

DAMHEAD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

29th March 2017, Steading

Present:, Gordon Marshall, Kate Marshall, **Ailsa Carlisle, Jo Gillies, John Marsh**, Duncan McAuslan, Lucie McAuslan, Hamish Martin, Alasdair Ferguson, Natalie Frankish, Adam Johnson, Richard Spray, Diane Graham, Nathalie Holbrook, Jacek Huber, Grant McPherson

Apologies: Andrew Coventry, **Helen McKay, Constance Newbould**, Mary Begbie, David Newbould

1. **Police report.** The full report is copied at the end of the minutes. Police Scotland were asked to consider what action could be taken to stop Burnside being used as a diversion when accidents occurred on OPR, A701 or A702. It was noted that the car accident at the top of Burnside on Tuesday 28 Feb was not included in the report.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising.**
Subject to a minor typo, the minutes were approved and will be posted on our website. Review of actions:
 - a. No decision will be taken by MLC on Clippens enforcement order until film studio decision taken. ACTION: JG to contact MLC again in due course.
 - b. It was noted that the response to Justice plan was taken forward by the Federation of Community Councils.
 - c. Litter pick - MLC was praised for picking up bags of litter promptly. ACTION: JG to enquire re safety signs and DDCC to consider buying more hoops as part of this year's budget. Residents wishing to borrow equipment should contact Jo at joanne.gillies@yahoo.co.uk
3. **Film Studio**
No major developments - SG have stated that this is a complicated case. Industry are now questioning the length of the decision time. FOI requests by others have shown that the film studio committee rejected the proposals 2 years ago. Two formal complaints now with the Ombudsman. Lots of inaccuracies in the press. ACTION: All to write to Scottish Government Ministers and MSPs to keep decision makers aware of issues.
4. **Planning**
17/00102/DPP Avian Research Centre at the Bush: SRUC (previously Scottish Agricultural College) submitted proposals in conjunction with Edinburgh Uni for poultry facility spread over number of buildings (capacity for 10,000 birds), including carcass examination facilitation (potential 4,000 birds per week) and incinerator, and over significant piece of land (3.4 acres). Media articles refer to factory in Ayr closing down and moving to Bush. DDCC have formally objected already due to short notice of application and deadline for response. Roslin and Bilston Community Council also objected, plus a significant number of individuals. Key issues around flooding, impact on infrastructure as well as adverse impact on neighbourhood amenity (i.e. smell etc). It was noted that local businesses within the vicinity of the Bush had not been notified of the proposals.

Secret Herb Garden: three proposals submitted re static caravan, dining events and weddings.

17/00205/DPP: Secret herb garden: partial change of use of glasshouse building to incorporate evening dining events. Update provided by Hamish Martin on how plans

aligned with Neighbourhood Plan around supporting local economy, sustainability and local food growing. Events will be in the summer months - currently 6 annually, 55 pax, 7-11pm, no music. Plan to increase number of events up to maximum of 10 events. **ACTION:** There was support in principle for dining events, where maximum limit of 10 events per annum, and where due diligence given to potential adverse impact on local amenity to residents through, for example, noise or levels of transport.

17/00205/DPP: Secret herb garden as a wedding site. Hamish explained these would be limited to approx.10 per year, with acoustic music to finish by 11pm (barn to be further soundproofed) and licenced until 12midnight. The licensing board will consider proposal at end of April to extend licence from 11pm to midnight and extend licenced area between buildings. Although proposals not yet seen, some concerns raised re potential negative impact on local amenity for residents via noise, additional number of people in close vicinity to residential area, and transport. **ACTION:** DDCC to consider further once details available and submit comments in due course.

17/00223/DPP: access gate from the Burnside to Land West Of 19A Damhead. Part retrospective. No specific objections; presumed that MLC will consider need for any signage and appropriate distance from A703 junction as part of their deliberations.

5. **Damage to Bing and badger set.** No satisfactory formal response has yet been received from MLC re the damage to the Bing. **ACTION:** JG to follow up with formal complaint.
6. **Caravans at Lothianburn.** At least one caravan has been removed and another has since appeared. If licence plate on trailer etc then police can take action, if no licence plate then lack of clarity in relation to which body has responsibility to take action, e.g. Local Government, Transport Agency, etc.
7. **Neighbourhood Plan review.** Slides attached below. Discussion included following points:
 - The focus should remain on challenging planning applications detrimental to our vision, and ensuring the Damhead and District environment is preserved
 - Priorities remain: road safety and traffic speed; maintenance of roads and pavements; litter and fly tipping; and preserving existing environment and building on this for the future.
 - Progress with delivery and achievements include: level of activity around A701 realignment and Film Studio proposals, along with engagement in planning system on regional (e.g. MLDP) and local matters - significant level of reactive activity. Proactive activity includes litter picks, gathering events, the new noticeboard, and open doors day, etc.
 - Future actions to include:
 - Roads and pavement maintenance remains priority. For example, Old Pentland Road footpath needs maintained and updated - it is not safe for buggies/walkers, particularly with number/size of lorries on this road, and lack of hard surface.
 - Need to include more people from the community - in meetings and by keeping them updated. Need to engage across the community and represent all views.
 - It was recognised that a lot of the actions depend on MLC - how can we improve our engagement with the council? This can be difficult and not always reciprocated, e.g. spend on extra footpath at Gowkley Moss could have perhaps

been better spent on other areas - how are these decisions made? Council can appear to be focused on SESPlan, as opposed to local level. Lack of consistency and engagement across council departments e.g. planning and estates.

- Fly tipping seems to be increasing. Changes at OPR layby near Ikea noted.

ACTION: JG to write up discussion. Options to be explored with MLC Communities Team for improving engagement with the council and delivery of priorities.

8. AOB

- Midlothian Open Doors Day 9 September 2017.** OPR Graveyard received approximately 30 pax last year. ACTION: Looking for volunteer to coordinate Graveyard this year to enable Open Doors Day to take place. If no volunteers by 21 April, will review participation again in 2018.
- Scottish Tourist Board** recently completed Midlothian marketing film - keep an eye out for this!
- Lowland deer network.** Consideration ongoing of correspondence from Mark Telfer from the Edinburgh and East Lothians Deer Group. ACTION: to be considered by DDCC
- Midlothian Neighbourhood Plan event planned 25 April to consider future activity re **Roads, Pavement and Traffic management**. This will include consideration of capital programme and road conditions survey. ACTION: JM to attend.
- Noticeboard** has now been delivered and to be erected in due course.

9. Dates

- DDCC AGM and meeting: 10th May 2017
- Summer gathering: 11th June and winter gathering: (date to be agreed)
- Doors Open Day 9 September (tbc - see ACTION at 8(a) above)
- Litter pick: October (date to be agreed)
- Date of Next Meeting and AGM is 7pm, **10 May at the Steading**. Further dates are 5th July, 12th September, and 6th December.

Neighbourhood Plan Review Slides:

Neighbourhood Plan Review

Damhead and District
March 2017

Background:

- Neighbourhood Plan 'Our heritage – our future' published March 2015
- Ambitious 15 year plan – well received by MLC
- Focus on challenging planning applications detrimental to our vision, and ensuring environment preserved
- Priorities: Road safety and traffic speed; State of roads, pavements; litter and fly tipping; Maintain what we have and build on this

Proposed actions:

- Roads, Infrastructure and maintenance: A701 realignment, OPR speed/weight, triple junction, safe crossings to bus stops....
- Community development ideas and community spirit: events and gathering, litter picks, noticeboard, resilience, local history and current developments...
- Environment and land use: protect green gateway to Midlothian, green networks, paths, hedges, verges, food growing....
- Longer term vision: what climate changes mean for Damhead and what the options are for taking a proactive approach....

Where are we now?

- What progress has been made?
- What challenges have we faced...
.... and overcome?
.... and continue to face?
- What are our priorities now for Damhead and District?
- Next steps

Damhead and District Community Council MW02 Police Report

1st January 2017 – 28 February 2017

Crimes & Incidents

On 06/01/17 a quantity of rubbish was dumped and set alight at Old Pentland Cottages, Damhead.

On 26/01/17 two males were reported trying to sell TVs from a red Ford Escort van at the at Esso Filling station, Biggar Road. Police have received numerous reports of similar incidents, including where persons have paid a bargain price in cash for a TV, only to find that it is broken or the box contains bricks. Buyer beware!

A male has for several weeks been camping and living rough in several different areas in Midlothian. Police have received numerous calls from concerned members of the public and he has been spoken to by officers on several occasions. Police have had no concerns for the male and he has not committed any offences.

Vehicle Collisions

About 07:30 hours on 09/01/17 a three vehicle accident took place on the A702 outside the Steading Restaurant. No persons were injured.

On 27/01/17 a two vehicle head on collision took place on the A702 just South of the junction with the A703. One person sustained minor injuries. A 54 year old male was charged with Careless Driving and driving without insurance.

At 09:15 hours on 31/01/17 on the A702 outside Calderstones a two vehicle accident took place. No persons were injured.

About 08:00 hours on 24/02/17 a two car accident took place on the A702 near to the junction for the Hillend Ski Centre. No injuries were reported. Approximately an hour later another two vehicle accident took place near this location, however no persons were injured.

Initiatives

Community Police Officers will be carrying out a Rural Crime Initiative in Midlothian beginning this month. Officers will also be carrying out quad bike patrols, providing information and advice to dog walkers and members of the public. Sheep worrying does not only refer to animals being attacked or injured, but also includes animals being disturbed or chased. Spring is a crucial period for lamb development and disturbance can have adverse or fatal effects on their survival.

To help the farmers, and enable you and your canine friends to enjoy the countryside, we'd advise that you do not take your dog into fields where there are lambs, calves or other young animals. Keep your dog under control in all areas that you're unfamiliar with, or where there are livestock.

Unfortunately, sheep worrying is common at this time of the year so please help us to make a difference and report all incidents of livestock worrying by calling Police Scotland on 101; always dialling 999 in an emergency.

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

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).

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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