



Dalkeith and District Community Council (DDCC)
Note of meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2020 in
MVA Meeting Room, White Hart Street.

| 1 | Present and Apologies | Action |
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| | <p>DDCC: Ann Stewart-Kmicha (Chair); Kate Robertson; Andrew Watt Midlothian Council: Cllr Colin Cassidy, Cllr. Margot Russell Police Scotland PC S. Robertson</p> | |
| 2 | Approval of Note of Meeting held on 11th February, 2020 | |
| | <p>It was pointed out that the AGM should be separate from the regular meeting so that it could be separately approved at next year's AGM. With that amendment, the Note was approved.</p> <p>The minute of the 2019 AGM was now available and, with the correction of the paragraph numbering, was approved.</p> | |
| 3 | Police Report | |
| | <p>PC Robertson began by outlining some of the many changes and redeployments that had recently been carried out. This had resulted in increased pressures while the new structures were settling down. One move that might bring improvements was replacing civilian workers at the Bilston call centre with experienced police officers. This should result in calls being more effectively dealt with.</p> <p>He went on to report that in Dalkeith during February there had been 360 incidents reported to the Police, which included 23 missing persons and 122 crimes reported. The figures for all of Midlothian, compared with this time last year, showed a very satisfactory situation; Violence & Disorder - 82.3% solved, up 14% on last year Serious assault - 93% solved, up 20% Robbery - 58% solved, up 13% Rape - 88.5% solved, up 40% Acquisitive Crime - down 16.5% (350 less crimes recorded) Housebreaking down by 26% Motor vehicle crime down by 19.4% Fraud up 3.7% but this is mostly on-line fraud. Anti-social behaviour down by 9.5% Vandalism down by 8.1%</p> <p>COVID-19. At present there was no requirement to make any changes to current working practices but Police Scotland is regularly reviewing all health and safety related matters and will update and make changes appropriate to the emerging situation.</p> <p>CAM – Contact Assessment Model. This was the new way of triaging and responding to contact from the public by using an enhanced assessment and decision-making model of threat, risk and harm so that more could be done to protect the vulnerable and ensure every individual got the right response when they contact Police Scotland.</p> | |

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| | <p>PC Robertson explained that their aim was to significantly improve the experience and outcomes for the public and to empower and enable our workforce to make the right decisions to provide the most appropriate and proportionate policing response. Community Councillors raised a number of issues with PC Robertson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Civic event. Was there any further information about a major event that was going to take place later in the year in Cowden Park. At the present time nothing further was available. b) The situation regarding the serviceability of the CCTV cameras was raised. Dalkeith had HD cameras which provided really clear images but a number of cameras in crucial places were not always functioning correctly. A list of priority cameras that should be repaired first was identified and Cllr. Cassidy said he would follow it up. c) Double yellow lines on Edinburgh Rd. A suggestion was made that there should be double yellow lines on the west side of Edinburgh Rd. Between Glebe st. and the bus stop, to stop the traffic hold ups that occur at present when a bus has to stop to pick up passengers. PC Robertson said this wasn't something that had been raised before and pointed out that sometimes there can be other consequences arising from making changes that seem obvious. <p>PC Robertson was thanked for his full report and asked to convey the thanks of the Community Council to all his colleagues for the excellent work they do to keep the community safe.</p> | |
| 4 | Councillors' Reports | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Town Centre improvements. Work on these was progressing and it was now easier for members of the public to see what was being done. There was further work to be done in Eskdail Court and the "River Esk" set into the paving stones was to be restored. This was welcomed; it was a chance to correct the "Vandalism by Repair" that had gone on over many years. Work would be starting soon on the block in Jarnac Court to be used as emergency accommodation. b) Dented railings. A question was asked as to who pays to repair railings when they get dented as a result of a Road Traffic Accident. The driver responsible has to pay but identifying the driver not always easy. A particular black spot for this to happen was the junction at the top of Lauder Road. It was felt the traffic lights there could be clearer; a recent alteration to the sequence might be having a beneficial effect though it was perhaps a bit too soon to say. c) Sheriffhall Roundabout. Strong disappointment was expressed at the Scottish Government's decision to refer the grade separation at the Sheriffhall Roundabout to a further review. | |
| 5 | Matters Arising from Note of February meeting. | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>No 11 opening.</i> The date had still to be confirmed. b) <i>Parking paper.</i> This has been presented to the Council but no action had come from it yet. c) <i>Peppermint Park.</i> Recent inspections had shown no significant mess. | |
| 6 | Community Council Priorities for 2019/20 | |
| | <p>After a review of progress on these it was decided that the priorities for 2020/21 should remain the same. "Engaging the Community" is of major importance to try and increase the number of Community Councillors. One or two individuals who might be interested were suggested. It was still hoped to engage young people but the response from the High Schools had been disappointing.</p> | |

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| 7 | Common Good Fund | |
| | The defibrillator project was on hold but it was hoped that E Fleck would be able to bring it to fruition soon. | |
| 8 | Reports from meetings. | |
| | <p>a) Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board (EANAB) Andrew reported that EANAB have decided that there was nothing to be gained by continuing the discussion on runway capacity with the airport, EAL, as both parties were unlikely to change their position. EAL were re-writing their submission for the Stage 1 Define Gateway with a view to having it passed by the CAA at the end of April.</p> <p>b) Midlothian Federation of Community Councils (MFCC): Ann reported that there had been some discussion on Local Place Plans at the last meeting. Also, Insurance for Community Councils was again going to be handled centrally.</p> <p>c) One Dalkeith A number of further events are being planned, but there was a need for the change of use of the building to be formally decided.</p> <p>d) Participatory budgeting. The vote was now complete and the votes tallied up. There was to be a meeting the following day to decide the next steps. Danderhall were currently in the process of their PB project.</p> <p>e) Virgin Media. The Community Council had been approached by Virgin Media to see if there were any community events that they could be involved in. A meeting had been held with the representative from Virgin Media and one or two suggestions discussed. There was no funding that could be used, but rather each event was considered in its own right to see how Virgin might be able to help. It was yet to be seen if anything concrete would arise from this.</p> <p>f) Melville Housing. An email from Melville Housing asking for support in publicising their electric car club as they needed a good number of users to ensure it continued beyond the first year which was to end in October. It was agreed this was an excellent idea and the Community Council would do what it could to publicise the car club.</p> | AW |
| 9 | Consultations | |
| | There were none live at present. | |
| 10 | Correspondence including Planning Applications, Traffic Orders and Licences | |
| | <p>a) <i>Signage at Kings Gates.</i> This had been resubmitted with changes to the main signs from stone plinths to thin boards. The original “totem signs” were still there unchanged, even though they had been one of the reasons for the application being refused previously. It was agreed that the Community Council would object again along the same lines as before viz that the main signs were acceptable but the totems were not on grounds of safety and appropriateness for that site. It was felt that a better place would be just inside the gate, one totem on either side, or put the individual signs on the large boards.</p> <p>b) <i>One Dalkeith.</i> This was for the change of use of the building and it was agreed to write in support of this application.</p> <p>There were no Traffic Orders requiring consideration. The Licensing Board were to meet on 19th March. AS-K was to attend if possible.</p> | AW KR AS-K |
| 9 | Any Other Competent Business | |
| | a) <i>Factoring.</i> An issue had arisen regarding factoring on the Langside, Roman and Corbie Drive etc estates concerning Scottish Woodlands, one of the firms | |

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| | <p>contracted to carry this out. This had arisen after a resident had taken the matter to court after a request for an itemised bill had been turned down. The court having examined the situation and been unhappy with what they found had instructed residents that they should not pay anything more to Scottish Woodlands. At the same time, it was noted that residents in the Corbie Drive etc estate were paying two firms, one of which was Scottish Woodland, for factoring services. However, this was a private matter for residents to resolve.</p> <p>b) <i>Aldi</i>. All those who had attended the exhibition of what Aldi proposed had been impressed by the company's attitude and approach. There was general agreement the new store would be a benefit for the town, the only concern being the amount of traffic that used the road at the end of the school day.</p> <p>c) <i>Tree</i>. The silver birch outside Crystal Mount had been moved to Ironmills Park</p> <p>d) <i>Blocked Drain</i>. It was reported that the drain at Esk Place was not removing waste water as it should. However, as there was no longer a resident warden it was not clear to residents there what to do to get it fixed.</p> | |
| 10 | Date of Next Meeting | |
| | Tuesday 14th April, 2020, at 7pm in the MVA Meeting Room. | |