



## **Dalkeith and District Community Council Note of Meeting, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, held online via Zoom.**

### **1. Present and Apologies.**

Present Ann Stewart-Kmicha (Chair), Andrew Watt, Shona Haggie,  
Cllr. Margot Russell, Cllr. Colin Cassidy  
Apologies: PC Tracy McShane.

### **2. Welcome and Introductions.**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **3. Approval of note of last meeting.**

The draft Note of the November Meeting had been pre-circulated. There were no amendments and consequently the draft Note of the Meeting was approved.

### **4. Updates on Current Actions.**

#### **a) Action 21/1 – Defibrillators**

The Chair reported that there had been some problems at the MARC building with the electrical supply which had lead to condensation, but this was being rectified. Further enquiries regarding the report about Pettigrew's Close had uncovered that the report had not been completed and circulated. However, the problem at Pettigrew's Close had improved as the drain had now dried up. LED strips had now been installed in the cabinets. It had been stated that the remaining money in the Common Good Fund was earmarked for further defibrillators.

#### **b) Action 21/5 – Kings Park Play Area.**

There is a delay to the extension to Kings Park Primary School so it is not yet clear what improvements in the play area in Kings Park might be possible. However, it appeared that money had been identified for play equipment in both Waterfall park and Kings Park. It was agreed to await further developments.

#### **c) Action 21/6 – Speeding and traffic safety**

The survey had been amended as discussed at the previous meeting. It was suggested that the CLLE team might have access to a Survey Monkey licence that might offer more than the free version.

#### **d) Action 21/7 – Parking Issues**

Charges are to be re-introduced into the town centre car parks. This would happen at the end of the year when the agreed trial period ended.

#### **e) Action 21/8 – Publicity leaflet**

A draft of a possible poster was shown and it was agreed that a poster was probably better than trying a leaflet drop. Various possible places for posters were discussed, and using Social Media should be explored.

#### **f) Action 21/10 – Notice boards.**

The other two were nearly ready and it was hoped they might be put up at the end of the month. There was some discussion about the possibility of re-siting the one at Cowden Park.

#### **g) Action 21/12 Use of the Arts Centre.**

Money had been found through the Health and Social Care Partnership to pay for Health and Well-being sessions.

h) **Action 21/14 Town Centre re-development.**

This had been on the Agenda of the Midlothian Council held earlier in the day. No information had been forthcoming in response to requests but a formal complaint at this time was not felt useful. It was suggested that a “walk round” for members of DDCC and EANCC similar to one that had taken place for the elected representatives. It was suggested that other community organisations should be involved as well. CC said he and MR would ensure that community organisations were kept informed as things progressed.

CC/MR

**5. Councillors Reports.**

Cllr. Russell gave the first report.

a) **CCTV** It had been agreed by Midlothian Council to renew the CCTV system and review the area covered. It was also hoped that places where fly-tipping was occurring would be covered as well in the hope of catching the miscreants.

b) **Large Grants.** Disappointingly, some of the Dalkeith bids had not been successful. There was a possibility that some of the unsuccessful groups could apply for a “Small Grant”. In the case of MVA, although they sat on the panel that decided on the bids but hadn’t taken part in the discussion on their own bid, it was suggested that for them a Service Level Agreement with the Council might provide a better way forward as they do represent the third sector. It was also felt that it was important that there was good feedback to the unsuccessful groups.

c) **Change Works Project.** MR said she hadn’t heard anything further on this project which is to look at the use of energy in the home.

d) **Meetings with Elmfield Park residents.** These had continued to be a useful channel between residents, councillors and contractors

Cllr. Cassidy gave his report.

e) **Christmas Lights.** CC congratulated MR on the new Christmas lights and the switch on ceremony. It was unanimously agreed they were a huge improvement on the previous lights – and had even made TV!

**6. Police Report.**

There was no report this month.

**7. Planning**

There were no significant new applications. Lots of trees were being pruned! The Chair said that the Head of Planning, Peter Arnsdorf, was attending the meeting of the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils the following day. It was hoped that he would be able to shed some light on the new National Planning Framework 4.

**8. Licensing.**

There had been no new applications.

**9. TTRO.**

There had been some new disabled spaces proposed.

**10. A.O.C.B**

a) **EANAB** The final report from the Review Panel was still awaited. The regular monthly report was included among the papers for the meeting.

b) **Sewage pipe on N. Esk.** The scaffolding erected to give access to the sewage pipe was still in place. Scottish Water were proposing raising the height of two of the chambers and would then monitor the situation to see if it addressed the

problem.

- c) **Junkies Adit Outflow.** The work on this was on hold until the New Year.
- d) **Grit bin.** ASK was asking for a grit bin to be re-placed at the junction of North Wynd and Old Edinburgh Rd. and had been for some time. CC said she should email him and it would be done that week. ASK said she had taken out a formal complaint about it which had now reached Stage 2.
- e) **Dalkeith Guerrilla Gardeners.** They are holding a Santa's grotto to which all were invited, and DDCC were being asked to contribute to the supply of boxes of chocolates. (The Acting Secretary, a renowned chocoholic, asked if there was an upper age limit to be considered a "child"!) It was agreed to donate £30.
- f) **Pantry.** This had been trialled in Mayfield and the intention was to roll it out in other communities. It was suggested that the Dalkeith Storehouse should be contacted in the first place, and it was agreed this could be a good first move, though the Storehouse might not wish to take on a "Pantry".
- g) **High St. Tweak.** The original contact, Duncan Bain, was now in London. No further information had been elicited.
- h) **Development of former Cross Keys hotel.** It was said that Dalkeith Business Renewal had provided a substantial loan for this development and had agreed to an extension to the pay-back date. But as DBR was no longer in existence it was queried as to where the money from this loan would be repaid. MR said she thought it would be added to the Town Centre Renewal funding.
- i) **Dalkeith Festival Committee.** MR wished to express the gratitude of the DFC for the financial support from DDCC.
- j) **First Aid.** There was a new company providing First Aid coverage for events.

#### **11. Date Of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm on Zoom, in light of the current omicron situation.