

DAMHEAD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

22nd Nov 2016, Steading

Present: Jim Telfer, Gordon Marshall, Natalie Frankish, **Ailsa Carlisle**, **Jo Gillies**, **John Marsh**, **Helen McKay**, Duncan McCousland, L McCousland, Daya Feldwick, Ian Dalrymple, Diane Graham, Les Graham, Trish Nicol, Hamish Martin, Alasdair Ferguson, Grant McPherson, and Stuart Clark.

Apologies from Councillor A Coventry, Jean Will, Constance Newbould, Nathalie Holbrook

1. **Police report**

PC Lewis Hopkinton attended and gave his report (see Appendix) for the period covering September and October.

2. **SESPlan:** Comments by DDCC and individuals to be submitted by 24 November.

Concerns raised about inclusion of realigned A701 without looking at transport issues for the area as a whole and without a traffic survey being undertaken; potential reduction/delisting of greenbelt, level of housing development in Midlothian. Understand Reporters now identified for **MLDP**, with decision due July 2017.

3. **Midlothian Active Travel Strategy** - potential benefits for local area with focus on reducing car usage and promoting cycling/walking. Midlothian Council will hold a consultation for community councils on 13th Dec at Lasswade Centre. Details will be circulated via website.

4. **Film Studio.** There has been a major effort to respond individually and as a CC to the issues that have emerged, e.g. in relation to the biomass power station. The emphasis is less on the film studio than the power plant which raises concerns about the smell and particulate emissions. If the power plant is actually 100MW it would be biggest biomass plant in Britain. Continual change to plans has created a lack of clarity which has made it difficult to know how respond. We have been offered a QC's help but would first require solicitor with right of direct access to contact the QC - all help to identify solicitor welcome! The Reporter is developing his recommendations to ministers (Kevin Stewart) who can accept or reject the Reporter's recommendation. DF advises that we write to our MSP. The Cumbernauld film studio has a few sets that can be hired by outside organisations therefore the Straiton development is not of national interest.

5. **The bing.** Damage, including damage to a badger sett was caused by Midlothian Council doing exploratory drilling without a preliminary survey. Questions have been asked of the Council. H&S Officer expressed concern that the barrier to prevent access to the site had not been replaced. ACTION: DDCC to go back to Council asking for formal response.

6. **DDCC constitution and code of contact.** We have a signed copy of the approved constitution, and also the new standard code of conduct. Our minutes must be agreed at the next meeting so this should be a standing item. ACTION: JM to put

the new constitution on the DDCC website. Other changes include: the AGM has been moved to May from April, and the accounts must be submitted to the Council by October.

7. AOB

- a. Fire Scotland - many fewer fires so they have broader remit now and would be willing to review the fire safety in individual houses.
 - b. Some holes have been patched on Pentland Road (after Trish Nicol had phoned for a fourth time) but the repairs are not a long term response and covered only a small section of Pentland Road.
 - c. Pavements on Pentland Road are in such a bad state that pedestrians have to walk on the road. ACTION: List of actions in the neighbourhood plan will be recirculated and our local Councillors will be invited to the next meeting to discuss our neighbourhood plan.
 - d. Anxieties expressed about Pentland Plants - they may be asking for an extension to the permitted duration of chipping activities. The current limit is 2 days/week. The original permission was to supply heating for their own site with an additional half day to provide a supply buffer. The stacks are well above the original height allowed (3m) creating a safety issue. Vehicles are so large that they close the A701 when they enter and exit the lane. It is important to keep an eye on any further changes.
 - e. Accounts. The Treasurer reported that at 20th October 2016 the bank balance was £2314.59
 - f. Calderstones. There have been no new developments that we are aware of. The latest position is that planning was given consent in principle in 2015 with conditions allowing self-catering tourist accomodations or staff accomodation incidental to the operation of the hotel.
 - g. Hamish Martin, owner of the Secret Herb Garden, attended to apologise to the DDCC. He reassured us that the resubmitted application has taken our concerns into account.
 - h. Clippens enforcement notice is up in November - concern that the Council will simply extend this again. ACTION: DDCC to follow up with Council to limit the number of extensions.
 - i. Fly tipping. The council will try to arrange for staff go on the day that it is reported in the hope that there are contact details. All residents encouraged to continue reporting fly tipping.
 - j. Litter pick, 40-50 bags of rubbish were collected at October's litter pick, plus the usual range of paraphernalia! DDCC have made representation to KFC etc.
 - k. Details of 'Get Ready for Winter' will be put on the website.
8. Date of next meeting is 7pm at the Steading on Tuesday 17th January 2017. Further dates will be put on the website.

Damhead and District Community Council MW02 Police Report 1st September 2016 – 31st October 2016

Crimes

On 28th September a motorcyclist was stopped on the A702, whilst driving without a full licence or insurance. The motorcycle was seized by Police and the male reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Vehicle Collisions

About 10am on 2nd September, a two vehicle collision took place at the junction of the A702 & A703, whereby a car pulled out into the path of another car travelling south on the A702. No injuries were sustained and the road was blocked until both vehicles could be recovered.

On 27th of October, a complaint was made to Police regarding speeding vehicles and abusive drivers during rush hour in Damhead. Community officers have been giving the area extra attention. This will include speed gun checks in the near future.

At 6pm on 23rd September, a Renault Megan was in a collision with two other vehicles on the A703. Two males were subsequently arrested and charged with offences under the Road Traffic Act and Misuse of Drugs Act, and held in custody to appear at Court. Other parties sustained minor injuries in the collision

At 11:50pm on 8th October, a car was reported on its roof. The vehicle was subsequently reported as stolen. Two males were arrested and charged with theft. The driver was charged with further Road Traffic offences.

Additional information

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.

Your View Counts

Police Scotland consults with the public every year on what their priorities are for policing in their community.

In the past this has always been by hard copy consultation questionnaires which were distributed by police officers within the community they work.

This year Police Scotland's consultation process is widening and becoming more flexible. The consultation process is moving online to a digital format and consultation will be open all year.

The public consultation is for you to tell us what is important to you in your community. Your opinion is valued – we need your opinion to inform our policing.

Having your say in the decision making process of Police Scotland is a vital tool for residents of Scotland to be able to shape the way their public services should operate.

Everyone's views across Scotland will be taken on board at a national and local level. We want you to help us focus on the priorities that will help communities most. There is no 'one size fits all' approach to local policing and all the needs and wants of individual communities will be considered.

This is the first time Police Scotland's public consultation is being hosted on a digital platform. This allows us to reach a much wider audience than ever before ensuring that everyone can have their say.

The online consultation is open all year which allows you to take part when it suits you but also gives the flexibility of being able to re-submit the consultation if your priorities change.

It's a very simple process that should only take a few moments of your time but will shape the way that policing is coordinated across Scotland and in your local community.

We will keep you updated on our quarterly results. The consultation will be a completely transparent process as it's all about your priorities.

Below is a link to the 'Your View Counts' page. www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts

*Please visit the following web address for more information on Rural Crime Prevention:
http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/keep_safe/rural-prevention-booklet*

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

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).

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