

DDCC MEETING.

25th August 2015, Steading

Present: Jo Gillies, Ailsa Carlisle, Julian Holbrook, Gordon Marshall, Helen McKay, Stuart Clark, Anna Henly, Helen Mitchell, Daya Feldwick, Victoria North, Ken Urquhart, Iggy Campos, Alexander McMichael, David Chivers, Robin McBride, A Ferguson.

Apologies: Lorna Goudie, Constance Newbould

1. WELCOME. Ailsa welcomed everyone attending the meeting, especially several new faces.
2. Damhead and District Community Council Police Report 1st June - 31st July 2015

Crime

- a. About 4.30pm on Wednesday 17th June 2015 a house in Old Pentland Road was broken into and various items were stolen. Three males believed to have been involved were seen leaving the area in a car, which may have been a black Audi. Two of the males are described as white 18 – 30 years, medium build, one had dark hair and was wearing dark clothing and one was described as wearing a beanie hat and dark clothing.
- b. About 10.15pm on Thursday 18th June 2015 a 26-year-old male was found by police in a vehicle near to Hillend Ski Centre in possession of cannabis. The male was also wanted on a warrant and was detained in custody to appear at court.
- c. About 9.40pm on Friday 19th June 2015 a 20-year-old male was found by police in a vehicle near to Hillend Ski Centre in possession of cannabis. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.
- d. Around 3.50pm on Friday 14th July 2015 a mobile phone belonging to an employee was stolen from business premises in Old Pentland Road.

Vehicle Collisions

- e. About 9.25pm on Friday 17th July 2015 a minor road collision occurred on the Old Pentland Road, where a male driver hit the embankment, no damage or injuries were reported.
- f. About 6.55pm on Monday 20th July 2015 a road collision occurred involving two vehicles travelling southbound on the A702 near to Hillend Ski Centre, minor injuries were sustained.

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

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).

Hate crime incidents and domestic abuse incidents can now be reported online via the official Police Scotland website, 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.

PS J4712 Michele Lindsay

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In a follow-up discussion, the following points were made:

- a. The proposal to extend the 40 mph speed limit south along the A703 from the junction with the A702 is generally welcomed (see later for further discussion). PS Lindsay confirmed that the standard process is for Roads Policing to speak to the council about extension of speed limits.
 - b. The free service recently offered at Halfords (Straiton) to mark bicycles in an effort to deter thieves had a good uptake. Community Policing will mark individual bikes if they are taken along to a police station.
 - c. Community Policing had been working in conjunction with Trading Standards to give reassurance to occupiers on the problem of bogus cold calls.
 - d. There have been recent incidents of hay bales being set on fire, probably linked to earlier fire damage to log piles and chippers. Community Policing has asked for police patrols to call in at the expected times. If residents see anything of concern we should call 101 (the non-emergency number) to report it.
This led to a discussion of lack of appropriate activities for young people in the area
ACTION: Julian and Daya will raise this point at the Federation, in the hope of influencing the SES Plan.
 - e. Stuart reported that there was verbal abuse of a dog walker by a motor cyclist.
ACTION: Stuart will email details directly to PS Lindsay.
 - f. There had been a day-long search of the Bing but PS Lindsay could not provide further details.
3. CHAIR'S report (Ailsa Carlisle). It had been a busy time since the last meeting, in particular the very successful Big Lunch. We would like to thank Constance and David formally for hosting the event.
 4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING. Minutes have now been added to the website. Constance will load photos.
 5. TREASURER'S REPORT (Helen McKay). By the end of July ten couples/individuals had contributed to the fund to pay John MacCallum for his submission on our behalf to the MLDP. Constance knows of several other donations since then. The last statement (to the end of July) shows a balance of £2262.
 6. MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN. So far not a single submission has been loaded on to the website (including neither the Damhead response nor the No Re-alignment Regional Group response). There have been 823 submissions, two-thirds in hard copy which

will need to be scanned. Key issues are being collated and will be given to the Council but it is unlikely that they will change their opinion since the MLDP gives the Council's 'settled view'. As a result residents' objections are likely to go to the Reporter in early spring 2016. The Reporters decision could take 9 months.

7. **FILM STUDIO.** Letters are still being sent in - there are 120 so far. The possible effect of the Film Studio on the new road is confusing. The developers are concerned that the new road will interfere with their quiet environment while Joyce Learmont's letter to Keppie has indicated that the new alignment has been agreed and that if Keppie propose an alternative route they'll need to bear the costs associated with a different route.
8. **JIM TELFER'S FARM.** Despite letters to all the councillors, including using recorded delivery, the Telfers had not had a response. The next step is to raise the matter with our MSP.
9. **CALDERSTONES.** Earlier on the 25th August, Midlothian planners recommended approval of the development proposal for a 3-storey, 150 bed hotel at Calderstones and councillors passed it with the exception of Ian Baxter (Green) and Andrew Coventry (SNP). **ACTION.** Victoria North will follow up to see if there are further step; Helen to alert Scottish Wildlife Trust (Erraid Wood Reserve borders on Calderstones).
10. **DAMHEAD COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUY.** Eleven people attend the AGM at which 5 directors and 3 associate members were appointed. The Company can put in requests to buy parcels of land even if it could be years before they come to market. Pieces of ground, e.g. field margins, within larger plots would be a possibility. JH will arrange tour to inspire us by what has been achieved in other communities with emphasis on a big long-term vision. Julian proposes that we walk over the DDCC area to view the potential. Scottish Land Fund can provide up to 90% of the overall cost. Heritage Lottery Fund is another possibility. Scottish Government have a target for community ownership.
11. **Giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed need to be controlled immediately.** Stuart Clark, as requested at the last meeting, phoned the Council and received the following information: the optimum time for control this year has passed, the Council will notify Environmental Health who are responsible for control measures, and individuals are not advised to take action themselves. We agreed that we need to collect information about specific sites of giant hogweed or Japanese knotweed within DDCC now, pass it to the Council and resend the information next spring to reinforce the need for action.
12. **NOTICE BOARD.** Constance has contacted a local joiner to make notice boards. Possible locations are the lay-by on Seafield Moor Road and the Cemetery.
13. **EXTENSION TO 40 MPH.** Although the proposal from the triple junction for 770m along the A703 is welcome we prefer that it stretches to include the bus stop and top of Burnside while also avoiding any additional street lighting. Limited lighting at the bus stop, e.g. motion activated and using LEDs, could be acceptable alternatives to street lights. There are examples within Midlothian of 40 mph areas without street lights. **ACTION:** Helen to draft and circulate to the DDCC before responding to the proposal

ACTION: Stuart /Ailsa to press Ricky Moffat to implement commitment for bus shelter on Penicuik-bound side.

14. OUR LAND FESTIVAL. Daya stresses that it is important to highlight the areas we want to protect and has organised a demonstration at Old Pentland at 12 pm on Sat 29th. The plan is to erect banners and walk route of film studio on Jim's land, being guided to ensure that the particular route is permitted. Daya noted that Midlothian is the only area in Central Scotland that has not exceeded air pollution levels. ACTION: Stuart will ask Duncan to use his drone to overfly the area that will be developed if the film studio goes ahead.

On the following day (30th Aug) Julian will give talk on the 'Edinburgh Food Belt' as a vision for productive use which he thinks is a more viable policy than 'the Green Belt'. Alister Mather is quite supportive.

Julian is investigating Falkirk's progress in developing a Charter which is positive rather than negative and plans to promote this concept through the Federation.

All our ideas for positive action should be included in the next SUSPlan so we need to influence its development.

15. AOB

- a. Andy Wightman will be speaking at the Cabin on 3rd Sept 7 pm
- b. The Open Doors event is arranged for 10-4pm on Saturday 12th Sept. Lorna is writing briefing notes and Gordon Marshall has the cemetery keys
- c. SES Plan All to respond by 30th Sept.
- d. Citizen's Panel Survey ACTION: Constance to circulate to all residents so individuals can feed in their views.
- e. Next meeting 10th Nov at 7pm