

DDCC MEETING MINUTES, 5 OCTOBER 2020 (by Zoom)

Present: Keith Burwell, Robin McBride, Constance Newbould, Ailsa Carlisle, Stuart Clark, Neil Johnstone, Gillian Gray, Gordon Gray, Pippa Thomson, Graeme Buchanan, Jo Gillies; Steve and Victoria North; Gareth Derbyshire; Helen McKay, Sarah Sheridan; Elizabeth Junor;

In attendance: Pauline Winchester (Midlothian Councillor); Paul Johnson (Midlothian Council)

Apologies: Police Scotland

1. Welcome and apologies.

2. Police Report. The most recent report (see annex) had been circulated. No issues were raised.

3. Ratification of minutes, August 2020

- a. No comments about the draft minutes were received so they were considered ratified.
- b. Actions
 - Traffic, Roads and Pavements. There had been an update provided on Spaces for People funding at the recent Midlothian Federation of Community Council meeting. Alisa Carlisle reported that Midlothian Council had received only £50k (for road signs, etc) whereas some other Local Authorities had received up to £200k. Despite that it seems that funding is being spent on road repairs. Constance has requested a breakdown of what has been done with this funding.
 - 14 flats and 2 houses at former filling station at Hillend 20/00477/DPP. Robin McBride had not had anything back in response to his query about the flats.
 - Calderstones Hotel 20/00441/MS 20/00466/MS. Robin McBride had put in an objection to the revised plan – the development is now phased and smaller than the original.
 - Midlothian Snowsports Centre – see later
 - The number x15 bus service has been reinstated but only goes as far as Bush, instead of to Penicuik.

4. Traffic, roads and pavements

- a. Neil Johnstone and Constance Newbould attended the recent Midlothian Traffic, Roads and Pavements (MTRAP) meeting and reported the following:
 - A701 Relief Road: Neil Wallace stated that the road is a long way off. A roundabout is now proposed at top of Bush Loan where it joins the A702. Constance has asked for a more formal detailed update focussed on the relief road. Paul Johnson will do his best to press for a dedicated meeting on this issue and the triple junction, ideally with Amey/Transport Scotland as well as MLC.
 - Amey proposals for Hillend triple junction: DDCC residents were unanimous that the Burnside as a one-way road should not be included as a potential solution, but a possible interim option would be to stop right turns from the A703 into Burnside. The junction should also be made safer on an interim basis by preventing right turns from the A702 into Old Pentland Road and the A703, as well as preventing left turns out of these roads on to the A702.
 - RSP did test drilling almost 2 years ago and state that it is feasible to build the relief road along either of the proposed routes. We are still firmly of the opinion that before the plans are developed further a detailed traffic survey and modelling of the entire road infrastructure are needed. Councillor Winchester has offered to write (to Neil Wallace) with

the following questions: what is the source of funding, is there a plan, and how can we access and engage with this work.

- Active Travel Plan paths: The route in Midlothian's submission goes through Taylor Wimpey's new housing but the DDCC would like any new paths to link with existing core paths and extend to the Pentlands as well as towards Edinburgh. Graeme Buchanan offered to represent cyclists on the proposed working group. Constance has requested that each CC tables their own map to try to ensure that path networks join up. MLC are planning on consulting on the next revision in late 2021, however action needs to be taken sooner to ensure appropriate paths/access/links enabled through the Taylor Wimpey development.
- b. Wider traffic, roads and pavement issues, including repairs to Old Pentland Road: Gill Gray asked again about improvements to the pavements. Constance did manage to get the pavement at the Secret Herb Garden repaired but the other more dangerous sections where vegetation needs to be cut back have been left without improvement. Councillor Winchester will contact Derek Oliver. Graeme Buchanan says that action needs to include other sections of pavement too, e.g. pavements on Seafield Road and other parts of Old Pentland Road still require the verges cut back and weeds removed as they are currently dangerous for pavement users, particularly buggies, bikes, etc. It is not possible for wheelchairs or buggies or walkers to walk side by side or to pass each other with physical distancing. Neil Johnstone and Graeme Buchanan offered to show Paul Johnson (and ideally the relevant person from the Highways Dept) the problem issues with both pavements and overhanging hedges. We also suggested that the A703 stretch of road is reduced from 60 to 40mph since there are now more walkers and joggers. Constance Newbould reminded us that the landowner is responsible for cutting back overhanging vegetation on their own boundary. If the area is under planning the council need to take it up with the landowners who are still responsible for cutting back overhanging branches.

5. Planning/Development

- a. Potential housing north of Seafield Road (19/01039/PPP) is awaiting a decision (the deadline was extended to 31 August, and it was scheduled to be discussed at a planning committee meeting on 16th October)
- b. Snowsports Centre development (19/01018/PPP) is awaiting a decision. A revised plan has been submitted (wigwams/pods have been removed). The DDCC remain very concerned about road safety at the junction with the Biggar Road where a signal-controlled access is proposed. The junction must take account of the neighbouring proposals (Calderstone hotel and housing, the hotel east of the A702, and the Park & Ride) as well as impact on safety at the triple junction.
- c. Calderstones Hotel 20/00441/MS 20/00466/MS is awaiting a decision.
- d. 14 flats and 2 houses at former filling station at Hillend 20/00477/DPP is awaiting a decision.

6. Community

- a. Broadband and superfast internet provision: Robin McBride reported slow progress. The box outside his house has spare capacity, but Openreach informed him that this has been allocated to new housing. We are connected to Fairmilehead by a much older slower system. The initial thinking is that we might get access to an improved service but at a cost. Robin noted that there is a voucher scheme for houses and businesses from the Scottish Government. Around 20 households have indicated interest in a community application. Neil Johnstone has a contact in Openreach who previously had offered to come to present to the DDCC. **Action:** Neil to make contact/pass details to Robin.
- b. Response to Covid-19: Jo has returned all the unused funding to MLC.

7. AOB

- a. MFCC. Constance, Ailsa and Jo will continue to share responsibility for covering these meetings on our behalf.
 - b. 2021 DDCC meeting dates agreed as the 1st Monday in every second month from February with the April meeting proposed as the AGM (to cover AGM requirements for 2020 and 2021).
 - c. Helen McKay reported that the bank account has £6496.35 so it does not yet show the return of the £5k to Midlothian Council. Paul Johnson confirmed that he had received our cheque.
 - d. Although the litter pick was cancelled, residents are encouraged to clear their section of roadside if possible. Pickers can be borrowed from Jo Gillies.
- 8. Date of next meeting: 7.00pm, Monday 7 December (venue/zoom tbc).**
- a. In general, meetings will take place at 7.00 by zoom on the 1st Monday in every second month.
 - b. Issues can also be raised independently with Constance and/or with Councillor Winchester.

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report

August / September 2020

Crimes & Incidents

- About 23:00 hours, 21/08/2020 Police stopped a vehicle that was driving at speed around the Straiton area. The vehicle was found to have no insurance and was seized, and the driver charged accordingly.
- About 00:10 hours, 28/08/2020 police were called to Seafield Moor Road where a vehicle had collided with traffic lights. No injuries and no offences detected About 23:00 hours, 21/08/2020 Police stopped a vehicle that was driving at speed around the Straiton area. The vehicle was found to have no insurance and was seized, and the driver charged accordingly.
- Between 06/09/2020 and 07/09/2020 40 sheep were stolen from a local farm.
- About 17:00 hours, 06/09/2020 in the area of Seafield Moor Road there was a report of several vehicles driving at excessive speed and carrying out unsafe manoeuvres. Enquiry was carried out but there was insufficient evidence to pursue any offences.
- About 01:50 hours, 19/09/2020 Police stopped a vehicle on Biggar Road due the erratic manner of driving. The driver was found to be over the drink drive limit and was arrested and reported accordingly.

Vehicle Collisions

- About 05:00 hours, 19/08/2020 a Mini motor vehicle left the carriageway of the A702 near to Easter Howgate. No injuries, offences or suspicious circumstances and vehicle was later uplifted. This generated numerous calls to police.

Further Information

Community Police have been involved in rural patrols around Hillend, Flotterstone and other local areas. Recently two males were found poaching at Glencourse reservoir, and were charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

With the increase in visitors to the area, Police have been giving advice regarding vehicle security to reduce acquisitive crime. The advice is when leaving vehicles to ensure vehicles are locked and no valuables, bags or other items to be on display to deter opportunist criminals.

Community Police have also been working with Pentland Hills regional Park Rangers regarding parking and traffic issues. Police have issued 8 fixed penalty tickets to drivers causing unnecessary obstruction of the footpaths at Flotterstone and other local areas.

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