



## Dalkeith and District Community Council Note of Meeting, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2020,

**7.00pm online via Zoom**

		Action
1	<p><b>Present and apologies</b> Ann Stewart-Kmicha (Chair), Andrew Watt, Kate Robertson, Cllr. Margot Russell, Brian McGuff (CLL), PC S. Robertson.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Cllr. Cassidy</p>	
2	<p><b>Approval of note of last meeting</b> AS-K requested two changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) In the note regarding the shelter in the cemetery reword as “this had caused some negative comment”</li> <li>ii) In 9 replace first sentence with “Following discussion it was agreed that ...”</li> </ul> <p>With these changes the minute of the August meeting was approved.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters arising, not on agenda elsewhere/action points from last meeting</b> (Taken after Item 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>Link to RAMPS.</i> (AS-K) Link was to be sent</li> <li>b) <i>Archiving emails</i> (AW) Archives can be done. AW is doing them on his lap top. Noted it is important to keep items that might be required in a few years hence.</li> <li>c) <i>Housing Policy Consultation</i> (ALL) Closing date is now passed. ASK had encountered some technical and security issues when attending one of the online sessions. Issues that had arisen included the need for ground floor accommodation for elderly people and to look at using old back drying greens for allotments.</li> <li>d) <i>Meeting with CLL staff</i> (AS-K) Already covered.</li> </ul>	AS-K
4	<p><b>Police Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>Midlothian</i> PC Robertson began by giving some broad statistics for Midlothian for the period from March – July, the period of lockdown. Group 1 crime - 14% drop; Serious Assault - down 27%; Robbery - 50% increase (but this was only 6 cases up to 9); Common Assault - 12% drop</li> <li>b) <i>Division.</i> Across the whole Division since the restrictions began to be eased in August, Group 1 crime had gone up 19%; Serious Assault had increased 13%; Robbery was up 19%; Domestic Abuse was up 62% but the detection rate for this type of crime was 90%; Common Assault was down 3.6% but was now going up; Anti-social behaviour up 43%. Approximately 5000 calls relating to anti-social behaviour had been received from the public. Public space crime was up 42% and Domestic Violence up 15%. Common Assault has been rising week on week as lockdown has been eased. For the first 9 weeks of lockdown there were 70 crimes of assault then as restrictions</li> </ul>	

eased it went up to 80 and then 93.

*c) Dalkeith*

There were 313 crimes in August of which 187 have been solved so far giving a 67% solvency rate. There were 1157 calls which is almost back to 'normal'. The Community Officers were released from Covid-19 duties on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Between 10/4 and 16/5 there had been 14 fixed penalty notices issued for breaches of Corona Virus restrictions. In the judicial system, trials were starting again.

*d) Pubwatch.*

Pubwatch meetings were re-starting and the next was to be held the following day at the Justinlees at 10.00am and the CC were invited to attend.

*e) Licencing issues.*

The Miners Club had featured in the Advertiser, but this was reported in a way that didn't accurately reflect the true situation. The photo that was published was taken on the first day of re-opening before the club had actually opened and staff were there to control things. The club was fully compliant and co-operating closely with all the authorities. Normally they would expect to have 600 attending but currently only 150 were able to be there. The Horseshoe bar had remained closed because they had no Designated Premises Manager. The Buccleuch also was closed at the weekend because they had been operating with no Designated Premises Manager. Al's Bistro has given no indication of opening.

*f) Other issues.*

- i. Bogus workmen had been going to houses in Newbattle Abbey Crescent offering to carry out work on the properties. At one house the owner had been persuaded to have some roof work done and the bogus workman had asked for money up front. Fortunately the householder's bank spotted what was happening and the perpetrator has been apprehended and charged with fraud.
- ii. Schools. Several primary schools had requested a Police presence at drop off and pick up times because of car parking issues. Police intervention had been widely welcomed at Woodburn PS.
- iii. Fly tipping. Eskbank and Newbattle Community Forum had posted information regarding a fly tipping incident on Facebook. The offender had been traced to Selkirk and charged.
- iv. Robbery in St Andrews St. Three offenders had all been traced and charged.
- v. Serious assault at Corner Pocket. The victim had needed 26 stitches; the two assailants had been identified and charged.

The Chair thanked PC Robertson for his very comprehensive report.

It was noted that the Miners Club had tried a booking system but only 6 turned up leaving many tables empty so after meeting with police and council officers, the booking system had been dropped. Things had been running smoothly.

PC Robertson clarified that Domestic Abuse covers verbal abuse as well as violence, and also abuse on social media.

In reply to a question he indicated that the Police do not get involved in checking on people quarantining eg after visits abroad.

Speeding checks had started again.

There was a discussion on the correct procedure for lost passports which is that they

	<p>should be handed to the police for onward transmission to the Passport Office.</p> <p>Cllr. Russell reported that Al's Cafe had been taken over by a restaurant chain from Edinburgh, who were refurbishing it before re-opening.</p> <p>KR agreed to attend the Pub Watch meeting but might have to leave before the end.</p>	KR
5	<p><b>Councillors' Reports</b></p> <p>Cllr. Russell said there wasn't much to report this month.</p> <p>a) <i>Homeless accommodation in Jarnac Court.</i> After a full and frank debate the decision had been taken to proceed at the increased cost.</p> <p>b) <i>Buying houses.</i> The Council had bought 100 houses from developers throughout Midlothian. There were a lot of empty houses in Woodburn, but hopefully now that the workforce were back in operation after lockdown a start would be made on fixing the repairs, perhaps with help from private contractors. Cllr. Russell clarified that it was tasks like rewiring that were required to keep the houses up to standard.</p> <p>c) <i>Open Day.</i> AS-K said Cllr Curran was keen to have an open day for the new Jarnac Court accommodation once the work has been completed.</p> <p>AS-K expressed surprised that BM is doing resilience work and not supporting DDCC full time.</p>	
5a	<p><b>CLL officer's report.</b></p> <p>Brian McGuff (BM) introduced himself. He said he was a replacement for Rona Duncan, but currently was only working two days a week on community duties. He expressed the hope that that might change in due course. He reported he had been asked to take the lead on Community Resilience groups so that plans were ready in place for any re-surgence of Covid, "Beasts from East" etc. However, he said he was also willing to help on other things. AW said one project that required help was installing de-fibrillators in the town. It had been very useful to have Rona Duncan there all the time to help drive the project forward, but the stumbling blocks were internal to Midlothian Council. BM said he would find out from RD where the blockages were.</p> <p>In the discussion regarding setting up a resilience group, it was pointed out that trying to use the volunteers from the lockdown hot meal project might be difficult as some lived outwith the area. Another factor to be considered was the current capacity of DDCC to take on a role such as running a resilience group. BM suggested that a combined group with Eskbank and Newbattle CC might work better. One Dalkeith was suggested as a possible group to head this up. It was pointed out that if the resilience group was a sub group of a Community Council they would be covered by CC insurance. BM said he would speak to One Dalkeith. Rosewell CC have offered their model as examples for other CCs to use.</p> <p>BM also said he was hoping to get police involved in some of the street work that is going on.</p> <p>Small Grants.</p> <p>It was noted that applications can now be submitted for amounts up to £2K. These had to be submitted by 18<sup>th</sup> October. All were asked to consider any projects that</p>	BM

	might be suitable for funding from this.	
6	<p><b>Community Council Priorities for 2020/21</b></p> <p>a) <i>Jarnac Court/Town Centre regeneration.</i> It was noted that the Guerilla Gardeners continue to do an excellent job.</p> <p>b) <i>Traffic management/parking</i> Nothing had been heard back from L Haddow. A sign had appeared advising no right turn into Eskdail St. in a few weeks' time but no-one was quite sure what was the cause for this temporary restriction.</p> <p>c) <i>Engaging the community.</i> The notice boards were all up and running. However, there was still an urgent need to find new members.</p> <p>d) <i>Communications.</i> It was noted that in Eyemouth, a High School pupil looked after the Facebook page.</p>	
7	<p><b>Reports from meetings</b></p> <p>a) AS-K gave a summary report on the August Midlothian Council meeting which had been very long. Most of the items significant for DDCC had already been covered. She reported that MC are going to spend money on a new computer package for Housing.</p> <p>b) <i>Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board (AW)</i> AW reported that the Noise Board was going through a rather difficult time. After three years a review was being held, but the way it had been set up had caused considerable concern, not recognising the independence of the Board. Also, at the September meeting there had been a very awkward section of the meeting when a sustained interrogation of an individual had taken place. There had been a consensus that holding a review was timely and that qualification for membership should indeed be re-examined, but singling out an individual was not the way to do it. On a more positive note, Airport staff were coming back from furlough so it was once again possible to find someone to speak to. Once the newly appointed Airspace Manager was back from furlough, it was hoped things could begin to move forward again.</p> <p>c) <i>Midlothian Federation of Community Councils (AS-K)</i> This had met on Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, just before schools reopened to check all was in place. Other items covered had been -,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <u>Winding down from Covid-19.</u> There had been discussion about moving on to become resilience groups.</li> <li>II. <u>Waste.</u> There was on-going concern that the waste recycling site at Penicuik was still closed.</li> <li>III. <u>River Esk.</u> There had been a report on River Esk pollution scheme.</li> <li>IV. <u>Developer contributions.</u> Gorebridge CC are trying to get information on developer contributions.</li> </ol> <p>Next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> Oct.</p> <p>d) <i>One Dalkeith.</i> It was noted they had been awarded £25K from the Scottish Towns Partnership Virtual High Street project to fund 21 schemes based on digital technology. Their AGM was now going to be on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7.00pm. It was noted that the little bike at the door of the One Dalkeith building had disappeared. More bikes were still to appear in various locations.</p>	
8	<p><b>Consultations</b></p> <p>a) Scottish Government consultation on changes to pre-application requirements. It was decided to leave this until the next meeting.</p>	

	<p>b) An email from the Scottish Government regarding the Fire Service had been received. AS-K will circulate</p> <p>c) "Growing older in Midlothian" consultation responses had to be returned by Oct 9<sup>th</sup>.</p>	AS-K
9	<p><b>Correspondence</b> (e.g. planning applications, traffic orders and licences)</p> <p>a) <i>Planning applications</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Pathway Elmfield Park (KR)</li> <li>II. Wester Cowden (KR/AW)</li> </ol> <p>These had both been responded to. There was nothing of significance to be looked at this month. There might be an issue with some applications to form a driveway on private property because of difficulties with on-street parking. This was often caused by garages nearby parking customers cars during the day.</p> <p>b) <i>TTRO</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <i>Electric Charging Points.</i> This stated that only electric cars should be in these spaces, and only while charging.</li> <li>II. <i>30mph speed limit on Easthouses Rd.</i> Strictly this is outwith the DDCC area but the reduction seemed sensible.</li> </ol> <p>c) <i>Licences</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <i>Black Bull</i> This should be the Buck's Head. It was being considered at the Licensing Board meeting the following Thursday. It was possible for the CC to attend.</li> <li>II. <i>Cavaliere</i> This was also being considered the following Thursday. ASK said she would sit in on the meeting. The applicant had responded to the CC comments. These were gone through and AW agreed to summarise the CC's view on these latest comments.</li> </ol>	AW
10	<p><b>Any other competent business</b></p> <p>a) <i>Dog fouling.</i> Cllr. Curran had obtained funding for posters that encouraged dog owners to pick up after their pets. Two posters were available for Dalkeith.</p> <p>b) <i>River Esk Improvement Group.</i> Tom Mills from the Coal authority had been in attendance at the first meeting. There was water coming out at Old Fordel in substantial quantities and he had offered someone to attend the next meeting to talk to this issue. It was agreed to take up the offer.</p>	AS-K
11	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>In the continuing absence of suitable available premises, it was agreed that the October meeting would also be on-line. It would be on Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm.</p>	