

DDCC Meeting Minutes, Monday 3rd June 2019

Present: Jo Gillies, David Newbould, Gillian McLeod, Ailsa Carlisle, Stuart Clark, Constance Newbould, Duncan McAuslan, Ian Barr

In attendance: Steve Appolinari, Alison Elfick, Benjamin Cross and Ian Elfick from Friends of Swanston, PC Alan Forbes

1. **Welcome and apologies.** Helen McKay, Kate Marshall, Ian Milne, Janice Milne
2. **Police Report.** Police Scotland report in the annex. Pentland Biomass break in with £14k worth of equipment stolen – individuals recognised and they have been charged. Police advice is to keep door locked, even if in the property. Police Scotland have offered a home security and personal safety session for all residents. Individual home security sessions also available if requested. Midlothian Community Action Team have been out monitoring speeds at Tigh Na Geat – results to follow. **ACTION:** Police Scotland home security session to be confirmed for future meeting. **ACTION:** Jo to follow up with Ian Lennox MLC re speed trap on Old Pentland Road.
3. **Friends of Swanston.** Focus on protecting Swanston and the Pentland Hills, particularly green belt and conservation area. Steve (chairperson) gave a presentation on the Hillend Leisure proposed development and led a discussion around potential impacts including, e.g. increase in noise, litter and anti-social behaviour, multiple campsites and glampsites (which have led to significant littering issues, etc, in the Pentland Hills), retail developments (including eateries and shops), and exacerbated traffic on A702 and city bypass including access concerns. There would also be damage to the unique character of Swanston village and its relationship with the surrounding landscape. Rope swings, zipwires and luge in the historic T-wood. There is clear duplication with proposed development at the Snowsports Centre leading to redundant facilities and increased traffic, and irreversible damage to fragile wildlife and habitats. Hillend Leisure want to share road for Calderstones/Snowsports centre (already significant challenge around safety at this junction and triple junction and impact this will have on trees in the area). Challenge is that Midlothian and Edinburgh Councils not joined up in consideration of developments. Package of activity being developed by Friends of Swanston includes petition (see Friends of Swanston Facebook page or at www.change.org) and support for letter writing – information to be forwarded to DDCC in due course. **ACTION:** DDCC to ensure MLC informed that this is similar to their development proposals for Snowsports Centre.
4. **Ratification of meeting minutes 3 December.** Minutes of the last meeting were agreed. Actions update and arising:
 - Road issues at the entrance to Pentland Biomass and MacKenzie's yard have been reported to MLC (Ian Lennox).
 - Running water on the Burnside estimated as leading to half million gallons of water being lost per year. MLC (Douglas Glynn) in contact with DDCC, and MLC view is that this is a private pipe belonging to people on Burnside, although mixed views on this. MLC to contact relevant residents to progress.
 - **ACTION:** Given that R Moffat has now left MLC, Jo to forward information on kerb cleaning and pavement repair priorities to Ian Lennox.
 - Community resilience update: Poor turnout at MLC discussion session, which indicated very early stages of development, and different views on what resilience means in different areas, e.g. missing person in Mayfield, others snow and flooding issues. Borders good practice around bad weather. Time and funding available from SG to develop capacity – training course for community representatives? Further development expected from MLC.

- Residents map to be updated with changes provided at the meeting. **ACTION:** Constance to liaise with Julian re updates and then John to arrange updated version for circulation.
- Superfast broadband to be brought forward to future meeting.
- MLC roads meeting: Coordinator in place to ensure asks and complaints directed to the right person.
- Enforcement for Clippens yard: following further correspondence with MLC (Erika Pryde), it has been stated that there is ongoing discussion with the landowner about a potential further extension to the enforcement order.
- Response submitted to application to extend Haig Hamilton's activities for further 36 months.

5. **Planning/Development issues**

- Self catering holiday cottages at Boghall Farm Steading 19/00367/PPP: planning proposal for 10 holiday cottages plus café and shop. Concerns around level of development, detrimental impact on green belt and against special landscape value given Pentland Hills is a Special Landscape Area (MLDP 2017). Plus issues around access to site and level of traffic, lack of parking, and lack of local amenities. **ACTION:** DDCC to object.
- Pentland Green housing development at Seafield Road. Work is expected to start within 2 weeks. Any concerns re works activity to call Taylor Wimpey on 01383 845 742, or email eastscotlandcustomerservices@taylorwimpey.com. Concern that application has been submitted to remove car charging points which will impact on sustainability. **ACTION:** Jo to object on behalf of DDCC
- Land at Calderstones 18/00528/S42. Change to planning application to focus on housing development. Concerns raised and objection to proposal to change the order of building on basis that this changes the potential purpose of the development to focus on housing development. **ACTION:** Neil Johnston

6. **Community issues.**

Summer Gathering Sunday 9th June at Pentland House. There will be cover if rain continues! All contributions welcome for shared picnic lunch. DDCC to provide refreshments and activities for children (and others!), including drawing competition with prizes. Giuliano also thanked for contribution of refreshments.

7 **AOB:**

The current bank balance is £1594.

8. **Date of next meeting: 7pm, Monday 5th August at the Steading.**

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

Dates to note:

- Summer Gathering, 12noon to 4pm on Sunday 9 June 2019, at Pentland House
- Autumn litter pick, date tbc
- Winter Gathering, date tbc, at Auchendinny Glencorse Centre

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report**1st April to 31st May 2019****Crimes & Incidents**

- About 1050am on 1 April a male unknown to the occupier entered a property near to The Secret Herb Garden, and left when confronted. Police enquiries were met with a negative result as to who the male was.
- About 6:30pm on 1 April Police were contacted with regards to a large fire in the Pentland Hills. This was confirmed as controlled burning being carried out by a local farmer.
- About 8:30pm on 2 April there were reports of flares being let off in the Pentland Hills. This was confirmed as a military exercise.
- Between the 8 and 13 April, a property on Biggar Road was entered and damage caused whilst the occupier was away. Enquiries are ongoing.
- About 00:15 am on 14 April at Hillend Ski Centre officers issued a 26 and 23 year old male with a Recorded Police Warning for being in possession of Cannabis.
- About 03:25am 12 May occupiers at a property on Old Pentland Road were awoken by a male banging on the door and shouting. Police attended and a 27 year old male was arrested and charged for vandalism and threatening and abusive behaviour.

Vehicle Collisions

- About 4:50 pm on 23 April police were called to the A702 following a 4 car accident. There were no injuries reported and damage to 2 of the vehicles.
- About 5:30am on 24 April police attended a one vehicle collision at the junction of Pentland Road. There were no injuries and no crimes detected. Minor damage to the vehicle and street furniture.
- About 5:00pm on the 17 May there was a two vehicle collision at the junction of Old Pentland Road and the A702. No injuries or crimes and minor damage to vehicles.
- About 1:30pm on the 18 May there was a two vehicle collision on the A702 near to the petrol station. No injuries or crimes and minor damage to vehicles.

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: 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