



## Dalkeith and District Community Council Note of Meeting, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 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 Team PC S Robertson, Community Policing Annette Lardeur – Principal Project Delivery Manager, Coal Authority.</p>	
2	<p><b>Outfall into the South Esk River from old mine workings.</b> Ms Lardeur started with some background information. The Coal Authority had been set up in 1994 to deal with the legacy of coal mining, with a view to protecting the public and preserving the environments. The Authority had developed an interactive map on their website to show the extent of their work. She said there were 75 mine water treatment schemes, many in South Scotland. While a mine was in use, ground water was regularly pumped out to keep the mine dry and this exposed the metals. When the mine was abandoned, the water slowly filled up the mine until it spilled out somewhere. The exposed metals dissolved into the water, often colouring it. In the case of Bilston Glen, the mine had been closed for over thirty years but it was only now that the water had started to come out in significant quantities. She went on to describe the two methods by which the contaminated water was treated. The Active treatment method involved the use of chemicals but was costly. The Passive method, the Coal Authority’s preferred method, used natural means such as lagoons and reed beds, but required an area of ground. All the Scottish schemes used Passive methods. She then turned to deal specifically with the outfall at Junkies Adit. The tunnel there had been built to carry the water away from Bilston Glen and originally gravity had been used to take the water from the workings into the tunnel. This was possible while the workings were still quite shallow but as the mine went deeper, the water had to be pumped up from the workings to be fed into the tunnel. Until recently, the flows from Bilston Glen had been fairly localised. The difficulty was knowing where the water would come out, when it would come out and in what volume. What chemicals were in the water were also an uncertainty. This made it hard to predict the correct interventions. The CA had been working with SEPA to find the</p>	

	<p>best long term solution for Junkies Adit. Because of all the unknowns, SEPA had agreed that in this case there could be some initial deterioration in the water quality while the best solution was being worked on. Trigger levels were in place, requiring immediate emergency intervention, to prevent serious pollution occurring. The flows and chemistry have been being monitored for several years. It had been hoped and expected that recovery would take place in 2021 but it has actually happened a little earlier than expected, coinciding with the driest April for many years, thus making the mine water much more obvious to observers.</p> <p>The flow had not yet stabilised so an Active treatment scheme was being looked at for the short term. Midlothian Council had been engaged at all stages. Some land had been purchased but all the usual planning processes had to be gone through. A contractor had been identified and the CA was aware of the nearby properties. Covid-19 had prevented the usual public consultations, but the hope was to hold these as the project developed. It had been hoped to have a temporary treatment in operation by Spring but this was now likely to slip a bit. During the winter the increased water flow in the river would dilute the effect.</p> <p>Sites for a permanent Passive treatment site were being sought but it had proved difficult to date.</p> <p>In response to questions, Ms Lardeur said the more important factor was the metals in the water rather than the volume, which was about 60/70litres per second. The two main metals were iron and manganese, the latter causing more problems as there were not so many established methods of treating this. She re-iterated that it was not possible for her to give a definite date for completion of this but she would update the Community Council on progress as the project developed. When asked about the requirements for a suitable site for a permanent Passive treatment facility, she said it was about 25 hectares but didn't necessarily have to be somewhere downstream of the adit as it was possible to pump the water elsewhere, but this of course increased costs and made the process more complex. The Chair thanked her for her contribution and expressed the hope that contact would be maintained over the coming months.</p>	
3	<p><b>Approval of Note of Meeting.</b>  These were agreed with one further change on p.4 to stop the paragraph after "up to £2K"</p>	
4	<p><b>Police Report</b>  PC Robertson began with the Midlothian figures comparing 2020 to the same time period in 2019.</p> <p>a) <i>Midlothian.</i>  Group 1 crimes (most serious): 28% reduction  Serous Assaults: 35.5% reduction (31 in 2019; 20 in 2020)  Common Assault: 13% reduction (60 fewer than 2019)  Rape: 13% reduction</p>	

Domestic Abuse: 5.2% reduction  
Hate Crime: 60% reduction  
Anti-Social Behaviour: 24.6% reduction  
Break-ins: 61% reduction  
Motor vehicle break-ins: 28% reduction  
Drugs: 58% increase perhaps because of better detecting and recording.

b) *Dalkeith figures for September.*

88 crimes of which 49 had been solved giving a 56% solvency rate which can change as some crimes are solved later on.  
The Police attended 337 times in response to calls.  
3 vehicles had been seized for having no insurance.  
In Boots, a known female had stolen £1000 worth of skin care goods.  
On Dalkeith School Campus a hand sanitizer had been set on fire.  
The Police had spoken to a "vigilante" who was trying to prevent Edinburgh Taxis picking up fares in Dalkeith.

c) *Covid-19 response.*

Because of increased Covid-19 related duties, police officers would not be attending some reported events. The Community officers are back on Covid response duties. One officer had tested positive for the virus.

KR reported she had attended the Pub Watch meeting. At it, 6 people had been banned. Only 1 pub in Dalkeith was not a member and Mayfield Labour Club had joined as well. The next meeting was scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> October although it was unlikely that this would go ahead given government restrictions.

d) *Primary Schools.*

A new parking arrangement was being trialled at St. David's PS. There were further problems with parents dropping children off at Woodburn PS.

e) *Incidents of note.*

At a house on Woodburn Drive, 4 males had forced entry and assaulted the occupant. Fortunately the victim's injuries were not too serious.

The anti-smacking law was due to come into force on 7 November.

PC Robertson concluded by saying that this was his last attendance at a DDCC meeting as he was moving to join the Resolution team at Bilston.

In response to a question he confirmed that there were both male and female cells at Dalkeith Police Station but they were currently closed because of the Covid outbreak.

	The Chair thanked PC Robertson for his report and also his valued contributions as community police officer over the years.	
5	<p><b>Matters arising, not on agenda elsewhere/action points from last meeting</b></p> <p>a) Link to RAMPS. (AS-K) This had been done.</p> <p>b) Pub Watch (KR) KR reported that she had been impressed by how it was run, and how firm they were in their decisions. Pub Watch had suggested that DDCC might wish to consult with them over any applications to the Licensing Board. It was agreed that this would be a good thing for DDCC to do, but not necessarily to be bound by the advice Pub Watch gave. KR was to contact the Pubwatch secretary to this effect.</p> <p>c) Defibrillators. BM had spoken to Rona Duncan regarding this. She had given the name of the council officer who had been dealing with this who had passed him on to E. Fleck who had passed him on to DDCC! He had managed to ascertain that there was one in Midlothian House and one in the Social Work building in St. Andrew's St. It was pointed out that a substantial amount from the Common Good Fund had been allocated for this project. BM was to continue to follow this up.</p> <p>d) Fire Service email. This would be considered at the next meeting. Contact person was Elliot Whitson.</p> <p>e) Cavaliere response. This had been submitted, but the Licensing Board had approved the application.</p>	<p>KR</p> <p>BM</p> <p>AW</p>
6	<p><b>Councillors' Reports</b></p> <p>Cllr. Russell reported the good news that Aldi had been successful in their application to build a store. This had been, rarely, agreed unanimously by the planning committee despite planning dept officers recommending refusal. There had been a huge public response to it, the overwhelming majority of which had been in favour.</p> <p>She said she was looking at ways to support emergency food access now that Food Fact Friends was discontinuing their Woodburn food bank. Vouchers were being considered as one way of meeting the need. A meeting was to be held on the coming Friday to discuss ways forward. One option might be a food co-operative. But suitable premises would need to be found. It was clarified that users of Storehouse, run by the Full Gospel church and supported by all the other churches, had been referred by Council workers. While those who had been using Food Facts Friends had been referred by the Citizens Advice Bureau and elected members.</p> <p>The revised street naming procedures had been approved but for the name for the new block in Buccleuch St. it wouldn't apply if the name</p>	

	<p>was for the building and not a street There was now a satellite group from Dalkeith Guerrilla Gardens doing work in Woodburn. Similar small groups had been doing similar work elsewhere.</p> <p>Easter Langside Access. The problems of crossing the entry road at Easter Langside had been raised. An engineer was to be sent to inspect the situation.</p>	
7	<p><b>Community Council Priorities for 2019/20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>Jarnac Court/Town Centre regeneration</i> – nothing to report.</li> <li>b) <i>Traffic management/parking</i> Irresponsible and illegal parking in the High St. continued to be a problem. Cars were also being parked at the top of North Wynd, frequently blocking the Bank of Scotland car park.</li> <li>c) <i>Engaging the community</i> – nothing to report.</li> <li>d) <i>Communications</i> – nothing to report.</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that priorities C and D were made more difficult by DDCC not having a digital presence.</p>	
8	<p><b>Reports from meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Summary report on Midlothian Council meeting. (AS-K) – Nothing further to add.</li> <li>b) Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board (AW) – AW reported that Simon Rhodes, the new Airspace manager, was back from furlough and he had met with him. It had been a good meeting and there had been an opportunity to present the suggestions to take planes further away from the heavily populated areas. However, nothing definite had been decided.</li> <li>c) Midlothian Federation of Community Councils (AS-K) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Developers Contributions were causing concern again and further details were being sought.</li> <li>ii. Recycling centre at Penicuik. This was still closed. Derek Oliver was being invited to the next meeting to update the MFCC.</li> <li>iii. Spaces for People. Information on how this is being implemented was still being sought.</li> <li>iv. A Zoom licence was to be purchased for all Midlothian Community Councils to use.</li> <li>v. Effective Democracy. There was concern that members of the public cannot easily access Council meetings and the webcast facility had been discontinued.</li> <li>vi. Resilience Groups. Work was going on to establish these in all areas.</li> <li>vii. Training Day. It was hoped this would proceed on-line, using pre-recorded videos as well as live discussions.</li> <li>viii. Schools return. It was agreed this had gone well.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>ix. Power faults. How could communities be better informed when these occurred.</p> <p>d) One Dalkeith (AS-K) The 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM had been held on-line. 26 people had attended and it had been well organised. Retiring Trustees had been thanked for their work and new ones had been co-opted. Development of the premises had been discussed. The panels about witches had been placed on the outside of the rotunda.</p>	
9	<p><b>Consultations</b>  <i>Scottish Government consultation on changes to pre-application requirements.</i> KR agreed to prepare a response from DDCC for Community Councillors to comment on.</p>	KR/ALL
10	<p><b>Correspondence</b> (e.g. planning applications, traffic orders and licences)</p> <p>a) <i>Planning applications</i></p> <p>I. <u>Buccleuch St.</u> New building will have two retail units on the ground floor. Access will be by the same road for Midlothian House. The building will be a “Passivhaus” design.</p> <p>II. <u>Wester Cowden.</u> There are signs of progress being made on this site. Specialist teams are coming in to demolish the farm buildings where there is possible asbestos. Access is via Easter Langside though an excavator had used Hawk Crescent. KR will check on where previous papers in connection with this development are now stored.</p> <p>b) <i>TTRO Disabled Parking Spaces.</i> The Community Council are being asked to alert the Council of any spaces for disabled parking that are no longer required, and equally residents who might be deserving of a disabled parking space.</p> <p>c) <i>Licences - nil</i></p>	KR  ALL
11	<p><b>Any other competent business</b></p> <p>a) <i>Christmas Lights.</i> Some lights are going to be put up, but there would not be any new ones this year. A tree would also be erected as usual.</p> <p>b) <i>Remembrance Sunday.</i> There would not be the usual parade this year. All residents were being encouraged to go to their front doors at 11.00am for 2 minutes silence.</p>	
12	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b>  The next meeting would be on-line on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.</p>	