

DDCC MEETING 2ND DEC 2019

STEADING

Present: Jo Gillies, Stuart Clark, Duncan McAuslan, Helen McKay, Gill McLeod, Ken McLeod, Ailsa Carlisle, Ian Barr, Neil Johnston, Ian Milne, Richard Umpleby, Grant McPherson, Colin Anderson (Fairmilehead Community Council), Alastair McClung (Swanston Farm), Richard Slipper (Slipper Planning), Gail Prince (Roslin and Bilston Community Council), Paul Johnston (Communities Team, Midlothian Council)

Apologies: Constance Newbould, David Newbould, Councillor Winchester

Gail Prince (Roslin/Bilston CC) and Paul Johnston (MLC Community Liaison Penicuik, Damhead, Roslin/Bilston) were welcomed. PJ's role is to support CC (if needed) but he also works with broader groups (funding through small grants/ boundaries/governance).

1. Police report

The full report covering 6th Oct-2nd Dec. is shown in the Appendix. The main points were: a male was lost on Pentlands but was found safely; counterfeit notes are being used in the area; flares were reported on the Pentlands but it was not an emergency, just an army exercise; a driver with no insurance was stopped; a broken down vehicle at Flotterstone caused congestion; and there were proactive checks on drug use at car parks at Hillend and Boghall. The police emphasised that dog worrying can be committed even though livestock are not being actively chased. Police plan to organise a bike marking event (probably Halfords). Only one vehicle collision (at Boghall) had been reported but we mentioned an incident on 31st October. Neil Johnston noted that a new car wash has been installed at the exit to the landfill which might help to reduce mud on the main road. Police Scotland informed the meeting that excess mud on the road and driving on the pavements are offences.

ACTION: Duncan McAuslan to collate responses about our concerns and send to traffic police. We asked if there was any further information about the nuisance visitor reported over the summer. Police offered an agenda item at our February meeting on home security and general crime prevention.

ACTION: Jo to confirm home security / crime prevent agenda item for February meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Duncan McAuslan nominated the October minutes and Stuart Clark seconded.

Actions and actions arising. Duncan McAuslan has been in contact with Transport Scotland who then passed him on to Amey. Paul Johnston sits on Traffic, Roads, Paths group and offered to progress our concerns. Duncan will get in touch and follow up. Neil to attend meeting on 9 December.

Constance will attend meeting on 5th December (7:30 Roslin Pavilion) about the 3rd phase of housing developments.

Haig Hamilton have installed a wheel wash and cut some of the hedges.

The suggestion to erect signposts received general support although some issues were noted. In the past MLC have stated that signs cannot be put erected on the main road.

ACTION: Helen McKay to follow up.

3. Swanston development proposal

Alistair McClung and Richard Slipper explained that the proposal is at the pre-planning stage. Most of the plans are on Swanston Farm website. City of Edinburgh is the relevant local

authority for planning purposes. Alistair McClung outlined the extent of his property which ranges from the top of hill to by-pass. When Lothianburn Golf Club stopped operating, they bought the building and proposed a mountain biking centre about 3-4 years ago. There was some consultation at that point and now there is a second round of public consultation. The current proposal has other leisure pursuits, activities, and development behind the Steading (centre, restaurant, offices). The Swanston proposal is not in competition with Glentress, as it is being aimed at beginners, with some learners' trails (not aimed so much at experts). There is a management plan for the T Wood (all single age, shallow rooting, mainly beech and pine) to cut a lot down to let more light and new growth. In addition, new woodland would be created around the T woodland. A zip wire is under consideration. There would be fenced off areas within the existing golf course area.

Thinking about planning application next year. Proposers have met with Swanston residents, Fairmilehead Community Council and now Damhead and District CC. Access is the main issue. Have met with Transport Scotland, Midlothian Council, Calderstones developers. Transport Scotland is keen to see one access for all these developments.

Richard Slipper noted that there were 200 attendees at first stakeholder consultations, 100 written responses (30% no, 70% perhaps subject to concerns/yes). Have liaised with Friends of the Pentlands and Pentland Country Park Forum. 40-50% of respondents thought they might be more inclined to come to the Park with the new mountain bike provisions. #1 issue: most concerns about traffic so access is the main concern. #2 concern is landscaping – some initial visual impact studies. #3 control of visitor numbers. #4 the proposed use of the hub building. Destination Hillend is the ski centre proposal. The current thinking is to use the bus turning circle for a controlled junction with a pedestrian crossing for the ski centre, Calderstone and the Swanston development. The bus turning circle would move up the hill. There were mixed views between developers and residents as to whether this would impact directly on the 3-way junction.

We asked about the cumulative impact. Sistro are looking at traffic but it is Midlothian's responsibility. Expect that the peak periods of access would be between 10:00-15:00 with only about 20% outside these times (though Ken McLeod noted that the traffic light cycle would be the same at all times). Planning permission for the Park and Ride between the bypass and the petrol station has expired. Non-vehicle access is under consideration round back of bungalows. We asked about access to rest of Midlothian but this is not within the control of the Swanston development. The perimeter fence is not intended to stop people walking through, but to give some comfort to Swanston residents. The actual trails would be designed if planning in principle is granted. Crossing points between biking and walking would be flyovers. Visibility of the development would be reduced by tree planting. We asked about visibility of the zip wire? AMcC suggests it would be largely hidden by the trees. The biking trails will be free so some revenue will be needed to maintain it. Hence the potential camping and pods, and self catering units. Another round of consultation is planned for spring. Alistair McClung offered to come back in March for multi CC meeting, and to engage with/support further activity to improve condition of Biggar road.

ACTION: DDCC to liaise with MLC (Jim Gilfillan) re cumulative impact on roads; propose potential roundabout further south to Transport Scotland (Alan Kerr) to service access to all developments and reduce danger at triple junction; and to consider multi-CC meeting in due course.

4. **Road and Traffic Group**

Group will meet on Dec 9th. PJ is seeking ideas on priorities for the meeting. Neil Johnston already has a list of issues which he plans to send to the Chief Executive. In addition we noted that the width of the footpaths are restricted; mud and broken surface means that people have to walk on road. We asked if video could be shown at the meeting since they can't be emailed through the firewall.

ACTION Neil Johnston will attend meeting on Fairfield House at 7:30 on Dec 9th and try to show video. Jo Gillies to circulate document setting out road issues and potential solutions for comments.

5. **'Nibbles and natter' winter gathering**

Will be on the 7th December 4:30 to 6:30 in the Secret Herb Garden. Bring a contribution. Suitable for children. OK to take wine. OK to park in SHG car park. Everyone welcome.

6. **Community Resilience.**

Jo and Duncan had attended recent training sessions. Some of the meeting was relevant and convinced our reps that we need to develop a plan. Duncan says £250 grant is available until March e.g. high vis vests, walkie talkies. Ann Montague is Midlothian Rep. Rosewell would be a good model.

ACTION: Duncan McAuslan to follow up and have as agenda item at next meeting

7. **Boundaries.**

Since Constance Newbould could not attend, Gail Prince and Paul Johnston spoke to this item. Following our last CC meeting, PJ arranged a meeting of Roslin & Bilston, Damhead & District and Penicuik Community Councils. Looked initially at Cameron Gardens but discussion expanded to consider all new housing, plus areas of particular interest to specific community councils. One possibility is that DD lose Cameron Gardens but expand through to Milton Bridge across Pentland Hills because of similarity of rural issues. It was agreed that we are content to look at proposed changes to the boundaries for the DDCC area. The next step is to email PJ of this position. If all relevant CCs agree to consider the proposed changes, PJ will list the proposals on the Midlothian Council website and start a public 90-day consultation. Once final agreement then back to Council for implementation. Gail Prince will talk to and Roslin & Bilston and Rosewell.

ACTION: Any further comments back to Jo.

8. **Community Council training day**

Duncan McAuslan attended the session. There is a new planning act 2019 which all officials need to be formally trained on. Changes include the National Planning Framework review to move from 5 to 10 years, with increased emphasis on health. Local Place Plans (successor to Neighbourhood Plans) need to be formally recognised at Council level. The training session also covered the Code of Conduct for running councils. Other issues covered included: emails and domain names; GDPR and data privacy policy; and low attendance and poor communication by Councillors at CC meetings.

ACTION: Duncan to email PJ to ask that poor attendance by Councillors is raised at the Midlothian Federation for Community Councils.

9. Policy on Data and Privacy

Jo Gillies explained that MFCC has recommended that each Community Council should adopt this policy. Jo explained that we have covered most of the relevant points in our existing governance and practice. Roslin&Bilston have decided to adopt. It was agreed we should adopt in principle with a view to ensure our practice is aligned with this over the coming period.

10. Community Council complaints policy

Can be used to protect the Community Council and also an individual. There is a 2-stage process: the first stage is to raise with Secretary who will engage and try to resolve, if this does not resolve the issue, go to the second stage where there is a panel. We agreed to adopt it in principle but it is still to be passed legally, then we can promulgate. Jo suggested that there is a need to record its use.

11. Oil circle.

The current coordinator, Bruce, moved out of the area 2 years ago so will be ceasing to carry out this role in the new year. There are significant savings to be gained from being a member of an oil circle, therefore anyone keen to take over this role should contact Jo Gillies.

12. AOB

It was noted that there had been press that day about a new development proposal at Straiton for a cinema and/or concert arena. No definite details yet available.

Next meeting.

In general, meetings will take place at 7pm at the Steading on the 1st Monday in every second month:

3 February 2020

6 April 2020 (AGM)

1 June 2020

3 August 2020

5 October 2020

7 December 2020

Other dates for your diary:

Winter Gathering, Saturday 7 December at SHG

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report

6th October to 2nd December 2019

Crimes & Incidents

- About 19:30 hours on 6th October 2019, there was a report of a male lost in the Pentland Hills. Police officers, the Police Helicopter and Tweed Valley mountain rescue attended. The male was found safe and well.
- On 7th October 2019 a male passed a counterfeit £50 at a local business.
- About 20:00 hours on 15th October 2019 Police received 2 calls regarding flares in the sky near to Hillend Ski Centre. It was established this was an army exercise.
- About 00:30 hours, on 23rd October 2019 Police stopped a car near to the Steading Inn. It was found to have 2 defective tyres and no insurance. The vehicle was seized and the driver charged.
- About 07:45 hours on 7th November 2019 police attended at a broken down vehicle on a bend near to Flotterstone.
- About 09:00 hours on 15th November police on patrol contacted the Council in relation to a large amount of foliage on the roadway near to Hillend Ski Centre.

Further Information

Proactive checks are being carried out at Hillend Ski Centre and Boghall Farm car parks regarding drugs misuse. There have been no crimes detected during this time period.

The Rural Crime initiative commenced on Sunday 3rd November and ran throughout November. During this period Community Officers carried out patrols, engaging with dog owners, Rural Community and visitors to the area providing information and advice regarding Livestock Worrying and Acquisitive Crime.

Community Police Officers are also going to be carrying out a Lockdown/Bike Marking Event at Straiton in December, as soon as we confirm the dates we will let you know.

Vehicle Collisions

About 12:30 hours on 12th November 2019 police received a report of a 2 car collision near to Boghall. On police attendance it was found both vehicles had moved on.

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