

## DDCC MEETING, 7 AUGUST 2023, BY ZOOM

### Draft minutes

1. Welcome and apologies.  
Jo Gillies, Constance Newbould, Helen McKay, Pippa Thomson, Graeme Buchanan, Colin Anderson (Fairmilehead Community Council), Ailsa Carlisle, Stuart Clark Apologies: Anna Henly, Julian Holbrook
2. Ratification of minutes, DDCC Meeting 5 June 2023, and update on actions not on the agenda  
Minutes were agreed by Jo Gillies, seconded by Constance Newbould
3. Police Report  
No police report has been received (for the first time ever) although a detailed report, focussed on drug statistics, was provided to the Federation. Graham Black is our engagement officer. **ACTION:** JG and CN to liaise with the relevant police officers to improve reporting.
4. Strategic planning and developments:
  - National Framework 4 Consultation  
We need to be more specific about both the actions we want and the actions we do not want. Comments about any aspect of Midlothian can be submitted but we should provide more specific detailed comments about Damhead and District. For example, active transport to both Morningside and Gilmerton areas of Edinburgh.  
JG's email of 10<sup>th</sup> July includes a starting point for discussion.  
Views provided at the meeting included: minimise coalescence to maintain the character of our community: NetZero including reduce speed limits and road building and increasing tree cover especially on Pentlands; no more houses until the services are adequate, e.g. care homes, elderly provision; surfacing of paths needs to be appropriate for the use of the paths (Sustran must have a consultation before actions)
  - Developing our Local Place Plan.  
Views included reducing speed limits, and especially that the A701 relief road is not needed. We were not sure about the various planning processes and consultations. **ACTION:** HM to find out how LPP relates to NPP4.
  - Calderstones, planning application 23/00460/MS was submitted 13 July. Neighbourhood consultation closes on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug. In this case it is a MSC because the new developers are modifying the original rather than going back to scratch (so it is possible that only immediate neighbours need to be consulted). It is a legal mitigation to move badgers. **ACTION:** JG to check if DDCC has an opportunity to comment.
  - Other developments  
West Straiton Mixed Use development. Number of houses seems to vary. If 400 houses it is not exactly 'Gateway to Midlothian' and no longer EC3.  
A701 Relief Road. Indications that the route may have to move farther west because of the contamination in the landfill just north of the proposed roundabout. Surveying underway, e.g. for bats  
Site next to Esso garage has sign indicating for rent or may sell.

5. Community activity:

- Delivering our Climate Change Action Plan. Julian Holbrook will extract actions from the consultants' report to MVA/DDCC then send out to the community offering to meet anyone wishing to discuss it, their interests in helping or progressing any actions. Actions need to be prioritised and then embedded in the Local Place Plan. **ACTION** Anyone wishing to meet to contact JH via damheadclimateaction@gmail.com
- Damhead Climate Action is now a member of Midlothian Climate Action Network (MCAN) and Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN)
- JH represents Damhead Climate Action on the Midlothian Climate Action Network Steering Group which is preparing an application for funding from Scottish Government to establish a Midlothian Climate Hub (to be staffed to deliver a community engagement programme) and act as a voice for Midlothian communities.
- JH also sits on the Climate Emergency Group for Midlothian Community Planning. If anyone wants to know more, contact damheadclimateaction@gmail.com
- Summer Gathering, Saturday 19 August from 12 noon. Julian will bring booking sheet for next bird box building event, and kits for bird and bat boxes to construct on the day.

6. Funding

HM explained the problem of getting dual electronic signatures through RBS. **ACTION:** CN will investigate the options, e.g. BoS Treasurer's account.

7. AOB

- Superfast broadband. All residents should have access to superfast broadband by December at the latest. Ducting has been laid along the middle road. 14 premises are not within Open Reach (although they're still eligible for voucher) of which 8 houses are close to ones already with fibre so they can probably be included as overspill. The other 6 are less easy to cover by overspill but there may well be solutions for all of them and hopefully within this phase of work.
- Website. CN has done an excellent job and the site is almost ready to launch. To date there are 6 pages and minutes in order going back to 2013. **ACTION:** CN to send HM receipts.
- Boghall Bridge has been repaired.
- Care home proposed for garden at Winton but the Reporter has denied this application.
- Craigdon, permission has been given for a Sainsbury's Local on the ground floor.

**Next Meeting:** In general, meetings will take place at 7.30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in every second month for 2023. For the remainder of 2023 these will alternate between zoom and in person meetings:

2 October (in person – 7.30pm at the Steading Inn, Hillend)

4 December (zoom)