

DAMHEAD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM, 2 April 2018

Secretary's Report: Jo Gillies

A community council acts as a voice for its local area.

Communication is therefore core to the work of the community council - sharing information with people who stay in the local area, as well as gathering views and providing a conduit to key regional and national organisations.

We share information in a variety of ways.

The main way we share information is by emailing people who live in the local area. We have a database of email addresses, which is held securely by myself and our Chair, and which we use to send out information about DDCC meetings, including on planning and development, community events, police matters and other information that might be useful (e.g. council engagement events and consultations). Apart from about a handful of houses, we are able to quickly and easily share information with all residents in this way.

If you would like to be on our mailing list, or if you change your email address, then please remember to give your email address to me at a meeting, or send me an email at ddcc@mfcc.info. We take personal data requirements and security seriously, therefore email addresses are not shared with anyone else.

In addition:

- We are lucky to have an up to date, and well maintained website www.damheadcc.org.uk that provides a wide variety of information, including minutes of meetings, and a wide range of other information that might be of interest across the community (e.g. staying safe in the snow)
- We also have our noticeboard, which can be found on the pathway up to Old Pentland Graveyard. We display a copy of the latest DDCC minutes here. Shortly we will also display information on the Graveyard itself for any visitors to peruse.
- We have a folder in Loanhead Library which also contains a copy of all our minutes, and our intention is to also make a copy of minutes available in the community bus stop at Tigh Na Geat on the A703.
- Last but not least, all community councillors are required to be resident in their local area, therefore all of us live within the community and can provide information on any pertinent issues.

There are various ways in which you can ensure your views are heard, and shared as part of our local voice.

You can email us at ddcc@mfcc.info - this is a quick way to feed views and information to us and means we are more able to respond to council and wider consultations within tight deadlines.

You can attend DDCC meetings, give your views on issues raised, and ask about any issues that are important to you.

You can also become a community councillor and play a direct role in representing our local area. We have spaces for additional community councillors and are always happy for more people to be involved. Also, if you have particular skills, such as digital skills, planning system knowledge and/or experience, communication, etc, then it would be great if you could share these with us and help the community council work as effectively as possible.

You can also attend surgeries with, and/or email Midlothian Councillors or council officials direct.

The choice is yours, but the essential thing is to make sure your views are heard so we can ensure we can properly act as a voice for the local area. The worst position to be in is that our local area doesn't have voice, and therefore isn't taken into account when important and far fetching decisions are being taken.

Jo Gillies

DDCC

April 2018