



Dalkeith and District Community Council Note of Meeting, Tuesday 11th August, 2020,

7.00pm online via Zoom

		Action
1	<p>Present. Ann Stewart-Kmicha, Chair, Andrew Watt, Kate Robertson Cllr. Margot Russell</p>	5
2	<p>Approval of note of last meeting. The Note of the July meeting was approved</p>	5
3	<p>Matters arising, not on agenda elsewhere/action points from last meeting</p> <p><i>a) Crime during lockdown. Letter to police. (ASK)</i> The Chair said that because of the ongoing Covid-19 situation she had not been able to get in touch with PC Robertson. She referred to some concerns about a number of scams that had been reported in the area. Hopefully as soon as the Covid-19 situation had stabilised, regular police reports would resume.</p> <p><i>b) Video recordings of Council meetings (AW)</i> Andrew Watt said he had had difficulty in finding the recordings of Midlothian Council meetings. He was informed that they could be found from the link on the homepage of Midlothian Council's website for "Meetings and Minutes" and then by clicking on the appropriate meeting that appeared in the Calendar of Meetings.</p>	10
4	<p>Police Report None was available.</p>	
5	<p>Councillors' Reports</p> <p><i>a) Participatory Budget.</i> There had been an internal audit being carried out on how well the process had gone and the report was anticipated shortly.</p> <p><i>b) House Building</i> <u>Buccleuch St.</u> Work would be starting on the site beside Midlothian in the autumn, probably November. Access to the site was to be via Croft St. It had been noted that co-ordination of timings for deliveries to the site would have to be carried out in conjunction with Kings Park Primary School.</p> <p><u>Old Dalkeith High School site.</u> Work on the new development was to start in November. There had been some issues around what the streets should be named but the solution that had been arrived at, that</p>	15

	<p>would be announce shortly, would hopefully meet with general approval. The normal procedure for naming new streets was outlined. The Provost now has the final word, after consultations with ward councillors.</p> <p>Because the Council had been in recess during July there was nothing further to report at this time, but there would be next month as things were starting up again.</p> <p>c) <i>New School Session.</i></p> <p>Schools were going back shortly and Cllr. Russell paid tribute to the huge effort that had gone on behind the scenes to get them ready for re-opening. There was some concern over lack of hot meals as schools started up. It was felt that Midlothian was well prepared for the start of the new session. It was asked if electrostatic cleaning equipment had been purchased? Were any measures in place to maintain social distancing outside schools at busy times eg at the start and end of the day as parents dropped off/collected their children?</p>	
6	<p>Community Council Priorities for 2020/21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jarnac Court/Town Centre regeneration.</i> The work as described in previous meetings is continuing. Concern was raised over the lack of progress on the Jarnac Court block that was to be converted for homeless accommodation. Cllr. Russell said some issues had been discovered within the building that would be expensive to rectify and would take some further time, but she anticipated it would be going ahead. It was noted that the Subway shop was now empty. The M & Co store was not among those being closed. • <i>Traffic management/parking</i> TTROs had been received one Friday regarding suspension of parking bays commencing on the following Monday. Similar moves in other places had caused considerable unrest. But then three days later, on the Monday, the work was put on hold. When asked what was now going to happen, Cllr Russell said the whole question of providing enough space for pedestrians to move about safely was being looked at again. It was pointed out that some parking in Woodburn was difficult because many people still working from home. The North Wynd Car park was usually fairly empty. The problem of garages using streets to store customers cars was raised again. It was suggested that, before they were given an operating licence, a garage should be able to demonstrate where they would park cars without using public streets. It was questioned why the High St. seemed to be so popular when it was harder to find a space and there was very often a convenient space in the North Wynd car park. It was also 	

	<p>pointed out that cars (illegally) parked in the High St outside eg Boots caused tailbacks right up to the traffic lights at the Harrow, causing further congestion. It was agreed that the Parking Attendants should be encouraged and supported to be very strict on those who park wrongly in the High St.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Engaging the community</i> All three notice boards had been made operational and were now displaying the community newsletters. It was felt that DDCC needed a presence again on social media. Perhaps a new Community Councillor would be able to take this on as the current ones are not on Facebook. It was important that anyone taking this on was responsible enough to know what was appropriate. • <i>Communications</i> The Community Newsletter had been well received. Funding was being sought to continue it. 	
7	<p>Recruiting new Community Councillors (AW)</p> <p>The precarious nature of DDCC was pointed out as it was running with the absolute minimum of Councillors. If any one of the existing Community Councillors left, DDCC would cease to exist. So how can new Community Councillors be recruited? Do Community Council meetings convey that this is a worthwhile thing to do? Was it worth doing some sort of advertising especially at this time of year when things were starting up after the summer.</p> <p>In the extended discussion that followed the following points were made, among others.</p> <p>Some times CLL staff could help identify potential candidates for Community Councils.</p> <p>It was important that all Community Councillors felt they were part of the team and involved in the work of the Community Council.</p> <p>It was felt that the most productive way was by personal invitation, but that it must be an attractive proposition and there must be opportunities to be involved. All members were encouraged to consider someone they might invite to the next meeting.</p> <p>KR offered to monitor planning applications and bring to the meeting any that might need further consideration.</p> <p>ASK would find the link to the RAMPS package that enabled</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>KR ASK</p>
8	<p>Reports from meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board (AW)</i> The Annual Report for 2019 has been published. It is now on the DDCC website. The webpage about aircraft is now the second most referred to page on the site. The August meeting of EANAB had been a rather fraught affair with the bulk of the time spent discussing the review that was 	

	<p>being embarked upon. There was considerable unease as to what the purpose of the review was and how it was being undertaken. (It was also noted that the Review Group is made up of four men and the secretary is a woman!)</p> <p>It was pointed out that there was only reference to DDCC and not the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils in the report. AW said he had already pointed that out to the relevant person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Midlothian Federation of Community Councils (ASK)</i> At the last meeting, concern had again been raised over the future of the recycling centre in Penicuik, which had still not yet re-opened. Gorebridge Community Council were looking into how the Developer Contributions were being used. There were shortly to be two Zoom meetings. The first was a workshop on setting up resilience groups. Members were encouraged to sign up for this. Rosewell have already formed their resilience group. Midlothian Council had purchased some winter weather equipment, e.g. snow shovels, blankets, grit etc and had stored these somewhere in the county. The second meeting is the Midlothian Traffic Roads and Pathways (MTRAP), a sub-group of MFCC. It will be considering the Spaces for People application that Midlothian Council had submitted. • <i>One Dalkeith (ASK)</i> Cemetery Shelter. One Dalkeith have placed a bike by the shelter in the Cemetery. This had caused some negative comment. Other bikes were beginning to appear around the town and it was felt that encouragement should be given to spread them more widely around the town. 	
9	<p>Making responses on behalf of the Community Council (AW) Following discussion, it was agreed that any response should only be made once an issue had been discussed by the Community Council. Once a matter had been discussed and then taken on by a particular Councillor they wouldn't necessarily need to bring everything back to a full meeting. It was agreed that email could be used for a quick check between meetings if that was felt to be necessary. Community Councillors agreed to use individual email accounts for such check ups. AW agreed to look into the archiving of DDCC emails.</p>	AW
10	<p>Consultations</p> <p>a) <i>Housing policy for next four years.</i> This important consultation was being supported by 4 online pre-sessions to provide respondents some assistance in answering it. All Community Councillors were encouraged to sign up to one of</p>	

	<p>the sessions with a view to discussing a DDCC response later.</p> <p>b) <i>How did Covid-19 affect you?</i> This was aimed at younger people in the 11 – 24 age bracket. The aim of this survey was to see what support might be required after lockdown.</p>	
11	<p>Correspondence (e.g. planning applications, traffic orders and licences)</p> <p>a) <i>Planning.</i></p> <p>i) Pathway between 30 and 32 Elmfield Park. There had always been a pathway between these two houses from the old High School which saved people having to walk along the main road to get to the centre of the town. But it was now derelict land and one of the house owners wished to purchase it and turn it into garden. It was agreed that DDCC's preference was that it be reinstated as a footpath for the residents of the new development on the old High School site. If there were good reasons why that would not be possible then there was no objection to it being turned into garden.</p> <p>ii) Wester Cowden. This recent application had given the detailed plans for the 25 houses that had already been given outline planning permission in principle for this site. It was felt that this now was looking much better. The construction materials and design of the houses on the perimeter of the site, closest to existing houses, are very similar to those of the existing houses so that they match well. It was agreed to return to this at the next meeting once there had been time to gather the feelings of the residents in the neighbourhood.</p> <p>b) <i>TTRO.</i> This had already been covered under item 6b)</p> <p>c) <i>Licensing.</i> Nothing had been received.</p>	<p>KR</p> <p>KR</p>
12	<p>Any other competent business</p> <p>ASK is going to try and meet the relevant CCL staff</p>	ASK
13	Date of next meeting Sept 8th	