



Minutes of Meeting, Thursday 12th May 2022 at 18:30

Boardroom, Edinburgh College Midlothian Campus

Community Council (CC) attendees: Brian Wailes (Chair), Jane Wailes, Robin Barclay (Secretary), Alan Symon (Depute Chair), Mo Price, Brian Farrell, Christina Harley,

Community Police: Sgt Michele Lindsay.

Elected Representatives: Cllr Stuart Mackenzie, Cllr Bryan Pottinger

Apologies: David McNeill (Treasurer), Andrew Matheson, Rebecca Lewis, Joy Godfrey, Cllr Peter Smaill.

Welcome & Apologies: Brian Wailes (Chair) welcomed all. Apologies were received as above

1 Approval of Minutes: the minutes from the meeting on 9th March were proposed by Brian Farrell and seconded by Christina Harley.

2 Matters Arising: None not covered in matters on the agenda.

3 Police Report: A written report was received from PC Juan Martinez prior to the meeting (published on our website) but neither PC Martinez nor his colleague PC Tracy McShane, our community policing officers, was available to present the report in person. However Sgt Michele Lindsay (Midlothian East Side Communities team) attended to get to meet us and to present an update on recent community policing initiatives (attached as an appendix to this minute).

3 Finance: David McNeill stated through Brian Wailes that we had a balance of £3005.91, having paid St John's £1000 towards the cost of the defibrillator ordered for siting at Eskbank Trading and £75 for the costs of hosting the hustings for the Local Council Elections. A sum of £475.25 will be paid for the new noticeboard sited at Newbattle Abbey Crescent bus stop. We will receive £300 as our annual running cost allocation from Midlothian Council. We have not applied for additional funds this year. Previous applications for funds for communications will go towards the noticeboard, the production of a newsletter, and starting and maintaining our website.

Brian and David will continue to pursue more flexible and modern methods of using our bank account with the Royal Bank of Scotland, such as internet banking and debit card payment, but since our account is classed as a business account nobody in the local branch has the authority to approve that and they are having great difficulty finding someone to talk to who can authorise this. They will continue their efforts to achieve this.

4 Planning Matters:

Robin Barclay reported that there were no new activities of concern in the weekly updates, so any issues were with ongoing applications:

- 1) The refusal of permission for the two-house development by Deaflawhill has been appealed and the Local Review Body (LRB) will review the decision at the next available opportunity (LRB meetings were suspended around the Local Election). ENCC has stated to Planning that we stand by what we said in our objection, the primary concern being that it is Midlothian Council policy that no development other than that related to agriculture be permitted in the Newbattle Green Space, as stated in their 2017 LDP.
- 2) The refusal of retrospective planning permission for the tree house in Waverly Road has also been appealed to the LRB. When notified we informed Planning that ENCC had not formally objected but had stated that it did not appear to meet standards for the Eskbank & Ironmills conservation area but that we left it to Planning to decide how to react.
- 3) There have been some changes made to the detailed and outline components of the plans submitted by agents for Buccleugh Estates for the site at Sheriffhall South which we need to review.
- 4) Some clarity is emerging on the work being carried out in the field between the A7 and Newbattle Abbey Crescent estate, by the King's Gates. Scottish Water will not allow the development by Miller Homes at Cockpen Farm (in Newtongrange CC ward) to connect to the main sewage system because of lack of capacity, so this work which appears to be a holding area to increase sewage capacity is being undertaken. The work is being conducted by a contractor engaged by Miller Homes, but we presume Scottish Water have set the specifications and will adopt it when completed. While in many cases Scottish Water do not need planning permission for their typical works and may have presumed that in this case, so none was applied for and no public information was released, our enquiries have received a response from Planning that in this case a planning application should have been submitted because of the disturbance to residents. It was implied by Scottish Water that planning permission will be applied for by Miller Homes. We regret that this was not done prior to commencement of work because such plans could have been inspected and discussed. Instead, there has been much rumour and speculation following the sudden and unanticipated commencement of these works. We await retrospective submission of a detailed plan on which interested parties can choose to comment, and have asked Planning to keep us informed of when this application is submitted.

Residents are encouraged to comment on proposals for redevelopment of Dalkeith Town Centre as part of the current consultation being undertaken. We remind residents that our ward is a component of Dalkeith municipality, and we rely on its town centre for most of our services. BF proposed that ENCC should formally submit a comment as a relevant entity.

On the new planning regulations (NPF4), we understand that Local Authorities are awaiting final guidance from the Scottish Government following their consultation on adoption of NPF4, and when that is available Midlothian Council will provide guidance and train community councils on how to produce local Place Plans in consultation with their residents. Place Plans will need to be compliant with the new Local Development Plan being produced before they can be formally adopted into it, so community councils need to know the standards to work to.

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils are looking for three CCs to volunteer to examine how the 20-minute neighbourhood policy might be implemented in their community. It was decided that we needed to discuss further between ourselves whether to volunteer since we might not have enough resources (time and individuals) to commit to this.

5 Roads, Traffic & Road Safety. Brian Farrell agreed to liaise with Sgt Lindsay on interpreting the fine detail provided in recent speed monitoring exercises to provide best times for applying enforcement. Brian also stated that it was reported at a recent MTRAP meeting that a JCB pothole repair machine has been demonstrated recently to the Council's roads officers and they were very impressed with its speed and efficiency and suggested that maybe ENCC should draft a letter of

support for their case for justifying purchase of one. Brian also complained of a lack of response to queries to council officers (for example regarding repair to bus stop shelters and renewal of timetable information which has dragged on for months). He said he complained recently to Derek Oliver about this but has not, to date, received a reply. Cllr McKenzie said he would follow up on this.

6 Active Travel: In Andrew Matheson absence, Brian Farrell reported that Midlothian's Active Travel policy did not seem ambitious, and unless projects were part of adopted policy the officers responsible for Active Travel didn't want to know. Thus, it is important to get any projects ENCC wants to achieve to be adopted into policy, otherwise they will be ignored. We hope that ENCC's response to the Active Travel consultation delivered by Andrew will have some influence on policy.

Environment: Neither Joy Godfrey nor Rebecca Lewis was present to deliver any comment on environmental matters. Brian Wailes had attended the last ERIG meeting in early May on behalf of Joy who was not available. Brian reported that he found the meeting very interesting and its attendees appropriate and engaged, but that frankly it was above his head to interpret for ENCC. The meeting minutes are published on MSP Colin Beattie's website and when we are notified a link will be provided on ENCC's website where residents can read those for themselves. (we have been advised of the link for minutes from the latest ERIG meeting which took place on May 9th: [Esk River Improvement Group Meeting Minutes – 10am, Monday 9th May 2022, Microsoft Teams - Colin Beattie MSP | Midlothian North & Musselburgh](#))

7 Communication: Christina Harley reported that our next newsletter is in its final stage of production, and it is aimed to complete it for distribution in June. There was discussion of various details. Brian Wailes asked whether he should persuade Midlothian View to do a feature on ENCC as a means of recruiting more residents to join us, to spread the load of tasks we need to engage with. It was suggested he wait until Autumn.

8 AOB: Brian Farrell has been in contact with Scot Rail and Edinburgh College (again) regarding the litter discarded around the College and Eskbank Station – which appears to be mostly food wrapping/containers apparently discarded by students who have purchased it at or around Tesco's (e.g. from McDonald's). Residents living nearby have complained and have frequently tidied up the area themselves. Brian reviewed reaction to his enquiries and what has been promised and will review delivery of those promises.

Alan Symon raised the difficulty in contacting any council staff by telephone and asked whether this was a result of many staff still working from home – while this may be good for staff it was not good for the public. Since this may be approaching the "new normal" in working patterns a plea was made to get staff working from home connected to the phone system, e.g. by supplying work mobile phones

9 Date of Next Meeting: the next meeting will be Thursday 9th June at 6:30 pm in the Boardroom of Edinburgh College. Meetings are open and residents may attend. We encourage residents to raise points before meetings by contacting us by email or our website form so that we can seek answers to give at the meeting. We will not meet in July or August so the following meeting will be on the second Thursday in September.

Appendix

Recent Community Engagement by the Midlothian Community Policing Team

Thank you again for allowing me to attend the Eskbank and Newbattle Community Council Meeting on Thursday, it was lovely to meet you all.

I have detailed below some of the initiatives and events that Midlothian Community Police along with partners have been involved with this year, which includes the Water Safety, Rural Crime and Close Pass initiatives I mentioned. They can be found on the Police Scotland Midlothian Facebook page.

Kind regards

Michele

Michele Lindsay

Police Sergeant

Community Policing Team

J Division

Police Scotland

Newbattle Road

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Midlothian

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Community Officer Engagement

On Sunday 30th January 2022, a hare coursing day of action was carried out across Midlothian as part of the National Wildlife Crime Prevention Strategy and SPARC Rural Crime Strategy by the Wildlife and Environmental Crime Officer and Community Officers in marked vehicles and Police quad bikes.

High visibility patrols were conducted across identified hot spot areas previously targeted by person's hare coursing.

Engagement was carried out with a number of farmers and land owners, who were also provided with crime prevention advice regarding their farm vehicles following an increase in acquisitive crime and theft of quad bikes.

Officers also engaged with dog owners making them aware of the Dog (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021 and what the changes mean, including the animals now included and possible penalties.

The Day of action was well received by all those engaged with. Further days of action are planned.

Winter Water Safety Event

On Thursday 3rd February Police were at Flotterstone Car park between 10am and 12midday then again between 1pm and 3pm for a Winter Water Safety Event with Scottish Water, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, and Pentland Hills Regional Park Rangers.

We encouraged members of the public to come along and find out more about Winter Water Safety, where the team will also be able to provide information and advice on a number of other topics including camp fires, changes to The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021, littering, Anti-social behaviour and discuss other questions you may have.

On Monday 14th February, as part of a joint initiative with Lothian Buses (LRT) to tackle youth related anti-social behaviour, Community Officers, Funded Midlothian Community Action Team officers along with staff from LRT carried out patrols throughout Midlothian, including Mayfield, Dalkeith, Danderhall, Gorebridge, Bonnyrigg, Rosewell and Penicuik. During the patrols officers and staff engaged with a number of passengers, youths and drivers.

Speed Checks – Danderhall and Eskbank

On Thursday 17th February 2022, Community Officers carried out speed checks in the area. Checks were carried out by officers on Newtonchurch Road, Danderhall and Bonnyrigg Road, Eskbank. Most drivers were obeying the speed limit, however there was cause to warn five drivers.

On Friday 25th March we joined colleagues from Midlothian Council, National Farmers Union Scotland, Scottish Land and Estates, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Rural Watch, and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as part of the Midlothian Partnership Against Rural Crime Group to hold a Crime Prevention Event. The partnership, supported and attended by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime, provided rural communities with information and advice, including solutions that may help to deter thieves and farm and vehicle safety. The event also highlighted the Rural Watch scheme which is a service the public can sign up to for alerts when something happens in their local area. A special thanks to Mr Callander for hosting the event.

Midlothian Rural Crime Prevention Event

On Saturday 26th March Police carried out a multi- agency Rural Crime Prevention Event at Penicuik Estate along with the British Horse Society, NFU Scotland, Pentland Regional Park Rangers, Scottish Land and Estates, Pentland Land Managers Association and Midlothian Dog Warden to mark the start of the Midlothian's Rural Crime Campaign, which is running between Saturday 26th March and Sunday 8th May 2022. During the event they were able to provide information and advice on Livestock Worrying and Attacks, Poaching, Dog Control, Acquisitive Crime and much more. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Operation Close Pass (new rules on overtaking cyclists)

Local Community and Roads Policing Officers were involved in Operation Close Pass on Sunday 10th April at Dalhousie Road, Dalkeith and near Hillend. During the initiative, 11 drivers were stopped and received a [#ChatOnTheMat](#), [#Rule163](#) - leave at least 1.5 metres when overtaking cyclists [#KeepingPeopleSafe](#).

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