



Eskbank & Newbattle Community Council

Minutes of Meeting, 6th June 2021 at 18h30. At Edinburgh College, Dalhousie Road and by Zoom

Community Council (CC) attendees ; at College; Mo Price, Alan Symon. **by Zoom;** Jane Wailes, Brian Wailes (Chair), Christina Harley, Brian Farrell, Rebecca Lewis, Joy Godfrey (Associate member: ENCC rep on ERIG committee), Andrew Matheson

Elected Representatives; Cllr Peter Smaill (at College), Cllr Stuart Mackenzie (Zoom).

Apologies ; Robin Barclay (secretary)

Absent ; Cllr John Hackett, David McNeill

Welcome & Apologies ; Brian Wailes (Chair) welcomed all and said we were trialling a hybrid meeting with some at Edinburgh College and some on Zoom. Postscript ; David McNeill apologised as he had wrong date, this caused by us changing to 2nd Wednesday of the month which will be our new regular meeting time as agreed at previous meetings.

1 Approval of Minutes & Matters arising; the minutes from meeting on 12th May were approved by Brian Farrell and seconded by Alan Symon. There were no matters arising not covered in the agenda.

2 Finance; David McNeill was not with us but we agreed the finances were in a healthy state.

3 Planning Issues ; Discussion around Hardengreen development with totem pole 25m high being proposed. Agreed to file a complaint on this. We wondered if Robin had already submitted this objection. Agreed that Brian Farrell, Brian Wailes and Robin Barclay will meet to discuss Planning.

4 Environment; Rebecca Lewis reported on various issues including that ERIG is now meeting again after Colin Beattie was re-elected in May. Rebecca and Joy are busy on monitoring River Esk where serious issues still exist.

5 Police Report; The report had previously been circulated. It mentions there have been house-breakings and gives us all advice on how to minimise the opportunity for these.

6 Communications; Christina Harley reported that we aim to distribute a newsletter across our area of about 2,000 houses. Target date for this is October 2021. Our noticeboard at Eskbank Toll has not yet been refurbished and we will follow up for progress on this project.

7 Roads and Road Safety ; Brian Farrell (BF) updated on recent Transport Scotland webcast for Sheriffhall Grade Separation Scheme. This was granted funding under City Region Deal but campaign led by Green Party has seen approx 3000 objections. Public Enquiry will now take place to hear and resolve objections. Anticipated completion is expected 2026/7 at the earliest, the likely funding gap risk due to the delay will sit with Scottish Government. Sheriffhall currently operates 65,000 vehicles per day with 45,000 being A720 traffic, significant delays on local network from A720 issues and roundabout has significant collision cluster. Scheme provides no additional capacity to A720 by providing a flyover and a new roundabout below for local traffic. The scheme would see 7 minute journey time reduction for public transport and includes over 2 miles of segregated footpath and

cyclepaths under the new road layout. Passive provision included to widen paths as there's no info on active travel journeys because there is virtually no way to safely cross Sheriffhall by foot or cycle.

BF has sought update on Safety Camera deployment at Lasswade Rd/Dalhousie Rd. Lasswade Rd rejected again but case put forward to reassess based on local circumstances including occupation of property at Dandara site. Dalhousie Rd will see further 3 month deployment but concerns exist that enforcement alone cannot resolve issues. Local residents continue to express concerns on speeding on all roads converging at Eskbank Toll.

Dandara have sponsored a Road Safety poster competition with Kings Park Primary. BF and Christina Harley have assisted with choosing winners who will receive prizes funded by Dandara. Winning entries will be made into signs to be placed along boundary of Dandara site on Lasswade Road.

8 Active Travel ; Andrew Matheson reported that immediately following the May meeting, Rebecca Brotherstone (MLC Active Travel Marketing Officer) had confirmed via the Midlothian Active Travel Forum that the metal barriers near the college were being removed from the cycle path. Andrew had encouraged the Midlothian Councillors to sign up for the Forum, and raised the issue that although the Forum had improved communication, Officers still were not really using it proactively to tell people about things in advance.

Andrew asked the meeting about the status of the Local Development Plan upgrade. Councillor Smail advised papers had been published today for an upcoming Planning meeting regards this.

9 AOB ; None.

10 Date of Next Meeting ; there is no meeting in July or August so the next meeting will be Wednesday 8th September at Edinburgh College, most likely at 6.30pm but time tbc.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.