



# Dalkeith and District Community Council Meeting, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2021,

## ACTION

### 1. Present and Apologies.

Community Councillors Ann Stewart-Kmicha (Chair), Andrew Watt, Shona Haggie, Cllr. Margot Russell, Cllr. Colin Cassidy  
Daniel Baigrie, CLL team.  
Duncan Bain, High Street Tweak project (for item 3)

### 2. Welcome and Introductions.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting..

### 3. High Street Tweak

The Chair introduced Duncan Bain, an architect who is working on a project called "Future of the High Street". This was seeking to make a High St. a more attractive place to visit. Dalkeith had been chosen as a pilot for the project along with Gorgie Dalry in Edinburgh. Duncan Bain said the project was looking at small tweaks which could be carried out and might have a beneficial effect making the town centre a better place to go to. There was a sum of £20,000 available to fund this. Covid-19 restrictions have forced a rethink on how the project will be carried through and the workshops that had been planned were now going to be online. Community Councillors were encouraged to sign up for the workshops. The project website was shown to the meeting.

In the discussion that followed the importance of building what had been done in a previous project over ten years ago was raised. The hope was expressed that the whole of the High St. from Eskbank Toll to the Palace gates would come into the scope of the project. It was suggested that the Dalkeith Festival might be an appropriate occasion officially to launch the outcome of the project but Cllr. Russell said that unfortunately in light of the uncertain Covid situation, it had been decided to cancel the full event this year, but there might be some smaller activities in Jarnac Court.

ALL

### 4. Approval of Note of last meeting

The note of the February meeting was approved with two small amendments.

### 5. Matters arising from previous minutes and not elsewhere on agenda.

- a) *Defibrillators*. This was finally underway.
- b) *Drain on Old Edinburgh Rd*. This was still blocked. ASK agreed to send the details to CC

ASK

### 6. Planning, TTRO

- a) *Lidl extension*. Lidl has plans to expand into the former Peacock store and have submitted an application. At the same time the Blacksmiths Forge has announced it is closing which has caused some annoyance within the community. The Lidl expansion works will include a return facility for bottles etc.
- b) *Access to development at Pheasant Rd*. It was noted that the junction with the A6106 was to be re-opened temporarily to allow construction access, which was what DDCC had suggested previously,.

- c) *1-3 Buccleuch St.* It was noted this is to now become a Chinese/Thai takeaway. A sign has already been erected but it might not have received planning permission.
- d) *Restoration of Ironmills Pavillion.* This is proceeding well.

## 7. Councillors Reports.

- a) Cllr Cassidy.
  - a. *Dalkeith Thistle* have received their funding from the Councillors Contributions which will ensure their survival beyond the current restrictions.
  - b. *Guerrilla Gardeners.* The work was continuing in Eskdail Court.
  - c. *R S McColl.* This store has been earmarked for closure.
- b) Cllr. Russell.
  - a. *Crossing outside Crystal Mount.* Work was being carried out. But it was not going to be a zebra crossing, just a widening of the road to allow a wider pedestrian island in the middle.
  - b. *Dalkeith Thistle* were planning to erect a new plaque at the pavilion commemorating Agnes Whitelaw who played for Scotlan; this was being resourced from Cllr. Russell's Environmental Fund and the club, along with the Council and the elected members, were to arrange a ceremony for the family to unveil it once restrictions are lifted.
  - c. *Musselburgh Rd.* Parking has been addressed, but the Country Park is shortly to introduce parking charges which might have knock on effects. Kings Gates were open again to give access to Dalkeith Country Park.

## 8. Police report

Report had been circulated. ASK said there had been a rise in unrest after the Channel 5 documentary on the Jodie Jones murder. It was not uncommon for this to happen at this time of the year. It was noted that a buzzard had been found dead in the Country Park.

## 9. Reports from meetings

- a) *MFCC.* A response had been received to say that the only person currently being allowed to "attend" the online Council meetings was the Local Democracy Reporter. It was not clear who this person was.
- b) *Town Centre Capital Fund Phase 2.* The work to be done had been decided by the three elected members with Derek Oliver and an individual resident who was known as a community activist. Concern was expressed that no-one from the Community Council had been involved. The wooden boarding at White Hart St./ Eskdail Court was to be replaced once it had been ascertained there were no pigeon chicks behind it. AW
- c) *Edinburgh Airport Noise Board.* Survey response. A draft of the DDCC response to the survey sent out by the Edinburgh Airport Noise Review Panel had been pre-circulated and the final version was agreed. These would be forwarded to the Review Panel. SH
- d) *ERIG. Sewer.* A pillar supporting the sewer on other side of the river from Junkies Adit was being repaired which was why there were temporary traffic lights. SH would attend the next meeting of ERIG. ASK
- e) *MTRAP.*
  - a. 30mph signs that can go onto wheely bins and lamp posts were available. This might be a possible measure in certain places in the town. ASK will order some.
  - b. Road repairs. A number of roads in Dalkeith are to be resurfaced, on two of them the pavements will be done by external contractors. ALL

## 10. Consultations

*Dalkeith Country Park Survey.* This survey was one that can be completed by individuals rather than by the full Community Council.

ALL

**11. Community Council Priorities for 2021/22.**

ASK raised some possibilities for priorities, but in view of the time it was decided to deal with this early on the April agenda. All were asked to give some thought to these before then.

**12. A.O.C.B.**

- a) MVA. MVA are holding their AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> March.
- b) Brown bin stickers. The new ones for 2021 were now being distributed.
- c) Food Vouchers. These have been halted for 4 weeks. Emergency arrangements were in place, including crisis food grants.
- d) There was a small amount of money left from the DDCC grant and all were encouraged to consider ways it might be spent.

ALL

**13. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 7.00pm on Zoom.