

Chairs report May 2017

Well it has been another busy year for the Council committee.

At last year's AGM we had agreed to present Lorna Goudie with a crystal vase but sadly Lorna passed away before we managed to purchase a suitable gift and therefore instead we decided to plant an apple tree on the path leading to the Graveyard and erect a plaque to her. We had a good turnout for the planting and I am sure Lorna would approve.

We have at last got our new noticeboard and are just waiting on it being erected on the Old Pentland Road.

We were also successful in getting Midlothian Council to extend the 40mph speed limit on the A703 to past the bus stop. Unfortunately they have not supplied the promised bus shelter though.

We held our two litters pick again one in October and one in March again collecting an amazing amount of litter. Although it is a bit depressing to see so much more being dropped literally days later.

We also had our Summer Lunch and this time only a few showers. We are holding this year's summer lunch on the 11th June to which we are looking for a good turnout.

We still get a large number of requests from Midlothian Council's various departments asking for our views on a wide range of topics. The Federation of Community Councils help terrifically with some of these as they have a few dedicated members who must spend a considerable time looking into the pros and cons.

Planning issues still dominate a lot of our time. The MLDP has still not been ratified and recently we had a request from the reporter who has been looking into the unresolved issues and he has asked us for more information on various points. We instructed John MacCallum who did our original objection and response to supply the additional information and I have a copy of his response which I can give to anyone. The other parties asked for more information have also responded and now we have until the 23rd May to respond to their comments.

This clearly is a long drawn out procedure!

The landfill site off OPR continues to cause problems and we are grateful to Neil Johnston for his sterling attempts at trying to get Midlothian council to be more effective in applying the rules!

Finally after a very long time we now have our new constitution in place - not that there is much difference but at least we are up to date.

Constance Newbould

May 2017