

DAMHEAD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

5th July 2017, Steading

Present: Natalie Frankish, Grant McPherson, Jo Gillies, John Marsh, Helen McKay, Alasdair Ferguson, Stuart Clark, Julian Holbrook, Constance Newbould, David Newbould, John Ferguson, Diane Graham, Jim Telfer, Councillor Pauline Winchester, PC Lewis Hodkinson

1. Police report

The full report is given as an appendix. Crimes during the last 2 months were relatively limited, and there were only two accidents reported. It is unlikely that all accidents in the area are formally reported and, even if reported, are not always formally recorded by Police Scotland if no police involvement required. Incidents involving dogs should be reported to the Council dog warden (Tam Crawford) along with details of the dog(s); this is worth doing as it establishes a record which would allow a further incident to be escalated. PC Hodkinson confirmed that poor driving on a private road would not usually be a police matter.

2. Ratification of minutes.

Minutes from the AGM on 10th May 2017 were proposed by Alasdair Ferguson and seconded by Julian Holbrook. The agreed minutes will be posted on our website.

3. Matters arising.

Haig Hamilton land fill.

- Constance Newbould emailed Ian Johnstone, pointing out that the total number of lorries was being exceeded therefore the life span of the project should be reduced. The response was that someone would look into it. Yet again concern was expressed about the lack of enforcement of planning requirements.
- It was particularly concerning that MLC have only made six enforcements in the last year (as shown by the MLC enforcement register) - this again raised questions around effectiveness of the Council in enforcement activity.
- There is also concern that the landfill area is being overfilled and should no longer be considered land improvement, but is in essence a land fill.
- Councillor Winchester explained that she can call in any planning application, including ones that concern Community Councils, for discussion by the full council.
- The site is not being monitored adequately, e.g. mud from site is being dragged on to the road and then fills road drains. In our view the road sweeper itself is also causing damage.
- Lorries should be checked to ensure that the contents are inert or at least not a source of pollution because there is concern about the composition of the material being dumped. Run off from between the bunds is entering the water course. May need initial sample of water to trigger a request for official SEPA sampling. **ACTION:** Councillor Winchester will ask for a random check on the material being unloaded at the site. Constance to contact SEPA and Environmental Health because of silt being diverted into water course.
- **ACTION:** Helen to contact Anna Henley to enquire about drone imagery.

Fly tipping - **ACTION:** Councillor Winchester to raise fly tipping enforcement at Clippens Yard, and next steps in relation to Film Studio proposals with MSP Jeremy Balfour.

Traffic speed survey. **ACTION:** Jo to send Dot Fraser relevant information on work previously undertaken by Maxime Dundas to support a safe crossing of the A702 at Lothianburn.

Badger sett. This will be followed up in due course when individuals return from holiday.

4. Film Studio (Natalie Holbrook).

No update at this point.

5. Realignment of A701

Some residents had been contacted about a walk over but no-one came on the appointed date. Outcome of the Reporter's inquiry on MLDP due on 10th July.

Extension to tip/or enforcement of its removal from Gibson's land will not be decided until Ministers' final decision on the Film Studio application is known.

Electricity poles along the A701 are being maintained.

Bus shelter and bus stop sign have been damaged on A703.

6. Midlothian Transport and Roads Group

All Community Councils are being asked to gather information on traffic, roads and pavements (condition, hazard and safety) which will be compiled at Federation level in the hope of getting action. Councillor Winchester explained that major cuts (£30m over 5 years) will be needed so expenditure on roads may be unlikely, nevertheless it is worth making our priorities known. **ACTION:** All relevant issues to be forwarded to John Marsh at johnmarsh2@btconnect.com

7. Finances (Helen McKay)

The Comiston branch has been closed so our branch is now at 206 Bruntsfield Place. The refund for the noticeboard has been banked so our balance at the end of June was £2517. The cheque for planning advice to John MacCallum needs to be reissued.

8. Planning

Councillor Winchester advised that planning gain requests from the DDCC should be made at the planning consent stage. Midlothian have been granted another 6000 houses in the next 5 years.

9. Giant hogweed.

If the presence of giant hogweed is confirmed, contact the council asap who will come to spray the weed (or will contact the landowner if it is private ground). If there is uncertainty about any plant, contact the DDCC and the plant will be identified. If anyone is concerned about other noxious weeds, contact DDCC or MLC. **ACTION:** An image of giant hogweed will be added to minutes and posted on the website to help with identification, along with relevant contact information.

10. Secret Herb Garden

Constance Newbould contacted Ian Johnstone about the effectiveness of planning permission, for instance the planning application for dinners at the Secret Herb Garden was withdrawn yet dinners are continuing. The application to change use to allow wedding events was considered by Midlothian Council on 6th June; it was agreed that a site visit was necessary before the next full planning committee meeting in August.

11. AOB

- a. Litter pick for beginning of November (Sunday 5th November). Road signs available from MLC. **ACTION:** Jo will buy more hoops and will look for a long picker.
- b. There will be a Midlothian CC Training Day on 7th October.
- c. Winter gathering - **ACTION:** Julian will investigate possible venues, e.g. Glencorse, Miners Club Bilston, Community Centre, Cabin. **ACTION:** Jo to prepare a questionnaire to canvas preferences for themes.
- d. Noticeboard is in Stuart's house. The advice is that it should be weathered and waxed, then the Community Justice Team will arrange a date for installation.
- e. Avian Centre - the hatchery has permission, but planning permission for the Centre is still pending. Drainage for entire site is still being evaluated. **ACTION:** Councillor Winchester will draw attention to the alternative site options, including those that MLC mistakenly excluded at an earlier point. This includes a site which is our preferred option.

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

Other useful dates:

Litter pick: Sunday 5 November

DDCC meeting: Wednesday 6th December

Winter gathering: tbc

Damhead and District Community Council MW02 Police Report

1st May 2017 – 30th June 2017

Crimes & Incidents

Overnight between Thursday 14th – Friday 15th May a number plate was stolen from a vehicle parked in the driveway of a property on the A702.

Some time prior to 26th May, a vehicle trailer was stolen from Midlothian Snow Sports Centre.

Between 10:00 – 21:30 hours on 28th June, a vehicle parked on Biggar Road was broken into. Nothing was stolen.

Vehicle Collisions

About 20:00 hours on 11th June on Biggar Road, a two vehicle accident took place. No injuries were reported.

About on 15th of June on the A703 near to the junction with the A702 an accident took place whereby a van collided with a motorcycle. The motorcyclist sustained a broken leg.

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

If any person has any information about the incident(s) listed above or indeed any other issue please contact your Community Policing Officer PC 5589- J Lewis Hodkinson.

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.

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