

DDCC Meeting Minutes, Monday 1 June 2020

Present: Stuart Clark, Constance Newbould, Jo Gillies, Duncan McAuslan, Ailsa Carlisle, Gareth Derbyshire, Paul Johnson (MLC)

1. Welcome and apologies. Apologies from Helen McKay, Police Scotland

2. Ratification of meeting minutes 3 February 2020.

Minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Duncan McAuslan and seconded by Constance Newbould.

Points arising:

- It was noted that the April meeting was cancelled, and that the majority of actions have been not been progressed due to Covid-19. The following actions will be brought forward in due course to a future meeting:
- **ACTION:** Helen to follow up on signposts
- **ACTION:** Duncan to contact Rosewell CC re community resilience.
- **ACTION:** Constance to draw attention of Midlothian and Edinburgh Councils to the three related planning applications at Hillend, and to contact Jim Gilfillan and Transport Scotland re cumulative impact on roads.
- **ACTION:** Jo to update privacy policy and put on website when agreed.
- **ACTION:** Police Scotland to provide the postponed crime prevention session at a later DDCC meeting, on a date to be confirmed.
- It was noted that Councillors had been reminded of dates of DDCC meetings, and poor attendance of Councillors at CC meetings was raised at the MFCC, where it was agreed that the MFCC would write to all Councillors on this issue. **ACTION:** PJ to follow up with MFCC.

3. Police Report.

The Police Report was noted.

4. Planning/Development issues

Potential housing north of Seafield Road (19/01039). DDCC response submitted in February objecting to planning proposals. 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. **ACTION:** Further comments to be submitted by DDCC following recent subsidence on boundary of Jim Telfer's farm and caravan site, which led to a number of homes being evacuated.

20/00044/DPP Infilling of land (extension to area approved in terms of planning permission 14/00203/DPP). No further update at this time.

Snowsports Centre development 19/01018/PPP No further update at this time

Roads, pavements, and footpaths. Following Midlothian Roads Traffic, and Paths (MRTaP) meeting in May, DDCC has contacted MLC to clear pavements on OPR and A703 to increase walking space. MFCC has confirmed contract for weedkiller is now in place. MFCC has also requested information from MLC on proposals to make roads safer as part of response to Covid-19 in line with Scottish Government commitment. **ACTION:** PJ to provide information on process to apply for speed limits to be reduced on OPR and A703 (in the first instance) to ensure safe cycle path from town to the Bush/Penicuik following Scottish Government announcement of £10m to Sustrans to improve safety of roads for pedestrians and cyclists,

etc. **ACTION:** All locations of Giant Hogweed and/or Japanese Knotweed to be reported to Edel Ryan at MLC at edel.ryan@midlothian.gov.uk for removal and destruction.

5. Community issues

- Covid-19 response: The local community seems to be in a good place, including strong support between neighbours, and there has been very few requests to the DDCC for support as a result of Covid-19. Lots of activity has been undertaken to share information and communicate with the community, and to ensure that volunteers who have offered to support those who need it can do so safely. This includes the development of risk assessments, guidance and a small supply of sanitiser and gloves. Preparations will be maintained in case of a further spike as lockdown restrictions are eased.

- Summer gathering cancelled.

- Limited litter pick undertaken by individuals in March. Consideration of further litter pick later in the year to be considered in due course. In the meantime, DDCC litter pickers are available for loan, along with bags etc, for anyone who would like to litter pick at their convenience.

- It was noted that the Damhead Neighbourhood Company was being wound up due to it not functioning since 2015.

6. Community Council issues/updates

- Midlothian Federation of Community Councils (MFCC) meeting fortnightly (reduced from recent weekly meetings) to discuss Midlothian and CC response to Covid-19. The focus on these meetings is now broadening to include business as usual items, such as planning and development issues. **ACTION:** DDCC to arrange rota to ensure DDCC represented at these meetings.

7. AOB

- The DDCC noted that Stuart Clark had tendered his resignation as a Damhead and District Community Councillor and thanked him for his contribution in this role, whilst recognising and welcoming his continuing support to the DDCC.

- The DDCC welcomed Ailsa Carlisle as a co-opted member of the DDCC.

- It was agreed that DDCC meetings for the foreseeable future would be carried out virtually through the use of Zoom, and that a 7.00pm start would be preferable with a focus on completing DDCC business by 8.00pm. **ACTION:** DDCC to seek views and level of interest from the community on the potential to hold the AGM as a Zoom meeting.

8. Date of next meeting: 7.00pm, Monday 3 August by zoom.

In general, meetings will take place on the 1st Monday of every second month:

3 August 2020

5 October 2020

7 December 2020

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report

April /May 2020

Crimes & Incidents

- On 07/04/20 Police were called to the A702 near to the Flotterstone Inn where there were reports of a large number of sheep on the road slowing traffic and causing a potential risk for oncoming traffic. Police attended and managed to put the sheep into a nearby field until the farm they belonged to was identified.
- On 09/04/20 several calls were made to Police in respect of a large number of vehicles being parked along the A702 near to Boghall Farm by people who were walking in the Pentlands and not adhering to the COVID guidelines. Police were in the area and carried out checks and provided advice to people in the vicinity.
- On 15/04/20 officers attended at the carpark at Boghall farm on the A702 in relation to the barriers having been moved at the entrance to the carpark and vehicles parked within. Vehicle registrations had been noted although on Police arrival they had moved on. The owners of the vehicles were contacted and advised of the complaint and reminded of the COVID guidelines.
- On 23/04/20 calls were received regarding a number of persons breaching the COVID guidelines by picnicking, walking and parking their vehicles at Bush House, Bush Estate. Regular patrols are taking place in the area to ensure guidelines are being met.
- On 25/04/20 Police and Fire service were contacted to attend Midlothian Ski Centre regarding a group of male youths who had been in the area drinking and setting campfires. On arrival the youths had dispersed and the fire service checked and extinguished a small fire.
- About 11:35 pm on 12th May 2020 Police were called to a one car accident on the A702 at the roundabout near the Steading Inn. The driver of the vehicle was arrested for failing a roadside drugs test.
- On 23rd May 2020 Police attended at Castlelaw Hill in response to a report of a possible live mortar there. The item was located and Army personnel attended and carried out a controlled detonation.
- About 3 pm on 24th May 2020 Police attended at Castlelaw Hill following a report of 2 couples with camping gear in possible breach of covid regulations. The area was searched with no sign of the couples.
- About 1045 am on 27th May 2020 Police attended near to Boghall Farm following a report of a German Shepherd dog chasing sheep. The area was searched but there was no trace of the dog, owner or injured sheep.

Vehicle Collisions

No recorded vehicle collisions during this period.

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.

Since 'Lockdown' commenced in March, Community and Response officers have issued a number of verbal warnings and where appropriate have issued Fixed Penalty Tickets for breaching the COVID 19 regulations and guidance.

On 28th May 2020 The Scottish Government has announced changes to some aspects of the regulations and guidelines on lockdown measures, although the core message is still to stay at home as much as possible. Police will still be patrolling offering guidance and enforcing regulations if this is required.

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.

Whilst on patrol in the Pentlands area a male was charged in connection with Livestock offences following an incident of sheep worrying in the Pentland Hills Regional Park. A male was charged in connection with the Dog (protection of livestock) Act 1953. The male was issued charged and reported on summons to the Procurator Fiscal.

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