

## **DDCC ELECTIONS AND AGM, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

### **Welcome**

Community Councillors present: Jo Gillies, Ailsa Carlisle, Constance Newbould, Julian Holbrook, Helen McKay, John Marsh

Attendees: Stuart Clark, Jim Telfer, Ian Milne, Stuart Thomson, Lynne Derbyshire, Gareth Derbyshire, Alasdair Ferguson, Margaret Ferguson, Trish Nicol, Kate Marshall, Gordon Marshall, Jean Will, Arlene Sommerville, Irene Sommerville, Doreen Marsh, Catherine Duns

### **1. Police Report**

There have been a total of 17 crimes recorded in Damhead and District during this period. 9 of these have been solved so far, giving a current solvency rate of 53%

#### **Crime**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> March: Car reversed into a petrol pump causing damage. Enquiries ongoing.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March: Car keys left unattended stolen from Calderstones. Enquiries ongoing.
- 18<sup>th</sup> March, Hillend: a male with an Irish accent reported offering televisions for sale from rear of a white people carrier. Vehicle left prior to police arrival.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Easter Howgate: an animal feeder was stolen from a farm. A vehicle was seen and the person responsible subsequently traced cautioned and charged.

#### **Vehicle Collisions**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> March, A702 between Silverburn and Nine Mile Burn: a vehicle struck a manhole with missing manhole cover. No damage sustained.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March, A702, Hillend: calls received re rocks on the road from a lorry spill or similar. Police and AMEY cleared roadway.
- 30<sup>th</sup> March: commercial vehicle had a puncture near to Hillend Ski Centre. Vehicle recovery Services refused to attend due to vehicle speeds, therefore Police changed the tyre.
- 11<sup>th</sup> April: two-vehicle collision at Mauricewood junction with Flotterston. Minor damage, no injury.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> April: two vehicle collision on A702 at Silverburn. Minor damage, no injury.

### **Rural Crime Initiative**

Initiative will run until the end of May 2016. Officers working with Natural Heritage Service Officers and volunteers in Pentland Hills Regional Park, plus quad bike patrols, information and advice to dog walkers and members of the public. Sheep worrying includes animals being attacked or injured, and also animals being disturbed or chased. Spring crucial period for lamb development and disturbance can have adverse or fatal effects on their survival. To help the farmers, and to enjoy the countryside, do not take your dog into fields where there are lambs, calves or other young animals. Keep your dog under control in areas that you're unfamiliar with, or where there are livestock. Report all incidents of livestock worrying by calling Police Scotland on 101; always dialling 999 in an emergency. For more information on Rural Crime Prevention:

[http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/keep\\_safe/rural-prevention-booklet](http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/keep_safe/rural-prevention-booklet)

For information about the incident(s) listed above or any other issue please contact your Community Policing Team. PS J4712 Michele Lindsay [LothianScotBordersPenicuikCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:LothianScotBordersPenicuikCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)  
Police Scotland use social media to circulate the latest news, events and information to the public via Twitter (@policescotland) and Facebook

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 crime can be passed to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or through anonymous Online Form - both completely anonymous and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. A copy of the Police Scotland report will be made publicly available with the minutes at Loanhead Library.

The following points were made during the discussion:

- The responsible neighbour initiative reported on at the last DDCC meeting is continuing. Police confirmed that if you are uncertain about anyone calling at your door, do not divulge any personal details. Ask a neighbour to check their credentials, or call the police if you are concerned. Police emphasised that they welcome this type of call, even if it turns out to be a false alarm.
- Residents informed Police Scotland that the new speed limit on the A703 is regularly being broken. Police will regularly monitor speeds over the coming period.
- It was reported that high powered vehicles are regularly using the A703 for high acceleration/high speeds. Any information on these vehicles to be passed to Police.

## **2. Elections**

Six nominations were received for DDCC community councillors:

Ailsa Carlisle  
Joanne Gillies  
Julian Holbrook  
John Marsh  
Helen McKay  
Constance Newbould

Given that the DDCC quorum is four (and this has been surpassed) and the maximum number of community councillors is seven, all six nominated individuals have been appointed as Damhead and District Community Councillors for the next three years.

## **3. Election of Office Bearers**

The following individuals were nominated and seconded for the designated roles:

Constance - Chair  
Helen - Treasurer  
Jo/Ailsa - Joint Secretaries

## **4. Chair's report (Constance Newbould)**

Constance reported that the last year had been very frustrating as all the hard work had not shown any results to date (although we may still be successful in stopping some of the new developments in the area). We have been supported throughout by the Midlothian Federation of CCs as every Community has been affected by the amount of development proposed throughout Midlothian. We now just have to wait for the reporter to make his decision.

Constance thanked the committee for their hard work throughout the last three years, the Holbrooks for their immense effort into 'Saving Jim's farm', and Lorna Goudie who has made an outstanding contribution to the Community Council over many, many years. Constance proposed that a crystal vase is sent with an appropriate engraving.

During the year we had two litter picks and the Big Lunch; this year's Big Lunch is on the 12<sup>th</sup> June and we are looking forward to a large turnout! Constance also referred to the Friends of Damhead inaugural meeting which she attended on the 7<sup>th</sup> April, where the topics discussed were the same as those that are discussed at the DDCC. It is important to ensure we do not duplicate work.

Constance had contacted Dave Kenny, MLC, regarding the speed limit being extended beyond the Burnside on the A703 since the DDCC response had been ignored. She had also contacted Erika Pryde, MLC enforcement officer, re the landfill site and the number of vehicles coming and going as well as the state of the road, etc. MLC have assured us there will only be 38 vehicles per day, and this will be monitored. A copy of the Chair's report will be made publicly available with the minutes at Loanhead Library.

Points raised included:

- Planning Democracy are keen to examine Damhead and District's experience of the planning system and use this as a case study to help inform and improve planning processes.
- There are ongoing issues with Haig Hamilton Landfill in relation to the condition of road and pavement on Old Pentland Road, the use of the wheel wash, sand blowing over a number of residents' properties, and the number of lorries delivering to the site.
- Lorna Goudie was thanked for her outstanding contribution to DDCC over many years, and it was agreed that a token of appreciation should be awarded to Lorna in recognition of this.

#### **5. Treasurer's report (Helen McKay).**

DDCC had carried over £955.91 from 2014-15. A number of donations were made by residents to enable planning expertise to be brought in to ensure a robust response to the MLC Local Development Plan. In addition, a substantial increase in annual grant had been received through the new Scheme resulting in total income of £2,327.66. Total expenditure was £1,622.24, leaving a balance at year end of £1,661.33. A copy of the finances will be made publicly available with the minutes at Loanhead Library.

#### **6. Planning/Development issues**

- a. Road. MLDP has been referred to Scottish Government for consideration and decision. No timeline has yet been confirmed for decisions to be taken.
- b. Film studio. This was referred to Scottish Government for consideration and decision. The Reporter has requested additional information from the proposers, including bat study, and information on other potential sites that were considered for the studio. The decision has therefore been delayed further, and will probably not be taken until Autumn time.

#### **7. Pedestrians on Burnside**

Constance to contact Dave Kenny again about Old Pentland Road, speed limit on A703 and risks to pedestrians on Burnside. In addition to landfill issues previously referred to, this should also consider an increase in heavy load trucks by Tarmac/McKenzie plus trucks using OPR in both directions.

#### **8. Litter Pick**

Approximately a dozen residents collected over 45 bags of litter, plus a range of additional items (such as satellite dish, car seats, etc). It was noted that there had been further fly tipping on OPR at the lay-by near Ikea, plus at the lay-by on Old Seafield Moor Road. DDCC will continue to report fly tipping. All residents also encouraged to report fly tipping as a matter of course. It was agreed that Jo should purchase an additional four bin bag hoops for community litter picks.

#### **9. Noticeboard update**

Midlothian Federation for Community Councils are making arrangements for noticeboards for those community councils that need them. This will include a contribution towards costs by MFCC. MFCC to confirm in due course which community councils will receive noticeboard(s).

#### **10. Big Lunch**

The Big Lunch will take place at Pentland House on Sunday 12 June, 12noon to 4pm. It was recognised that it was becoming increasingly difficult to persuade local supermarkets to support this event, therefore it was decided that residents would continue to contribute food/drink as normal, and DDCC would fund any additional refreshments etc required, as well as supporting activities for children and prizes for any competitions.

**11. AOB**

- a) Residents list and map. This has been updated and will be circulated shortly.
- b) Website. This has been updated and will become live once email address for the DDCC has been included.
- c) Pedestrian crossing on stretch of road between bypass and triple junction. DDCC have responded in support of proposals, which will enable safer crossing of this road by school children, with condition that cyclists shouldn't be disadvantaged by any changes to the road layout. Fairmilehead community council still to respond.
- d) Doors open day - Graveyard. Kate and Gordon have been approached by MLC re this year's event. DDCC and residents willing to help and support this event if Kate and Gordon coordinate it. Kate to contact MLC to see if brochures for graveyard available.
- e) Calderstones. Facilities currently being used on temporary basis for autistic young people. Proposals have been amended and suggest a reduction in the number of new buildings proposed, however not clear if this will result in any reduction in the number of trees to be felled, or whether proposals to extend the road will be amended to improve safety.
- f) Boundaries of DDCC. It was recognised that a significant number of new houses have been built (Cameron Gardens) and more are planned on the DDCC boundary with Bilston. DDCC, Roslin and Bilston CC, and new residents in these areas should consider whether CC boundaries require to be re-drawn.

**12. Date of next meeting: 7pm, Tuesday 7 June at the Steading.**

Other useful dates: Big Lunch 12 June, Doors Open Day tbc September, DDCC meeting 19<sup>th</sup> September and 22nd November.