



Dalkeith and District Community Council Note of Meeting, Tuesday 14th September, 2021,

1. Present and Apologies.

Present Ann Stewart-Kmicha (Chair), Andrew Watt, Shona Haggie,
Cllr. Margot Russell, Cllr. Colin Cassidy

PC Tracy McShane

Apologies: Daniel Baigrie, Catherine Duns, CLLE.

2. Welcome and Introductions.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first face to face meeting for 18 months. She advised the meeting of the Covid-related restrictions under which the meeting was taking place to ensure the safety of all.

3. Singer in Kings Park.

The Chair introduced Catherine Duguid who along with two others had been providing coffee and cake and an opportunity to enjoy live singing in Kings Park on Tuesday evenings during the summer. This had been well received by many and attended by people of all ages. Since the weather was now less clement, the Chair was suggesting that DDCC support their move to an indoor venue. She was suggesting that the Arts centre be booked for this by the Community Council as then there would be no rental charges to pay. No objections were voiced to this proposal, and it was agreed to start on Oct 5th and Oct 19th. Other dates would be decided outwith the meeting.

ASK

4. Approval of note of last meeting.

The draft Note of the Meeting had been pre-circulated and modified in the light of comments received. The Chair queried one point and the Acting Secretary assured her the minute accurately reflected what had taken place. It was agreed to delay posting the minute on the website for three days to allow time for further scrutiny, but if no further comments were received it would then be taken as approved and posted on the site.

AW

5. Police report.

The Chair welcomed PC McShane to the meeting. She said it was good at last to be able to meet face to face. PC McShane's report had been circulated and one or two issues arising from it were discussed..

- a) *Off road bikes*. This continued to be a problem and the difficulty was obtaining evidence that could be used to prosecute. The Police really need help from the public with this issue and social media was increasingly being used to seek information. It was suggested that the problem might be eased if there was a place where such bikes could be ridden legally.
- b) *Anti-social behaviour*. This also is an ongoing problem. One incident that had stood out was the use of a rolling pin as an offensive weapon. Sadly the flower baskets at the Cavaliere had been attacked the previous weekend. It was reported

that Waterfall Park had now become a no-go area for some residents as they were afraid of what they might encounter there.

- c) *Woodburn Problem Solving Partnership* It had been rumoured that this was hopefully being restarted.
- d) *COP26*. Many officers are to be deployed to special duties in relation to this conference. However, local cover will be provided but those involved in this will very likely not have local knowledge.

6. Evaluation of “Let’s Rock Scotland” and “Tour of Britain” Events.

a) *Lets Rock Scotland*.

The Vice Chair had observed the arrival and departure of fans attending the recent Lets Rock Scotland concert held in Dalkeith Country Park. One or two issues had presented themselves which need to be addressed for next year’s event.

- i. *TTROs* Before the event TTRO’s had been issued. It was felt these had been rather late in appearing (DDCC received their copies after an email requesting them had been sent.) and incomplete as they did not indicate access would be maintained for residents on those streets which were to be closed for some of the time.
 - ii. *Lack of rubbish bins*. The coaches bringing concert goers to Dalkeith had dropped them off on Lugton Brae from where they had to walk to the gate at the end of the High St. Many had very commendably taken their rubbish off the coach with them but in the absence of anything else had used a resident’s wheely bin to dispose of it. It was agreed that the organisers should be asked to ensure there was a rubbish bin there. In addition, a resident had asked if there could be a rubbish bin at the foot of Lugton Brae, perhaps move the one that had been placed higher up at the time there had been a temporary bus stop there.
 - iii. *Parking for residents*. The Vice Chair had noticed that many cars parked on the south side of the High St. adjacent to the Bombay Lounge had been issued with parking tickets that morning. He felt it was very unfair on those residents when a commercial organisation was going to make a large amount of money at the expense of Dalkeith residents who had the misfortune to live on the route to be taken by concert goers. He felt that the organisers should be asked to reimburse the residents, or that these particular tickets should be overlooked on this occasion. He also felt the road there was wide enough to allow one row of parked cars and still leave ample space for taxis to pick up passengers.
 - iv. *Bus engines*. After the concert, attendees had to walk back to the main road out of Dalkeith to Edinburgh, the A6106 which had been closed for the occasion. There a fleet of shuttle buses would take concert goers back to Edinburgh. They were parked in line starting where the top end of Lugton Brae meets the main road. However, they all had their engines running and when asked if they could be switched off until it was time for them to depart the response was that if they were switched off they might not be able to be restarted. It was unanimously agreed that this was totally unacceptable and that steps be taken to ensure it didn’t happen again. It was suggested that it be made a condition within the contract with a severe financial penalty if it was not observed.
- b) *Tour of Britain*. The Tour of Britain had passed through Dalkeith causing some roads to be closed for a short period of time. It was felt that insufficient advance

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notice of these closures had been given. The Chair said she had also observed some impatience displayed by drivers who were held up for a few minutes.

AW

7. Criteria for the Use of Noticeboards.

In view of the time, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

ASK

8. Production and use of Flyer

Shona asked for a copy of the master for the Loanhead flyer which she would attempt to modify for use by DDCC.

She had spoken to the organisers of the community cafe at ST. John's and it might be possible to find a way to use them there. It was felt the Library would also be a good place to have them available.

9. Defibrillators.

4 were now up and functioning but some tweaking to the installations was required and was being attended to. Now that they are operational there is a requirement to carry out maintenance and a volunteer has been found to do this. It was agreed to hold a launch event to generate awareness of the defibrillators and their potential to save lives. Evelyn Fleck should be involved in the event as the project was very much her brainchild.

ASK

One training course had already been completed and others can be arranged.

ASK

10. Town Centre Development.

There seemed to be a lack of information about this. This was also true for elected representatives.

11. Parking

It had proved very difficult to get any response to requests made for a meeting.

12. Bus shelters One bus shelter had been removed and the stop returned to its previous location. This was because residents in the house at the new location had complained about the intrusion. New road markings had still to be put down.

13. Updates on Current Building Projects.

- a) *Jarnac Court former office block.* This was progressing on schedule and it was hoped the scaffolding would be removed around the end of October, certainly in time to enable the Christmas lights to be put up. It was agreed that good communication to let Dalkeith residents know what was intended was important.
- b) *Old DHS site.* This was also progressing well. Cllr Russell continued to meet regularly with neighbouring residents. The site was now protected by a hoarding and it was suggested that it could be decorated by the Youth Arts Club.
- c) *Upgrade to Jarnac Court.* This work had now commenced and the new lamp posts installed.
- d) *Passive Housing.* Work on the "Passivhaus" building in Buccleuch St. would be starting shortly.

14. Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Cassidy gave his report.

- a) *Red Box in Job Centre Car Park.* He was pleased to report that this had now been

removed. The old rusty poles are also being cut down.

- b) *Repainting* . As part of the continuing tidy up of the town centre, repainting had been carried out around the toilets, with great positive effect. He said that further painting was scheduled to be done using a paint that appeared grey on application and then turned to green as it dried.

Cllr. Russell gave her report.

- a) *CCTV cameras*. Costings for replacing these and linking them to the Police control room at Bilston were being sought. It was suggested that volunteers might be sought to monitor the cameras but Cllr. Russell said she thought such a proposal would be highly unlikely to get approval.
- b) *Walkway*. Cllr. Russell confirmed the new walkway through the old DHS site from Lauder Road to Musselburgh Road would be called “James Stag Way” An interpretation board will be put up to explain why the various names for streets in the development had been chosen.

A question was raised regarding the provision Midlothian was making for Afghan refugees.

Cllr. Cassidy said he was endeavouring to increase the number coming here. SH said she would keep in touch with CC over this.

15. Planning.

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

- a) *Mast at Cowden Park*. An application to erect a mobile phone mast had been submitted. It was questioned whether such a mast might have any health issues.
- b) *Glebe St*. An application to change a window to a doorway had attracted the attention of the Architectural Heritage Association who had objected on the grounds of inappropriate change of size in a Listed Building.

16. Licensing

- a) *Mayson’s Arms*. An application had been made for extensions to hours and to add off-sales to the licence; some extras were also included. The outside area at the rear was to be a smoking area but this had always been the case. Although DDCC was concerned about the over-provision for alcoholic sales in the town centre, especially in the late evening, it was not decided to object to this application.

(Post meeting addendum for clarification. *The “extras” that were referred to in the meeting under this item were Seasonal Variations, Recorded Music, Bar Meals, Receptions, Live Performances, Gaming and Indoor/Outdoor Sports as Activities.*)

17. Consultations

Three consultations are currently active. *Autism Strategic Plan 2022-2025, Learning Disability Strategic Plan 2022-25 and Community Justice 2021.*

At this point the meeting was ended as the organisers of the meeting following entered the room to start setting things up for their event as the time was now 7.00pm.