

DDCC AGM 7th April 2015

Present: Jo Gillies, Ailsa Carlisle, Constance Newbould, Lorna Goudie, Julian Holbrook, Victoria North, Kate Holbrook, Mary Telfer, James Telfer, Jim Calder, David Newbould, A Ferguson, AB Andrew, Kate Marshall, Gordon Marshall, Diane Graham, Helen Mitchell, Ian Milne, Victoria North, Helen McKay, Sue Urquhart, Anna Henley, Stuart Clark, Graeme Buchanan, and Pippa Thomson.

PC Helen Mason

Welcome

1. Chair's report (Constance Newbould). This year has been even busier than last with extra meetings because of planning emergencies. It was very disappointing that all 3 contentious planning issues (dog kennels, land fill and McKenzies) were approved. On the other hand we have had some very successful events – including the Big Lunch and two litter picks. We also supported Mharie Ross as Loanhead Gala Queen. On behalf of DDCC we have actively opposed the film studio and road realignment. Constance Newbould has also recently visited Calderstones with a representative from Fairmilehead CC. The grounds are beautiful and contain over a thousand mature trees, many of which would be destroyed by the planned 180-bed hotel and four large new houses. Currently, our Neighbourhood Plan is being printed and there will be a formal launch soon.
2. Treasurer's report (Helen McKay). We had carried over £878.75 from 13-14 and received the annual grant of £275.82 plus a few pence in interest. Total expenditure in 14-15 was £199.01. The main expense was insurance to cover DDCC for community events. Other outgoings were on paper and envelopes, a photo of the Gala Queen, and provisions for the litter pick and Big Lunch. The overall position at the end of the year (£956) was a healthy balance. Constance added that she had already received DDCC's next grant of over £700 under the new grant application system. Helen is still trying to clarify if this is the annual amount for each of the next three years or the total for the three years. Jo alerted us that the confederation will take over the insurance at the end of each term; this will be clarified before the insurance is due for renewal in mid-May.
3. Re-election of officers. Constance Newbould as Chair was proposed Kate Marshall and seconded by David Newbould, Helen McKay as Treasurer was proposed by Constance Newbould and seconded by Jo Gillies, Jo Gillies jointly with Ailsa Carlisle as Secretaries were proposed by Constance Newbould and seconded by Gordon Marshall.
4. Damhead Emergency Meetings report (Julian and Kate Holbrook)
There have been 4-5 meetings of around 20 people. Three key messages were identified: Save our community's character; Save Jim's farm; Stop the road. Cases have been built against the film studio proposal. Natalie Frankish has collated key info including sources of the facts and figures for briefing notes. Heather MacKay has set up a Facebook page, which already has around 300 likes. Press coverage has been excellent (mainly about Jim's farm). There are also groups responsible for Letters and Direct Action, though there has been limited activity so far. Several DDCC representatives attended the Green Belt Action Group

meeting and found many common concerns.

Next steps: launch Neighbour Plan; preparing to respond to MLDP as soon as it is launched; challenge various points in the Environmental Scoping Report about the film studio. DDCC has not yet received copy as official consultees so Constance will contact them to obtain a copy and to clarify dates. Responses from our own consultation about the film studio are to be collated - Constance will clarify whether a response based on the final figures has been sent and follow up if necessary.

5. Community Right to Buy. Kate Holbrook reported that the draft articles of association are being reviewed by Scottish Government lawyers. Section 34 (4) if granted would allow us to apply as the community for any land that comes up for sale. Next step will be to establish a small working group to consider the whole community's interests and bits of land that would match these interests. Once Articles of Association are set up, Directors would need to be appointed.
6. Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan will be launched at the Auchendinny Hub on Monday 27th April from 7-9:30. The Hub can do catering and Midlothian will pay. Invitees: anyone mentioned in plan, councillors, Midlothian CC staff who helped us; leader of Council, Colin Beattie, others? Maps and plans to be made available for attendees to view.
7. Planning/development issues
 - a. Road. Once the MLDP has been released (expected on 16th May) we will have 6 weeks to respond. We agreed to meet on 1st June at Auchendinny Hub (7pm) or previous day (31st at 5 pm), Julian to confirm if the Hub is available. If there is just one major response that aspect must be considered by the Reporter. DDCC can use Bilston's letter as the basis of our response.
 - b. Film studio. We cannot formally respond at the moment because it has not gone to planning yet.
 - c. Calderstones. Kate Holbrook, Helen McKay, Victoria North and Anna Henley to compose an objection. Official deadline has passed but a response by the end of April will still be taken into account.
 - d. Golf Club House. Mr McClung is proposing mountain biking centre.
8. Midlothian Open Doors (12th Sept). The meeting agreed that we would take part in the Open Doors event. Kate Marshall, Lorna Goudie, and Helen McKay agreed to act as hosts. Lorna will complete the application form.
9. Big Lunch will be held on the 7th June 12-4pm at Pentland House.
10. Police Report Community Policing Penicuik
 - a. Break in to house on Old Pentland Road
 - b. Break in to house on Biggar Road and tools stolen – male charged. Constance noted that it may be the same Eastern European man that has been identified on other properties. PC Mason asked Constance to notify the local Police Sergeant that there seems to be a common theme.
 - c. Drugs occurrence report to Procurate Fiscal regarding incidents at Hillend Ski Centre car park.

- d. There were 3-4 incidents at junction of A702 and 703 in 3 days resulting in minor but no serious accidents.
11. Litter pick. We agreed to focus now on limited bits that are usually missed. Event could be mid-week, not limited to weekends. Volunteers could get extra pickers and bags from Jo Gillies. Anna Henley will organise people to help from junction of A702/3 to the filling station.
12. AOB
- a. The DDCC is one community councillor short of the maximum possible (the DDCC can have up to 7 community councillors). If anyone wishes to volunteer please get in touch asap.
 - b. Federation of Community Councils has focussed on improving its own and all constitutions. Our own constitution is out of date and needs to be updated before next AGM (April 2016).
 - c. Our list of occupants and numbers is out of date. Updating of the map could be started at the launch of the Neighbourhood Plan, and then by visiting remaining people.
 - d. Burnside. Stones from outside houses have been removed in case of accidents.
 - e. Mr Ferguson has requested that the old right of way near the triple junction on Old Pentland Road is re-established. Mr John Parks is expected to write to Mr Tickle.
 - f. Planting above Erraid Wood. There is general support. Helen McKay to write back to say no need for Environmental impact assessment.
 - g. Climate Change Group. Julian Holbrook proposes a small informal group, e.g. for fuel buying, either fossil (LPG or oil) or woodfuel, and asked anyone interested to provide email addresses. Energy efficiency or community energy schemes are also a possibility.

End.