

Minutes Damhead and District Community Council

The Steading, 5 February 2014, 7.00pm

1 Attendance/apologies

In attendance: Constance Newbould (Chair), Helen McKay (Treasurer), Joanne Gillies (joint secretary), Lorna Goudie, Ailsa Carlisle (joint secretary), Julian Holbrook.

Also present: PC Hutchison, Alistair Smith (AMS Associates Limited), Lynda McCormick (Red Cross)

Apologies: Matt Marshall, Councillor Andrew Coventry, Gordon and Kate Marshall, Stuart Clark

2 Minutes

The minutes were agreed. Under matters arising, Constance relayed information provided by Councillor Andrew Coventry in relation to next steps towards publication of the Local Development Plan, and in resolving inaccuracies in the MLC postcode database.

Action: Constance to request clarification about when the LDP seminars for Councillors will be held.

Action: Ailsa to follow up with MLC on postcode issues.

3 Police report

PC Hutchison read out the police report on behalf of PC Gillian Lumley and this is attached below for information. It was commented that there was no information provided on the accident at the Burnside junction on Old Pentland Road. PC Hutchison offered to make some enquiries, and also offered to carry out a traffic intelligence report with the aim of making recommendations to improve the safety of this junction.

In relation to an action from the last meeting, PC Hutchison confirmed that there had not been any reports made of stolen car number plates. PC Hutchison also gave an update on Operation RAC, which targets known criminals and vulnerable areas in relation to housebreaking.

Finally, PC Hutchison commented that this was the most well-attended community council meeting that he had attended in the area.

Action: PC Hutchison offered to make some enquiries re the accident on OPR/Burnside, and to carry out a traffic intelligence report with the aim of making recommendations to improve the safety of this junction.

Action: All residents to continue to inform DDCC (ddcc@mfcc.info) of any accidents that they witness in the area.

4 Hillend Land Improvement Works

Alistair Smith provided an overview of the above proposal and answered questions. The proposal concerns drainage of land owned by Haig Hamilton between Old Pentland Road and the bypass. The height of the land in the identified area will rise by 1.5m with surface water draining through wetland on the north east corner to the nearby watercourse.

Trucks will bring in soils and clays, and a full report has been completed for, and accepted by SEPA. A public event is to be held on 20 February in the British Legion Hall in Loanhead, with full details and summaries available of the environmental impacts report.

Key points from the discussion included:

- The proposal includes 16 truck runs on average per day over five years, using a one way system from the west (triple junction) and out at the east end (ASDA). This will have a significant impact on the level of traffic using Old Pentland Road (adding to the already significant volume of traffic on the road), it will have a significant impact on the quality of the road surface, and there are safety issues (particularly as the Burnside junction). It is not clear whether this average number of truck runs per day actually means that there will be more than this on a 'normal day' once holidays and weekends etc are taken into account. There are also issues around mud and debris (in a similar manner found during the recent Scottish Water workings) – does the quality of 'inert' material get checked?
- It was not clear whether the hydrology report was based on future potential weather scenarios, or whether there has been an assessment as to whether drainage is actually required for agricultural purposes.
- It was noted that Haig Hamilton had undertaken a similar project previously to enable potatoes to be grown, but following significant land fillage it appears that there has only been extremely limited agricultural use of the land for this purpose. This included a road to transport potatoes out of field, and it appears to be this road that will be used for trucks to access new proposed site.
- There is a risk that the land could be identified for future development once the quality of the land has been improved.

Action: DDCC (Constance?) to lodge objections within 21 days from the event on 20 February. This should include the requirement for a Highway Survey to be undertaken before any work starts so the current state of the road can be agreed in advance and the contractor can then pay for any remedial work.

Action: Residents and DDCC members to attend the event in the British Legion Hall on 20 February, drop in session between 11.30am and 7pm, where possible.

5. Red Cross

Lynda McCormick informed the meeting that four community coordinators have been appointed by MLC to prevent social isolation in over 65 year olds. A wide range of support is provided, ranging from help filling in forms, to working a computer, to picking up prescriptions during adverse weather conditions. Work is currently being undertaken to identify local groups and to compile a database of services and local support groups. Gaps in services will also be identified. Although it was recognised

that there weren't any services currently in existence within Damhead, there was potential for:

- Red Cross to help residents organise coffee mornings that could be held in a resident's house
- Transport (at a small cost) could be provided to take people to the opening of the Herb Garden on 21 March
- Transport could be provided to take residents to the Steading for dinner on a monthly basis linking with the Community Council meetings, with residents also taken home afterwards
- Residential one-off outings may be an option, although Red Cross are ideally looking for more regular sustainable options than this.

There was some discussion about the Red Cross approach to contacting their clients in adverse weather conditions. Red Cross would like to be involved in any approach taken forward by DDCC in relation to establishing a contact and information service for vulnerable people and/or in emergency situations.

Action: Julian to share information re the vulnerable person process utilised in the Borders.

Action: Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to ensure commitment included to develop an emergency procedure for vulnerable individuals.

Action: Lynda to inform DDCC when database of services available.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

Julian summarised activity to date, including the inspirational tour of local community initiatives in December, and the hugely successful 'planning for real' event held in January, which was attended by over 50 residents (25% of residents in total). The next steps will be to draft the Neighbourhood Plan, share this with residents to gather any comments/remaining gaps, then submit this to the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership for agreement. Julian also reported that a number of discussions had taken place with neighbouring communities to explore options for joint projects in the future, e.g. sharing land for community food growing projects, the potential to be involved in a European project to map out land use and biodiversity of the local area, the potential to learn from other community buy-outs, etc.

Action: Julian to ask a local community initiative to attend the AGM to give an insight into how we can take forward our own initiative in the Damhead area

Action: DDCC to explore potential for community buy-out of Gibson's fields on Old Pentland Road, and sign up to the European mapping project.

Action: summary of Neighbourhood Plan vision and framework to be shared with Midlothian Councillors to support our case objecting to the realignment of the A701 and development proposals as set out in the MIR.

7. Federation of Community Councils meeting

Jo provided an update from the last meeting. Main points included:

- An insight into the experience and learning from Gorebridge Community Hub: building has now started with the aim of completing the building Spring 2015.

- Development of the new Scheme for community councils in Midlothian is continuing, with a round table seminar to be held on 25 March: all community councils to be invited in due course.
- An invitation for a community councillor or resident to be involved in a short-term, co-production panel to review the MLC grant process.
- An invitation to submit questions for Kenneth Lawrie, CEO MLC, who will be attending the March Federation meeting.

8. Litter pick

It was agreed that the spring litter pick would take place 10-12noon on **Saturday 8 March**. An autumn date would be agreed in due course.

9. AOB

Planning application 13/00805 DPP

The planning application re-submitted to establish dog kennels on Old Pentland Road has been rejected.

Planning application 14/00047 DPP

The planning application proposes skip storage on land 70m North West Of Old Pentland Sawmill. There was general consensus that the plans should be objected to, but it was agreed views of Kate and Gordon should be sought as nearby residents, and particularly in relation to the road that has been identified in the proposals.

Action: Lorna to check details with Kate and Gordon Marshall

Gibsons: tipping and land proposals

An overview was provided of the extent of the tipping identified on land belonging to Gibsons at the edge of the Bing, and the potential link between this and the proposals by Gibsons to sell of part/all of their land and the resulting impact this will have on local livelihoods, the loss of agricultural land, and the loss of greenbelt. It was noted that notice was served in October 2011 in relation to this tipping.

Action: Stuart has written to SEPA regarding unauthorised tipping in the Straiton Bing area adjoining Clippens.

Action: Neighbourhood Plan Working Group consider including clearance of rubbish, and potential for community buy-out of Gibson's land, within Neighbourhood Plan.

DDCC mailshot

Action: Constance to issue mailshot with dates for litter pick, next meeting and potential lunch.

10. Date of next meeting

The date of the AGM and next meeting has changed and is now **2 April 2014**. The meeting will be held at 7pm in the Steading.

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

The meeting terminated at 9.30pm

**Damhead Community Council Police Report
November/December 2013 and January 2014**

Crimes committed:

Overnight 26-27 November 2013, a break in occurred at Midlothian Snowsports Centre, two males aged 19 and 23 years have been reported for this offence.

Between 11-12 January 2014, two sheds were forced to the rear of a property in Old Pentland Road, two mountain bikes were stolen from within one of them, described as white Commencal Supernormal 2007 models, one with a small frame and one with a large frame.

On the evening of 17 January 2014, two males aged 17 and 18 years were found to be in possession of alleged drugs in the car park of Midlothian Snowsports Centre. They have been reported for this offence.

In addition to the above there were three theft of petrol offences reported by Lothianburn Service Station.

Vehicle accidents:

On 9 November 2013, a two vehicle accident occurred on Old Pentland Road, approx ¼ of a mile east of the 3 way junction. Both vehicles were travelling in the opposite direction and collided, no injuries.

On 25 November 2013, a two vehicle accident occurred on the A702 near to the 3 way junction. Both vehicles were travelling in the opposite direction when one clipped the side of the other, no injuries.

On 9 January 2014, a three vehicle accident occurred on the A702 near to the 3 way junction. Two vehicles were travelling south towards the 3 way junction, when another vehicle has pulled out from the junction into their path, causing the southwards vehicles to brake and one running into the rear of the other. The vehicle which pulled from the junction did not stop to exchange details. No injuries.

On 24 January 2014, a one vehicle accident occurred on the A702 approx 100 metres west of the 3 way junction, whereby the vehicle struck a lamppost. No injuries.

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

PC 4574 Gillian Lumley
Community Policing Team Midlothian
E-mail: LothianScotBordersPenicuikCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk
Telephone: 101 or Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111