DDCC MEETING, 7 APRIL 2025, in-person at the Steading Inn.

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Kate Marshall, Stuart Clark, Pippa Thomson, Gill Gray, Gordon Gray, Mark Hartree, Kate Holbrook, Julian Holbrook, Ailsa Carlisle, Joanne Gillies, Helen McKay, Robin McBride; joining by video Constance Newbould.
In attendance: Pauline Winchester (Midlothian Councillor), Jimmy McLean (BEAR), Ross Young (Police Scotland), Gillian Holmes and Colin Anderson, Fairmilehead Community Council.
Apologies: Paul Johnston, Anna Henly, Gaetan Richard, Keith Burwell, Duncan McAuslan, Lynne Derbyshire

2 Ratification of minutes, meeting of 3 February 2025, and update on actions not on agenda.

Minutes proposed by Kate Marshall, Seconded by Constance Newbould

3. Police Scotland Report. PC Ross Young, Police Scotland (see Appendix 1 for details).

a. There were no serious incidents and only a few incidents of note, e.g. a car with no insurance was seized; a car was stopped on Pentland Road with no licence plates; a white van and two motor bikes were stolen; there were several thefts of food, alcohol and fuel from the services at Hillend. PC RY is willing to offer advice to reduce car thefts, e.g. put keys in a tin to prevent theft of electronic code.
ACTION: CA will send JG details to prevent car thefts to circulate and/or post on the DDCC website.
b. PC Ross mentioned that advice is available through Michelle Lindsay if DDCC is interested in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch. Someone from within the community needs to set it up. Generally the signs themselves are a deterrent. GH from Fairmilehead explained that there is a lot of additional information. CN suggests that the alternative might be just to use the Facebook page.
ACTION: HM to get details of Neighbourhood Watch schemes.
c. A resident asked if the 40 mph on Old Pentland Road can be monitored.
ACTION: RY will contact Gillian Bathgate at Midlothian Council to monitor speed

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4. Strategic planning and developments

a. MLDP2. CN reported that Midlothian Federation of Community Councils wishes the target for new builds to be just 800 more houses (in addition to the 8000 that are already zoned in MLDP1) not the 16000 proposed. Cllr PW stated that councillors have all agreed/voted for "not much more than 8800 in the next 10 years" – the normal annual building rate is about 800. The meeting agreed with the MFCC's position.
b. Land North of Seafield Road 19/01039/PPP and 24/00632/MSC. The updated situation is that 3 companies are competing to do the groundwork (214 houses planned).
c. Taylor Wimpey construction traffic. There don't seem to be any plans of the infrastructure being put in – assumed to be access for the construction phase - and there is some uncertainty about the effects on the cycle path, footpaths and rights of way. The SUDS being cleaned out again for phase 1 and 2 of the housing development.
ACTION: PT to email again referring to DDCC concerns.

d. SEPA consultation underway on proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme (EPAS), if anyone has comments. SEPA have also published new data and consolidated information on flood plains. ACTION: JG to circulate both documents for information [post meeting note: any comments on the consultation document to be submitted direct to SEPA, or sent to Jo Gillies by Thursday 12 June].

5. Traffic and road safety

a. Triple junction. Jo gave a short summary of the long history of problems at the triple junction. Residents are generally supportive of the new arrangements although we recognise that recently the holidays have reduced traffic now and there were serious delays while the timing of the lights were being adjusted.

JM explained that:

- BEAR is willing to consider suggestions from residents to further improve the junction.
- Focus is to smooth flow on the trunk road which might increase the delay on the OPR and A703.
- Detector units at Hillend are not working correctly yet but the lights at the triple junction and the Snowsports Centre are synchronised.
- Consider No Turn Right going north on the A702.
- Safety audit on Friday will make tweaks.
- Some concerns about the delay at the pedestrian crossing at the triple junction and at the Snowsports Centre. How long is it reasonable to wait. JM says that there should be a stop within each cycle of the lights and if the person crosses without the traffic lights, it should be cancelled. Agreed that it should be monitored.

Residents made the following points:

- There are still problems on Old Pentland Road, e.g. lorries mounting the pavement at the junction. May be a possibility of restricting lorries (generally MacKenzies and Tarmac come from the Aldi end).
- There are much improved traffic flows on Old Pentland Road and the Burnside.
- Dangers on A702 of northbound traffic on approach to the traffic lights, particularly for lorries when the queue is back towards the bad bend.
- "Keep clear" markings have helped.
- More traffic on the A701.
- Monitoring on Mondays and Fridays is not typical of flows on Tues-Thurs.
- Planning for 10-12 houses at the site where the carwash has been. PW informed us that Midlothian Councillors are minded to turn down the application but has gone to the Scottish Government Reporter.
- Road from crossroads on Seafield Road to Bush Loan is closed.
- Roundabout on A702/Bush Loan has been approved but it seems to be BEARS responsibility to sort out drainage problems.

b. KH raised the question about reducing the speed limit on the Burnside to 20mph. JG has contacted Gillian Bathgate to request a discussion about speed limits. ACTION: PW will send JG a link to the 20mph policy.

6. Community activities

a. Litter picking went very well but there was little/no support from the retail outlets.
b. Fly tipping near Seafield Mill has blocked the track, but it is probably on private land so now the owner's responsibility.
c. Bus stop renovation. Thanks to MH and GR for getting materials from Travis Perkins and then providing 7-8 hours work to both renovate and paint the bus stop. Community members also cleared the area of litter and cut back overgrown hedges to allow the renovation to take place. Separately, JG has contacted Midlothian Council re repairs required for community bus stop on A703 at Tigh Na Geat.

7. DDCC operations

a. DDCC Budget. HM reported that since the meeting in February, the DDCC had received £300 from Midlothian Council to refurbish our existing noticeboard. We'd received interest to March 16th of £10.38. Cheques had been issued to the printers Mackay and Inglis for £510 for 125 copies of the Local Place Plan.
b. MLC funding applications for 2025-6. Notified 16th March with deadline of 6th April. Because of limited time for discussion, HM referred back to previous discussions and applied for £245 for administrative expenses (max allowed was £350) and for £75 for refurbishment of the bus shelter at Tigh na Geat, plus £350 for a new noticeboard at the bus shelter at the triple junction as projects to support DDCC activities. PW offered to help fund the noticeboard if the grant application to Midlothian is not successful.
c. DDCC Elections will be on 2nd June 2025. Hard copies of the nomination form were available at the meeting. ACTION: JG will email round instructions of the process.
d. DDCC's Constitution needs to be renewed and ratified. JG summarised the changes, which had been proposed in February to align with Midlothian's updated Scheme for Community Councils. The changes are relatively minor and generally are consistent with the procedures we've been following for the last few years. The meeting formally supported the changes. ACTION: JG to send a final copy of revised constitution to PJ for ratification by Midlothian Council.
e. Data Protection and ICO Registration. JG explained that community councils are being encouraged to register with the Information Commissioner; some of the requirements are similar to the good practice we have in place. The cost is £57 to register. CA noted that the first meeting of Fairmilehead's new CC was the following day. CA had emailed everyone asking them to confirm by a certain date that they wanted their details to be retained, otherwise their details will be removed. ACTION: JG to apply and arrange payment.

8. AOB

a. GG have been sent a planning application notification to amend the existing house at 21 Damhead Holdings. This seems to be in addition to the developments on the original footprint of the outhouses.
b. Giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed. There are reports of these notifiable weeds in our area. ACTION JH to send picture and information on control measures and JG will circulate.
c. Flooding on the road at Old School House. ACTION: PW to send JG the details of the recently appointed flood prevention officer at Midlothian Council; JG to raise all the

flooding issues with Midlothian Council, including PW, to ask again for this to be addressed.

d. Midlothian's report on the City Deal includes a timetable for the A701 relief road and associated changes indicating that the main road developments have been delayed to 2027-28, and that the new roundabout on the A703 has been moved north closer to layby. ACTION: CN will put the link to the report on the website.
e. Solar panels, so far only two households interested. ACTION: Anyone else who is interested to contact JG
f. Boundary review of local community councils. ACTION: CN will take part in a meeting with neighbouring community councils shortly.

9. Date of next meeting, AGM and DDCC Elections: 7.30pm, Monday 2 June 2025, in person at The Steading.

In general, meetings take place at 7.30 on the 1st Monday in every second month, and alternate between zoom and in person meetings (other than for the AGM/ Elections). The calendar of meetings will be reviewed following the AGM and DDCC elections in June. Forthcoming meetings include:

Monday 2 June Meeting, AGM and DDCC Elections, in person at The Steading
Monday 4 August, online by zoom
October (venue tbc, plus day/date tbc)
December (venue tbc, day/date tbc)

DDCC Website http://damheadcc.org/
DDCC Email: damheadanddistrictcc@googlegroups.com
"Damhead Community" Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/134821255247393
MFCC/ MTRaP Minutes are here: https://www.midlothiancommunitycouncils.org.uk/documents

ANNEX

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Midlothian Community Council Report
February/March 2025
Beat Areas MW02
Damhead Community

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Incidents of Note

Inc 0076 (01/02/2025) Esso Service Station, Biggar Road. Vehicle Seizure Section 165 Road Traffic 1988. No Insurance. Driver Reported for Offence.

Inc 0245 (09/02/2025) Pentland Road, Damhead. Vehicle stop by Roads Policing Officers. Provisional Driver driving without L Plates. Reported for Offence.

Inc 3075 (09/02/2025) Hillend Junction. Vehicle Collison. No Police attendance. Reported for Information purposes.

Inc 0406 (10/02/2025) Pentland Road, Damhead. Property broken into and White Ford Transit Van Stolen. Crime Report Submitted.

Inc 0793 (10/02/2025) Pentland Road, Damhead. Theft Motor Vehicle. X2 Motorcycles Stolen. Crime Report Submitted. (Potentially linked to incident 0406 10/02/2025)

Inc 1084 (10/02/2025) Esso Service Station, Biggar Road. Theft of Fuel. £96.19 worth of fuel stolen. Suspect vehicle relates to a stolen vehicle. Crime Report Submitted.

Inc 3819 (26/02/2025) Pentland Road, Damhead. Suspect Person. Male approached Property acting suspiciously. Incident logged for information purposes.

Inc 3199 (09/03/2025) Esso Service Station, Biggar Road. Theft Shoplifting. Alcohol stolen by youths. Crime Report Submitted.

Inc 3053 (19/03/2025) Esso Service Station, Biggar Road. Theft Shoplifting. Quantity of foodstuff stolen by youths. Crime Report Submitted.

Inc 2154 (22/03/2025) Esso Service Station, Biggar Road. Theft of Fuel. £43.81 worth of fuel stolen. Crime Report Submitted.

Inc 2002 (30/03/2025) Esso Service Station, Biggar Road. Theft of Fuel and Theft Shoplifting. £10 worth of fuel and foodstuff stolen. Crime Report Submitted.

Inc 1026 (01/04/2025). Land adjacent to Hillend Ski Centre. Report of potential wilful Fire-raising. Gorse bushes set on Fire. Enquiry ongoing to establish if any criminality. If any person has any information about the incidents listed above, or indeed any other crime, please contact your Community Policing Officer **PC Ross Young** via **101** or **email: MidlothianWestCPT@scotland.police.uk**

Additional Information

Within this reporting period there has been a Travellers Encampment at the nearby Bush Estate. This can lead to in an increase in acquisitive crime in the local area and other issues such as Bogus Workmen incidents. Due to residing in a rural community you must remain vigilant and aware of these sorts of crimes. Thankfully the Travellers have since left however the Bush Estate is an attractive location for them, and I fully expect them to return in the near future.

I believe, due to location and type of Community that you live in a Neighbourhood Watch would be beneficial to this area. Further information regarding this can found online at Neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

Crimestoppers

Do you have information on criminal activity in your area? Please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or through their online form - both of these routes are completely anonymous and available 365 days a year.

Social Media

Police Scotland use social media to circulate the latest news, events and information to the public via X (**@PSOSMidlothian** & **@PoliceScotland**) and Facebook (**Police Scotland Midlothian** & **Police Scotland**).