

DDCC Meeting, Monday 3 February 2020

Present: Neil Johnston, David Newbould, , Stuart Clark, Constance Newbould, Jo Gillies, Duncan McAuslan, Catriona Umpleby, Ian Barr, Ailsa Carlisle, Val Baillie, Sergeant Michele Lindsay

1. Welcome and apologies. Apologies from Helen McKay, Dot Fraser, Sarah Ritchie.

2. Ratification of meeting minutes 3 December.

Minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Duncan McAuslan and seconded by Stuart Clark.

Points arising:

- Progress on signposts. **ACTION:** Helen to follow up
- Community resilience and identification of CCs with good practice. **ACTION:** Duncan to contact Rosewell CC.
- Boundaries. This work is in progress and Constance has pulled together a map illustrating current and proposed boundaries. There may be issues in relation to wider boundaries, e.g. Loanhead. All issues to be considered at meeting with CCs on our immediate boundaries in first instance. Thereafter it may be necessary for MFCC to consider boundaries on a wider basis.
- Councillors to be reminded of dates of meetings (**ACTION:** Jo) and poor attendance to be raised at MFCC via Pau J (**ACTION:** Duncan)

3. Police Report.

Sergeant Lindsay provided an overview of recent incidents and traffic accidents (see annex).

ACTION: Police Scotland to provide crime prevention session at DDCC meeting on Monday 1 June, and to inform DDCC of future bike marking events.

4. Planning/Development issues

Snowsports Centre development 19/01018/PPP Jo has submitted DDCC response. **ACTION:** Constance to draw attention of Midlothian and Edinburgh Councils to the three related planning applications, and to contact Jim Gilfillan and Transport Scotland re cumulative impact on roads.

Potential housing north of Seafield Road (19/01039). Stuart is doing a DDCC response on this. Land is not suitable for building as there is evidence of mining in the field where development is proposed, as well as subsidence, drainage and contamination issues all of which would require mitigation activity. MLC has provided an extension to deadline so comments due this week.

20/00044/DPP Infilling of land (extension to area approved in terms of planning permission 14/00203/DPP). It has been suggested in the proposals that the number of vehicles will not exceed the 45 per day limit currently agreed, however a quick calculation indicates that the plans will lead to an additional 2,500 vehicles per annum. This is a massive increase from the 14 vehicles per day initially agreed (although it was noted that this point was omitted from the conditions when the initial planning permission was granted). It was noted that the size and scale of this project has grown exponentially over the last number of years, with no indication of any enforcement of existing conditions on the project. Good practice elsewhere would indicate that there may be potential to get a temporary reduction in the speed limit on OPR during the period of this project. Deadline of 13 February for comments. **ACTION:** Constance and Neil to discuss with planning experts to get some advice on how best to tailor response, including potential to commission a response from an expert.

Roads, pavements, and footpaths. DDCC noted various comments had been collated on the draft letter for DDCC to send to MLC setting out main issues and potential solutions to local road traffic issues. The general view from comments submitted, plus at the meeting, was that something needs to be done and the draft paper provides a useful starting point to discuss potential solutions with MLC. Neil to finalise and issue letter to MLC on behalf of DDCC, copying to local councillors and MP Colin Beattie.

No information as of yet re the proposed music arena planned at Straiton (next to bypass). It was queried as to whether this is the site of the illegal dumping at the old Calor Gas site, which currently has an enforcement order on it (although enforcement order keeps getting extended and no action taken by MLC to date).

No indication yet of any planning proposal regarding the Pentland Trail Centre at Swanston.

5. **Community issues**

- Stobhill Centre visit, 12 February (10.30am or 17.00) Duncan attending, but spaces for others if anyone wants to go. If interested, please contact DDCC.
- Litter pick date agreed for Sunday 29 March. DDCC litter pickers are available for loan, along with bags etc, for anyone who would like to litter pick at a different time.

6. **Community Council issues**

- Community Council Planning Session, 25 Jan. **ACTION:** Paul Johnston to provide update at next meeting.
- MFCC update. Focus of Community Council Planning Session and MFCC on Local Place Planning to give local communities more of a say in relation to local developments. Apparently, legislation being considered obliging councils to take local place plan into account, so more than the stronger voice provided by the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the DDCC Neighbourhood Plan is unique and still relevant in that it is a longer term, strategic plan for the local area, as opposed to the 1-3 year Neighbourhood Plan that was delivered by the majority of community councils. Duncan to attend MFCC on 15 January, Stuart in February, then Duncan in March).

7. **AOB**

- traffic light sequencing issue at the Bush has been raised by a number of residents. Coming from Penicuik there is an issue where lights turning from red to green results in unexpected 'right turn only' on green leading to a number of near miss accidents. In addition, lights from Bilston don't stay on green for very long; problematic for those on horseback. **ACTION:** Jo to raise with MLC/Siemens.

- VE day 75th anniversary celebration Friday 8 May with theme focusing on the role of women in WWII. If anyone is interested in running an event and/or participating in an event contact DDCC for info on support that is available.

- Privacy policy. GDPR best policy to have proactive agreement to be on database, or process for review, although recognised that DDCC low risk. **ACTION:** Jo to update policy and put on website when agreed.

- Information shared on proposed model of new Sheriffhall roundabout, funded as part of City Deal Fund. No new information on A701 realignment.

- Burnside in a state of disrepair. Lots of potholes, water undermining side of road. Significant levels of flooding, with no clear understanding of why. Clay pipe potentially blocked part way? To be included within list of issues to be discussed with MLC.

9. Date of next meeting: AGM and Meeting 7.30pm, Monday 6 April at the Steading.

Please note new start time for meetings. In general, meetings will take place at **7.30pm** at the Steading on the 1st Monday of every second month:

6 April 2020

1 June 2020

3 August 2020

5 October 2020

7 December 2020

Other dates for your diary:

Litter pick: Sunday 29 March

Summer gathering: tbc

ANNEX

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report

3rd December 2019 – 1st February

Crimes & Incidents

- About 6.25pm on 5/12/2019 police were called to the junction on A702 near to Lothianburn in relation to a report of a tree branch blocking the roadway. Police attended and removed the branch.
- About 12.25 am on 8/12/2019 police were called to Biggar Road, Lothianburn in relation to reports of a drunk male causing a disturbance in the street. Police attended and a 24 year old male was subsequently arrested in connection with an assault and a breach of the peace. He was held in police custody to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court.
- About 7.50pm on 24/12/2019 police were carrying out mobile patrols in the vicinity of the Midlothian Ski Centre, Midlothian when they observed a motor car parked up. Two males were issued with recorded police warnings for possession of cannabis.
- About 5.30am on 10/1/20 police were called to Biggar Road, Lothianburn in relation to reports of a male lying on the ground. Police attended and found a male under the influence of alcohol. He was conveyed home by police.
- About 5.30pm on 11/1/20 police were called to the A702 near to Boghall Farm in relation to a report of flooding on the roadway. AMEY were contacted and attended.
- About 2am on 21/1/20 police stopped a vehicle on Biggar Road, Lothianburn. The 32 year old driver was issued with a recorded police warning for possession of herbal cannabis.

Vehicle Collisions

- About 6.30am on 8/1/20 police were called to the A702 near to Boghall Farm Cottage after a vehicle collided with a telegraph pole. Police attended with no injured persons and no offences detected.
- About 5.30pm on 20/1/20 police were called to Damhead, Midlothian after a car left the road and struck a fence. Police and Ambulance attended. The female driver was conveyed to Hospital by ambulance as a precaution with no offences detected.
- About 9.35am on 29/1/20 police were called to Hillend Junction after a 2 car collision. The roadway was closed for a period of time due to the dangerous positions of the

vehicles involved, until their recovery. Both drivers were conveyed by ambulance to the hospital as a precaution. No offences were detected.

Further Information

Proactive checks are being carried out at Hillend Ski Centre and Boghall Farm car parks regarding drugs misuse.

The Rural Crime initiative commenced on Sunday 3rd November and ran throughout November 2019. 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.

During the Initiative a male was charged in connection with Livestock offences following an incident of sheep worrying in Penicuik Estate. A male was charged in connection with the Dangerous Dogs Act. A male was issued with an RPW for trespassing in connection with fishing on private land in Penicuik Estate and a further male was issued with an RPW for being in possession of a small amount of cannabis.

Community Police Officers carried out a Lockdown/Bike Marking Event at Straiton on Saturday 14th December between 10am and 4pm at Halfords, where security bike marking was provided for 60 pedal cycles.

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