DDCC MINUTES, 7.30pm, 6 April 2026 online by Zoom

Welcome and apologies:
Present: Constance Newbould, Kate Holbrook, Julian Holbrook, Pippa Thomson, Ailsa Carlisle, Helen McKay, Jo Gillies, Duncan McAuslan, Stuart Clark, and Colin Anderson (Fairmilehead Community Council),
Apologies: David Newbould

1. Ratification of minutes, 2 February 2026, and update on actions not on agenda.
No amendments and the minutes were proposed by Pippa Thomson and seconded by Kate Holbrook.
Actions arising:
A1. Discharged. CN had added link to our LPP on our own website under Handy Links
A2. The existing bus stop at Tigh na Geat is beyond repair. ACTION 1: JG to get update from Contractor on replacement.
A3. Consultation on boundaries has not started yet. Map is on the website. ACTION 2: CN will ask residents on Seafield Moor Road about their preferred community council.
A4. At the time of the meeting there had not been a reply to our FOI request, but a response is expected within 20 working days. Letter of complaint about MLDP2 process has gone to Stage 2, and a response to this is also expected within 20 working days. Other Community Councils within Midlothian are also reporting long delays in responses from the Council.
A5. Discharged. JG alerted residents to 'well planned' burglary at Boghall.
A6. Possibility of installing camera at hot spot for flytipping carried over. ACTION 3: KR
A7. Discharged. PW had provided housing numbers. Council as a whole agreed that 8851 is *the* agreed figure but DDCC's opinion is that the number used in the MLDP2 still needs to be reduced because applications have been passed in the meantime and there is now greater clarity about the number of houses that have actually been built, which tends to be greater than that initially planned for.
A8. Discharged. CN had emailed Councillors prior to the 9th March meeting reiterating DDCC objections. Two councillors made similar points to those raised by the DDCC.
A9. Discharged. CN wrote to Emma Hay explaining we don't want to go ahead with her proposal for settlement boundaries.
A10. Discharged. JH had circulated his collation of all the quotes about the route of the proposed relief road to the roads group.
A11. Discharged.
A12. Discharged. Main points are given later
A13. Burnside is shut but cars going in both directions. Google maps has been updated. Thanks to everyone who have been involved in improving safety on Burnside. ACTION 4: CN to write to AH and DG to complain vehicles continuing to use Burnside.
A14. Discharged.
A15. Extra bus stop. ACTION 5: HM to contact Anna Harriman.
A16. Discharged. Hedges have been planted. Extra seedlings snapped up.
A17. PT didn't receive any images of flooding on OPR. Will use photos she already has and add sufficient text. ACTION 6: PT to circulate for comments before end April.

2. Police Scotland Report (see annex).

3. **Strategic planning and developments:**

- MLDP2. MDLP2 will go to the Reporter who then looks at the mitigations and responses. ACTION 7: CN to ask Peter Arnsdorf for an update on the timetable.
- A701 Relief Road, and link to A702. PT alerted us to the archaeology report now on the portal. She has forwarded information to Neil McKay who found this to be encouraging with respect to Old Pentland Cemetery.
- Local Place Plans and Glasgow Uni research project. Meeting focussed on the process and lessons from the preparation of the LPP to inform the next cycle. Report by University of Glasgow will be submitted to the Deputy Chief Planner. Students are enrolled on a MSc course on Community Empowerment and Engagement. Led by Prof Andy Inch. There had been a workshop with 11 CCs who had completed a LPP. The main recommendations from the workshop were: process could be improved by having a one-stop shop with all necessary information and advice; varies with the capacity of the Local Authority; funding is needed.
  HM and Gail Robertson (Gorebridge Community Council) took part in a Teams meeting with the researchers for CCs who had not been able to make the workshop. Gorebridge had very different challenges because confusion about who had ownership of the process and much less agreement about what should be prioritised, with their whole process funded by mining development fund. The strongest view overall was that although CCs are proud of their final LPP it seems to have very little significance in influencing planning decisions. HM forwarded JH's comments on the LPP process to UoG.
  JH asked EH about whether the LPP could be updated - it is a living document. ACTION 8: JH to find out the process for updating our LPP.
- Active travel. Madelaine Bell +ACOM met with JH and KH. The main points were:
  - A702 route has been dismissed
  - Information about the possible routes not being shared at the moment.
  - AECOM confirmed that they have not been on any land.
  - STRAVA being used to collect information but it is relevant for recreation not commuters/active travel.
  - MB not clear about compulsory purchase of land used for active travel – KH thinks this is not possible yet in Scotland.
  - Safe Routes to School but no provision for children to cycle
  - There will be public consultation.
  - A Steering Group was set up but didn't include DDCC. DDCC want to co-develop routes. ACTION 9: JG to write to MB and Anna Harriman.
  - Noted that Burnside have a WhatsApp group, which might be useful for active travel engagement.

4. **Traffic and road safety:**

- Burnside works, erosion and drainage. Contractors will resurface a large area of the Burnside, add one more gabion, and repair the crash barrier. An extra passing place may be added. Heat-treated soil will be added to the verges; HM confirmed that £100 is available within DDCC's budget for wildflower seeds. Options to protect the verges were discussed and the general view was that the Community Council should not interfere with individual landowner preferences.

ACTION 10: JH offered to progress ways of protecting verges informally. Speed bumps would be a helpful suggestion to reduce speed. ACTION 11: JG to write to Douglas Glynn to see if this would be possible.

- MTRAP 17 February. CN attended.
  - Anna Harriman explained thinking about active travel on A701.
  - Edinburgh buses private company and if Midlothian want more buses, Midlothian needs to pay more. Express bus from TESCO to centre of town. 800 bus goes on the bypass, will be continued. Potential interchange, e.g. Gowkley Moss. CN will circulate minutes. Improved info at busstops. Park and Ride bus survey was not mentioned.
  - General experience is that Midlothian Council do not reply. CN will bring it up at the next Federation meeting in April with Brian Farrell. Communication covered indirectly in letter of complaint.

5. Community activities and concerns:

- Community Cohesion event, 10 February. JH attended. Case studies about individuals rather than the community. *Thriving, connecting* and *belonging* are the three words that they want to use.
- Community Noticeboard options re location (e.g. triple junction, cemetery) and heading, (e.g. 'Damhead and District Information'). ACTION 12: JG to seek views, and HM to ask MH whether possible to fix existing board at Cemetery.
- Summer gathering. CN provisionally agreed to host ACTION 13: CN will text a couple of dates to JG to agree the date.

6. DDCC Administration

- DDCC budget. Statement to the end of the financial year had not been received at the time of the meeting. Two withdrawals expected (£30 for the rental of the community centre for the last meeting and £300 for the new noticeboard) leaving at least £3316. Interest still to be added.
- Small grant ideas (12 April deadline) ACTION 14: JG to circulate MH's list of suggestions to DDCC, and HM to submit application.
- Midlothian Councillor engagement with DDCC. JG had emailed our councillors seeking better attendance from those who have not attended DDCC in recent years. PW acknowledged email, but others still to respond.

7. AOB

a. Section 25 contributions. Walker Homes had sought reduction in the Developers Contribution associated with a school. West Lothian Council's view (to retain the original contribution) was upheld by the Reporter. Logically Midlothian Council should take the same view about Walker Homes who have 3 applications to reduce their Section 25 contributions.

b. Issue raised about trees being cut down and site being expanded round the car wash. Questions raised about who owns ground adjacent to car wash.

c. Fairmilehead Community Council.

   I. FCC procedure to not get involved in individual housing similar to DDCC's.

II. Active travel crossing of the city bypass. As far as FCC is aware the proposal is just pedestrian crossings of the slip roads, not a bridge. This is on hold because of discussions about A702/703 active travel. CN explained that AECOM suggested that there would be a bridge.

III. A pedestrian crossing at Sainsbury's has been approved by Edinburgh Council for 2026/27. There will be a VAS sign on the Biggar Road to show speed of travel

IV. Scottish Water pre-application - site can't be used for residential housing

d. AGM venue? Need to be in person and Glencorse generally acceptable.

8. Date of next meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 1 June plus AGM, in person

Meetings will take place at 7.30pm on the first Monday of every second month. Some meetings will be in person, others will be online by Zoom. Agreed dates for 2026 are:

1 June plus AGM – in person
3 August – zoom
5 October – in person
7 December – zoom

DDCC Email: damheadanddistrictcc@googlegroups.com
DDCC Website http://damheadcc.org/
Midlothian Federation of Community Councils Website
https://www.midlothiancommunitycouncils.org.uk
"Damhead Community" Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/134821255247393

ANNEX

POLICE SCOTLAND Keeping people safe

Midlothian Community Council Report
February/March 2026
Beat Areas MW02
Damhead Community

POLICE SCOTLAND Keeping people safe

Incidents of Note

Inc 1956 (13/02/2026) A702 near to Boghall Plantation. Vehicle Accident. 1 car vehicle accident. Vehicle left the road and through a hedge. Conditional Offer for a Section 3 Careless Driving Offence issued.

Inc 0523 (27/02/2026) Hillend 3 Way Junction. Vehicle Accident. 2 car vehicle accident. Vehicle turning right into Pentland Road collided with oncoming vehicle.

Inc 1307 (05/03/2026) Esso Service Station. Theft of fuel. £93.13 stolen. CR submitted.

Inc 1573 (05/03/2026) Hillend Ski Centre. Off Road Bikes. Report of two off Road Bikes within Country Park above ski slope. Area search no trace.

Inc 2303 (06/03/2026) A702 near to Boghall Cottages. Vehicle Accident. 2 car vehicle accident. Vehicle collided with oncoming vehicle possibly due to vehicle travelling too fast on bend.

Inc 0488 (10/03/2026) Esso Service Station. Theft of fuel. £82.02 stolen. CR submitted.

Inc 1983 (11/03/2026) Esso Service Station. Theft of fuel. £20.02 stolen. CR submitted.

Inc 1011 (12/03/2026) Esso Service Station. Theft of fuel. £72.92 stolen. CR submitted.

Inc 3026 (16/03/2026) Damhead Farm Steading. Report of Dog running loose. Referred to Dog Warden.

Inc 0004 (30/03/2026) Esso Service Station. Theft of fuel. £72.00 stolen. CR submitted.

Inc 3398 (30/03/2026) Esso Service Station. Theft of fuel. £70.00 stolen. CR submitted.

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

Although not occurring in the immediate Damhead Community Council area, a day of action was undertaken by Police Scotland Roads Policing Officers at Flotterstone on the A702 (Inc 0488 12/03/2026). A number of offences were detected including:
x8 No insurance offences
x6 Vehicle Seizures
x4 MOT offences
x1 Vehicle Rectification Ticket issued

If any resident has any other concerns or is looking for information such as Crime Prevention advice, then PC Ross Young can be contacted via his Police Scotland Email address
Ross.Young@scotland.police.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**).