



Dalkeith and District Community Council Note of Meeting, Tuesday 10th August, 2021,

1. Present and Apologies.

Ann Stewart-Kmicha (Chair), Andrew Watt, Shona Haggie,
Cllr. Margot Russell
Daniel Baigrie, CLLE.

2. Welcome and Introductions.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Approval of note of last meeting.

The draft Note of the Meeting had been pre-circulated. Some minor typing errors had been identified but there were no further amendments and the Note of the Meeting was approved.

4. Road safety and safe routes to school

Representations had been received from some residents raising concerns about dangers arising from traffic on the A6106 main road south into Dalkeith. In particular, was this safe for children walking to school. There had also been incidents of bad driving where two vehicles would try and race each other, one going on the main road and one nipping through Lugton. It was agreed that a survey questionnaire should be drawn up to assess how great a cause of concern this was. It would be considered at the next meeting with a view to using it perhaps more widely throughout the town. It was suggested that temporary 20mph signs might be possible, but those were usually only enforced in the proximity of a school. A "cut out police officer" might also be something to consider. The Council Officer who looks after 'Safe Routes to Schools' might also be a useful contact.

AW

5. Police report

- a) *Body Cameras.* Views were being sought as to whether Police Officers should wear body cameras. It was felt this was a very worthwhile development and could only add to the protection of Officers and the public. Community Councillors were encouraged to respond to the survey.
- b) *Report.* The Police Report had been circulated previously. A concern was raised that, while the number of missing persons was given, no mention was made of how many of them had subsequently been found. It was agreed to ask for this information. The new format of the report was welcomed.
- c) *30mph signs.* PC McShane had indicated she had a supply of 30mph signs that could be put on wheely bins or lamp posts. There was discussion as to where these might be effectively deployed.

ALL

AW

6. Correspondence received.

- a) *Use of Noticeboard.* A request had been received from one of the churches in the

town to put up a notice advertising a course they planned to run for anyone to attend. Aware that community councils should not promote party political or exclusive religious events, the Chair said that she had not felt happy about displaying this and had sought advice from members of the Communities and Lifelong Learning Team. The advice had been that a notice for a one-off event like a coffee morning or a talk rather than a course was acceptable and therefore to hold back from displaying it. The chair added that Alpha was an evangelistic course. It was pointed out that this poster would have complied with the original criteria for placing community notices on DDCC notice boards and that it was not intended just for adherents of the Christian faith but was open to anyone in the community to attend and put a contrary point of view should they so wish. Although there was a majority in favour of allowing the notice to go up, the Chair said one Community Councillor was disqualified because of her link with the church in question. It was agreed there was no agreement on this and that 'Use of Noticeboards' should go on the next meeting's agenda.

- b) *Seagull nuisance in Dalkeith.* An email had been received regarding the nuisance from seagulls. The Chair said there are measures that can be taken. It was agreed to write to Derek Oliver to get an update on the latest developments. AW
- c) *First Aid for Community Events.* The existence of this new organisation was noted.
- d) *Use of Kings Park.* An email had been received raising concerns that the amount of play equipment in Kings Park was insufficient for the numbers now using it. The Chair pointed out there were play areas in other parts of the town and wondered if it was simply because currently more people were coming down into the town. The reported reaction from a Council Officer was found to be very disappointing. It was agreed to put this on the agenda at the September meeting. In the meantime conducting another survey might be possible. This had also been raised by Eskbank and Newbattle Community Council. It was agreed that the issue should be raised with ENCC and the PTA. It was suggested that One Dalkeith might be interested in being involved, perhaps in conducting the survey. It was also suggested that the same firm that did Yellowcraigs playground could be invited to do Kings Park. ASK
- e) *Surf Awards.* Suggestions for nominations were being asked for and the closing date was Sept 6th. The Chair asked that any nominations should be sent to her by 27th August. Someone from SURF was going to be speaking at the MVA workshop on "20 minute neighbourhoods". ALL

7. Updates on current Community Council actions.

- a) *Defibrillators.* The cabinets have been put up and the defibrillators put in them. However, although the Kings Park Pavilion one and the Dalkeith Library one have been connected to internal power sources, the one in Pettigrews Close is still without power and the one on the MARC building has still to be changed to an internal connection. It is hoped that the out of date pads that have been inherited from Midlothian Council will be replaced by them, but it was agreed that, if they were not, to go ahead and buy new ones so that all the defibrillators were working properly. Training courses in CPR and the use of defibrillators would be arranged. Consideration now needs to be given to holding a formal inauguration event of some sort. It was queried what provision there was at the School Campus. There are two on the campus but their accessibility is not known. This was not an area that the DDCC scheme could cover as it is outwith the "Central Dalkeith" location to which the Common Good Fund can be applied.
- b) *Parking.* Concern was raised again at parking in central Dalkeith. The blocked off lanes on South St. during the building works had resulted in some inappropriate parking. The situation on Old Edinburgh Rd. was also mentioned. It was agreed that the new Council Parking Officer, D. Millar, should be invited to do a walk round with DDCC to ASK

show him the various issues.

8. New Community Council actions to be undertaken

- a) *Bus shelters.* New bus shelters had been put up but the road markings, especially a disabled bay, had yet to be altered to fit with the shelters and bus stops. Cllr. Russell had also raised this issue. Progress on this will continue to be monitored.

9. Planning matters.

- a) *Old DHS site.* As the work on this site progressed, regular meetings were being held with Cllr. Russell and residents in Elmfield Park and Newmills Road to address issues that had occurred during the construction period. Dalkeith Arts had also been approached with regard to some art installation along James Stagg Way. It was hoped that the gates from the site would be able to be somehow utilized. (Cllr. Russell then absented herself from the meeting for the rest of this item.) An application had been received for five townhouses on the site of the old Unicorn.
- b) *Salters Park.* The second consultation was to be held in two days time. The experience from the previous session of online consultation had not been good. Concerns had been raised about the number of vehicles to be parked at the site and the impact that number would have on the roads around and through Dalkeith. It was agreed that a strong case would be made that a condition of granting planning permission should be to rehouse the occupant of the cottages on Salters Rd. beside the A68 bypass. It was agreed that DDCC's dissatisfaction with the online consultation process should be raised.
- c) *Others.* There were ongoing applications for a summerhouse in David Musher Gardens, an extension at Woodburn Bank and a 'change of use' from shop to cafe at 114 High St.

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10. Licensing

- a) *Supermarkets.* There were applications from Aldi and Sainsburys to allow live music. There were no objections raised.
- b) *118 High St.* An application for an off-licence at 118 High St. had been received in respect of grocery shop that had just moved two doors along. This is an area which is already very well supplied with outlets for alcoholic beverages. But it was felt that as this was effectively a renewal of a licence that had been granted for the previous premises and that no problems had arisen from that, there should be no objections.

11. Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Russell gave her report.

- a) *Dalkeith Toilets.* Visitors to Dalkeith Town Centre will be greatly relieved to hear that the toilets are to re-open the following day.
- b) *Dalkeith Miners Memorial.* This had been put on hold during the pandemic but was now being taken forward again. The location was likely to be at the entrance to Kings Park, not far from the war memorial.
- c) *National Care Service.* A weighty document had been issued for discussion which would have a big impact on how social care is delivered in the future. It looked as if all the care services that local authorities currently deliver were to be centralised, with potentially huge implications. COSLA were discussing this
- d) *Jarnac Court building.* Work on this is progressing according to plan. It is hoped the scaffolding will be removed in time to facilitate the erection of the new Christmas lights.

12. Questions arising from Reports from Meetings (pre-circulated) Reports.

None

13. Consultations

Community Planning Day. All were encouraged to give some thought to what should be included and answer the survey about the format for the Community Planning day

ALL

14. Matters arising from previous minutes not already covered.

None

15. A.O.C.B.

- a) *Deaths.* The death of George Crolla, a prominent member of the Dalkeith business community, during the summer was acknowledged. He had played a significant part in the town, not least the Cavaliere restaurant. One of the chefs at the Kebab Mahal, Aman Sharma, had died in a drowning accident while on holiday.
- b) *Communications.* It was disappointing that the re-commencement of charges at leisure centre facilities had not been more widely advertised.
- c) *Flyer.* A flyer from Loanhead was considered to provide a basis for something for DDCC to use. It was also reported that the community coffee morning held at St. John's might be a good place to advertise the work of the Community Council. It was agreed to proceed with an attempt at editing the Loanhead flyer. This would be returned to at the September meeting.

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16. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday September 14th, 2021. It was agreed to try and hold the meeting in person again and the Chair would seek an appropriate venue. The possibility of holding it at 5.00pm had been considered but the Chair said that that was no longer an issue.

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