

## **Damhead and District Community Council: Meeting Minutes**

The Steading, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014

### **1 Attendance/apologies**

**In attendance:** Constance Newbould (Chair), Ailsa Carlisle (Secretary), Lorna Goudie, Helen McKay, Julian Holbrook

**Apologies:** Jo Gillies, Andrew Coventry

### **Police Report**

Bruce Frizzel reported that it had been very quiet since our last meeting. The only reported crimes were a) a lad in possession of cannabis in Hillend car park and b) a driver who had not paid for fuel. No traffic accidents have been reported.

There is no resolution about the junction at the Garden Centre. David Sharp is considering the Situation Report but the Council has not responded yet. Constance requested a change in weight limit for lorries as a priority for DDCC. Bruce Frizell offered to chase up the Council.

**ACTION:** DDCC to follow up and contact Councillor (Andrew Coventry) about Old Pentland weight limit and A703 speed limit.

**Chair's report.** Constance Newbould explained that Midlothian Council is changing the application process and amount available for voluntary groups from April 2015.

### **Treasurer's report**

Helen McKay reported that there is £679.83 in the account. The '14-15 grant application was ready to submit.

### **Community Resilience**

Alison White, Head of Service, Midlothian Council, outlined the Scottish Governments intention to get communities to build resilience through three main activities: prepare, respond, recover. The Council will provide some basic information (for example on demographics, flooding risks, road gritting priorities) and possibly small funds (for example for equipment, training) provided there is sufficient interest within the wider community. Alison is looking for volunteer community councils and would be happy to discuss with smaller group if she is given a contact name. She explained that if grants were available they wouldn't come from the standard grant. Pippa asked if a plan for resilience could include proactive measures, e.g. could we get drains cleaned before flooding. Key contacts would be useful for the community.

**ACTION:** Julian Holbrook will set up a small group of residents to suggest appropriate actions for DDCC.

### **Siting of DDCC noticeboard**

Ailsa Carlisle reported that a Community Council notice board would be welcome beside the Secret Herb Garden. We agreed on the proposed site.

**ACTION:** Ailsa to let the owners know of our decision; Constance to approach Graham Kitching to see if he or his son would construct a notice board if we supply the materials.

### **Main Issues Report – Update**

It is a concern that there are no minutes covering the discussion of the road at the recent Council meeting. The Midlothian Council vote is expected to be in October.

Several actions were discussed but there was no firm decision. Possible actions are: a march on the council building when the vote is being taken, taking photos on all the parcels of land that will be affected, and organising a line of people to link along the route of the road.

We did agree that, as suggested by Friends of the Earth, the new route should be given a more aggressive name, e.g. Damhead Dissector.

The Council have asked for a Transportation Appraisal to be done with a formal representation period over winter.

Daya (Midlothian Environmental Action Group) had analysed all responses to the Main Issues Report about the road for Ian Baxter (Green party Midlothian Councillor) including the number of objections, but this report was not taken into account at the Midlothian Council meeting.

Constance mentioned asking Edinburgh Council for the plan through Freedom of Information.

### **Neighbourhood plan**

The Plan will go to the Midlothian Local Planning Partnership this autumn. It has been edited and returned to Julian Holbrook but it still has minor errors which Julian will correct.

**ACTION:** Julian to edit and pass to Constance who will arrange for it to be circulated by 22<sup>nd</sup> August to all DDCC for comments by 15<sup>th</sup> September. Derek will set up a meeting with **Ian Johnston, Mathers, Ricky Moffat etc to** Council before Midlothian Local Planning Partnership

**ACTION:** Julian to ask for date.

**ACTION:** Constance to consider other people to be invited.

### **Planning**

- In early August there was a pre-planning application for a Film Studio between the A701 and the line of the Damhead Dissector. The line of road has been moved. If the sale of the Gibsone land goes ahead it will be easier to move Jim Telfer's family. If permission is granted, even if the development does not go ahead, there will be greater recompense for the new road.

**ACTION:** There was general agreement that we should write to **????** (can anyone remember - ?

- Haig Hamilton's proposal will go to planning committee on 26<sup>th</sup> August for final decision. A crop of hay has just been taken off even though the application is claiming exemption under Section 19 which would not require a landfill tax.

**ACTION:** Constance to send photos before 26<sup>th</sup> August to Kingsley Drinkwater in planning and also phone and/or write to SEPA and ask for email response.

ALL to meet at the nearest gate on the Old Pentland Road at 10:30 on Sat 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- McKenzie appeal.  
**ACTION:** Constance sent DDCC comments to Anne Marie Cowie Planner at Midlothian Council.

### **Formation of the DDCC Climate Change group**

Julian Holbrook explained that the Climate Challenge Fund's deadline is October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**ACTION:** Julian Holbrook will provide a paragraph to be circulated round all the DDCC to assess the level of support in the community.