

DDCC MEETING MINUTES, 6 June 2022 (by Zoom)

Present: Jo Gillies, Constance Newbould, Liz Junor, Val Baillie, Robin McBride, Ailsa Carlisle, Gareth Derbyshire, Gill Gray, Elsie Wood, Steve North, Gaetan Richard, Catriona Umpleby, Duncan McAuslan, Robin McBride, Victoria North, Mark Hartree, Keith Burwell, Stuart Clark, Liz Junor, Duncan and Alexis Moyer, Gill Gray, Kate Holbrook, Julian Holbrook, Gill McLeod

In attendance: Paul Johnston MLC, Pauline Winchester.

Apologies: Helen McKay, Pippa Thomson, Graeme Buchanan, Mark Hartree, Anna Henly

1. Ratification of minutes, April 2022, DM proposed and GD seconded. Update on actions not on agenda:

- Litter pick took place with over 70 bags collected, including clearing of Burnside burn – many thanks to all those who took part.
- Changes to DDCC Constitution in progress.
- JG to report sequencing of lights at Bush crossroads.
- JH to arrange dates for bat and bird box making.

3. Police Report

The full report is given in Appendix 1. PC Euan Lennox confirmed as Community Policing Officer for DDCC, working with PC Graham Black. In addition to accidents listed on the police report, there was a car accident on Old Pentland Road on 6 May 2022.

4. Traffic, roads and pavements

The preferred route of the A701 relief road has been identified. CN is collating community prerequisites for the new road to provide to Savilles, RPS and MLC. To date, and from the discussion, these included the following needs:

- to maintain core paths
- for the community to be able to cross from one side of the road to the other at different points of the road in order to go about their daily business
- screening and sound barriers during construction and thereafter
- a barrier between the road and the path running alongside to ensure safety of path users (pedestrians, cyclists, horses, etc)

ACTION: All to send other identified needs to Jo Gillies.

Questions were raised about street lighting; how the junctions at Old Pentland Road at the bypass would work in practice; and whether the land on both sides of the road will be sold for housing.

It was confirmed that the DDCC position remains to object to the road. The next steps are for RPS to produce detailed plans that will be consulted upon via the planning process. It is expected that the planning application will be submitted by the end of the year. Individual objections/responses submitted is as important as the DDCC responding on behalf of the community.

CU has followed up with SYSTRA (transport infrastructure) regarding the active travel information and/or report that was provided to RPS to ensure links are made with this, and it is expected this will be available this week. ACCOR (?) were also collating information on accidents on Old Pentland Road. **ACTION:** CU to chase again for both reports.

For bird surveys, etc, KH confirmed that these should be undertaken at certain times of the year for particular species. Landowners should also be notified of when this will be happening. **ACTION:** CN to request timetable/plan from RPS/Siobhan, and to get clarity about the particular species that will be surveyed for and when this will take place.

There was a wide ranging discussion on communication, including writing to MSPs, media, etc, as well as when this should happen in order to make best impact around the community's collective objection to the road proposals. KH offered to seek advice from NH and to pull together an outline plan for consideration. **ACTION:** KH to develop communication plan.

5. Community Climate Action Plans: Jill Bunyan, Development Officer for Midlothian Voluntary Action. Jill provided an overview of the MVA project which is to build community climate action plans, following a '20 minute Neighbourhoods' event and report last autumn. Funding of £10k has been successfully obtained to support communities, with the focus on supporting longer term climate action in communities and to celebrate this. It is intended that a consultant will undertake a majority of the research and community engagement to explore what the climate emergency means on a local basis, what actions are already underway, and what else is required (actions and support) to reach net zero. There was general support for Damhead and District being the rural area involved in this project, although concerns raised around the timeline and capacity within the community to be able to take this forward, particularly over the summer holiday period. It was recognised that the climate considerations were also relevant to the proposals for the A701 Relief Road, and that there is a significant level of overlap with the Damhead and District Neighbourhood Plan that was developed by the community a few years ago. JH and HM volunteered to be involved in appointing the consultant. **ACTION:** JG to provide JH and HM contact details to Jill Bunyan.

6. AOB

- It was noted that the planning proposal for 9 houses at Hillend had been called in by Scottish Ministers.

Superfast Broadband

- Andrew Mitchell, part of the Scottish Government R100 team, is the key contact for the DDCC area. Andrew is confident that the vast majority, if not all of DDCC is encompassed within the rollout of superfast broadband via the Community Fibre Partnership and/or R100 roll out. The CFP is on track for completion July 2022, which is ahead of schedule, and although the detailed survey and build hasn't yet been done for the R100 roll out, it is anticipated that this roll out will be completed September 2022. Further information will be provided on progress and timeline for the August DDCC meeting. **ACTION:** JG to follow up with AM.
- A number of households within DDCC have been identified as, in theory, already having access to superfast broadband. However, it has become clear that the

speeds obtained in practice do not always meet the levels expected. The R100 team have agreed to review those households where this is the case to explore whether their broadband speeds could also be improved as part of the R100 roll out (this would be where premises are not already covered commercially). Households that should be able to access superfast broadband can check their broadband speeds on-line, and should inform JG if this indicates lower speeds than the 30 megabits per second (mbps) policy commitment. **ACTION:** JG to circulate link to website so all can check their broadband speeds.

- Snowsports Centre developments: following concerns raised at a previous meeting re the impact proposals for the new road junction at the Snowsports Centre will have on the triple junction, Alexandra Campbell, Associate, at Montagu-Evans had been invited, but was unable to attend this meeting. It was agreed they should be invited to the next meeting. **ACTION:** JG to action.

7. Date of next meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 1 August 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

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report

April to May 2022

Crimes & Incidents

15/04/2022– Report of a theft of fuel from a garage on Biggar Road. Enquiry's are ongoing.

23/04/2022 – Police were called to A702 between Hillend and Boghall Farm House for a male walking on the road. The male was traced by officers and safely taken back to his home address.

29/04/2022 – Police received a report of inconsiderate driving on Pentland Road, Damhead. The driver of the vehicle was traced and warned regarding the manner of his driving and given suitable advice.

On 28/05/2022 – Police stopped a vehicle driving in an erratic manner on Biggar Road, Midlothian. Further checks were conducted which established the driver of the vehicle did not have valid insurance. The 26 year old male Driver was charged with Driving without Insurance and reported to the procurator fiscal. The vehicle was also seized by Police.

Vehicle Collisions

19/04/2022 1100 hours – Report of Two vehicle RTC at Seafield Moor Road, Midlothian. Police attended and no offences were detected and no injuries in either vehicle. Details exchanged by both drivers.

19/04/2022 1240 hours – Report of Two vehicle RTC at Seafield Moor Road, Midlothian. Police Attended and one male was taken to hospital as a precaution due to back pain. Police officers submitted a crash report for the incident and no offences were detected.

Community Officer Engagement

On Sunday the 10th of April 2022, Midlothian Community Officers along with Roads Policing Officers carried out Operation Close Pass, a cycle safety initiative at Hillend.

During the operation, 5 Drivers were stopped due to driving too close to the Police cyclist and received an Educational Chat regarding Rule 163 – Leave at least 1.5 metres when overtaking cyclists.

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).