

## DAMHEAD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

12<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Steading

Present: **Stuart Clark, Jo Gillies, John Marsh, Constance Newbould**, Natalie Frankish, Grant McPherson, Stephanie Lynch, Yvonne Bennett, Alasdair Ferguson, David Newbould, PC Lewis Hodkinson

Apologies: Councillor Pauline Winchester, Councillor Kelly Parry, **Helen McKay, Julian Holbrook**

### 1. Police report

The full report is given as an appendix. Crimes during the last 2 months (July and August) were relatively limited, and there were only two accidents reported, but both at the A702 junction. Any 'phishing' by post, ie scam letters received in the mail, should be reported to Royal Mail in the first instance.

### 2. Ratification of minutes and matters arising

Minutes from the meeting on 5th July 2017 were proposed by John Marsh and seconded by David Newbould. The agreed minutes will be posted on the DDCC website [www.damheadcc.org.uk](http://www.damheadcc.org.uk)

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils (MFED) planning meeting arranged for 20 September with Peter Arnsdorf. Questions to be put forward to include issues in relation to the Haig Hamilton landfill and lack of enforcement re no of lorries; the A701 relief road; and general lack of clarity around planning office functions (including whether Neighbourhood Plan is a material consideration). Potential for issues to be raised again at Community Council Training Day on 7 October.

A702 pedestrian crossing - Transport Scotland investigating potential for refuge island close to Steading Inn on boundary of Fairmilehead and Damhead and District CCs. It was noted that a safer option would be to install traffic lights.

Litter pick - a further six hoops have been purchased. No suitable long handle pickers have yet been identified.

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. For all other instances of fly tipping, these should be reported to the Midlothian Council Contact Centre on 0131 663 7211, or inform the DDCC and a member will report it. The same number should be used for hedge cutting and pot holes. **ACTION:** Jo to report pot hole on OPR before bridge, and hedge cutting at bus stop.

### 3. The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC):

Presentation by Graeme Wilson, Centre Manager, on role and remit of TWIC as the environmental record centre for Lothian and Borders, and the importance of recording and reporting all species of interest (whether of special interest or not), e.g. moles, deer, and foxes, as well as badgers, bats, and great crested newts. A report requires details of who has seen the plant/animal, what has been seen, where and when - this ensures a valid record, which is then verified by an expert. Online forms are available on the TWIC website and an app makes it as easy as possible to record and submit information. In total,

Damhead and District has 3,593 species records across 28 species groups, including badgers and a number of bat species. In addition, Erraid Wood has been identified as a Local Biodiversity Site as it has met a specific level of criteria (e.g. species diversity, rarity, social factors etc) and therefore it has limited protection in local plans. Free conferences and workshops are available to gain awareness of different species of interest and how to identify these. **ACTION:** John to put TWIC presentation on website, and workshop to be considered for Summer Gathering activity.

#### 4. Community Asset Register

MLC have produced a Community Asset Register which includes the Bing. This Register sets out assets that could be transferred to community control/ownership under the terms of the Community Empowerment Act. There was general discussion around the potential benefits of community ownership of the Bing, e.g. to develop a local wildlife park, as well as issues in relation to proposed new road and the need for funding. It was noted that approx. £1.4m has been identified by MLC from developers' Section 75 contributions to take forward initial scoping activity in relation to the proposed realignment of the A701, however it is not clear which developments have contributed to this activity or what this activity involves. **Action:** Constance to seek further information on source of this funding.

#### 5. Community Learning Exchange (CLE) grants

The CLE is allocating small grants to enable local people in one community to visit another community where there is something of interest. There was general interest in applying. **ACTION:** Julian to identify useful projects and submit funding application form.

#### 6. Planning/Development issues

- a. A701 Realignment and MLDP. Covered earlier in the meeting.
- b. Film studio. Members noted the positive work being taken forward by the Campaign Team, and noted the useful open letter recently written and published by Alison Piper, assistant film director, which provides a detailed 11 page report entitled 'The Emperor of Pentland Studios Wears No Clothes'. It was also noted that Mr Telfer is taking his case to the land tribunal.
- c. Local issues:
  - i. Avian Centre successfully moved to other side of Bush Estate. In addition, much smaller numbers of poultry proposed.
  - ii. Secret Herb Garden wedding application ongoing, however recent licence request has been denied.
  - iii. Haig Hamilton Landfill enforcement questions to be raised with Peter Arnsdorf.

7. **MLC Small Grants 2018/19.** Ideas included litter picks, summer and winter gathering, erecting the noticeboard and bus shelter. Funding could also be utilised to explore potential to seek community ownership of the Bing, and to update the record of fauna and flora at the Bing.

8. **Winter Gathering.** Following the previous agreement to undertake a survey to get as many views as possible on what sort of winter gathering should be arranged, a short survey has been circulated by email. A hard copy version will also be circulated with the minutes to those houses without email access. **ACTION:** All responses to be submitted to Jo Gillies by the middle of October.

## 9. AOB

**Notice Board.** The noticeboard is now with MLC to have the legs attached. A suitable site has been identified just inside the first gate to Old Pentland Graveyard. It was agreed that information on the Graveyard should be displayed on the noticeboard, along with minutes of the DDCC meetings, etc.

**Bus Shelter on A703.** DDCC and MLC have agreed to split the cost of the new 'pre-loved' bus shelter. The DDCC share is £213.00, and the required 28 days notice period has been initiated for the bus shelter to be installed. It was also noted that the bus stop at the foot of Pentland Plants road is being relocated into the nearby layby.

## 10. Date of next meeting: 7pm, 6 December at the Steading.

Other useful dates: Litter Pick: Sunday 5 November  
Winter Gathering: tbc

Further details and contact details:

[www.damheadcc.org.uk](http://www.damheadcc.org.uk)

[DDCC@mfcc.info](mailto:DDCC@mfcc.info)

**ANNEX**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017**

### **Crimes & Incidents**

In July & August Police attended at the Secret Herb Garden in relation to licensed events, and continue to liaise with the owner, neighbours and Midlothian Council Licensing regarding events there.

Between 0400 -0600 on 18/07/17 a Police road check was carried out on the A702. Several vehicles were stopped and six drivers breath tested. No offences were detected.

On 28/07/17 a shop till was recovered from Hillend Ski Centre. It has been identified as stolen from a break-in in Edinburgh.

Between 21/07/17 – 22/07/17 two sheep were injured by a dog near to Pentland Mains Farm.

### **Vehicle Collisions**

About 16:00 hours on 14/07/17 a two vehicle accident took place on the A702 near to Calderstones House. No one was injured.

About 07:30 hours on 30/08/17 a two vehicle accident took place on the A702. No persons were injured and all parties exchanged details.

## Your View Counts



Firstly a thank you to all who participated in the “Your view Counts Survey” last year. The Survey is now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year. This aids in developing our Policing Priorities across Scotland. It takes a few minutes and can be completed by clicking the link below:

[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)