DDCC MEETING, 3 FEBRUARY 2025, By Zoom

1. **Welcome and apologies**
Present: Constance Newbould, Kate Holbrook, Julian Holbrook, Gordon Gray, Gill Gray, Gareth Derbyshire, Graeme Buchanan, Pippa Thompson, Jo Gillies, Imogen Armstrong, Kate Armstrong, John McLean, Duncan McAuslan, Ritchie Umpleby, Helen McKay, and Colin Anderson from Fairmilehead Community Council.
Apologies: Ailsa Carlisle, Gaetan Richard, Paul Johnston and PC Ross Young.

2 **Ratification of minutes,** meeting of 2 December 2024, and update on actions not on agenda.
Proposed: Gill Gray
Seconded: John McLean

Update and actions carried over:

- ACTION: JH to circulate his list of suitable locations for bat boxes. Anyone listed who is interested, please reply to JH.
- KH has written to SRUC raising the points identified in our LPP. The contact at Boghall Farm is willing to meet DDCC reps. We agreed that we would prefer to have an on-site meeting rather than a video conference. Requests raised at the meeting were paths from Tigh na Geat to the Pentlands and Coo Lane (Cows Linn). Specific requests were to include signage to take litter and dog poo home and to have a barrier to encourage riders but discourage motor bikes.
- The bus stop has not been repaired. JH has measured up the old bus stop at the triple junction. MH suggested that we could approach Lothian Buses to offer to do it up and could they contribute.
ACTION: MH is willing to approach Travis Perkins etc to supply materials.
ACTION: HM to approach Lothian Buses re upgrade of bus stop at triple junction.
- ACTION: HM to remind printers to get hard copies of our LPP
- ACTION: GG will resend contact details of Angela Casey to JH to create a podcast on DDCC's ethos

3. **Police Scotland Report**. PC Ross Young, Police Scotland.
See Annex. No actions.

4. **Strategic planning and developments**

- Allanvale/Cala housing development. Several residents attended the community engagement event at the Snow Sports Centre and sent in individual responses. JG has sent one on behalf of DDCC. Cala expect 800-1000 cars. There will be a second consultation event in early March.
- MLDP2 has 20 mentions of A701 relief road in the full document but no reference to Local Place Plans. HM has managed to quickly check on the references to the A701 relief road. The text indicates that funding for the full relief road is no longer available so the work is phased with the immediate work at the Bush Loan/A702 junction.

5. Traffic and road safety

- Hillend junction signalisation. JG has raised concerns about the issues we'd identified at previous meetings and had received some reassurances: there will be advance warning of queue south of lights; keep clear markings to allow access to houses in the vicinity of the lights; bus stops will remain; lights on Old Pentland Road have been moved to allow cornering; cats eyes between triple junction and Snowsports Centre will be removed; and a cycle filter lane will be installed on the A702 southbound approach to the signals. Traffic lights will be installed 10th March.
- JG had also raised concern about the pavement surface on Old Pentland Road towards the triple junction, and there is a commitment for this to be remediated.
- Burnside 40 mph speed limit has not yet been implemented. ACTION: JG to follow up
- Burnside erosion, flooding and barriers – no action although the situation continues to deteriorate.
- MTRAP update. CN submitted our requests for carriageway and footway improvements, as agreed at December DDCC meeting.

6. Community activity:

- Spring litter pick agreed for 9th March.
  ACTION: JG to speak to Aldi, and fast food for support.
- Old Pentland Graveyard - update circulated separately by email of work done in the last 4 months. It was sent for information, although there is an opportunity for people to help and support the work.
  ACTION: GG will try to find records on the Scottish Genealogical Records about the missing information on burials at the Graveyard.

7. DDCC operations

- DDCC Budget. HM gave the following update:
  - There was a withdrawal of £76.27 for secretary's expenses. A cheque had been issued for £5.30 for Hit Squad expenses but had not been cashed yet.
  - There was interest of £11.57
  - Balance is £3219.45
  - An application for £300 was submitted on 18th January 2025 to repair the noticeboard. Subsequent information: this has been successful.
- DDCC Elections. JG alerted us that elections will not occur in April this year. Constitution will change AGM/elections to June for this year and future occasions. Nomination forms will be sent out well in advance. ACTION: JG to review meeting dates and circulate up to date list.
- DDCC Constitution. A number of changes are being proposed to ensure the constitution remains in alignment with the Midlothian Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils (proposed changes noted in red on attachment circulated before the meeting). The changes are mostly minor, and the main points are:
  - Para 5 DDCC membership, will be a minimum of 4, maximum of 7;

- Para 7 on resignation, if a Community Councillor doesn't attend for 3 consecutive meetings and hasn't tendered apologies. OR if doesn't attend 6 consecutive meetings could be deemed to have resigned;
- Para 9, can co-opt members, with limited authority
- Para 13, draft minutes required within 21 days – we have generally managed to meet this deadline.
- Para 16, treasurers report to be provided at each meeting – we have been doing this for some time.
- Para 19, dissolution of the Community Council if unable to form a quorum for three consecutive meetings.

ACTION: Any comments on proposed changes to be sent to JG, with changes to be finalised and agreed at April meeting.

8. AOB

- Solar panels. No-one has notified JG of interest so far. It was noted that it would be possible to purchase solar panels at cost, although installation would have to be organised separately.
- MH gave an update on the 'Hit Squad' activities. There have been two events cleaning and widening paths but two sections are still to be done (32 Pentland Road to the Secret Herb Garden and SHG to Ikea). These could be combined with litter pick. The A703 section from the triple junction south through the bends is difficult to clean safely. In some places the Council have cleared pavement but have blocked drains.
- The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology have lodged an objection to the roundabout on A702. A full flood risk assessment will now be done.
- SEPA have withdrawn their objection to the Beeslack proposal.
- JH suggested buying wildflower seeds from Scotia seeds, estimated £100. This expenditure was passed by a show of hands.
  ACTION: JH to buy seed
- Several residents were concerned about the impact of some very bright domestic lights on dark skies;
  ACTION: CN to ask householders to dim or angle lights down
- OpenReach are evaluating their R100 Community Broadband programme.
  ACTION: JG will circulate
- CA alerted us to a planning application to erect a free-standing advertising board next to fuel station on A702 which could be a disturbance to local residents and a distraction to traffic. In Edinburgh, applications for similar boards (24/00074/ADV) have been rejected with just one exception.
  ACTIONS: CA will forward relevant information to CN and JG (including details for RAMPS). CN to object.
- At Swanston Alister McClung has proposed cycle tracks but there is no update as far as CA is aware.
- Frogston Road proposal had 890 objections. It was withdrawn at the last minute.
- The proposal for a battery energy storage site at Kaimes has still to be decided.

9. Date of next meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 7 April 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. The calendar of meetings will be reviewed following the AGM and DDCC elections in June.

Forthcoming meetings include:
Monday 3 February 2025, online by zoom
Monday 7 April 2025, in person at the Steading
Monday 2nd June 2025 Meeting, AGM and DDCC Elections, in person
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

ANNEX

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Incidents of note 1st December 2024 to 31st January 2025
Meeting Date - Monday 3rd February 2025
Damhead Community Council
Beat Area MW02

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Incidents of Note

Inc 2791 (04/12/24) Theft of Fuel. Lothianburn Service Station. £31.07 worth of fuel stolen. CR Submitted.

Inc 1742 (06/12/24) Theft Shoplifting. Lothianburn Service Station. £12-£13 worth of goods stolen. CR Submitted.

Inc 3355 (06/12/24) 2 Car Road Traffic Collision. Pentland Road with junction of A701. Driver issued with Recorded Police Warning for possession of Cannabis however he was not impaired.

Inc 0480 (07/12/24) Report of HGV stuck at Junction of A702/A703. Related to confusing Road Closed Signs at junction. Assisted by Roads Policing Officers and moved on.

Inc 1505 (09/12/24) Drunk male causing a disturbance. Lothianburn Service Station. Traced and returned to his homeless accommodation in Edinburgh Concern report submitted due to his level of intoxication.

Inc 0605 (10/12/24) Report of Gridlocked Traffic at Junction of A702/A703. Related to confusing Road signs and possible Vehicle Accident on Bypass. Assistance given by Roads Policing Officers.

Inc 2371 (10/12/24) Report of male slumped over steering wheel of parked vehicle on Biggar Road. Officers attended but no trace of vehicle upon arrival.

Inc 1751 (04/01/25) Theft of Fuel. Lothianburn Service Station. £74.07 worth of fuel stolen. CR Submitted.

Inc 0571 (06/01/25) 2 Car Road Traffic Collision. A702 near to Hillend. Vehicle travelling North has collided with vehicle travelling South after entering opposing carriageway. No serious injury but driver trapped due to foot being stuck in footwell. Conditional Offer for careless driving issued.

Inc 1881 (07/01/25) Theft of Fuel. Lothianburn Service Station. £50 worth of fuel stolen. CR Submitted.

Inc 1805 (10/01/25) Police contacted regarding hillwalker having a possible Heart Attack above Hillend Ski Centre. Mountain Rescue call out and male traced. Suspected Asthma attack and walked off the hill.

Inc 1846 (12/01/25) Anti Social Behaviour. Lothianburn Service Station. Group of approx. 15 youths within garage shop causing a disturbance. Left prior to Police arrival.

Inc 1681 (19/01/25) Vehicle Anti Social Behaviour. Near to Hillend Ski Centre. Report of 3 males on off road motor bike wearing balaclava doing Wheelies. Area search on trace.

Inc 1444 (22/01/25) Theft of Fuel. Lothianburn Service Station. £34.52 worth of fuel stolen. CR Submitted.

Inc 1465 (22/01/25) Theft of Fuel. Lothianburn Service Station. £7.50 worth of fuel stolen by male carrying fuel container. CR Submitted.

Inc 2529 (24/01/25) Theft of Fuel. Lothianburn Service Station. £20.15 worth of fuel stolen. CR Submitted.

Inc 0846 (28/01/25) Theft of Fuel. Lothianburn Service Station. £56.67 worth of fuel stolen. Vehicle was a stolen vehicle. CR Submitted.

Inc 3456 (28/01/25) Theft of Fuel. Lothianburn Service Station. £30.07 worth of fuel stolen. Possible Civil Matter. CR Submitted.

Inc 1880 (29/01/25) Report of 2 XL Bully Dogs off the lead. Seafield Road. Area search no trace. Efforts being made to identify owners so status of dogs can be established.

In addition to the above incidents and relating to the wider Midlothian area, during the month of December 2024 the Community Policing Team & Midlothian Community Action Team were involved in a Winter initiative which entailed focussed targeting of resources in enforcement, detection and disruption in relation to:
Minimising Violence and Disorder
Minimising Anti-Social Behaviour
Minimising Acquisitive Crime
Supporting Roads Policing to maximise Road Safety and minimise road crime.

Both High-visibility and Plain clothed patrols were carried out in the area in relation to parking issues and Anti Social Behaviour, a focus on Bail Offenders, carrying out pro-active bail checks on highlighted nominals.

Due to the time of the year and an expected increase in Shoplifting offences, in addition to the winter initiative, local officers were also involved in focussing on progressing enquiries and making arrests for nominals linked to outstanding crime reports, and specifically, shoplifting & repeat offenders.

During a period of 2 months (18/11/24 – 18/01/25), these initiatives saw over 100 Crime Reports being detected and resolved, with over 40 nominals being arrested and/or charged in relation.

These crimes were predominantly for shoplifting, however other linked offences are included within these figures. In addition to local officers carrying out patrols within their ward area, assistance was provided to give Straiton Retail Park additional resourcing due to this being the largest shopping area within the Midlothian area.

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

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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 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.