

Damhead and District Community Council: Meeting

The Steading, 1st December 2014

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

Apologies: Helen McKay, Jo Gillies, Owen Thompson, **Constance – who is the other person whose name you couldn't remember?**

Police Report PC Eccles attended. Police report at end.

- 2** **Treasurer's Report**

£950 in bank.

- 3** **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Constance spoke about positive meeting held last week. Two senior officials from Midlothian Council attended the meeting - Ricky Moffat (Transport) and Ian Johnson (Planning) Ian Johnson explained that though Planning had drawn up a potential road route through Damhead as instructed by MLC, it was for MLC to approve this potential route by voting on it at their Council meeting on 16th January. **Ricky Moffat stated that a new bus shelter is planned for Seafield Moor Road. He also said that money will be spent in 2015 on drain repair in the Damhead area.**

Next stage of Neighbourhood Plan will be presented to Community Planning Partnership next January. Ian Johnson confirmed that although the current document is a draft it is a formal document and can be used in planning matters. For example it can be taken to Film Studio presentation next January.

Julian wants to invite all Midlothian Councillors to a peak preview of our Neighbourhood Plan imminently ie before an important meeting the councillors will be holding on December 16th. We want to demonstrate how different our vision of the future of Damhead is to the Council's.

Therefore a date will be selected from 8th, 9th or 12th December to invite all councillors to the Secret Herb Garden to view our proposals.

ACTION Ailsa to check with Hamish which date is possible to do this. Ailsa to invite all councillors to the peak preview. Ailsa to arrange some wine and nibbles.

4 Community Right to Buy

23 signed up so far. Kate Holbrook wants to set up an email group. A note should be sent to everyone in community.

ACTION Kate Holbrook and Constance to arrange. Kate to send Constance information and Constance to disseminate to community.

Julian spoke about other successful community efforts. Stuart spoke about Balerno hydro-electric scheme.

5 Planning/Development Issues

A701 re-alignment (Damhead dissect)

Constance discussed proposed planning meeting by Midlothian councillors on 16th December (18 councillors) to approve road re-alignment. We need to do something within the next 6 weeks. A protest on the day is being organised by Friends of the Earth with Daya Feldwick keeping us informed. Objections could include space required for dual carriageway. Amount of arable land being removed from the Damhead area for the proposed road. As we have stated countless times the new road is not needed and will not help traffic flow. Instead, improve junction at Hillend.

Stuart spoke about proposal by Midlothian Council to have an extra lane on by-pass for a mile or so.

Calderstones

Short discussion about Calderstones around where the best site was for a new roundabout.

If Calderstones wants to build a hotel they should contribute to roundabout.

Pentland Film Studio

Pre-planning application stage. Presentation arranged for January 14th 2015 at ASDA, Straiton from 14.00h to 18.00h. Open to all public. Apparently there is money for one film studio in Scotland. The Glasgow area appears to be where

the Scottish film industry is based, so it is thought less likely that a film studio will be based near here. The land for this proposal has not been purchased yet.

Noticeboard and other means of communication

Constance has looked at noticeboards on the internet with keys -£190. She thinks we should get two. Then discussion about best place. One where it used to be? It is thought that SATnav takes one to Sue Gray's nursery. Decision taken to place one at Seafield Moor Road and the other at the Secret Herb Garden, Old Pentland Road.

ACTION Constance to order two with a green background.

Write to councillors to see if we can get money for noticeboards. Looking for funding £4000. We haven't had funding for years.

ACTION Ailsa to email Midlothian West councillors.

AOB

Mapping and hedging

We need to map all the gaps in hedges. Suggestion to split Damhead into several areas. Ian Milne to do area on Seafield Moor Road up to Seafield Mill and Bilston/Bush crossroads. Kate Holbrook to co-ordinate. Julian and Kate to do a lot. Will hawthorn grow where it used to grow? Is a mixture better?

Scottish Water

Ian Milne spoke about gaps in hedges. Kenny Robertson helping. He has passed on comments to Colin Douglas at Scot. Water. Ian now approaching MSP. Julian suggests photos for Press. Agreement for mixed hedging – nothing has happened so far. Ian still waiting for a reply from Kenny Robertson. Ian would like support if he meets MSP.

Climate Change

Group perhaps to piggy-back on to other meetings. Julian keen to set up group.

Doors Open Day 2015

Pentland Graveyard Sept. 12th

Organisers handbook etc from Midlothian Council. Midlothian wants positive confirmation by next March if we want to proceed. Gibsone gives his consent to it.

Core Paths

Training on Jan. 14th -funding, then path promotion and March - biodiversity and other dates. Free if 20 people can attend. Lorna to email Julian and Ailsa information.

Litter pick

Some enthusiasts turned out on a cold day to clear road verges as usual.

It was disappointing that only 2 people on Seafield Moor Road area of litter pick up were available, a resident commented.

Info to Midlothian Advertiser by Ailsa re DDCC info.

11 Dates of next meetings:

Meetings for 2015 are:

Tuesday 3rd February 2015

Tuesday 7th April 2015 AGM and elections

Tuesday 9th June 2015

Big Lunch sometime in June

Tuesday 25th August

Tuesday 11th November

The Damhead and District Community Council email address is ddcc@mfcc.info. Please email us if you have any comments, queries or suggestions.

Damhead and District Community Council Police Report 19th Sept – 1st December 2014

Crime

About 1310hrs on 26th Sept, the occupier of a house in Biggar Road found a male within her kitchen who had entered via the unlocked front door. On seeing the occupier the male claimed he was looking for work. The occupier later noticed her purse was missing. The male was described as 30 – 35, heavy build with an Eastern European accent.

Between 1130hrs and 1415hrs on 1st October, a shed and garage at The Tryst, Old Pentland Road were broken into. Nothing was stolen on this occasion but high value bikes were previously stolen from the same location in January 2014.

About 1500hrs on 12th October, a mountain bike was stolen from an area near to the Hillend Ski Centre. The culprits asked the owner for a shot of his bike and failed to come back with it.

On 8th November, a pair of skis and a pair of ski boots were stolen from the Hillend Ski Centre.

Vehicle Accidents

About 0855hrs on 29th Sept, four vehicles were involved in a minor accident near to Hillend on the A702. No one was injured.

About 1330hrs on 10th November, two were involved in a minor accident near to Hillend on the A702. No one was injured.

About 1500hrs on 24th November, the driver of a Subaru motor vehicle claimed he skidded on mud and crashed into fencing at the Old Cemetery. There were no injuries.

Police Scotland use social media to circulate the latest news, events
And information to the public via Twitter (@policescotland) and
Facebook (www.facebook.com/policescotland).

Information regarding crime can be passed to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or
through an Anonymous Online Form - both of these routes are completely
anonymous and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

If any person has any information about the incident(s) listed above or indeed any other issue please
contact your Community Policing Team or Loanhead Police Station.

PC 4243 Kenneth Eccles

Community Policing Team Midlothian

E-mail: LothianScotBordersPenicuikCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Telephone: 101

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