

DDCC MEETING MINUTES.

10th Nov 2015, Steading

Present: Jo Gillies, Ailsa Carlisle, Helen McKay, Stuart Clark, Helen Mitchell, Victoria North, Sue Urquhart, Constance Newbould, David Newbould

Apologies: Lorna Goudie, Anne Henley, Julian and Kate Holbrook

1. WELCOME. Constance welcomed everyone attending the meeting.
2. Damhead and District Community Council Police Report 2015 by PC Gordon Wilson

Action: Ailsa will email to ask for a report of the incidents before and after the realignment of the 3-way junction over a total period of about 5 years to see what impact the realignment has had on safety.

House break-ins and door to door callers are increasingly common throughout the Lothians. Action: We'll canvas interest in inviting the police to cover general security and safety measures.

We noted that there had been an incident of fire raising at local stables that wasn't included in the police report, although it was agreed that recent anti-social behaviour in the area seemed to have settled down.

Damhead and District Community Council Police Report 1st September – 31st October 2015

Crime

Between 11pm on 30th August and 5pm on 1st September 2015 a black BMW convertible car advertised for sale was stolen from a lay by adjacent to the roundabout at Biggar Road near to the A720 Edinburgh City bypass.

Between 9am on 18th September and 5pm on 19th September 2015 a number of cut logs were stolen from a garden of a house under renovation on Biggar Road.

On 25th October 2015 a report was received of a possible break-in to a house in Damhead, enquiries carried out with the occupier revealed that everything was in order.

Vehicle Collisions

About 9.45pm on 3rd September 2015 a road collision occurred on the A703 Hillend to Penicuik, south of junction with the A702 involving a car and a motorcycle. The driver of the car was subsequently charged with careless driving in connection with the incident. Minor injuries were sustained.

About 1.15pm on 1st October 2015 a road collision occurred involving a car and pedal cyclist both 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

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

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING. Minutes have been added to website.
4. TREASURER'S REPORT (Helen McKay). At the 20th October there was £1641.89 in the account. It was agreed that payments would be made for flowers for Lorna and to Daya Feldwick as our contribution for advice in support of our response to the MLDP. Since the report at the end of July, 6 more couples/individuals had contributed to fund to pay John MacCallum for his submission on our behalf to the MLDP.
5. CONSTITUTION. The constitution needs to be renewed before the AGM in April.
Action: Jo will review and circulate a draft for agreement before the February meeting.
6. SNACK BAR. A licence was granted in October for a snack bar to be sited in the lay-by on the A703 even though we had been told that the deadline for objections was November 10th. Action: Constance will phone Bob Attack to express our objections on the grounds of length of lay-by, fast stretch of road, access to side roads. David noted that it was a requirement to clean up all the litter.

PLANNING MATTERS:

7. BIOMASS DRYING SHED. There has been an application for an additional biomass drying shed at Pentland Plants. Chipping regulations (e.g. twice per week) are being broken. Site has been fenced mainly as a result of HSE requirements. Chipping no longer just for own requirements. Action: Stuart will object on the ground of the scale (inappropriate), size of wood stack, and change of use.
8. BING: Soil is being dumped on the bing, apparently to allow biking, but could be a danger to the footpath. It seems that the developers didn't think permission was required because it was thought to be good quality soil. Action: Constance will contact Duncan Robertson to express concern about the quality of the soil and the safety of the new slope.
9. MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN. So far not a single submission has been loaded on to the website.
10. FILM STUDIO. Developers have not yet supplied the requested information so although the application is not dead, all is quiet for the moment. We will keep a watching brief.
11. CALDERSTONES. Victoria has contacted their lawyer who advised that the only opportunity is to protest the process not the decision. It is likely to cost £20-30k. Planning has been given with a few caveats, e.g. more extensive archaeological dig. Action: Victoria will contact an Edinburgh new paper.
12. DAMHEAD COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUY. There is sufficient interest in buying the field currently up for sale on the Old Pentland Road; we have been told that there is one offer already. Unfortunately Kate Holbrook couldn't attend the Community Council meeting but as far as we know she has achieved all the necessary signatures and has submitted the application.
13. RESILIENCE. There is general support for forming a group to help residents and we agreed to list contact numbers of individuals in a support group. Nominees included Constance, Stuart, Kate and Gordon, Les and Diane, Mary R. These individuals should be provided with a detailed list of more specialist helpers, e.g. 4x4 owners. Action: Constance to approach nominated individuals to ask if they'd be interested in being a contact for the support group and to request suggestions to include in the detailed list of specialist help. For the longer term, it was agreed that we should update the residents' list in the spring.

14. ROAD. The next step is for the reporter to be appointed. In another area of Midlothian an application for development was passed although the area was not zoned for development in either the existing or new plan. All ccs in Midlothian will write to object. Articles also submitted to the Midlothian Advertiser. Action: Constance to contact Ian Johnstone to check that our views have been used to make the case for the reporter. It was also noted that the Scottish Government consultation on how to improve planning runs until 1 December. Responses should be made at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/Review-of-Planning>
15. NOTICE BOARD. Constance has contacted a local joiner to make notice boards. At the same time the Federation Of Midlothian Community Councils is investigating the possibility of getting extra funding for noticeboards for all Community Councils. Action: We agreed that we should continue to investigate local supply.
16. EXTENSION TO 40 MPH ZONE ON A703. We have until the 18th Nov because consultation was sent to the wrong address. Action: Jo to respond.
17. BUS SHELTER: Stuart /Ailsa contacted Ricky Moffat about the instalment of a bus shelter on the A703 at Tigh Na Geat on the Penicuik-bound side. There had been a disappointing response – no current budget, usually development contribution, if there is underspend he will keep this in mind. Action: Ailsa will respond, and will also write to councillors adding that a bus shelter will be needed to shelter children on their way to school as well as pensioners going for their shopping etc.
18. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS 2016: 2nd February ; 26th April; 7th June; 19th September , 22nd November. Big Lunch 12th June. Litter pick in spring (date tbc)