



## Dalkeith and District Community Council Note of Meeting, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

**7.00pm online via Zoom**

		Action
1	<p><b>Present and apologies</b> Ann Stewart-Kmicha, Chair, Kate Robertson, Andrew Watt, Cllr. Margot Russell</p>	
2	<p><b>Approval of note of last meeting</b> With an amendment to bullet point 10 of section 4, the Note of the June Meeting was accepted.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters arising/action points from last meeting</b> ASK had emailed PC Robertson and was awaiting a reply. An announcement regarding Participatory Budgeting was expected shortly. Brian McGuff, CLL, was on leave for three weeks. Midlothian Council website now has links to video recordings of meetings.</p>	
4	<p><b>Update on Covid-19 response.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hot food delivery had ended on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The Midlothian CLL team had taken over but only for two weeks and that had ended on 10<sup>th</sup> July. The recipients of the hot food had been advised of the Appetito service, which is a paid for service. Take up of this had been very low.</li> <li>• The further funds allocated by the Scottish Govt. had not been released to Community Councils, apparently on the decision of elected members. A letter had been sent to Councillors and the CEO.</li> <li>• The whole hot food delivery exercise had identified some individuals with on-going problems not directly Covid-19 related and which hadn't been known to the relevant support agencies previously. In the discussion that followed it was agreed that the Community Council should pass on details to the relevant agency, most probably that would be the Social Work Dept.</li> <li>• The Chair commended the volunteers for the outstanding work they had done and their commitment to those they were assisting. In particular that they had gone out singly but CLL staff had been instructed to go in pairs.</li> <li>• The Chair was to attend a Zoom meeting organised by David Henderson, MVA that will look at how food is provided for the community.</li> <li>• A bid for money from the Lottery had been made by Volunteer Midlothian to fund an art project.</li> <li>• The Coalfields Regeneration Trust, CRT, wanted to set up an</li> </ul>	

	<p>exhibition of videos about what happened during lockdown. It was suggested that a community screening could be arranged by One Dalkeith.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As lockdown was being eased, people had been encouraged to get out to the shops, but there had been some reluctance over this. It was felt that sometimes it was the hassle of having to stand in a queue rather than fear of catching the virus that was putting people off. It was suggested that using an appointment system might ease that but not everyone had access to suitable IT systems.</li> <li>• All 10 newsletters produced by Volunteer Midlothian and funded through the CRT had now been completed and were being printed.</li> <li>• Some folk who had appreciated having a phone call during lockdown were now being picked up by a team of volunteers who have been trained through the MVA Health in Mind project. There was some discussion about future use of volunteers and it was hoped that the various agencies would continue to offer the possibility of volunteering to any who wished to do so.</li> <li>• A lot of groups in the community had indicated they were looking to restart activities in some way in August.</li> </ul>	
5	<p><b>Police Report</b></p> <p>None had been received but the report each week in the Advertiser gave a good indication of what was happening. It was felt it might be helpful to know what the level of domestic violence had been during lockdown and if re-opened beer gardens were causing any problems. ASK was to contact PC Robertson. MR said that elected members received a weekly report and perhaps should also be asked if the community council could receive a copy as well.</p>	ASK
6	<p><b>Councillors' Reports</b></p> <p>MR reported having problems with her Facebook page so she had been unable to let people know that things were beginning to happen.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Some Developer Contributions were being used to do minor work to improve the look of the Town Centre. This had re-commenced. The benches in Eskdail Court had been repainted by the Guerilla Gardeners. Other similar tasks would be undertaken shortly to smarten the place up and as staff returned after lockdown.</li> <li>b) <i>Colour of Esk</i>. This was an ongoing issue. It was hoped that some form of temporary work might be done while waiting for the more permanent solution.</li> <li>c) <i>Developments</i>. There was some uncertainty about the progress of the proposed Film Studio. The Aldi application was still with the planners as there were one or two issues that needed to be resolved.</li> <li>d) <i>Easter Langside</i>. Problems with the provision of factoring services. ASK said it had gone to court. KR said that residents had been refunded monies paid to Scottish Woodland. A Residents' Association had been proposed as a way of finding a solution that</li> </ol>	

	<p>then would appoint a factor.</p> <p>e) <i>Dalkeith Palace</i>. There had been talks over the possibility of the University of Wisconsin relinquishing their lease so the building could be used for other purposes. It was felt there were other signs that this was quite likely to happen. It was noted that the link had been in place for 30 years but recent student numbers had been low.</p> <p>f) <i>Caring for the town environment</i>. Guerrilla gardeners were doing a fantastic job, but almost as soon as one area was cleared some members of the public were dropping litter again. This created a very run-down impression. The online petition had raised a lot of these issues. MR said lack of money was a major obstacle but it was anticipated there might be further Developer Contributions coming. Some of these would be ring fenced for Woodburn and should be spent on the MARC building. The ultimate plan was to extend it and link it to the neighbouring vacant building, which currently had a broken door.</p> <p>g) <i>Participatory Budgeting</i>. MR was asked what was happening about an anticipated announcement. She said that the outcome was known but there were some issues still to be ironed out. MR identified the three successful projects, but they wouldn't be announced until all had been sorted out so that the unsuccessful bids would be notified at the same time as the successful ones. MR compared what had happened in past times with PB which had been piloted in Dalkeith.</p> <p>h) MR was asked about what might be happening to the Arts Centre. Apparently an architect had drawn up plans for converting it to a Community Centre, but nothing concrete had been proposed, nor had the plans been submitted to the Planning Dept. ASK said it seemed strange that these proposals were being put forward at the same time as One Dalkeith were developing their premises. KR was concerned that the Library might be adversely affected. MR said the plans glassed over the central courtyard but didn't impinge on the Library in any way.</p> <p>i) <i>Evaluating PB</i>. AW said that when the evaluation of the pilot PB process was carried out, he thought there were lessons to be learned to ensure the perception was that all had been done fairly. In particular he felt that being a member of the organising committee should preclude anyone from submitting a project for funding.</p> <p>j) <i>Meeting protocols</i>. AW said he felt it was unacceptable that the Chair had referred to in issue to do with PB but had been unwilling to share it with the other Community Councillors, thereby implying they could not be trusted. After some further discussion the Chair did explain what the issue had been about.</p>	
7	<p><b>Community Council Priorities for 2019/20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jarnac Court/Town Centre regeneration</b> Already covered earlier in previous item.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Traffic management/parking</b> It was anticipated there might be problems when parking restrictions were introduced in the High Street to make it safer for social distancing.</li> <li>• <b>Engaging the community</b> It was felt that some of the volunteers who had been helping with the hot food might possibly consider joining the Community Council. Representation from younger people was also needed.</li> <li>• <b>Communications</b> There was a need to make use of social media again. Perhaps one of the volunteers might have the necessary skills.</li> </ul>	
8	<p><b>Petition to MC</b></p> <p>This had partly been covered already. However, AW said the petition had reminded him that there were big rubbish bins on the pavement which he felt shouldn't be in a town centre. MR said the problem was the lack of any other suitable place to put them.</p>	
9	<p><b>Reports from meetings (for example)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board</b> There was nothing major to report. A meeting to look at alternative flight paths over Midlothian was still being sought. A review of the Noise Board was being set up.</li> <li>• <b>Midlothian Federation of Community Councils</b> The imbalance in how the Govt money for the Corona Virus crisis had been used was causing some frustration for those CCs that had spent most of their allocation while other CCs still had a considerable amount left.</li> <li>• <b>One Dalkeith</b> Projects were progressing. More painted bicycles were appearing.</li> </ul>	
10	<p><b>Consultations</b></p> <p>The CC was not aware of any currently active.</p>	
11	<p><b>Correspondence (e.g. planning applications, traffic orders and licences)</b></p> <p>Nothing of particular note in the current list, but it was noted that the regular updates from the Council had not been sent out. The former Red Cross building had been given permission to be converted into flats.</p>	
12	<p><b>Any other competent business</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The money for Education reported as £15,100 should have been £1.51 million.</li> <li>b) The proposal to raise the limit for school transport to 3 miles, distance had been overturned and reverted to 2 miles.</li> <li>c) Garages using streets for customer's cars. ASK reported that residents living in the vicinity of garages were finding it difficult to park their own cars because the garages parked customer's cars on the streets around. She was especially aware of this as there were four garages in the vicinity of her house.</li> </ol>	
13	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm.</p>	