

DDCC MEETING, 7.30pm, 7th June 2021 (by zoom)

Present: DDCC members attending were Constance Newbould, Helen McKay, Jo Gillies, Ailsa Carlisle, Stuart Clark, Robin McBride, Anna Henly, John McLean, Keith Burwell, Gill MacLeod, Steve North, Duncan McAuslan

Visitors: Stuart Riddell, Geoff Whitten, Marc Giles, Euan Dale. Alex Sneddon

Apologies: Sarah Ritchie, Ian & Janice Milne, Catriona Umpleby, Paul Johnson, Cllr Winchester

1. Welcome and apologies. No apologies were received.

2 New Pentland Proposed Development. Guest speakers: Stuart Riddell, Geoff Whitten, Alex Seddon and Mark Giles (Ryden).

Stuart Riddell explained that the aim of the mixed-use development, currently being prepared for a Planning in Principle application, is to make an effective local contribution through:

- a) Economic investment of £22 million plus job creation during construction and then local employment;
- b) Environmental improvements by creation of green amenity spaces, 2.5 km footpaths, tree planting, play area and dog walking area.
- c) Community benefits. There is a possibility of a veterinary practice; approx. 10 affordable houses; a community home; and a community building whose use is open for discussion, e.g. a nursery or creche.

The consultation had not taken the usual form because of covid restrictions. There had been two on-line events and ads/editorial in local papers. The developers had contacted local MSPs and list MSPs. A newsletter had been sent to Pentland Park residents.

Experts had been contracted to review the proposal's ecological aspects. Nothing of special significance had been identified.

Geoff Whitten outlined the proposal's two discrete areas with walkways but no vehicular connection between the two. He expects that the proposal will meet all the planning requirements based on pre-application consultations.

Points raised during the discussion that followed included the following:

- Some of the proposed buildings are 3 storey which is higher than other houses in the neighbourhood. The Developers responded that these were generally towards the centre of the site and they'd be well screened
- Had there been any overtures to the existing houses along the A701 which would be surrounded by the development? The Developers said that there had not been any approaches to these householders.
- Given the number of existing vets in the area there seems little need for a further practice. The Developers replied that a practice had shown interest.
- There was a major concern about the extra traffic that would be created through Damhead in general and particularly vehicles turning left onto Old Pentland Road because of the eventual exits and the single track Burnside. We asked for traffic exiting Aldi to be restricted to turning right on Old Pentland Road. The Developers maintained that this is a decision for Aldi. We

explained that Aldi had stated clearly that the left turn to Old Pentland Road was a stipulation of New Pentland's Developer's. Marc Giles will go back to their client to pass on our concerns about the left turn on to OPR. This led to a discussion of the impact of the A701 relief road on traffic flows to and from the proposed development. The developers do not have any more information than the DDCC.

- The need for another coffee shop was queried in view of the number of outlets already at Straiton because of the additional traffic and litter likely to be generated.
- Importantly, the area is categorised as Green Belt so there should not be any further development on this site.
- The general area has well known subsidence problems. The Developers stated that mining investigations have established that:
 - o neither area is affected by lime workings;
 - o the oil shale strata dip very steeply and only the shallow end has subsided so the shale extraction will not affect the relief road or the development.

Stuart and all of the guest speakers were thanked for attending the meeting and responding to the points made.

3. Roll out of superfast broadband (SFBB). Fiona Muir (Digital Connectivity, Scottish Government) supported by Javier Buron provided background to and an update on the current situation and outlined the next steps for DDCC residents.

Background. In 2012 the Scottish Government ran a procurement exercise to provide SFBB across Scotland. Openreach won the bid to supply SFBB to 98% properties by the end of 2020 (this is called the R100 contract and the schedule of rollout is defined in the contract). In the meantime, the Scottish Government made a commitment to get 30 megabit per sec to all properties and further providers came into the market to supply SFBB on a commercial basis. Vouchers to individual householders are available which can be aggregated to make it viable for a commercial provider to supply SFBB for a group of houses.

Current situation. Robin McBride has confirmed that although some DDCC houses will be covered by the main R100 Open Reach contract, Open Reach would contract separately to provide SFBB to 19 premises within the next 12 months. Although welcome, this leaves at least 37 other premises with no provision (plus a couple of exceptional cases). Since the meeting RM has negotiated that Open Reach will provide SFBB to the majority of premises (the 19+37) not covered by the R100 main contract.

There were two further points:

- a) If a property is listed on the website as having fibre but has not been connected, *the householder needs to apply to be connected.*
- b) If the map is wrong, *we need to raise through enquiries a MAP ERROR.*

The Superfast Broadband team were thanked for their input.

4. Ratification of minutes from 12 April 2021

Robin McBride proposed the minutes and Gill MacLeod seconded them

Actions arising:

On behalf of the DDCC,

- a) CN has objected to petrol station application on the basis of road safety
- b) Neil Johnson met with Derek Oliver to walk round Damhead and point out safety problems with roads and pavements.

5. Police Report (see Annex). No actions arising.

6. AOB

a) Anna Henly has been granted £1000 by the Arnold Clark Community Fund for the Midlothian Litter Picking Group. We suggested that the petrol station is asked to put up a notice requesting litter to be disposed of in a responsible manner.

76 bags of litter have been collected and are awaiting uplift on the A702.

7. Date of next meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 2 August (by zoom).

In general, meetings will take place at 7.30 by zoom on the 1st Monday in every second month. Meetings are scheduled for:

Monday 4 October 2021

Monday 6 December 2021

Damhead and District Community Council (MW02) Police Report

April 2021 and May 2021

Crimes & Incidents

- About 13:00 hours, 1st April 2021 Police were made aware of roadworks on Biggar Road causing an obstruction. Officers attended and had suitable cones and signage put in place.
- About 08:30 hours, 27th April 2021 on the A702 at Hillend officers observed the driver of a vehicle using his mobile phone whilst driving. Due to the circumstances the driver was charged with careless driving.
- About 13:20 hours, 19th May 2021 on the A702 at Hillend officers observed the driver of a vehicle using his mobile phone whilst driving. Due to the circumstances the driver was charged with careless driving

Vehicle Collisions

- About 15:30 hours, 2nd April 2021 there was a two vehicle collision at the junction of Old Pentland Road and A702. No injuries and both drivers exchanged insurance details.
- About 16:20 hours, 16th April 2021 a motorcyclist lost control and came off his bike on Old Pentland Road. Ambulance attended.

Further Information

Police are continuing to receive reports of parking issues and potential covid-19 regulation breaches in the Hillend area and are maintaining patrols in this area.

You can now report breach of Covid Regulations via the Police Scotland Website – www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/covid19

Rogue traders and bogus callers operate throughout the year but become more frequent after spring. 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