pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December a report was received of a theft of fuel from a garage on Biggar Road. Enquiries are ongoing.
- Around 3.35pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December a report was received of a tree having fallen onto the roadway at a bend on the A703, blocking one side of the carriageway. Officers attended and moved part of the tree so that it was no longer causing an obstruction. Midlothian Council were contacted to remove the rest of the tree and to review further trees that appeared to be ready to fall.
- Around 3.30pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December a report was received of a male having fallen on the slopes at Hillend Ski Centre. Ambulance attended and conveyed the male to the Hospital.
- Around 7.15am on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 a report was received of a maroon vehicle being driven erratically on Biggar Road travelling in the direction of Penicuik. Officers attended and carried out a search, however were unable to trace the vehicle.
- About 10.50pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 a report was received of a vehicle having been abandoned at the exit to Hillend Ski Centre causing an obstruction. Midlothian Council were contacted to attend.
- Between 9am and 11pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022 a black Kawasaki 300 cc quadbike was stolen from the rear of a shed at a property at Pentland Road. A similar bike was observed being ridden near to Asda in the early evening of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January. The stolen bike was later recovered in the Midlothian area. Enquiries are ongoing.
- About 8pm on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January whilst carrying out patrols, officers observed two vehicles parked in the vicinity of Hillend Ski Centre, which they noted had a smell of cannabis emanating from both of them. The three occupants were searched and herbal cannabis recovered. Two males were subsequently issued with Recorded Police Warnings and a female will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
- Around 5.10pm on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January a report was received of a theft of fuel from a garage on Biggar Road. Enquiries are ongoing.
- Around 1am on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February a report was received regarding a male walking on the roadway at the A702 in the Hillend area and concerns for his safety in case he was struck by a vehicle. Officers attended and traced the male who was found to be wanted on warrant. The male was subsequently arrested.

#### **Vehicle Collisions**

- Around 2.10pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December a Road Traffic Collision took place on Biggar Road in the vicinity of Hillend Ski Centre involving two cars. The drivers exchanged details, no injuries were sustained and no offences were detected.
- Around midday on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December whilst travelling along the A702 a driver of a vehicle struck what they believed to be a small animal. On the driver returning to the location the animal was no longer present. No damage was caused to the vehicle.
- Around 7.50pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December a report was received of a motorbike having been abandoned at the junction of the A703 and A702. Enquiries revealed that the rider of the bike had slid whilst travelling around a bend and was waiting to be recovered.
- Around 5.30pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022 a Road Traffic Collision took place in the vicinity of the service station at Biggar Road involving two cars. Officers attended, no injuries were sustained and no offences were detected.

- Around 6.30pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January a report was received of a vehicle having broken down on the A703 after running out of fuel. Officers attended and assisted the driver, who was able to continue with their journey.
- Around 7.50am on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January the driver of a silver Ford Transit reported going into a ditch after having to swerve to avoid an overtaking vehicle travelling towards them on the A702 between Hillend and Boghall, which subsequently failed to stop. Officers attended to assist no injuries were sustained. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the driver of the other vehicle.
- Around 2.30pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January a Road Traffic Collision took place on Biggar Road in the vicinity of Hillend Ski Centre involving two cars, where one car collided with the rear of another. The drivers exchanged details, no injuries were sustained and no offences were detected.

### **Community Officer Engagement**

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022, a hare coursing day of action was carried out across Midlothian as part of the National Wildlife Crime Prevention Strategy and SPARC Rural Crime Strategy by the Wildlife and Environmental Crime Officer and Community Officers in marked vehicles and Police quad bikes.

High visibility patrols were conducted across identified hot spot areas previously targeted by person's hare coursing.

Engagement was carried out with a number of farmers and land owners, who were also provided with crime prevention advice regarding their farm vehicles following an increase in acquisitive crime and theft of quad bikes.

Officers also engaged with dog owners making them aware of the Dog (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021 and what the changes mean, including the animals now included and possible penalties.

The Day of action was well received by all those engaged with. Further days of action are planned.

[#OpGalileo](#)

### **Winter Water Safety Event**

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February Police will be at several locations in Midlothian, as detailed below with Scottish Water, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, and Pentland Hills Regional Park Rangers.

Come along and find out more about Winter Water Safety, where the team will also be able to provide information and advice on a number of other topics including camp fires, changes to The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021, littering, Anti-social behaviour and discuss other questions you may have.

Flotterstone Car park - 10am to 12midday

Gladhouse Reservoir – 1pm to 3pm

### **Further Information**

Hate crime and domestic abuse can now be reported online via the official Police Scotland website at [www.scotland.police.uk](http://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 or PS Kris burns.**

**E-mail : [LothianScotBordersPenicuikCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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).**

## Annex 2 Planning and Development Current Applications

- A701 Relief Road 21/00516/SCO | EIA Scoping Opinion for road construction | Land between A720 Straiton and Easter Howgate Penicuik <https://planning-applications.midlothian.gov.uk/OnlinePlanning/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=QUJBUCKV08B00> Confirmed on 22 September 2021 that EIA should cover wide range of factors.
- West Straiton Mixed Use Development 20/00803/PAC <https://planning-applications.midlothian.gov.uk/OnlinePlanning/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=QJXZKEKV08B00> Pre-application consultation agreed 7 January 2021. Followed by 21/00220/SCR | EIA screening opinion for mixed use development comprising residential, retail, business and employment uses | Site Ec3: West Straiton Loanhead. Screening/scoping issued Fri 04 Jun 2021. 21/00831/SCO | EIA Scoping Opinion for mixed use development comprising residential, retail, business and employment uses | Site Ec3: West Straiton Loanhead Application received Thu 07 Oct 2021. This notifies the Council of proposed work or development not needing its permission. The Council will not be approving or refusing the proposal, so comments are not invited. Specialist interest bodies have been invited to comment, but as of 1 November only 1 had responded therefore extension to consultation deadline extended until 25 November (scoping responses do not go into the public domain). Confirmed EIA covering range of factors required for this proposed development.
- New Pentland Development. Pre-application Consultation agreed Tue 09 Feb 2021. [21/00958/PPP | Proposed mixed-use development comprising Class 2 \(professional services\), Class 8 \(residential institutions\), Class 9 \(residential\), Class 10 \(non-residential institutions\), Sui Generis \(retirement flats\) and assoc](#) Following some initial consultation for the New Pentland Development at the Land at the Junction of The A701 and Pentland Road Old Pentland Edinburgh, the planning application was submitted on 26 November 2021. The deadline for comments was 22 December 2021 and determination deadline for the council to approve or reject proposals is 26 March 2022.
- ALDI Development <https://aldiconsultation.co.uk/straiton/> . 21/00338/DPP <https://planning-applications.midlothian.gov.uk/OnlinePlanning/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=QS99TCKVMJG00&activeTab=summary> | Erection of foodstore (class 1); formation of access roads and car parking and associated works | Land At Junction of The A701 and Pentland Road Old Pentland Edinburgh. Determination deadline Wed 30 Jun 2021  
Transport Assessment addendum submitted end of September, therefore extension to the determination timescales until 26 Nov 2021 to allow for consultation, consideration and reporting on this issue. Midlothian Council are continuing to assess the application, but have raised concerns with Avison Young in relation to the principles of the application, namely that neither the proposed use of the site nor location of the development appears to conform with planning policy.
- Snowsports Centre development Proposals now submitted for 21/00536/MSC [Application for planning permission in principle for redevelopment of existing snowsports centre to include additional leisure facilities, tourist accommodation, hotel, function suite, ancillary retail and restaurant, formation of access road and car](#)

[parking \(approval of matters specified in Condition 3 of Planning Permission 19/01018/PPP - phasing of development\)](#)  Standard consultation ends 3 August, with internal target decision date 28 October 2021. Follows on from Snowsports Centre development 19/01018/PPP, which was granted with conditions on 4 February 2021. Includes traffic lights at junction to A702, but no measures to reduce impact on, or improve safety of triple junction. Decision on phasing not yet taken - determination deadline Thu 28 Oct 2021. Hotel not now being considered at this point. Proposed that the bus stop at the bottom of the hill will be relocated to the existing layby stop off the bypass roundabout at Craigdon when the works start until junction work completed and the access road is opened. Montagu Evans, on behalf of Destination Hillend, have requested DDCC engagement to discuss access road and related A702 improvements.

- Potential housing north of Seafield Road – 19/01039/PPP – awaiting decision (was supposed to be determined April 2020, but delayed due to views submitted by SEPA). <https://planning-applications.midlothian.gov.uk/OnlinePlanning/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=Q2QGOVKVKT00> SEPA now content provided there is no change that allows drainage water to move out of the site, in which case they will reinstate their objection.
- Calderstones Hotel 20/00441/MS 20/00466/MS Demolition of existing dwelling house, erection of hotel, erection of replacement house plot, formation of three self-catering units, formation of access roads, car parking and associated works (approval of matters specified in condition 5 of planning permission 18/00628/S42 relating to the siting, design and layout of the proposed replacement house (Phase 1) | Land At Calderstone Biggar Road Edinburgh. <https://planning-applications.midlothian.gov.uk/OnlinePlanning/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage> Decision granted 2 November 2021.