

DAMHEAD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

17th January 2017, Steading

Present: Jim Telfer, Gordon Marshall, **Ailsa Carlisle, Jo Gillies, John Marsh, Helen McKay**, Duncan McCousland, Lucie McCousland, Hamish Martin, Alasdair Ferguson, Grant McPherson, Stuart Clark, Pippa Thomson, Nathalie Holbrook, **Julian Holbrook**, Graeme Buchanan, Nicole Begbie, **Constance Newbould**.

Apologies: Andrew Coventry, Catherine Duns, Anna & Robin Henly

1. Police report

The full report is copied at the end of the minutes. In response to a question from Ailsa Carlisle about the number of collisions between deer and cars, the community police officer replied that there had been quite a few but not all are recorded as a matter of routine because this is a non-reportable accident even if the police are notified.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising.

The minutes were approved and will be posted on our website.

Actions:

- a. No formal response has yet been received from MLC re the damage to the Bing.
Action: JG to follow up with Catherine Duns
- b. JM has posted the new constitution on website
- c. Pavement has been cleaned by Council from Ikea to the old schoolhouse, which was the muddiest part, but this is a very limited occurrence and a significant stretch of pavement is still muddy. ACTION: JM to follow up
- d. Action: JG to carry forward the action to notify Erica Pryde of our objection about Clippens

3. Film Studio (Natalie Holbrook).

The Reporter has handed his report to the Minister. In the past, all reports have been dealt with within 3 months. Activity supporting the proposal has been increasing so we need to do likewise. ACTIONS: All to write to key decision makers.

A formal objection regarding the handling and competence of the case with summarised incidents where the correct processes have not been followed has been brought to the attention of Scottish Government. Formal complaints are progressing with the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) of the Scottish Government. All MSPs have been contacted and are generally supportive. When the Minister's decision is announced, we have 6 weeks to respond. In the meantime, we must continue to raise the profile of our objections. The Campaign Group meets regularly and hopes to have an Anniversary gathering at Jim's farm (date to be confirmed.) - everyone is welcome to join the Campaign Group.

One of the key points of contention with the proposals for the film studio is that there are two companies involved in the development application so there is no clarity about who is responsible for what.

ACTIONS: NH will provide key points and contacts details to help residents write to decision makers. As many residents as possible to write.

4. Finances

The current bank balance is £2278.88. Our application for funding in 2017-18 has been successful. We will receive the basic grant plus additional funding for specific actions. Items for the 17-18 activities will be discussed at the next meeting. We recognise the value of the Neighbourhood Plan which is being held as an exemplar. DDCC and Loanhead are being considered as 'communities at risk' because of the number of planning proposals.

5. **Planning 16/00861/DPP Erection of 176 dwelling houses etc at land west of Corby Craig Crescent on Seafield Moor Road.** The closing date for comments is imminent. There were some queries about whether this is actually in our Community or not. Regardless, there was clear consensus we should object.
ACTION: DDCC to object on the basis that the SESPlan states that only 750 new houses are required in the A701 corridor and many more have already been agreed; and this is productive land.

6. **Planning 16/00879/S42 Pentland Plants Section 42 application to amend conditions of planning permission 07/00087/DPP.** Pentland Plants have asked for extension to days of operation to 3 days (vs 2) and hours of operation 8am-5pm (vs 9-4pm). These have been extended previously and this scale of operation goes well beyond the needs of Pentland Plants. DDCC have previously objected and will do so again.
ACTION: by the end of January, DDCC to object on the grounds of hours; industrial processes not allowed in the Green Belt; log piles (at 3m) are taller than allowable in original planning consent; and because of incremental expansion, the environmental impact has not been assessed - an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is justified.

7. **Consultations (John Marsh)**
 - a. **Number and range of consultations and requests** of the DDCC from the public sector and other bodies are numerous. The DDCC uses best judgement, on basis of known community interests/concerns, to sift issues to circulate and raise at the Community Council meetings. To augment this, issues not taken at meetings should be posted on the website. Individual residents can either take action directly or raise concerns with the DDCC or appropriate Federation of Community Councils lead by email, face to face, or at the next meeting.
 - b. **Justice Plan:** JM explained that 122 responses from Midlothian had been used as the basis for the Consultative Document, reflecting that many community residents were not properly engaged.
ACTION: JM will put link on website if anyone wants to comment
 - c. **Changes to the planning system 'Places, people, and planning':** JM pointed out sections that are particularly contentious. Simplified planning zones are proposed, which includes option to compulsory purchase. The Federation will meet to support community councils and individuals to respond (by the end of March). Concern raised over factors that directly/indirectly support use of greenbelt before better use of brown field sites for development. The document (Places, people and planning) is on the DDCC website.
ACTION: AC and JM to feed back that we are supportive of the Federation taking a lead role.
 - d. **Lowland deer network.** Correspondence from Mark Telfer from the Edinburgh and East Lothians Deer Group. Thermal imaging has been done and counted 30 roe deer on one evening within Damhead/Straiton. The Deer Group has asked if

there is anyone from the CC willing to speak to them.

ACTION: Kate Holbrook willing to speak on our behalf and report back.

8. AOB

- a. In advance of **Scottish local elections in May 2017**, it is time to lobby prospective Councillors. Each Councillor should be asked what he/she will do for our community. In addition, we should inform them that we expect them to support and contribute towards implementation of our Neighbourhood Plan. Stress the point that we are an endangered community.
ACTION: AC to suggest to the Federation that they organise a hustings at which councillors could be challenged by residents.
- b. **Cameron Woods**. Constance Newbould has tried to arrange a meeting with the owner to follow up on issues about her responsibility for the management of the wood and anyone who is occupying it. There was a general interest in buying Cameron Wood and this should be communicated to her.
- c. **Pentland Grove House** has applied for planning permission for an additional house to be built. There are no objections from the community.
- d. **A703 risk of accidents**. Notice for children's nursery which is opening soon. We are concerned about the safety of access, which is also exacerbated by other local developments, e.g. further access to a new house on the A703 (see c above). Extension of 40mph section to include bus stops at Tigh Na Geat to be implemented by end February 2017.
- e. **Swimming pool**: it has been queried whether there had been planning permission for change of use.
- f. **Fuel Circle**. Opportunity to join local fuel circle to access better oil prices (through bulk buying. Anyone interested should liaise with JG or respond direct to Bruce Fraser at broughtonoilgroup@btinternet.com
- g. There was interest and some debate about the recent placing of a **stone structure on A703**. Although it was close to the location of a trig point the new structure does not seem to be the official trig point design, nor in correct position for mile marker. This is potentially a height marker.
- h. The **resident list** will be updated shortly - any required changes to be notified to John Marsh at ddcc@mfcc.info

9. Dates

- a. AGM: 10th May 2017
- b. Litter pick dates: March Sunday 19th and October (date to be agreed)
- c. Summer gathering: 11th June and winter gathering: (date to be agreed)
- d. Date of Next Meeting is 7pm, **Wed 29th March at the Steading**. Further dates are 10th May (including AGM), 5th July, 12th September, and 6th December.

Damhead and District Community Council MW02 Police Report 1st November 2016 – 31st December 2016

Crimes

On 4th November a theft of fuel took place at Esso Filling station, Biggar Road. The number plates used in the theft have since been recovered by Police as part of the investigation.

On the afternoon of 6th November a house was broken into at Damhead. A quantity of jewellery and a Mazda MX-5 car were stolen in the break in. Enquiries into the break in are ongoing.

On 7th November on Pentland Road Police stopped a vehicle, which was subsequently seized after it was found to have no insurance. The driver was arrested and charged with several road traffic offences and held in custody to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court.

On 28th December a report was received of a break in to a static caravan situated in a garden at Damhead. Some large items were stolen from within, including a bed. Anyone with any possible information is requested to contact Police.

Vehicle Collisions

On 2nd December a two car vehicle accident occurred on Biggar Road near to the junction with the Midlothian Ski Centre entrance. No injuries were reported. One vehicle was undriveable and was uplifted. No offences were detected.

On 19th December there was a 2 vehicle collision on the A702, South of the junction with the A703. One person sustained minor injuries. The driver of one vehicle was reported to the Procurator Fiscal, charged with careless driving.

Festive Road Checks

On 18th December 60 vehicles were stopped on Biggar Road. 17 drivers were breath tested, all of which were negative.

Throughout the festive period Police carried out numerous road checks across the county, as part the enforcement side of the national festive drink driving awareness campaign. The theme throughout was that 'the best approach is none.' Across the country over 19,000 drivers were stopped.

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.

Here 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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