

DDCC MEETING MINUTES, 3 AUGUST 2020

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Stuart Clark, Constance Newbould, Jo Gillies, Duncan McAuslan, Ailsa Carlisle, Sarah Ritchie, Steve North, Jenny Mitchell, Robin McBride, Anna Henly, Paul Johnson MLC (for part of meeting), Keith Burwell (for part of meeting)

Apologies: Police Scotland, Helen McKay

2. Police Report

The Police Scotland report was noted.

3. Ratification of minutes, June 2020

Minutes of the last meeting were ratified.

Points arising:

It was noted that the majority of actions set out in 3 June minutes that had been delayed because of Covid-19 were not yet able to be picked up, but would be in due course.

4. Traffic, roads and pavements:

MLC Sustrans bid – Extremely disappointing outcome with MLC only being provided with £50,000 grant due to poor application which didn't meet SUSTRANS requirements. Not clear what the small grant that was received will be used for.

ACTION: Ailsa to raise at next MFCC meeting.

Amey report setting out proposals for improving traffic safety at Hillend. A number of options have been identified, with at least 1-2 of those potentially being realistic options that could positively impact on road safety. Given that responsibility for the A702 has now transferred from Amey to Transport Scotland, any preferred option would require MLC agreement and contribution. **ACTION:** Neil Johnston to consider options and next steps.

5. Planning/Development:

Potential housing north of Seafield Road 19/01039 – Further comments have been submitted and subsistence in that area is being investigated. Awaiting decision.

Kaimes proposals for solar panels and associated infrastructure: 'Proposed renewable energy development comprising solar panels / photovoltaics, battery storage, flexible gas generation and associated infrastructure', at Land to the West of the Existing Kaimes Substation, Old Burdiehouse Road, Edinburgh (ie on other side of bypass directly opposite to Damhead). Preapplication consultation approved 28 July, with online consultation event 11 to 26 August. **ACTION:** DDCC to find out further information.

Potential development of 14 flats at former filling station in Biggar Road 20/00477/DPP. Concerns raised about the size of the proposed development and more importantly another access road off the A702. Close proximity to triple junction, lines of sights a concern for OPR, and danger from 'no right hand side turn' from Biggar Road that is already required for safety. Noted that planning permission already agreed for hotel on the same site. **ACTION:** DDCC to respond.

Applications to amend conditions 3 and 5 of the permission for Calderstones - 20/00441/MSC and 20/00466/MSC. It has been proposed that the demolition of the existing house is undertaken at an earlier stage, with a replacement house planned. Risk this becomes a residential development instead of a hotel development. **ACTION:** DDCC to object.

Snowsports Centre development 19/01018/PPP – awaiting decision.

To note media reports stating in England construction to be encouraged by being fastracked through without normal levels of consideration. Not clear if this approach will also be implemented within Scotland. **ACTION:** Ailsa to raise at MFCC meeting.

5. Community:

Broadband and superfast internet provision. A number of residents have been seeking connection to BT fibre optic internet connection in line with the Scottish Government commitment to rolling out connectivity across rural areas, but with no success. Individuals are being redirected between BT Openreach and Scottish Government without resolution. Scottish Government have confirmed that addresses provided fall within scope of commitment, but there have been difficulties getting engagement from BT Openreach who are responsible for delivery. Engineers have confirmed that BT Fibre Optic cabinet on Old Pentland Road has sufficient ports available for local access – just requires fibre optic cable to be run from there to houses. Collation of expressions of interest (without commitment at this stage) from across the community would add weight to request to be connected. **ACTION:** Jo to collect expressions of interest from across the community (to include addresses).

Response to Covid-19.

It was agreed that the Covid-19 grant should be returned to MLC, in line with their requirements. It was also noted that, although levels of Covid-19 are currently very low, as we move through the phases of the routemap to move to a new normal, there is likely to be increases in the level of the virus which may lead to restrictions being reintroduced in some localities, including within Midlothian. Residents are encouraged to continue to take notice of current restrictions. Thanks were noted to all of those that offered, and provided support to their neighbours and others during the Covid-19 crisis. It was agreed that this group of volunteers should be retained until the final phase of the routemap in case further support is require. At that point the purpose for holding data on this group will have been completed, and the data for this group should therefore be deleted at that point. **ACTION:** Jo

7. AOB

No x15 bus service. Thanks given to all residents who have provided information on the adverse impact of further delaying reintroduction of x15 bus. The latest review of bus services has indicated that the x15 is unlikely to be reinstated during the next few weeks. As we are now exiting lockdown, this is concerning as many individuals are not able to travel for work, leisure and/or essential services such as shopping. Concern was also noted of the position previously taken by Lothian Buses when the weekend bus service was withdrawn. **ACTION:** Jo to submit points raised to MLC and Lothian buses requesting reinstatement of bus service asap.

AGM. It was agreed to postpone AGM until April 2021 and cover all relevant items for the 2 years 2019/20 to 2020/21 at that point.

It was noted that MLC had cleared the cycle lanes from the triple junction past Calderstones towards Edinburgh.

9. Date of next meeting: 7.00pm, Monday 5 October (venue/zoom tbc).

In general, meetings will take place at **7.00** by zoom on the 1st Monday in every second month: 5 October 2020, 7 December 2020

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report

June and July 2020

Crimes & Incidents

- On 24/05/2020 Police stopped a vehicle on Seafield Moor Road. It was later established there was no valid certificate of MOT in place for the vehicle. The owner has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. This incident did not feature on the previous police report as enquiry had to be carried out to confirm a crime had been committed.
- On 06/06/20 Police attended at Turnhouse Hill, Flotterstone, in relation to a sheep worrying incident. On arrival the farmer advised that a dog had been off its lead and had chased a ewe and its two lambs where they fell into the reservoir and could not escape. A passer-by contacted the farmer who recovered the ewe and one of the lambs which had drowned. Details were noted and enquiries ongoing in an effort to trace the dog owner.
- On 20/06/20 Officers on mobile patrol were passing Lothianburn Petrol Station when they observed a female standing on the forecourt filling her vehicle with fuel whilst holding a lit cigarette in her hand. Officer spoke with her and pointed out the dangers of her actions. The female was issued with a RPW for culpable and reckless behaviour.
- Between 21st July and 27th July 2020 there have been numerous reports of vandalism, theft and anti-social behaviour at Hillend Ski Centre. On one occasion when Police attended a group of youths made off. One was detained, taken home, and charged with obstructing Police in the execution of their duty.

Vehicle Collisions

None recorded on police systems.

Further Information

Proactive checks are being carried out at Hillend Ski Centre, Flotterstone and Boghall Farm car parks regarding drugs misuse. In addition Officers have been carrying out regular proactive patrols in popular visitors sites especially in the Pentland Hills Regional Park in relation to the COVID 19 guidelines.

The Rural Crime initiative has continued since the last report. During this period Community Officers carried out patrols, engaging with dog owners, the Rural Community and visitors to the area providing information and advice regarding Livestock Worrying and Acquisitive Crime.

Police Scotland launched its #ShutOutScammers campaign in partnership with Trading Standards Scotland on Monday, 15 June, 2020, to advise the public how to spot a rogue trader, or bogus caller, on their doorstep this summer.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and physical distancing guidance presents a unique set of circumstances to us all. It is also an opportunity for criminals to exploit the crisis to their economic advantage.

As limitations on movement and social interaction begin to ease and the ability to have outdoor work done at home and in gardens resumes, there is a concern unscrupulous traders may target the most vulnerable in our society.

Rogue traders and bogus callers operate throughout the year but incidents generally peak in May, June and August. Current restrictions mean more people are at home when they would usually be at work, and as a result they may encounter more doorstep callers who know householders will most likely be in when they ring the doorbell.

Police Scotland is asking the public to follow its advice if they receive an unexpected, and unknown, caller at the door:

- Always ask for identification;
- Never feel pressured into making an on the spot decision;
- Never hand over money on the doorstep.

More advice can be found on the Police Scotland website and via Trading Standards Scotland.

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