

DDCC MEETING, 7.30pm, 3 JUNE 2024, by Zoom

Draft minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Constance Newbould, Pippa Thompson, Graeme Buchanan, Gaetan Richards, Pauline Winchester, Duncan McAuslan, Catriona and Richard Umpleby, Julian Holbrook, Helen McKay, Jo Gillies, Helen and David Sheridan.

For item 2: James McQuaker, Rachel Caswell, Logan Doak.

Apologies: Ailsa Carlisle, Stuart Clark, David Newbould.

2 Beeslack High School Replacement. Guest speakers: Jim McQuaker, Project Manager, Midlothian Council; Rachel Caswell, Edinburgh University (estates development); and Logan Doak, Project architect pre-application.

Status: Midlothian Council - we're in RIBA stage 3, so designs are already fixed. Planning application due to go into planning next month. The first works will start before Christmas 2024.

Capacity: Planning allows for 1600 pupils. Allowing for the change in catchment the expectation is that the school will never actually reach this limit. Beeslack currently has 900 pupils. All Penicuik pupils will go to Penicuik High. The catchment for the new school will mainly be Loanhead and towards the bypass.

Swimming pool: This will go ahead. All community groups will be able to use facilities some within school hours and also outside. It will be run by the Community Group that currently uses Beeslack. It is self-run and self-funded. Access for the public is likely to be via swimming groups so it may not be available to the public unless they are part of the groups.

Access and parking: Two accesses, one from Bush Farm and one from Seafield Moor Road. One parking place will be provided for each teacher/employee. Parking for pitches still under discussion. The 2m pathway on Seafield Moor Road will be broadened to 3m wide to take pedestrians and cyclists. This will narrow the road lanes on the A703. It will have a double yellow line. There will be a toucan crossing at sufficient distance from Bush crossroads for pupils to move between the school and the playing fields. The speed limit around the school will be dropped to 20mph.

Traffic flows: Traffic flows have been modelled. They expect little traffic from A702 although Midlothian is still consulting on the proposed A702/Bush Loan roundabout. The model considers the A701 corridor. A traffic consultant will evaluate the cumulative effect including traffic generated by community users. Most children will come from Loanhead so the Nissan junction will be reviewed. All routes will need to be in place before the school opens. The expectation is that pupils and community users will come by bus, walking or cycling.

EIA. We were told that there is not a definitive requirement for screening at this stage and in this case the developers decided to go straight for planning. The planning authority will then make the decision on the need for an EIA. Data have already been collected so, in the event of a full EIA being needed, the developers would just need to put the information into the correct format. Reports will be included on the planning portal when the application is submitted. There was a feeling that if a full EIA report is needed the start date would be delayed.

Biodiversity. We were told that any biodiversity loss would be small. Existing shelterbelt bordering the A703 will be retained - all trees will stay. Details of the

landscaping will come with the planning application but there will be a focus on biodiversity including a place to grow produce which will be used locally.

Where will children get lunch? The dining facility is sized to take 1600 pupils over two sittings.

Timing: Hope to start building before Christmas 2024, sewage will be diverted.

Rubbish: residents were concerned about the litter expected around the school judging by the situation at Beeslack. We were advised to submit concerns via link BeeslackHSP@midlothian.gov.uk .

Other:

- Because of the proximity to the Science Campus, pupils could visit campus.
- A701 relief road and A702/Bush Loan roundabout are part of City Deal funding but only roundabout on A702/Bush Loan junction will go ahead, rest is on back burner.
- The 3-way junction is difficult and expensive because of height differences.
- The new buildings at the Snowsports Centre will not go ahead (at the moment).
- The primary schools in Roslin and Bilson have funding to extend.

ACTION: Helen to submit concerns re the new school development on behalf of DDCC based on discussion at meeting.

3. Ratification of minutes, meeting of 22 April 2024, and update on actions not on agenda

Proposed: Duncan McAuslan

Seconded: Constance Newbould

Actions arising from minutes – Response to Bush Loan. Significant issue and concerns in relation to plans for a roundabout at this junction impacting on Boghall Burn with resultant increased risk of flooding for both Seafield Mill area and Bilston. Question raised around a potential alternative to the proposed roundabout, and why an EIA doesn't seem to be required for this development given the clear flooding risk, etc. **ACTION:** Constance to submit response on behalf of DDCC based on discussion at meeting and in liaison with local residents.

4. Police Scotland Report. Attached.

5. Traffic and road safety

Flooding on the Burnside - video requested by Wayne. Sasine plan shows that a broader strip is owned by council which suggests that they are responsible and not the owner of the adjacent field.

ACTION: Pippa and Gaetan to send video to Constance.

ACTION: Julian to send plan to Gaetan and Constance who will liaise with Midlothian Council.

6. Community activity:

- Summer Gathering. On the whole residents around the courtyard at Damhead Farm Steading/Tigh na Geat were not supportive of using the courtyard due to access and parking issues, the lack of toilet facilities and safety issues due to local building activity. Alternatives are Auchendinny Community Centre or the Secret Herb Garden with tea and cake. End of August date preferred. **ACTION:** Jo will canvas for interest and suitable venue.
- Updating of the community map? **ACTION:** To be covered at the next meeting.

- DDCC welcome letter and mail drop for new residents? Good idea. Map needs to be updated but ideally first resolve the situation where there are 4 number 2s and 3 number 3s around Damhead Farm Steading/Tigh na Geat.
- Active travel strategy needs to have response, links with local transport plan.
ACTION: Pippa and Graeme
- Discussion led by Midlothian Council at recent Midlothian Federation of Community Councils indicated that a Community Planning Plan now required, distinct from the Local Place Plans. Annette Lang from Council working to clarify what required.

7. AOB

Midlothian considering the 8 LPPs. High level summary includes all the points we made. There were comments that the DDCC LPP was very good.

8. Date of next meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 5 August 2024 at the Steading Inn

In general, meetings will take place at 7.30 on the 1st Monday in every second month for 2024. For the coming period these will alternate between zoom and in person meetings:

5 August (Steading Inn)

7 October (by zoom)

2 December (Steading Inn)

DDCC Website <http://damheadcc.org/>

DDCC Email: damheadanddistrictcc@googlegroups.com

"Damhead Community" Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/134821255247393>



Criminal Activity April 23rd 2024 to 31st May 2024

Meeting Date - 3rd June 2024

Damhead Community Council

Beat Area MW02



Incidents of Note

Inc 0849 02/05/2024 0945 Hrs. Roads Policing Officers stopped a vehicle on Seafield Moor Road in relation to Licence/Insurance Offences.

Inc 2530 07/05/2024 1700 Hrs. Theft of Fuel from Lothianburn Service Station. £60 worth of diesel fuel stolen. Vehicle on potentially cloned plates. CR submitted for theft. Enquiry ongoing.

Inc 1538 09/05/2024 1238 Hrs. Two Vehicle RTC. Junction at Hillend with Pentland Road. Blue HGV and white Transit style van involved. No injury. HGV still driveable. Van required recovery.

Inc 2037 10/05/2024 1413 Hrs. Theft of Fuel from Lothianburn Service Station. £40 worth of diesel fuel stolen along with a drink and sandwich. CR submitted for theft. Enquiry ongoing.

Inc 0135 11/05/2024 0030 Hrs. One Vehicle RTC. Vehicle travelling South on A702 near to Easter Howgate left road, struck bushes and turned onto its roof at Crachin Cottage. Male

driver seen running from vehicle. Vehicle registered in Penicuik. Efforts to trace registered keeper proved negative. Crash Report submitted.

Inc 0195 13/05/2024 1038 Hrs. Report of Diesel spillage on Old Pentland Road. Vehicle from McKenzie Skip hire suffered ruptured fuel tank and spilled diesel on the road. Road closed and Council attended to clean roadway.

Inc 1662 14/05/2024 1300 Hrs. Theft of Fuel from Lothianburn Service Station. £84.78 worth of diesel fuel stolen. CR submitted for theft. Enquiry ongoing.

Inc 0444 15/05/2024 0533 Hrs. Report of Traffic lights being knocked over on Biggar Road, near Hillend.

Inc 1339 24/05/2024 1157 Hrs. Report of male potentially smoking Cannabis Joint and leaving in a vehicle from Midlothian Ski Centre. Vehicle registered in Fort William. Intelligence log submitted.

Inc 4114 24/05/2024 2224 Hrs. Deer struck on A702 near Easter Howgate Farm.

Inc 1194 25/05/2024 1029 Hrs. Theft of Fuel from Lothianburn Service Station. £45.19 worth of diesel fuel stolen. Staff recognised male as being responsible for previous thefts. CR submitted for theft. Enquiry ongoing.

If any person has any information about the incident(s) listed above, or indeed any other crime, please contact your Community Police Officer PC Susan Pearson via 101 or email: - LothianScotBordersPenicuikCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Additional 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.

Police Scotland use social media to circulate the latest news, events and information to the public via Twitter (@LothBordPolice and @MidLothPolice) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/LothiansScottishBordersPoliceDivision and www.facebook.com/MidlothianPolice).

TELEPHONING POLICE SCOTLAND

If you need to contact Police Scotland then the number you use will depend on whether what you are reporting is an emergency or not.

You should always use 999 when:

- * there is a risk of injury or loss of life
- * a crime is in progress
- * someone suspected of a crime is nearby.

For non-emergency calls please use 101 to contact Police Scotland.