

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

The Steading, 2 June 2014, 7.00pm

## **1 Attendance/apologies**

**In attendance:** Constance Newbould (Chair), Ailsa Carlisle (Secretary), Joanne Gillies, Lorna Goudie.

**Also present:** Police Sergeant Michele Lindsay, Police Scotland

**Apologies:** Helen McKay (Treasurer), Matt Marshall, Julian Holbrook, Councillor Andrew Coventry

## **2 Chair's report**

The Chair updated residents on recent activity in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan, Big Lunch, and the Federation of Community Councils.

## **3 Treasurer's Report**

The Chair confirmed that there was £878.75 balance in the DDCC bank account. Residents were asked to submit any ideas for how this should be spent. Ideas included the Big Lunch, implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan, security and traffic safety measures e.g. CCTV.

## **4 Big Lunch arrangements**

This year, the Damhead and District Big Lunch will take place 2-4pm on Sunday 8 June at Pentland House. All residents are invited, and any donations of foodstuffs etc would be most welcome. There will also be activities for young children.

Jo provided an update on donations provided to date by local businesses, including cup cakes from Sainsburys, quiche or cake from the Secret Herb Garden and locally made jam from Damhead Nursery.

DDCC thanked Kate Marshall for providing information on the Big Lunch and future DDCC meetings to the Advertiser.

## **5 Loanhead Gala Day Queen Elect**

It was agreed that, on behalf of the local community, DDCC would provide a gift to Gala Day Queen Elect Mhairi Ross.

**Action:** DDCC to arrange gift and send reminder of Gala Day date to community nearer the time.

## **6 Broadband fibre optic**

If enough people register interest then BT will consider improving Broadband speed in the local area. Constance had already circulated a link to all residents for this website: [www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx](http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx)

**Action:** residents to register interest via link if they are interested in Broadband improvements.

## 7 Community resilience network

Jo informed the meeting that Alison White, Head of Services and Adult Social Work, is currently on annual leave and unable to attend this DDCC meeting. It was agreed Alison and the Red Cross would be invited to the next meeting to discuss this issue with residents and to support development of a network for the local area.

**Action:** Jo to issue invite.

## 8 Police Report

Police Sergeant Michele Lindsay provided the police report – this is included in the annex. This included a number of traffic accidents, and a further bike theft. Sergeant Lindsay agreed to send DDCC guidelines and information on setting up CCTV.

Residents raised concerns regarding the level of traffic accidents in the area. One resident had had to call the police three times due to dangerous driving on Old Pentland Road. It was again proposed that there should be a weight limit on this road. Police also suggested that there should be a meeting with Police and MLC to discuss options.

**Action:** Sergeant Lindsay to provide information on CCTV, and to follow up OPR police report with MLC.

**Action:** DDCC to ensure Neighbourhood Plan includes proposals to improve road safety on OPR. This will be circulated to residents soon for comment.

**Action:** All residents to continue to report all thefts to Police Scotland (tel no: 101 or 999 depending on nature of incident); and to continue to inform DDCC ([ddcc@mfcc.info](mailto:ddcc@mfcc.info)) of any accidents that they witness in the area.

## 9 Midlothian Federation of Community Councils report

Constance updated the meeting on progress with the new Scheme for Community Councils in Midlothian. A sticking issue has arisen in relation to the potential use of private meetings, e.g. to discuss grant funding decisions.

Information was also provided on the Queen's baton route and timing through Midlothian on Monday 16 June. These will be circulated with the minutes.

## 10 Planning applications

**Planning application 14/00290/DPP:** A new application has been submitted for a store to be built beside Noble's garage.

**Planning application 13/00805/DPP:** The planning application, which was re-submitted to establish dog kennels on Old Pentland Road, has been rejected. Following an appeal, a review body will visit the site in June, with a particular interest in noise levels. This has been postponed.

**Planning application 14/00203/DPP:** The planning application for Haig Hamilton Land Infill work is ongoing.

Other issues:

- DDCC have been informed that there is to be a pre-planning application event on proposals for Calderstaines in the near future. Further information to follow in due course.
- Establishment of a two-storey structure in vicinity of OPR and McKenzies to be monitored.
- Proposals for A701 realignment ongoing.
- Residents asked for an update regarding on the insertion of hard core and grit over the area on the Bing that had been used as a wash out, and the provision of a SEPA permit for this. Stuart to follow up with SEPA environmental protection officers.

**Action:** Stuart to follow up on the provision of a SEPA permit.

## 11 Neighbourhood Plan

Following extensive community engagement through the community survey, tour of local community initiatives, and consultation day (which included a planning for real exercise), the Neighbourhood Plan has now been drafted. The Plan is forward thinking and ambitious, as well as focusing on current issues across the community.

The DDCC Chair recorded her thanks to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for their work to develop the draft plan and it was agreed that MLC should engage an independent editor to undertake a final professional edit of the document.

One action is to establish a Climate Change Group to explore what practical options could be taken forward in the local area. Julian has offered to run a workshop in the first instance. Residents who are interested in joining this group and/or participating in the workshop should contact Julian. It was also noted that the MLC Improvement Service are setting up a new website to provide information on community councils and, as part of this, are seeking to film inspirational activity taking place in CCs. It was agreed that Julian should offer the Neighbourhood Plan and Climate Change Group to MLC as an example of local good practice.

**Action:** MLC to arrange professional edit of Neighbourhood Plan.

**Action:** Residents interested in the Climate Change Group to contact Julian at [ddcc@mfcc.info](mailto:ddcc@mfcc.info)

**Action:** Julian to volunteer the forthcoming climate change workshop to MLC as an example of local activity.

## 12 AOB

### **The Secret Herb Garden**

DDCC and residents congratulated the Secret Herb Garden on the recent award of the silver gilt medal by Scotland's Gardens judges for the Secret Herb Garden's display of Culinary Herbs.

### **Damhead and District branding**

A resident proposed that a local tree, e.g. an Aspen, could be used to represent the local area. This could also be used to brand the Neighbourhood Plan.

## 13 Date of next meetings

Meetings for the remainder of 2014 are:

**Tuesday 11 August**

**Monday 22 September**

**Monday 1 December**

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

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## **Damhead and District Community Council Police Report April – May 2014**

### **Crime**

Between 1730hrs on 02/04/2014 and 0830hrs on 03/04/2014, the garage of a house on Biggar Road was broken into and a pedal cycle and a mini-moped were stolen. The pedal cycle was recovered nearby.

A male and a female have been charged with possession of cannabis after being traced in a vehicle and searched after officers detected a smell of cannabis in the car at Hillend Ski Centre car park about 2250hrs on 09/05/2014.

A male has been charged with possession of cannabis after the search of a premises at Hillend was carried out on 13/05/2014.

### **Vehicle Accidents**

About 1615hrs on 24/04/2014, a 2-vehicle accident occurred at the A702 junction with Pentland Road. The offending vehicle pulled out of the junction into the path of the oncoming vehicle. There were no injuries.

About 1210hrs on 18/05/2014, a cyclist was knocked off his bike on the A702 near to Lothianburn Service Station. He suffered lacerations to his face and bruising and grazing to his legs and arms. The offending vehicle appears to have been carrying out a U-turn at the time and failed to stop after the accident.

About 0750hrs on 27/05/2014, a car travelling north on the A702 appears to have skidded on a fuel spillage on the corner south of Hillend and struck a southbound vehicle head on. Both vehicles were extensively damaged and one person was conveyed to hospital with a possible broken arm. There were no other injuries.

About 1530hrs on 24/05/2014, a 2-vehicle accident occurred at the A702 junction with the A703. The offending vehicle pulled out of the junction into the path of the oncoming vehicle. 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](http://www.facebook.com/policescotland)).

Hate crime incidents and domestic abuse incidents can now be reported online via the official Police Scotland website, [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk). or by visiting a third Party Reporting Centre.

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](mailto:LothianScotBordersPenicuikCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

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