

## DDCC MEETING, 16 OCTOBER 2023, THE STEADING

### Draft minutes

**Present:** Catriona Umpleby; Mark Hartree; Julian Holbrook, Stuart Clark; David Newbould, Gaetan Richards; Kate Holbrook, Lynne Derbyshire, Gareth Derbyshire; Jo Gillies, Ailsa Carlisle, Constance Newbould, Duncan McCauslan

1. Welcome and apologies:

**Apologies:** PC Susan Pearson; Pauline Winchester

2. Presentation on proposals for land at Old Pentland Road Straiton  
Guest Speakers Jim Kirkwood, Director of Allanvale land, and Patrick Dunne, Land and Planning Manager Allanvale.  
The speakers notified Jo at the last minute that they could not attend. They intend joining the December meeting.  
As far as we can tell this involves land at Straiton to the west of the A701, plus Jim Telfer's Farm south as far as the field adjacent to Pentland House for housing. Because there is uncertainty about the relief road it is impossible to be certain about Alanvale's proposals.  
There was a discussion about how this land is zoned at present in the MLDP which led to a discussion about soil classifications. Although most of the low-lying ground is zoned as 'good agricultural land', a finer classification from the James Hutton Institute shows that the Class 2 'prime agricultural land' lies towards the eastern boundary of DDCC. The relief road will seal a big proportion of Class 2 land.

3. Ratification of minutes, DDCC Meeting 7 August 2023, and update on actions not on the agenda.

There were no requests for change. The minutes were proposed by Duncan McCauslan and seconded by Ailsa Carlisle.

Points not on the agenda:

- Calderstones – the developers wish to speak to DDCC about the comments (e.g. provision of multiuse paths, no loss of trees) we'd submitted even though we did not object. The developers will meet Constance and Jo at 5pm on the 17<sup>th</sup> October.
- Climate Action – JH updated the meeting. A proposal has gone to SG for a Midlothian hub. A response is expected in a few days. A hub would improve our understanding of the issues, ability to implement changes, and provide opportunities to apply for funding.
- Treasurer's Account – **ACTION:** HM to try contact Bank of Scotland about a Treasurer's account.
- Website - a few final steps are needed. CN has given HM invoices for the website.
- Midlothian Federation wants all Community Councils to sign letter re services needed and no more houses needed. Residents at the meeting agreed. **ACTION:** CN to notify the Federation of our decision.

4. Police Report. Most of the items were car accidents. See appendix 1 for details.
5. Strategic planning and developments:
  - National Framework 4 Consultation. KH pointed out Policy 5 Soils – Development proposal will only be supported on prime agricultural land if they are designed and constructed for essential infrastructure and if there is no alternative.
  - Developing our Local Place Plan. HM explained the purpose of the LPP and circulated hardcopies of the main sections outlining the points we want to make about future developments. The main comments were that our LPP should be more upbeat. JH suggests designation as cultural area because of the small agricultural holdings often used as the base for small businesses. **ACTION:** HM to share the full electronic document via Google docs; and find out if Midlothian planners will provide feedback on the draft. Residents to provide key comments.
  - Calderstones, planning application 23/00460/MSC23 submitted 13 July. the developers wish to speak to DDCC about the comments (e.g. provision of multiuse paths, no loss of trees) we'd submitted even though we did not object. The developers will meet Constance and Jo at 5pm on the 17<sup>th</sup> October.
  - A701 Relief Road. Plan for A701 relief road is still officially to the east of Cameron Wood but a revised route (to avoid the contaminated land) has not been published. CU says that if the route has changed a new environmental assessment and consultation are needed. There was a discussion about City Deal funding. There is no further information about the revised route to avoid the contaminated land close to the proposed site of the new roundabout at the feed mill.
  - Snowsports development. Progress with the access road had been delayed because of water pipes. JG has been in discussion with the Roads Department. New traffic lights at the triple junction and snowsports centre will be linked and their timing will be varied according to the traffic flows..
6. Community activity:
  - DDCC engagement with new residents. In spring we would circulate a hard copy welcome letter to new residents? **ACTION:** JG to ask via Facebook for anyone who is interested to supply her with their address.
  - Superfast broadband/fibre. Openreach are doing quality checks. By the end of this December, all houses should be supplied **with the exception of Pentland Oak tree house, Hillend [Jo please correct this]**. To complete the process, residents have to contact supplier. **ACTION:** Jo to send round information on fibre checker.
  - Tree surgeon has been organised to clear overhanging trees **[Jo could you add the location please.]**
7. AOB
  - MTRAP priorities being progressed. Second section of Old Pentland Road will be improved. The Burnside is now on the critical list but will not be action for some time.

- There was a question about the timetable for the reinstatement of the full number 4 bus service.
  - Cycle paths are often too full of leaves to be used.
  - One of our residents asked if anyone had knowledge of the current status of a safety study on Old Pentland Road about 18 months ago.
  - Paths overgrown.
  - Surplus tarmac has been tipped in the trees following potholes to be filled.  
**ACTION:** CN to provide Julian with contact details for Alan Heatley [??]
  - Road will be closed for 3 weeks from 6<sup>th</sup> November to install the access to Aldi.
8. 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:  
4 December (zoom)

DDCC meeting dates 2024. In general, it is proposed that meetings take place at 7.30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in every second month: Mondays 5 February, **22 April AGM + meeting (delayed from first Monday of the month to avoid Easter Monday and school holidays)**, 3 June, 5 August, 7 October, 2 December.