

## **DDCC MEETING MINUTES 5 AUGUST 2024, at the Steading Inn**

Present: Gaeton Richards, Graeme Buchanan, Pippa Thompson, David Newbould, Ailsa Carlisle, Constance Newbould, Jo Gillies, Nadir Khan, Catriona Umpleby, Mark Hartree, Kate Holbrook, Julian Holbrook, Keith Burwell, John McLean, Helen McKay

1. Welcome and apologies. Apologies from Stuart Clark, Paul Johnston
2. Ratification of minutes, meeting of 3 June 2024.
  - The minutes were proposed by Jo Gillies and seconded by Graeme Buchanan.
  - Update on actions not on agenda.
    - CN met Scottish Water who said that the flooding on the Burnside was not their responsibility.
    - Subsidence on Burnside. Although the water drains from the Pentlands, the problem at the Burnside arises in the field owned by the family of Mrs Mitchell suggesting that it should be their responsibility to resolve, however the Green Belt Trust planted the trees which block the drainage. There has been a suggestion that a camera is used to find the source of the blockage. The meeting agreed that a community wide solution is needed. KH suggested a small working group (JH, KH, GR, MH) to seek solutions in partnership with Scottish Water and Midlothian Council.  
**ACTION:** CN to inform Midlothian Council that we are setting up a working group and forward contacts to the working group.
    - Views on active travel were submitted by GB with copy to JG.
    - Wayne Clark from the Roads Department, Midlothian Council, when contacted by CN, acted quickly to put up replacement speed limit signs on the A703.  
**ACTION:** CN to thank Wayne and ask for additional signs to be erected on the A703 along the stretch between the bush traffic lights and the Damhead Nursery in both directions.
3. Police Scotland Report (see Appendix for the detailed report)  
A new community officer PC Ross Young has been appointed but could not attend this meeting. The majority of reports were of fuel thefts and traffic problems.  
**ACTION:** JG to contact Wayne Clark re repairs to the bridge at the bottom of the Burnside and the implementation of the agreed 40mph speed limit.
4. Strategic planning and developments:
  - Calderstones, planning application 23/00460/MSC23  
Vast majority of our points have been taken into account – the only exception is our request that the service gate allows access for a wider range of users so JG has drawn their attention to this remaining issue in a letter on 21<sup>st</sup> June while giving our overall support.
  - Beeslack Community High School relocation 24/00415/DPP  
Planning proposals were submitted at the end of June. Midlothian Council acknowledged our submission and said that all areas of concern that we raised are covered in the planning proposals. Following a discussion, the meeting agreed that we support the planning application in principle, but draw attention to the particular issues of concern, including the flood risk.

**ACTION:** JG to resubmit the list through the planning portal with the addition of flooding issues.

- ALDI's opening has been delayed by subsidence of old mine shafts. JG has asked Midlothian Council to restrict left turn on the store exit given dangerous state of the Burnside lane and triple junction.
- It is understood that the A701 relief road is on the back burner whereas the roundabout at the Bush Loan/A702 junction will go ahead. PT had attended the consultation on the roundabout; designers have been told that there will be no further development on Easter Bush until the traffic access has been sorted. CN has objected to the use of funding for the roundabout.
- JG has written to Transport Scotland to update them on the Snowsports Centre's impact on traffic, and seeking an update on signalisation of the triple junction which has now been confirmed as being in progress.

#### 5. Traffic and road safety

- **ACTION:** HM to request reinstatement of number 4 bus to Snowsports Centre.
- JG has requested action to be taken to reduce parking on double yellow lines to ensure residents can safely exit/access their houses.
- The following issues were also raised:
  - when works at the junction of the Snowsports Centre and the A702 have been completed, the timing of the wait at the pedestrian crossing must be reduced to a reasonable duration;
  - the 40mph sign obscures the traffic lights for left hand drive cars travelling towards Edinburgh;
  - there was uncertainty about whether the new white lines and cats eyes were denoting cycle lanes or not.
- **ACTION:** JG to bring these concerns to the relevant authority
- Pot holes on the Old Pentland Road at the triple junction. **ACTION:** CN to notify MTRAP that cars trying to avoid the pot holes stray on to the other lane.

#### 6. Community activity:

- Summer Gathering. There has been only a limited response to the doodle poll. So far, the preference is 8<sup>th</sup> September (2-4pm) at Secret Garden Café. The meeting agreed that DDCC will fund the cost of tea/coffee and cake.
- The community map is in hand. We identified volunteers to distribute hard copies of the updated map. The new map and house names (but not residents' names) will be posted on the noticeboard at the cemetery and bus stop. Hard copies will be given to all residents.
- DDCC welcome letter and mail drop for new residents. **ACTION:** JG to include a welcome letter with the update of the map/details plus invitation to Summer Gathering
- There was support for setting up 'hit squads' to:
  - cut back pavement growth on the A703 bends up to the triple junction (NK and MH to lead)
  - upgrade bus stop at 3-way junction (GR to lead)
  - litter pick (JG and AH to lead)
  - clean pavements especially on the Old Pentland Road (lead to be identified)
- **ACTION:** Hit Squad leads (and any new leads) to liaise with JG to circulate info to community on how/when to get involved with each project.

## 7. DDCC Budget and Bid for Grant

- We were awarded £330 of running costs from Midlothian Council bringing our funds to £3667.04. There had been no funding for the particular projects that were submitted. Following the information from Paul Johnson we realise that many of our past applications are not eligible. **ACTION:** HM to seek clarification from Paul Johnson on what the Small Grant can fund.
- The DDCC agreed to pay the material costs of repairs to the noticeboard which GR kindly agreed to repair.
- Damhead Nature Network/ Damhead Climate Action. Using previous Small Grants funding, materials have been bought to make both bird and bat boxes to put up as well as purchasing some sets of trees for planting around our community. GR has constructed 30 bat boxes which now need to be installed; the DDCC agreed to pay for fixings. JH explained that it is important to locate the boxes in groups of 2s or 3s close to woodland margins and a source of water. JH's offered to hold some more sessions (on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September) to complete more bird boxes (one for each household, or more if some don't wish one). These 2 sessions will also include discussion about what is the Damhead Nature Network (in our Local Place Plan) and how residents can get involved with enriching our local wildlife in different ways. JH would also like to hear from those who already have one of the first batch of bird boxes installed to see if they have been used by and what kind of birds (if known). **ACTION:** For further details of these events and to confirm your place on 21<sup>st</sup> and/or 22<sup>nd</sup> September (10.30-12.30, weather dependent) at Damhead Small Farm, or to say you are interested in hosting bird/boxes/trees then email Julian at [damheadclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:damheadclimateaction@gmail.com)
- **ACTION:** HM to look at any restrictions for "Community of culture" signs at the boundaries of DDCC to limit speed through Damhead.

## 8. AOB

- Giant hogweed has been found. JG informed the Council about locations. Some areas were sprayed in June/July. We've been told to inform the River Esk Giant Hogweed Eradication Project about Giant Hogweed in future. JH drew our attention to snowberry and Japanese Knotweed which are also alien invasives.
- DDCC agreed to become a member of the Midlothian Climate Action Network.
- The DDCC were saddened to hear that Henry Marsh had passed away recently.

## 9. Date of next meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 7 October 2024 by Zoom

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

7 October (by zoom)

2 December (Steeding Inn)

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

DDCC Email: [damheadanddistrictcc@googlegroups.com](mailto:damheadanddistrictcc@googlegroups.com)

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



**Incidents of note 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**  
**Meeting Date - 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024**  
**Damhead Community Council**  
**Beat Area MW02**

ANNEX



**Incidents of Note**

Inc 2623 (09/06/2024) Housebreaking Reported. 22 Damhead. Unoccupied premises. Nothing appears to have been stolen.

Inc 3449 (10/06/2024) Report of 3 Youths riding Quad bikes near to Easter Bush. Thought to be related to Travellers site at Bush Estate.

Inc 3649 (25/06/2024) Report of Tree down on A702 near to Junction of Pentland Road causing obstruction.

Inc 2724 (26/06/2024) Report of a Road Rage Incident at Old Pentland Road involving a white Van. Complainer did not wish to pursue a complaint or provide a statement.

Inc 3289 (27/06/2024) Theft of Fuel. Esso Service Station, Hillend.

Inc 2213 (28/06/2024) Theft of Fuel. Esso Service Station, Hillend.

Inc 2956 (28/06/2024) Theft of Fuel. Esso Service Station, Hillend.

Inc 2388 (29/06/2024) Report of a Cow on the Road. A702 between Hillend and Boghall Farm. Several calls to Police re this.

Inc 0557 (10/07/2024) Road Traffic Collison. Old Pentland Road. 1 car involved. Driver appeared to lose control in poor weather conditions and collided with stone wall.

Inc 1207 (11/07/2024) Theft of Fuel. Esso Service Station, Hillend.

Inc 2322 (21/07/2024) Road Traffic Collison. A702 at Junction of A703 and Old Pentland Road. 2 vehicles involved. Driver of offending vehicle appeared to enter opposing lane and collided with on-coming vehicle. Driver charged with Careless Driving offence.

Inc 2863 (28/07/2024) Report of a Cow on the Road. A702 between Hillend and Boghall Farm. Several calls to Police re this.

Inc 3514 (29/07/2024) Theft Shoplifting. Esso Service Station, Hillend. Foodstuffs stolen.

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

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**Additional Information**

Hate crime and domestic abuse can now be reported online via the official Police Scotland website at [www.scotland.police.uk](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/LothiansScottishBordersPoliceDivision) and [www.facebook.com/MidlothianPolice](https://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.