**DDCC meeting, 7.30pm, 2 February 2026 at the GLENCORSE CENTRE**
**MInutes**

**Welcome and apologies**

Present: Constance Newbould, Jo Gillies, Julian Holbrook, Kate Holbrook, Gordon Gray, Pippa Thomson, Gordon Buchanan, Catriona Umpleby, Ailsa Carlisle, David Newbould, Duncan McAusland, Keith Burwell, John McLean, Katherine Ross and Councillor Pauline Winchester. Helen McKay joined by video to do the minutes.
Apologies: Ana Isabel Castro Marques

1. **Ratification of minutes, 1 December 2025, and update on actions not on agenda**
   Minutes proposed DN, seconded by KH.
   Actions not on the agenda:
   - A map of the proposed boundaries has been uploaded to our website. ACTION 1: CN to include link to LPP.
   - Repair to our jointly owned bus stop at Tigh na Geat. JG has followed up because specialist equipment is needed. ACTION 2: JG to push for repairs.
   - Boundary changes: DDCC has requested that the houses opposite Seafield Mill will stay in DDCC. ACTION 3: JG will email details of the consultation on the proposed changes along with the minutes.
   - ACTION 4: CN to chase the Commissioner about her FOI request.
   - The updated Handbook for Community Councils has not yet been circulated but our own updated constitution meets the new requirements.
   - Repeat 40 mph signage needed on the A703. [Jo not sure if there was an action here]

2. **Police Scotland Report (see appendix 1 for full report)**
   - Points of most relevance to Damhead and District residents:
     - There was one accident recorded at the triple junction.
     - There is no further information on the report of squatters at Calderstone.
     - The police were aware of problems on the Burnside.
   - Additional points:
     - Although not in the police report, a resident at Boghall Cottages has been burgled in a planned, possibly targeted, way from across the fields. ACTION 5: JG to circulate to residents for awareness
     - Fly tipping. ACTION 6: CU to contact owner raising the option about installing a camera in the fly tipping hotspot. [Not sure about this]

3. Strategic planning and developments: meeting 9th March.
   - MLDP2
   - MLDP2 has still to come out for public consultation. Some delay has occurred and one more meeting is planned before it is circulated for the consultation.

Ideally all the objections should be discussed but there seems limited opportunity to revise on the basis of our discussion.

- Our view is that extra housing, over and above the original lower target, is not needed. PW explained that the planners have introduced a requirement for extra houses, all sites have objections, and this one [could you add details please Jo, is it the Cala development] has fewer problems. Extra Cala houses will exacerbate coalescence between Damhead and Loanhead.
  ACTION 7: PW will a] ask for reasoning for the arable sites to be included rather than others, b] express DDCC views at the meetings.
- How do we get our Councillors to represent our views and raise them at the meetings.
  ACTION 8: JG to email Kelly Parry prior to meeting to reiterate our objections.

• Option of Settlement Status for Damhead in MLDP2; survey findings and views

- JG summarised the position. Towns in Midlothian have a settlement statement but D&D does not. We have considered 'dispersed settlement' status however this category does not exist in Midlothian. As an alternative Midlothian planners suggested adapting settlement status with a close boundary drawn round some but not all of the houses. As a 'settlement', the enclosed houses would come under urban rules whereas the rest would be green belt. Nine responses from D&D residents were submitted to the consultation/survey. These were generally supportive of 'dispersed settlement' status but all had many caveats and hesitations, e.g. this may be divisive in the future and split D&D with no added value. JG offered to put the responses on the website.
- JG had asked MFCC for relevant information: 'Settlement Statement' is a foundation for planning, e.g. houses, infrastructure. It had almost nothing about the aspects D&D residents feel are important. Roslin and Howgate are somewhat similar although the language is used in a very different way.
- We need a time to have a decision so that this can be incorporated into the MLDP. We still don't know what 'urban rules' mean. Perhaps we should investigate dispersed settlement further.
- Some areas have developed their equivalent by emphasising the links to other strategies rather than having planning as the primary focus
  ACTION 9: KH to get in touch with Emma to find out if there are similar types of areas with whom we could form common cause.

• A701 Relief Road, and link to A702.

- An updated EIA to address all the comments made so far is expected by end March in advance of a planners meeting on April 28th
- Transport have made an interesting objection.
- Environment Rights Centre Scotland stated that the costings are based on a vast underestimate of costs so it is very difficult to make a value for money case.
- Recent survey suggests an average reduction in travel time of 1.1 minutes. [Jo conflicting estimates of savings in time – should we leave both in?]
- Current route differs from the original seven routes. ACTION 10: JH to share document on the decision to change to route. KH to do ?
- STAG 1 is out of date and 2 report ?? [got lost here]

- "Busyness" of the A701 is given as the justification for the relief road although the recent transport report gives a saving of 10 secs on the A701. We are of the opinion that there has to be evidence of the savings to justify the expenditure. How do you define "busy". ACTION 11: CU to join Zoom meeting on Friday.

- Active Travel
  There will be two meetings (10th and 17th Feb) which CN will attend.
  Unfortunately, an active travel route on the A703 will not be covered. A survey of Midlothian Park and Rides will help to identify options which will then go out to consultation. On the A701, stops at Straiton P&R are unsafe. ACTION 12: CN to raise this at the Feb meetings.
  An additional cycle bridge over by-pass at Lothianburn is being discussed with Fairmilehead Community Council.

4. Traffic and road safety:
   - Triple junction signalisation: we acknowledge that there have been improvements but some tweaking is still needed.
   - Burnside erosion and drainage have been general concerns for many years but have been particularly serious recently because many commuters have been using the Burnside to bypass roadworks on the A701. A paper by JH lays out the technical problems and residents' concerns clearly. Any road works in the area should properly take account of the impact on the Burnside. ACTION 13: CN to contact Alan ? to have a plan in place for the future events.
     Possible mitigations:
     - immediately there is notification of road works, Midlothian have advance discussion with DDCC to identify effective signage.
     - social media should be routed through DDCC rather than residents.
     - ACTION 14: JG to contact Wayne's replacement to advise on use of traffic lights and signage options.
     - How do we get Google maps to acknowledge it is a single-track road?
   - Relevant landowners need to agree a solution to stop the water flooding over into the Burnside.
   - Number 4 bus stop. HM has followed up with Midlothian Transport who stated that a replacement stop close to the Steading is not in their plan. One resident (MH) had complained formally. ACTION 15: HM to continue making the case for a replacement stop.

5. **Community activities and concerns:**
   - Tree Planting Project: HM and CU were successful in their application to Woodland Trust Scotland for seedlings suitable for hedges. They will be delivered in early March. ACTION 16: CU and HM to agree arrangements for planting and discuss allocation of extra seedlings.
   - New bin and recycling arrangements. There may be a problem for residents who do not have space for a third bin.
   - Litter pick. We agreed that for the time being an organised event is not needed because everyone is doing their own bit.

- CN will attend the Community cohesion session on 10th Feb.

**6. DDCC Administration**

- DDCC budget and grant. The DDCC account statement was not available at the time of our February meeting but the update shows that there was a withdrawal to cover the cost of the counters used in the traffic survey (£12.99). The balance remaining at the 30th January was £3645.91. To date there has not been a call for funding requests for 2026/27.

**7. AOB:**

- The charge for meeting at Auchendinny Community Centre was £30.
- SEPA consultation was circulated. ACTION 17: All to return comments and any pictures of flooding to JG who will pass these to PT for collation.

8. Date of next meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 6 April, by Zoom

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. The agreed dates for 2026 are as follows:

6 April - zoom
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

## Appendix 1. Police report