

DDCC MEETING, 5 AUGUST 2019, Steading

Present: Constance Newbould, Stuart Clark, Duncan McAuslan, Helen McKay, Gareth Derbyshire, Ian Milne, Ailsa Carlisle, Ian Barr, Catriona Umpleby, Kate Marshall, G. McPherson, Ken MacLeod, David Newbould, Victoria North, Robin McBride plus PC Alan Forbes (Midlothian Police), Ian Bieniowski (Lothian Buses) and Karl Vanters (Public Transport, Midlothian Council)

Apologies: Jo Gillies

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Police Report

The full report is given in the appendix. Additional points are:

- In relation to the reported fraud, the police advised all residents to be careful of unusual emails – these could be phishing emails or scams. Don't open attachments. If you wish to phone back, use a different phone. 'Who called me' is an alternative to check who has phoned.
- Even though DDCC does not have a Neighbourhood watch, residents can sign up for text alerts, e.g. police or gas information.
- Bike security systems running at Roslin allows trace back. If there is sufficient interest, this can be arranged for DDCC.
- In relation to the record of accidents, there is no way of logging 'near misses'.
- PC Forbes and the relevant Sergeant have visited the 3-way junction. It is difficult to monitor vehicle speed because there is not a straight stretch of road.

3. No 15 Bus Service. Ian Bieniowski (Lothian Buses) and Karl Vanters (Public Transport, Midlothian Council)

There was a detailed discussion (see below) but despite this, I Bieniowski could not be shaken from his position that the number of passengers did not justify a Saturday service while K Vanters was clear that there was not Midlothian Council funding to subsidise the service.

- In 2015, Edinburgh took responsibility for the weekend service to Penicuik but cancelled the Sunday service because it was not commercially viable. The Saturday service is running at a significant loss. Even with a single decker, the Saturday 15 was not viable. Continuation of the Saturday service could be an option *if* demand increases *and if* there is financial support from Midlothian.
- Even the weekday 15 is one of LB's biggest loss-making routes. Loss is estimated at £150k per year per bus. Ball park about £400 to cover operating costs per day.
- LB are confident about usage data because there is software to monitor who gets on and where. Applies to mtickets too so this is not lost information although it relies on driver recording.
- When options for services to cut were put out to consultation by Midlothian Council transportation ranked 13 out of 15 issues in the questionnaire.

Although there is a statutory requirement to identify gaps in transport services there is also a requirement to get out if it is not financially viable.

- The 37 now services Roslin so reducing the numbers for the 15.
- 11s are now bigger buses, so there should be a 10 minute interval between buses. Reallocating one 11 to operate the 15 route is not an option.
- There is a Section 75 obligation to fund certain requirements for public transport to improve or reinstate services – the 31 to Oakfield is a good example. If proposed housing developments go ahead and there is proven demand it may be possible to demonstrate that a Saturday 15 would be profitable.
- Diverting a proportion of buses running to Penicuik, e.g. 1 in 6, round DDCC would not be technically feasible because the schedules would not work and it would deprive areas with a big demand, e.g. the campsite, garden centre, Princes Gate.
- The 67 is sponsored by Edin University and only runs through the week
- A circular route is not a favoured option because it is difficult to make up time if there is a problem whereas a linear route can be shortened.
- No 4 could be extended but there is no turning circle. We suggested that this requirement could be met by the proposed roundabout joining the 'Relief Road' to the A 703 at the feedmill.
- Fewer buses with a longer interval between buses will not cover costs
- Impact of concession holders was raised. The Scottish Government reimbursement rate for concession holder is only 50%. Recently this level of reimbursement covered concessionary fares only to mid-February and bus operators had to cover the difference for the remainder of the financial year.
- IB thought that there is not enough demand to justify the purchase of a smaller bus, e.g. minibus. What about a Community bus service?
- Diversion of the 101. The 101 is not the responsibility of either Lothian Buses or Midlothian Council. Dumfries and Galloway are lead authority. Midlothian pay a little. KV suggests it might be worth asking the question but he holds out little hope.
- A Ring and Go service was described by KV. Like taxi but flat rate bus fare but this is paid for by 3rd parties, mostly S75 development. It cannot benefit others apart from residents in the new development.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

- Minutes were proposed by Duncan McAuslan, seconded Stewart Clark
- Actions:
 - Midlothian Council were notified about kerb cleaning. Any resident with a specific issue to contact Neil Johnston who will raise it with Midlothian
 - John Marsh will continue to do map; we need to update. Send updates to Jo Gillies
 - Helen McKay had objected to the revised proposal at Calderstone because of road safety

5. Planning/Development issues

- PAN Submission - Proposed Development at Land at Seafield Road, Bilston (Phase 2 - Site Hs16) will be presented at an event on 12 Sept. All to attend if possible and take notes. Developers hoping to reduce funding to schools.
- Extension proposed to the Sprays and Pentland Farm
- The University of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh Application to modify a planning obligation within a legal agreement (associated with planning permission 12/00814/PPP) at Allocated Site H13, Land South West of Bilston, Seafield Moor Road, Bilston (proposed change in planning contributions to education and infrastructure)
- Land at Calderstones 18/00528/S42 update. Helen McKay had objected on behalf of DDCC.
- Water on Burnside: Helen reported that the leak had been located and Burnside residents planned to have it repaired in the next few weeks.

6. Community issues

- Date for litter pick? Sun 13th October
- Date for winter gathering. Suggestion for Pentland Plants or Secret Herb Garden at the end of November. Action: Kate Marshall to investigate

7. DDCC Budget and plans for 2020/21

- Helen McKay reported that at the end of June DDCC had £1600. This includes the small grant awarded by Midlothian Council of £615. We expect that the deadline for the application for next year around mid-October so we need to have some suggestions, ideally agreement, of items for 2020-21. Ideas suggested were signposts and high vis vests.

8. AOB

- Catriona Umpleby mentioned that Bilston Bing was being offered for a community buy out which led to a short discussion about Straiton Bing. There was general support to renew our enquiries about this site.

9. Date of next meeting: 7pm, Monday 7 October at the Steading.

Appendix 1

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report 1st June to 31st July 2019

Crimes & Incidents

- About 1130 hours on 3rd June, a vehicle was reported to be driving dangerously on the Seafield Moor Road. Vehicle was later traced and driver warned. There was insufficient evidence to charge.
- At 1500 hours on 3rd June, Police were contacted with regards to a sheep worrying incident which took place above Easter Howgate Farm. Dog owner traced by Police and issued with a warning as per farmers wishes.
- About 1740 hours on 6th June, Police were contacted with regards to a Search and Rescue operation taking place near to Hillend Ski Centre. A female with an injured ankle was assisted down from the hillside and attended hospital and has fully recovered.
- About 2345 hours on 25th June there were reports of red flares being set off in the Pentland Hills behind Hillend. This was confirmed as MOD exercise.
- At 2345 hours on 6th July at Hillend Ski Centre, officers issued a 23 year old male with a Recorded Police Warning for being in possession of Cannabis.
- On 8th July 2019, Police were contacted with regards to a fraud which had taken place at Damhead. A crime report was submitted Police enquiries are currently ongoing.
- At 0010 hours on 27th July, at Hillend Ski Centre, officers issued a 33 year old male with a Recorded Police Warning for being in possession of Cannabis.

Further Information

A number of thefts relating to 'theft of fuel' were reported by the Petrol Station on Biggar Road over June/July. These are all being progressed by Police.

Proactive checks are being carried out at Hillend Ski Centre and Boghall Farm car parks regarding drugs misuse.

Vehicle Collisions

- About 2340 hours on 19th June police were called to the A702 near to Hillend following a 1 car accident after debris was strewn over the road. There were no injuries reported and damage to 1 vehicle only.
- About 1320 hours on 16th June, police attended a 3 vehicle collision at the junction just opposite The Steading. 3 persons attended hospital with minor injuries. A conditional offer was issued to a driver of one of the vehicles.
- About 1515 hours on 3rd July, Police were contacted regarding a 2 vehicle accident at the junction of A702, A703 and Pentland Road. No injuries. Details exchanged by drivers.

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 2nd 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

If any person has any information about the incident(s) listed above or indeed any other issue please contact your Community Policing Officer PC 5177 Alan Forbes.

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