

DDCC Meeting, Monday 4 February 2019

Present: Ken McLeod, Neil Johnston, David Newbould, Helen McKay, Stuart Clark, Constance Newbould, Jo Gillies, Alasdair Ferguson, Diane Graham, Jim Telford, Ian Barr, Duncan McAuslan, Dot Frazer.

1. **Welcome and apologies.** Apologies from Julian Holbrook.

2. **Ratification of meeting minutes 3 December.**

Minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Stuart Clark and seconded by David Newbould.

ACTIONS:

- Diane to identify people in photos on the website.
- Oil circle. Anyone who is interested in joining the group, which provides savings on oil purchases through bulk buying, should email their contact details to the group coordinator Bruce at broughtonoilgroup@btinternet.com. Bruce is also looking for someone to take on the coordinator role later this year (given that he no longer lives in the area) – anyone who is interested in this should speak to Bruce or Jo to find out more.
- Jo has sent our preferred positions of the speed cameras to Ricky Moffat, MLC.
- MLC have not yet filled in the puddle at the entrance to the Pentland Biomass.
- Residents map and list to be circulated and any inaccuracies to be identified (see AOB)

3. **Police Report.**

PC Alan Forbes and colleague attended and reported on incidents from 31st December to end January 2019 (full report is appended). The car park at Hillend Ski Centre has been the scene of frequent incidents of possession of cannabis. Vehicle accidents – collisions and veering off the road – were the other most common incident. **ACTION:** ALL DDCC residents are encouraged to complete the survey on the Police Scotland website www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts

4. **Traffic Safety**

- Running water on Burnside. Scottish Water claim that it is a private water supply but we are uncertain about the source of the supply. On advice, we agreed to have the water tested for chlorine to see if it from a public or private supply. **ACTION:** Constance
- Kerb cleaning. Some kerbs have been cleaned on Old Pentland Road but the section from the Secret Herb Garden towards Ikea probably still need to be done. **ACTION** Jo to report bits most needing to be cleaned to MLC contact centre for action.

5. **Planning/Development issues**

- Snowsport Centre PAN: The Planning Application Notice for developments at Hillend will be listed in March when the DDCC will be informed formally. The artificial slopes will stay as they are but the jump will be renewed. There will be a new zip line, café, hotel, retail outlets, soft play and ropes course dome, wigwams and underground parking for significantly more vehicles. Funding of the project relies on early income from the zip wire.

Residents had attended the open meeting and reported back on the following issues: our concerns about the roads had received the usual response, i.e. with the building of the hotel there will be an improvement in the junction – including a set of traffic lights - at the bottom of the Hillend Sports Centre; the scale is too large; the plans don't seem to take account of existing walking and bridle paths; ways of transporting additional visitors to the new centre are not clear (e.g. facilities for cyclists/walkers as well as public transport); bus links from other areas of Midlothian do not exist and additional parking may still not be sufficient for footfall at peak times. The residents agreed that existing users, e.g. hill runners, must not be

discouraged. There was concern that this could be the fourth new hotel in that immediate area. We noted that, even without the hotel and Sports Centre, ca. 14 new businesses have set up nearby since the last survey of pedestrian use of the road, and the extra footfall should be enough to justify a pedestrian crossing on the trunk road. We were also concerned about the lack of consideration about how to ensure the centre remains accessible, affordable and beneficial for Midlothian residents, it was suggested that at the least the local community should get a discount for the new snowsport facilities (similar to the Edinburgh Winter Festival) to encourage and support active lifestyles. It was noted that Bilston and Roslin CC are interested in the development and our views, which they would support. Finally, we queried what has happened to the Boyd Anderson Trust which could possibly have funded some projects at Hillend. **ACTION:** Jo to notify MLC of DDCC views.

- University of Edinburgh solar project: Constance circulated the plan of the area identified for the solar farm. Although there were some concerns about visual impact (could the panels be painted green?) and need for trees to be removed, on balance the DDCC felt it could support this proposal since the negative impact is likely to be minimal. **ACTION:** Jo to notify University of Edinburgh of DDCC views.

6. Community issues

- Community Resilience. Public meetings too place in Penicuik, and showcased the Borders scheme. LA have offered to facilitate meetings to look at best practice. Potential for joint event with RBCC? **ACTION:** Jo will get in contact to see if a meeting can be set up.

7. AOB

- a. Distribution of residents' map and list 2018 to be updated. **ACTION:** Constance will copy more maps, and Jo to coordinate circulation of maps to residents. All to inform Jo of any details that require to be updated.
- b. There is a concern about the increasing numbers of rats in the general vicinity, potentially due to building and development work in the area. Midlothian Council provide anti-vermin service for one-off cost if required.
- c. Date for spring litter pick: 31st March. There was a general concern about the irresponsible behaviour that quickly led to new litter despite our efforts. Some discussion about what would be effective – we need a creative solution! It was agreed local children could be invited to design signs asking for litter to be taken home and/or encouraging people to keep our bus stops clear. **ACTION:** All
- d. Where have the 'Welcome to Damhead' signs gone? Residents to keep an eye out during the litter pick.
- e. Superfast Broadband. **ACTION:** Neil Johnston will clarify situation with providers.
- f. Helen McKay reported that the current bank balance is £1783.26.

8. Date of next meeting: 7pm, Monday 1 April at the Steading.

In general, meetings will take place on the 1st Monday in every second month; 1 April, 3 June, 5 August, 7 October, and 2 December. Meetings take place at 7pm in the Steading Inn at Hillend.

Litterpick: Sunday 31 March 10.00-12 noon. Meeting points Old Pentland Graveyard and the lay-by on A703.

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report**1st December 2018 to 31st January 2019****Crimes & Incidents**

- About 9.10pm on 9/01/2019 police were called to Hillend Ski Centre following a report of a female drink driver. A 22 year old female was later traced and charged with a Road Traffic Offence. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.
- About 1.10am on 27/01/2019 police attended Hillend Ski Centre car park and traced a parked car. A 20 year old male was issued with a Recorded Police Warning for possession of a small amount of cannabis.
- About 12.10am on 28/01/2019 police attended Hillend Ski Centre car park and observed a van leaving the premises. The vehicle was stopped and searched. A 21 year old male was issued with a Recorded Police Warning for possession of a small amount of cannabis.
- About 11.10pm on 28/01/2019 police attended Hillend Ski Centre car park and traced a parked car. A 33 year old male and 50 year old female were both issued with a Recorded Police Warning for possession of a small amount of cannabis.

Vehicle Collisions

- About 9.45pm on 12/12/2018 police were called to Damhead, Pentland Road, after a car had struck a wall at the locus. No offences were detected and no injuries occurred to the driver.
- About 3.20am on 19/12/2018 police discovered a car that had crashed into a field near Damhead, Seafield Moor Road. The driver was traced safe and well with no offences detected.
- About 12.10pm on 19/01/2019 police were notified of a non reportable vehicle collision that occurred on Seafield Moor Road with both drivers having exchanged details. No injuries reported.

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: 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