



Dalkeith and District Community Council Meeting, Tuesday 8th June, 2021,

ACTION

1. Present and Apologies.

Ann Stewart-Kmicha (Chair), Andrew Watt, Shona Haggie,
Cllr. Margot Russell, Cllr. Colin Cassidy, Cllr. Curran (for the first hour).
Catherine Duns, CLLE.

2. Welcome and Introductions.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said there were two additional items on the Agenda and had invited two outside speakers to update the meeting.

3. Update from Coal Authority.

John Batty from the Coal Authority reported on the progress of the work at Junkies Adit. He said the preliminary investigative phase was now completed and a feasible solution had been identified using a settlement tank. The cost was estimated to be nearly £30 million which meant that there were additional approval phases to be gone through before the go ahead could be given. After some further surveys, contractors would be appointed. The facility would be contained within a building. It was hoped that construction would begin towards the end of the year with a view to being operational sometime next year.

4. Update on High Street Tweak

Duncan Bain gave an update. He said things were progressing slightly slower than had been hoped, partly because two locations under two local Councils were involved. He said they hoped to have examples of the Tactical Urban Kit on display in Jarnac Court on June 19th to let the public see it and to gather opinions. Were that to proceed there would need to be an organisation willing to take on oversight of the kit. Liaison with Midlothian Council was on-going.

5. Various.

The Chair then introduced two further items so that Cllr. Curran could comment before he had to leave. The closure of the custody cells at Dalkeith Police Station had been unanimously opposed by the Police Board. The Sheriffhall Roundabout upgrade was to be subject to an enquiry as not all the objections raised had been able to be met. It was noted that the overwhelming number of objections had been received via the Green Party.

Cllr. Curran then left the meeting.

6. Approval of Note of last meeting

The draft Note of the Meeting had been pre-circulated and amendments made. It was noted that MTRaP had a small 'a'. Subject to a further minor grammatical correction the Note of the Meeting was approved.

7. Length of Meetings

It was agreed that as some recent meetings had gone on for nearly three hours there

ALL

should be a strict limit of two hours.

8. Community Council Priorities for 2021/22.

- a. Defibrillators have arrived and taken to Fushiebridge but the person who is going to install them has had to self isolate which will delay things a little further.
- b. The sample of leaflets from other CC's was limited. It was agreed to ask other CC's again for copies of anything they had used. It was noted that several smaller communities within the CC area already had active Facebook pages.
- c. The notice board at Cowden Park was now virtually un-openable because of the wood becoming swollen by damp.
- d. It was suggested that the grid that had been drawn up with the CC Priorities could become the "to do" list for DDCC. It was pointed out that as a very small CC it was not possible to do everything and therefore the CC should only be doing things that are on the list. It was agreed that this should enable a more focussed approach.
- e. There had been further representation from residents in Duchess Park and Easter Langside regarding the contract for the maintenance of landscaping in those estates. It was felt that what was being asked for was something that Midlothian Council would handle. Cllr. Cassidy said he had been dealing with this and Council Officers were looking into it. Cllr. Russell said it was more than just grass cutting and she had copied in Council Officers as well to try and find a solution.

AW

9. Use of Community Council email addresses.

The Chair said she had been receiving emails on the Community Council email addresses that were not really Community Council business. She said she felt the CC's email addresses were not being used correctly. The meeting was reminded of how the two addresses had been intended to be used. The 'info' box was the outward facing address for members of the public, businesses etc to use to make contact with the CC. The 'admin' one was to be used for Community Council business by Community Councillors e.g. when engaging with Midlothian Council Officers, Elected Representatives, Police etc. It was agreed to return to this at a future meeting. In the meantime, AW would liaise with SH with regard to enabling her to have access to the CC email addresses.

AW

10. Email from resident.

This request had resulted in nothing needing to be done.

11. Planning, TTRO

(Cllrs. Russell and Cassidy absented themselves for this item.)

SH had checked through the planning portal via RAMPS and displayed the print out.

She said there were a lot of applications for dormer windows. Others of note were -

- a. There was an application for a small cafe in the shop that had previously been the Polish Delicatessen.
- b. An application regarding a change to a property on Lugton Brae which had been refused had been appealed and was likely to go to the LRB.
- c. The change of use from office to fitness centre after a period of inactivity was now under way again.
- d. The timings of the development in Dalkeith Palace would depend on when the Planning Application was processed and granted.
- e. Sheriffhall South. Buccleuch had put in a Proposed Application Notification for development of land between Melville Road and the A7. There was an online

exhibition on 22nd June between 3pm and 7pm for all members of the public.

TTRO's

There had been a significant number recently and there were going to be even more in the near future in connection with resurfacing works. The prize at the end would be good roads! It was noted that the use of the lay-by beside the Continental Cafe had spilled out into the inside lane of the roadway.

12. Councillors Reports.

a) Cllr. Russell.

- a. *Resurfacing.* Resurfacing work on both roads and pavements is continuing but has caused a few problems, fortunately only temporary.
- b. *House building.* The work on the old High School site had been causing some issues for residents in Elmfield Park. It was hoped to appoint a Council Officer to act as a liaison between the Council and the residents.
- c. *Jarnac Court.* The work just commenced was going to be on both the interior and exterior of the building which is why it was anticipated it would take 38 weeks. It was felt that, as with all Council projects, good communications with the public was essential.
- d. *Cameras.* In response to a question, Cllr. Russell said she had been assured the cameras were working but data protection issues were affecting who was able to access the footage.

b) Cllr. Cassidy.

- a. *Communications.* He had met with the Chief Executive of Midlothian Council to express his concern at the poor communications that had recently been evident.
- b. *Cameras.* He was pressing to make these more effective.
- c. *Car parking.* Cllr Cassidy said he had been monitoring the available spaces in the North Wynd Car Park and said he had never found it completely full.

c) Further items.

- a. *Bins on the High St.* Cllr. Russell said that moving the bins from the pavement near the Cavaliere to one of the parking bays outside Simply Fix It was being considered. She commented on the flower baskets that had been placed along the railing and the significant positive impact they have had.
- b. *Car Parking.* The question of the impact of removing car parking charges in the town was raised again. It was felt that a lot of vehicles were parking there all day thus making it harder for visitors to the town centre to find a space to park. AW said he walked through the North Wynd Car Park every day and frequently there were no spaces except in the lowest tier. It was also noticeable that the same cars were there in the upper spaces each day. There had also been three occasions when the St. Andrew's St. car park had been completely full. It was agreed to let the trial period run for a bit longer until all the road resurfacing and Jarnac Court works had been completed, as this might have been a contributory factor, and see how things settle down.

13. Police report

No report had been submitted.

In view of the time the Chair quickly spoke about a number of items.

She made reference to the current survey regarding small grants, and also one asking

in what other ways CLL could contribute in the future. She went on to talk about some of the Matters Arising from the previous meeting that had not already been covered. She reported that Dalkeith Guerrilla Gardeners, the DDCC nomination, had not been successful in obtaining an MVA award. A licensing application from Lidl had been sent in. It was agreed to pay annual subscriptions to Esk Valley Trust and our MVA membership fee.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday July 13th, 2021, at 7.00pm on Zoom.