

DDCC MEETING MINUTES, 3 OCTOBER 2022 (by zoom)

Present: Constance Newbould, Helen McKay, Jo Gillies, John McLean, Ailsa Carlisle, Julian Holbrook, Robin McBride, Steve North, Pippa Thomson, Duncan McAuslan

In attendance: Councillor Pauline Winchester

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Mark Hartree, David Newbould

2. Ratification of minutes, August 2022, and update on actions not on agenda. The minutes were proposed by Duncan McAuslan, and seconded by John McLean.

Points of action:

- Midlothian Council Climate Emergency Plan. As far as we can find out Midlothian Council does not seem to have been employed anyone to take this forward, nor an access officer to coordinate the active travel routes in Midlothian. Also not clear who the new Council lead is for the A701 Relief Road as Neil Wallace has moved on.
- AMEY have designed lots of options to improve road safety at the triple junction, including a potential roundabout at Hilllend, and an option to make Old Pentland Road (OPR) access only.
- Planning permission for the landfill site expired on 11th September 2022 so there is only remedial work now. No-one can be sure if the pond that was included in the planning permission has been created. The plans show that it is close to the by-pass, but it hasn't been spotted yet from either the by-pass or OPR.

3. Police Report (see Appendix 1)

The police report was noted, and the discussion focussed on the recent burglaries and road safety. On 28th Sept, 3 people broke into a garage near Pentland House stealing a quad bike and mountain bike, and on 2nd Oct a hooded man was wandering around the house early in the morning. Quad bikes seem to be a particular target recently. A suspicious vehicle without insurance was stopped on 16th September. If we see any off-road bikes we should report them on 101. We discussed installing community cameras but there seems little point because as the police point out there is no way of identifying men with balaclavas and gloves. We discussed a neighbourhood watch scheme and a What's App Group but did not reach a conclusion. Midlothian Council pay for two teams of 6 officers in the Police Scotland Community Action Teams (CATs). **ACTION:** PW will ask if the CATs will do a drive around our area from time to time. **ACTION:** Police survey to be circulated to inform policing priorities [link provided in the annex]

4. Traffic, roads, and pavements

- **MTRAP meeting update.** There is nothing new of relevance to Damhead to report. There was further discussion about purchasing machinery to fill potholes. Footpath repairs have been carried out in Loanhead. A resident spotted that the Council hedge trimming is being done carelessly so that the main stems are in danger of rotting. **ACTION:** JH to engage with Council

about timing and nature of hedgerow cutting, using several links supplied by Constance.

Temporary traffic lights have been causing problems, in particular if there is powercut. A number is needed to report if the system breaks down.

- **A701 Relief Road:** RPS Project Team (Kenneth Waldron and/or Adam Davies) agreed to attend December DDCC meeting to discuss the options.
- **Snowsports Centre.** A signalised crossing at the Snowsport Centre junction seems to be included in plans. Pedestrian crossing needs to be a priority. JG has asked whether modelling has been done to assess the impact of this on traffic flows at the Hillend triple junction, and whether mitigations such as a yellow box have been considered. **ACTION:** JG to continue to press and invite representatives to next meeting.

5. Planning and Development

21/00148/DPP for Erection of 9 dwellinghouses at Hillend Calderstone: no further information available on the application for 9 houses, which has been refused by Midlothian Council and has been referred to the government appointed Reporter.

6. Community Climate Action Plan

JH joined the first discussion of Penicuik's urban community plan last week, involving members of the community and community assets, and the initial survey will be tweaked as a result of the meeting. The equivalent meeting for the Damhead and District rural project has not been held yet; members of the community can also attend which is important as DDCC has fewer community assets. Julian requested a slot at the next DDCC meeting.

ACTION: JG to allocate JH a DDCC meeting slot to discuss the Damhead and District Climate Action Plan.

ACTION: members of the community who would like to meet the consultants (SKS Scotland) and join the meetings to contact JG.

ACTION: anyone with surplus fruit and veg to contact Julian Holbrook who will take it to the food bank in Penicuik.

7. Community Superfast Broadband

Broad band installation has been delayed by 3 months so likely to be completed nearer the end of 2022. Since the voucher period for the Community Fibre Partnership ran out at the end of September, CN has requested details of how members of the CFP can claim for the next year to get the installation completed, and whether any support is available in the meantime to enable access to superfast broadband.

ACTION: Robin McBride will consult Fiona Muir at Scottish Government and Openreach

ACTION: anyone who succeeds in getting improved service should inform Constance

ACTION: JG to press for progress and update for R100 programme rollout.

8. **AOB**

- It is clear that GP Surgery/Pharmacist waiting times and services are inadequate.
- Potential alignment of AGM dates across CCs is unlikely to go ahead; additional marketing and centrally supported recruitment by the Council could be progressed irrespective of AGM dates.
- CC Induction Training Day, 6 October. Not clear who this was intended for. **ACTION:** JG to attend and report back.
- Small Grants Funding, deadline 14 October Small Grant Fund – the deadline for applications is 14th October. **ACTION:** HM to email residents with this year's priorities.
- Agreed that dates of future DDCC meetings should continue as 1st Monday of every 2nd month from February 2023.
- John McLean to attend the Service of Thanksgiving in memory of the Queen on behalf of the DDCC.
- New school at the Bush to replace Beeslack Community High School - events outlining the plans likely to be delayed to the beginning of 2023.
- Junction at Hillend will be discussed at a Council meeting tomorrow. **ACTION:** PW will raise our long-held concerns about access and road safety, emphasising that all local developments that impact on traffic safety in this area need to be considered together.
- Cost of living taskforce to help people with expenses for job seeking, etc.
- Pentland Biomass is not planning to move because the relief road will not affect their yard. Fire engines attended a fire and number of explosions a couple of weeks ago.
- Wood for bird and bat boxes has been delivered, enough for 120 bird boxes and 30 bat boxes. Volunteers welcome, and community building sessions to be organised. **ACTION:** JH to provide details of the arrangements for constructing the boxes for JG to circulate.
- Woodland Trust Tree packs – available for the community, although will need to be ordered within the next month. **ACTION:** Anyone interested let JG know.
- Undercutting of Burnside by erosion is now a serious problem, with crash barrier collapsed at points. There was a visit about 6 months ago but no obvious action. **ACTION:** CN to contact Derek Oliver at Midlothian Council.
- Good news - there is an additional number 15 bus into Edinburgh from the Bush at 8pm. The Saturday service has not been cut as has been threatened.

9. **Date of next meeting:** 7.30pm, Monday 5 December 2022 (by zoom).

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

6 February 2023

3 April 2023, plus AGM

5 June 2023

7 August 2023

2 October 2023

4 December 2023.

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report, August & September (to 29th only) 2022

Crimes & Incidents

About 0100 hours on the 22nd of August 2022, Road Policing officers spotted a vehicle driving suspiciously on the A702 near to Hill End Ski Slope. Checks revealed the vehicle had no valid insurance. The 26-year-old male driver was charged with Driving without insurance and the vehicle was uplifted and seized.

About 1300 hours on the 19th of September 2022, two off road motor bikes were seen near to Hillend ski centre being driven in an anti-social manner. Police Officers attended the local area with no trace of the bikes. – **Can all off road bike's that are seen driving in an anti-social manner please be reported to Police via 101 or details of the time, place, description of bike, description of rider and any associated vehicles emailed to the Community Policing Team (email at the bottom of page).**

Around 0900 hours on the 21st of September 2022, Police received a report of a cow on the A702 between Boghall farm and hill end ski slope. Police attended but thankfully the cow had **MOO**ved on. Thankfully the cow nor any People were injured from the incident.

Between 0252 and 0319 hours on the 28th of September 2022, three unknown nominals have attended at a garage located at Pentland Mains, Damhead and forced entry by forcefully lifting the sliding garage door. They thereafter stole: Red coloured HONDA 400 quadbike with a green basket & a Grey coloured Santa Cruz Bronson Enduro Bike All nominals were wearing dark clothing, balaclavas, gloves and hats / hoods up. If you have any information on this incident, please let the Community Policing Team know via email.

Vehicle Collisions

Missed on previous report – On the 29th of July 2022, Police received a report of a 4 Vehicle Crash. On the A702, Near to the Edinburgh Bypass junction. Police attended and 3 Vehicles were in attendance, of which two were unprovable and needed to be uplifted. One driver was checked over by ambulance for minor injuries. A Crime report has been submitted for Careless driving and enquiries are ongoing to trace the driver of the other vehicle not present at the crash on Police arrival.

About 0700 hours on the 22nd of September 2022, a HGV collided with a Grey Audi on Biggar Road, near to the junction with the A72. The HGC driver was issued with a fixed penalty ticket for careless driving. There were no injuries resulting from the crash.

Further Information

If you live in the Lothians and Scottish Borders, help shape policing in your community by taking part in our survey.

As Commander of the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division I am proud of the well-established collaborative approach we have in place with local communities and partners to deliver our shared priorities.

We are now in the process of developing the next Local Police Plan which will outline priorities from 2023 until 2026. I am committed to ensuring that this is fully reflective of the needs of local people and based on engagement to identify the things that are important to our communities.

In order to make that engagement as effective and meaningful as possible we have developed the annual 'Your Police' survey which I would encourage you to complete. This will enable us to consider your views and incorporate them into our key priorities and actions, ensuring they remain reflective and relevant.

The survey can be accessed via the attached QR code or by visiting [Your Police 2022-2023 - Police Scotland - Citizen Space](#)

Alternatively, if you would like a hard copy of the survey, please contact your local policing team who will be happy to assist.

Thank you for helping shape the service we provide.

Chief Superintendent Catriona Paton

Commander

J Division



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 : MidlothianWestCPT@scotland.police.uk

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