

CHAIR'S REPORT DAMHEAD & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 1ST APRIL 2019

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work over the past three years and in giving me much needed support.

Although I feel we haven't achieved as much as we had planned we have definitely had our voice heard in Midlothian Council and have had a few successes.

Re Planning matters: The number of new houses being built is of concern and we are being squeezed from all sides and therefore I think important that we maintain pressure wherever we can in order to at least have some green space and as many paths as we can to access the wider area including the Pentlands. It is also important to continue pressing for our roads to be safer and to have the speed reduced on all the roads if possible. I note the A702 has a monitoring system in place at present but am not aware whether Midlothian Council have done theirs on the Old Pentland Road. Jo has given them our positions for the monitoring but I haven't seen anything.

We still do not know the exact route of the A701 relief road and also where they expect the money to come from to pay for it. Their initial plan was to contribute £4M from their own funds and to raise the rest from planning gains from developers but in their enthusiasm to have houses built it appears builders are applying to have some planning gains removed from their permissions!

Malcolm Spaven representing the Moorfoot CC sits on the Federation of Community Councils and has been excellent at keeping us informed of other matters in Midlothian.

There are the three big developments in our area 1. Ski Sports centre, 2 Mr McClung's new hotel and also his mountain bike facility and 3 the Development of Calderstones. Whilst none affect us directly they will make a huge impact on the roads and in particular the triple junction. The continual running of the water on the Burnside is particularly frustrating as it has now been running since last September /October and must now run to hundreds of thousands of gallons of wasted water. David and I have contacted Scottish water on numerous occasions and also the Council to no avail.

We have had our usual litter picks in October and March. Yesterday was glorious weather for a change and we saw loads of bags filled. At our next one we are needing bags to be collected along the roadside as becoming too heavy for us to carry back to the start! Unfortunately, this can't be done on the A703 bends as too dangerous to stop. We did miss the opportunity to collect on the north side of the road when it was closed so we will keep this in mind for future. Jo and I discussed possibly asking MC to supply traffic lights for one morning to clear that side as it is completely littered with plastic bottles etc etc.

We were all delighted when the film studio finally was rejected not because of our efforts at objecting but because the Gibsons could not remove Jim Telfer. Good luck to them in their Salters Road application.

I have volunteered to stand again for election and do hope I have your continued support.

Constance Newbould

1st April 2019