

DDCC MEETING, 7 DECEMBER 2020 (by zoom)

Present: Constance Newbould, Jo Gillies, Stuart Clark, Pippa Thomson, Graham Buchanan, Ailsa Carlisle, Gareth Derbyshire, Neil Johnston (part), Steve North, Victoria North, David Sheridan, Catriona Umpelby, Elizabeth Junor, Duncan McAuslan (part).

In attendance: Councillor Winchester

Apologies: Paul Johnstone

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Police Report (see appendix1)

Action: Jo Gillies will ask for any further information on the incidents of sheep stealing and enquire about the car accident on 19th Nov which is not included in the report.

3. Ratification of minutes, October 2020, and update on actions not on agenda

- A short correction is required in the list of attendees but assuming this will be addressed the minutes were proposed by Elizabeth Junor and seconded by Neil Johnstone.
- Matters arising:
 - Broadband. NJ had forwarded details to Robin who unfortunately did not attend the meeting to provide an up-to-date report. NJ's information is that only properties in one part of the community were being considered and the capital cost would be in the region of £35k. There was some confusion about the numbers of houses, which houses, and whether the capital cost would be covered by a grant.

4. Traffic, roads and pavements:

- A701 Relief Road and Amey proposals for Hillend triple junction. Mr Imrie had responded to CN following her enquiry to all councillors; the main points he made were that the road is essential to connect Edinburgh to Bush Technopole and it is funded by the City Deal. CN explained that although RPS have been asked to tender for the A701 Relief Road, DDCC have still not been given detailed plans about route, links to existing roads, single or dual carriageway. CN had asked for access to the appendix 4 feasibility study from the 2013 main issues report but had so far been denied access. Cllr Winchester said she'd take it up with the council. She informed us that a paper is due to be coming to Midlothian Council on 15th Dec and suggested that proposal details will be commercially in confidence while it is out to tender. We are concerned that DDCC's concerns will not be listened to leading to a less than effective solution to local traffic issues and sub-optimal use of public funding – and there are still no details of the process, even though Cllr. Winchester reassures us that there will be a further public consultation.

- Active Travel Plan paths. The Council are unlikely to do anything with active paths until the spring of next week. **Action:** anyone with proposals for new paths connecting homes to businesses (e.g. a cycle path along the A703 from Gowkley Moss to the triple junction) should let CN know.
- Wider traffic, roads and pavement issues, including repairs to Old Pentland Road. Signage of speed limits on Old Pentland Road and the A703 is inconsistent and poor. Cllr Winchester informed us that Midlothian no longer need police permission to lower the speed limit. Despite our concern about road speeds we agreed that safety of people using pavements should be a priority. NJ contacted Paul Johnstone a couple of weeks ago who in turn contacted Derek Oliver and Lesley Hay, the Highways Inspector. Lesley Hay had subsequently been shown the areas of concern by NJ and committed to speak to Douglas Glynn. CU has contacted Midlothian Council four times because her son had slipped on the muddy pavement and fallen onto the road. It is common to see lorries mounting the pavement especially on the corners. NJ will keep pursuing people with responsibility for road and pavement safety. The DDCC again reiterated willingness to work with the council to ensure the best solutions are found to common aims, e.g. implementation of the A703 cycle route to improve road safety for all users.
- Broadband and superfast internet provision. No further update or actions in Robin's absence.

6. Planning/Development:

- West Straiton Mixed Use Development 20/00803/PAC <https://planning-applications.midlothian.gov.uk/OnlinePlanning/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=QJXZKEKV08B00> – dedicated website <http://www.straitonwest.com/> available 21/12/20 and consultation event 12/01/21. DM had considered the plans and we noted that the relief road will probably go through the proposed development site. **Action:** DM will invite the developers to our next meeting.
- Potential housing north of Seafield Road – 19/01039/PPP – awaiting decision. This builds on current developments in Bilston, and extends housing onto land adjacent to Pentland Plants. AC reported that SEPA had not yet recorded that they are content (as at 29/11). SEPA have objected due to lack of information about drainage however Taylor Woodrow have responded with a 70+ page document which is now on the planning portal. Our understanding of the local environment indicates that, even though the site itself might not flood, the drainage will be interrupted and flood water will end up on the main road and neighbouring properties. SEPA have complained about each of the individual phases of development (this is the 3rd phase in this specific area), but to no effect. It was agreed that planners should take impact of all phases into account in relation to flooding impact. **Action:** CN to ask SEPA to identify which part of the report has provided them with reassurance that their earlier concerns have been addressed.
Several of our submitted comments and objections have not been posted on the website, although we are aware that other individual responses have been. We were concerned to hear that PT's letter was listed but initially included her

address and name. PT asked for her details to be removed because of GDPR, however the letter has now been removed altogether. PT was advised to ensure that her letter was placed on the planning portal but with personal details redacted.

SC asked that Midlothian Council take into account concerns expressed about previous phases: past mining contains factual errors; poor drainage issues; and subsidence due to past mining. Cllr Winchester checked during the meeting and reassured us that the Local Review Body can see *all* objections on the file.

- Snowsports Centre development 19/01018/PPP – awaiting decision
- Calderstones Hotel 20/00441/MS 20/00466/MS - awaiting decision (was supposed to be determined 9/9/2020). SN informed us that the decision has been extended to January.
- 14 flats and 2 houses at former filling station at Hillend 20/00477/DPP - awaiting decision (was supposed to be determined 28/9/2020).
- Cllr Winchester explained that there had only been two planning meetings since the introduction of Covid restrictions but the committee is now catching up with business.

7. Administrative matters:

- Proposal to change DDCC bank account to the Co-op. HM reported the government scheme incentivising customers to switch banks with the offer of up to £1250, which is a significant amount when compared to the typical annual Midlothian grant for the DDCC. Of the two options that seem to be open to the DDCC (Co-op and Metro Bank), it was agreed that the Co-op Bank was preferable. **Action:** HM to follow-up.
- Potential to establish new DDCC email address. JG explained that there were benefits of having a single address that automatically circulated emails to all DDCC members/office holders. CU suggested that Google Group could be a solution. **Action:** JG to follow-up.
- DDCC Meeting Dates 2021: Regular meeting will be the first Monday each month but starting at 7:30. The AGM will be on Monday 12th April (ie a week later than initially planned due to it originally coinciding with Easter Monday).

8. AOB

Cllr Winchester informed us that Covid vaccinations will be rolled out this month to health workers, and over 80s in January. It is likely to be the end of June before everyone over 50 will be offered vaccinations. So far schools have reported very few infections and no major outbreaks.

9. Date of next meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 1st February (venue/zoom tbc).

DDCC Meeting Dates 2021: Regular meetings will be the first Monday each month starting at **7:30pm**, apart from the AGM which will take place on Monday 12th April

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report

October and November 2020

Crimes & Incidents

- About 18:50 hours, 22/11/2020 Police on patrol stopped a vehicle near to the Steading Inn. The vehicle was found to have no insurance and was seized, and the driver charged accordingly.
- Between 15/11/2020 and 22/11/2020 27 sheep were stolen from a field near to Hillend Ski Centre. Enquiries are ongoing.

Vehicle Collisions

- During the morning of 03/10/2020 a Renault Clio motor vehicle travelling southbound left the carriageway of the A702 near to Easter Howgate. No injuries, offences or suspicious circumstances and vehicle was later uplifted.
- About 12:25 hours, 11/10/2020 there was a collision between a car and a cyclist on the A702 near to the junction with Midlothian Ski Centre. The cyclist was treated for minor injuries, and the driver charged accordingly.

Further Information

16 Days of Activism is a worldwide campaign to oppose gender based violence. It aims to raise awareness of the negative impact that violence and abuse have on women and children and to rid society of abuse permanently.

It runs from 25th November, the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until the 10th December, International Human Rights Day.

Police Scotland is committed to tackling domestic abuse. No matter what gender you are or what your relationship status is, domestic abuse will never be tolerated.

If you, or anyone you know, are being abused or are at risk of abuse, please contact Police Scotland on 101 or 999 in an emergency. Or if you need support please contact Scotland's domestic abuse and forced marriage helpline on 0800 027 1234.

Coronavirus restrictions are difficult for everyone. For those living with an abusive partner or family member, it is dangerous, traumatic and relentless.

As a friend or family member or neighbour, it's not your responsibility to stop the abuse. But you can do a lot to help. For more advice on how you can support, visit:

<https://safelives.org.uk/reach-in>

#ReachIn #16DaysOfAction

Reach in when you can:

#ReachIn



Can you call or message them?



Or offer to do shopping for them?



Try to find out when their partner may be out of the house



DSDAS

Police Scotland's Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse aims to prevent domestic abuse by giving people the right to ask about the background of their partner. It also allows concerned members of the public, such as relatives and friends, the right to ask about someone's partner if they are concerned that person has been abusive in the past.

More than 8500 people have made requests to Police Scotland's Disclosure Scheme since its launch 5 years ago. Of those requests 4536 people were told that their current partner has a violent

You can submit a Right to Ask application if you are concerned about yourself or someone else. Please visit www.scotland.police.uk



A number of residents in the Midlothian area have contacted police after becoming victims of fraud, whereby they have received phone calls from persons declaring themselves as representatives of various banks fraud teams. Victims are advised that their accounts have been compromised and asked to transfer funds elsewhere at which time control of funds is lost. Police are also aware of a report of fraud where the complainer received an email purporting to be from a financial company offering a high interest rate on savings.

Police request members of the public to be vigilant to such conduct and educate elderly or vulnerable family/friends. Further information on types of fraud can be found on the Police Scotland website. 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