

## DDCC ELECTIONS AND AGM, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 - DRAFT

**Present:** Constance Newbould, Julian Holbrook, John Marsh, Jo Gillies, Grant McPherson, Natalie Frankish, A Ferguson, Helen Mitchell, Dot Fraser, Nicolle Begbie, Mary Begbie, James Telfer, Gordon Marshall, Kate Marshall, David Newbould, Stephen Blain, Kate Holbrook, Councillor Pauline Winchester, PC Lewis Hodkinson Police Scotland, Catherine Duns Midlothian Council Communities Officer

Apologies: Helen McKay, Ian and Janice Milne, Nathalie Holbrook, Pippa Thomson, Graeme Buchanan

### 1. Police Report

The full police report is attached in the annex.

- In relation to the three caravans parked at Lothianburn, Police Scotland confirmed that the Council has ultimate responsibility to deal with them. **Action:** Councillor Winchester agreed to follow up with MLC.
- Although one of the car accidents involved a deer, it's not routine to record this information, therefore not possible to state the extent of accidents involving deer in this area or whether this is increasing.

### 2. Ratification of minutes

Minutes from the AGM 26 April 2016 and the latest DDCC meeting, 29 March 2017, were agreed.

### 3. Election of Office Bearers

Ailsa Carlisle resigned from the Community Council and was thanked for her contribution to the DDCC and community. It was agreed that Stuart Clark would be co-opted to the DDCC with immediate effect. The following official roles were agreed:

Chair - Constance Newbould

Treasurer - Helen McKay

Secretary - Joanne Gillies

### 4. Chair's report (Constance Newbould) – full report available on website and in the library

Constance reported that the last year had been very busy with planning matters, particularly the Film Studio and MLDP as well as a range of other issues. Other significant events during the course of the year included planting a memorial apple tree at Old Pentland Graveyard for Lorna Goudie, and a reduction in the speed limit on the A703 (although no bus stop has yet been provided, and a number of sign posts on this stretch of road need to be straightened). There have also been two litter picks, the summer gathering (with the next gathering on 11 June 2017), and the review of the DDCC Constitution (new Constitution available on the website [www.damheadcc.org.uk](http://www.damheadcc.org.uk)).

A number of MLC consultation exercises have covered a wide range of issues – these can be lengthy and time consuming. MFCC have led in a number of these responses, which has been extremely useful. A key planning issue is the MLDP, which has not yet been ratified. JM Planning Services was previously contracted to provide a response to the MLDP consultation process. The Reporter has recently requested further information from several interests, including the DDCC, therefore the DDCC has commissioned JM Planning Services to provide this on the basis that a certain level of planning expertise is required to ensure a robust response. Concerns were raised about the level of housing, and it was confirmed that there are plans to build 7000 houses across Midlothian over the next 5 years, including the potential to build on land identified within the film studio proposals. In relation to the landfill site, MLC have been asked to clarify arrangements for reparation of Old Pentland Road and pavement following its recent and continuing deterioration, including potential for repairs to be made within the five-year landfill period. Landfill issues continue re level of mud on

the road, dust blowing over several residents' properties, and the number of lorries delivering to the site. **Action:** Councillor Winchester agreed to follow up on issues relating to Haig Hamilton landfill.

#### **5. Treasurer's report (Helen McKay) - full report available on website and in the library**

The starting balance for 2016-17 was £1661.33. In May 2016, £767 grant funding was received from MLC, followed by a further £700 at the end of March 2017, which is funding for community cohesion and resilience during 2017-18. £570 was also reimbursed to DDCC for the cost of the notice board. Expenditure of £1,244.58 included £984 to the Grassmarket Community Company for the noticeboard, routine community events such as the summer gathering and litter picks, plus £58.27 for the plaque for Lorna Goudie and £52.09 for historical documents relating to the Gibsone estate. Balance at year end was £2,455.77.

#### **6. Secretary's report (Jo Gillies) – full report available on website and in the library**

Communication and sharing information is key to the secretary's role, mainly via email as this is a quick and effective way to share information (please email [ddcc@mfcc.info](mailto:ddcc@mfcc.info) to be included on this list) – all data kept securely and only used for community purposes. The website has been modernised and is kept up to date with information on DDCC meetings, relevant planning applications, and a wide range of other useful information. The new noticeboard, which will be erected at Old Pentland Graveyard, will also provide a handy place to share information. All views and contributions from residents across the community are welcomed and appreciated – this allows the DDCC to more effectively represent all views and to ensure it has a strong voice on issues of community-wide importance. Where individual residents are taking forward their own activity on issues important to the community, the DDCC can add their support.

#### **7. Planning/Development issues**

- a. Film studio. Pentland Studio have been given an indication of Scottish Government intention to proceed should the developers be able to meet a number of conditions, such as covering part of the costs of the A701 realignment. There is a clause on this letter of intention which means negotiations are capped at 6 months. It is understood that Guardhouse studio (Pentland Alternative) will also be submitting a full planning application soon. The campaign group is continuing to engage with the press, and RT productions are filming on the farm this week which will be aired nationally. The BBC are also interested in covering this case. Engagement is continuing with MSPs and there is meeting with Jeremy Balfour MSP next week to discuss campaign next steps. The enforcement order on Clippens Yard was also referred to – this has been extended numerous times and the cost to clear the fly tipping is a material aspect of Gibsone's selling the land. MLC have said they will not take a decision on this until the film studio decision has been finalised. **Action:** Councillor Winchester to raise fly tipping enforcement at Clippens Yard, and next steps in relation to Film Studio proposals with MSP Jeremy Balfour.
- b. A701 Realignment and MLDP. As referred to in the Chair's report, the MLDP has been referred to Scottish Government for consideration and decision. No timeline has yet been confirmed for decisions to be taken. The Reporter has requested additional information to inform the decision-making process. **Action:** Meeting to be held on this issue before end of May to inform the response to the Reporter.
- c. Damage to Bing and badger set. The MLC response to the DDCC complaint was noted. There was a lack of clarity re the content of the register of special interests, however recognised that the Bing has a number, including the nesting buzzards, badgers, curlews, orchids, etc, and that the Bing is unique as it has self generated naturally. Engagement with a local expert on badgers has confirmed the set would still have been used by travelling

badgers. It was surprising that 'no further investigation works are planned' given the film studio and MLDP proposals for this area. It was also noted that an increase in bikers has been observed on the track made by the contractors, and that the entrance road has not been resealed very effectively. **Action:** DDCC to consider updating wildlife survey. Councillor Winchester agreed to follow up on future development of the Bing and damage to the set.

#### **8. Traffic speed and safety at Lothianburn**

Dot Fraser set out her plans to raise a petition to reduce the speed limit between the triple junction and bypass roundabout, in order to ensure a safe crossing place at Lothianburn Village as there is significant risk to young people crossing the road. As a result of approx. 16 new businesses being established in the time since Lothianburn Golf Course closed, there is an increase in cars manoeuvring in the area and an increase in accidents. Information has been requested from Police Scotland on accidents and throughflow at the Snowsport Centre and Park. Wording for the petition currently being developed. **Action:** Constance to provide details of previous action to establish safe crossing. Lucie to forward on historical traffic flow data. Catherine to pass on details of successes in Rosewell and Gorebridge. DDCC to support petition to MLC in due course.

#### **9. Neighbourhood Plan Review**

Catherine provided an update on the Lasswade Cluster of Neighbourhood Plans, and the decision to take a thematic approach to progressing activity in pertinent areas, such as traffic and roads, sustainable food growing, community amenities, rural issues, etc. These meetings are open to all. A training day in October will look at a range of issues, including Community Council boundaries. It was agreed that there remains clear support for current priorities in the Damhead Neighbourhood Plan, such as road and pavement maintenance, traffic speed and safety, and community development and that activity around these priorities should continue. A Damhead Food Group is being established – anyone interested in joining or receiving information updates should let Julian know at [julian.holbrook@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julian.holbrook@yahoo.co.uk). Alliance Midlothian are also running an event on 23 May bringing together food growing projects: Julian to attend and report back.

#### **10. Summer gathering**

The Big Lunch will take place at Pentland House on Sunday 11 June, 12noon to 4pm. Everyone is welcome. It was suggested that 'Damhead soup' should be made – anyone with locally grown veggies are encouraged to bring a sample with them on the day! All other food/refreshment contributions also welcome – and DDCC will provide additional refreshments etc as required. There will also be the annual popular treasure hunt and activities to keep children busy. Historical documents relating to the Gibsone Estate will be available for perusal.

#### **11. AOB**

- a) Doors open day. Old Pentland Graveyard will not be open this year, but may be in 2018.
- b) Avian Research Centre at the Bush. This is a significant Health and Safety hazard as the proposed Centre would be within the minimum distance from numerous residential areas. It has been suggested that alternative sites around the Bush should be considered.
- c) Flight paths. Agreed community council position is that data and the consultation exercise is flawed and should be abandoned. The proposals affect more areas than Midlothian, are based on information gathered prior to significant levels of housing being built in flight path areas, and a number of key interests have not been involved in the consultation exercise.
- d) Scottish Government consultation on fracking. Link available on the website for anyone who wishes to provide individual comment.

**12. Date of next meeting: 7pm, Wednesday 5 July at the Steading.** Other useful dates: Big Lunch 11 June, DDCC meetings 12<sup>th</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Damhead and District Community Council MW02 Police Report**

**1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### **Crimes & Incidents**

On 14/03/17 a 15 year old youth was identified as having stolen items from the Esso Petrol Station, Biggar Road. He was traced nearby and charged with the offence.

Between 16/04/17 - 24/04/17 a garage at the Tryst, Pentland Road, Damhead was broken into. Nothing was stolen.

Between 19/04/17 – 27/04/17 a property near to the junction with A703 and the A702 was broken into. A quantity of cash and jewellery was stolen.

### **Vehicle Collisions**

On 28/02/17 a two car accident took place on the Seafield Moor Road, near the junction for Damhead holdings. One vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree. Two persons were injured, one sustaining a broken nose.

On 17/03/17 a one vehicle accident took place on the A703 where a car struck a deer. No persons were injured.

About 00:20 on 31/03/17 a one vehicle accident took place on the A703 near to Damhead Nursery, where it left the road and struck a road sign. One person sustained minor injuries. Police enquiries into the incident are still ongoing.

On 18/04/17 a two car accident took place outside 32 Damhead. Fire and ambulance service attended the incident. One persons suffered serious injuries (broken bone). A 40 year old male was charged with Careless Driving in relation to the incident.

### **Initiatives**

Community Police Officers have been carrying out a Rural Crime Initiative in the area over the past few weeks. This has involved giving advice to dog walkers in light of lambing season.

Additionally, Midlothian is also popular as a location for a day trip and during the rural Crime Initiative officers will be providing advice and information to members of the public attending rural locations in their vehicles. While many people in rural areas experience low levels of crime this does not mean you should reduce your normal security precautions. Vehicles have been broken into at rural locations but by taking a few simple precautions you can make this much less likely.

Vehicle owners should ensure they:

- \* Lock their vehicle and keep the keys secure.
- \* Lock all doors and close all windows every time you leave your car unattended - however briefly.
- \* Remove any items from within their cars and don't leave valuable items in the boot if possible.
- \* Ensure no items are left in view.
- \* Try and ensure your car or any other vehicle is parked in a well-lit area.
- \* Use security devices at all times (e.g. alarms, immobilisers, etc).
- \* Clean off any sat nav sucker marks from your windscreen.

Sometimes basic precautions and changes in habit can make a big difference.

Please assist Police to prevent crime by reporting any suspicious activity you see.

TELEPHONING POLICE SCOTLAND

If you need to contact Police Scotland then the number you use will depend on whether what you are reporting is an emergency or not.

- \* You should always use 999 when:
- \* there is a risk of injury or loss of life
- \* a crime is in progress
- \* someone suspected of a crime is nearby

For non-emergency calls please use 101 to contact Police Scotland

### **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:LothianScotBordersPenicuikCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)**