



Dalkeith and District Community Council Note of Meeting, Tuesday 9th November, 2021, Dalkeith Library.

1. Present and Apologies.

Present Ann Stewart-Kmicha (Chair), Andrew Watt, Shona Haggie, Cllr. Margot Russell (via Zoom), Cllr. Colin Cassidy
Apologies: PC Tracy McShane (COP26)

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. There were two corrections. Item 12(e) was modified to make it clear it was just the Christmas term dates that had been raised. Item 15 was amended to clarify that it was the custody unit at Dalkeith Police Station that could now be used a location for a live video link to a court. Subject to these amendments the Note of the Meeting was approved.

4. Updates on Current Actions.

a) Action 21/1 – Defibrillators

The Chair reported that there had been a mention in the Advertiser following the launch photograph. She said she was trying to locate the report that had been done at the start of the project on the suitability of the various locations that had been under consideration, but it was proving elusive. She said she still wished the one in Pettigrew's Close to be moved to the other side to avoid users potentially having to stand in a puddle. It was agreed to press ahead with the move. It was gratifying to see that already two of the four defibrillators had been used. She had contacted the banks to see if they would consider moving their defibrillators to an outside location where it could be available 24/7, but they had not been keen to do this. She would contact Cllr. Curran with a view to putting one on the outside of the building in Jarnac Court currently being renovated. The Market Cross vets practice was going to move theirs outside. And it was suggested the Rotary Club be approached with a view to putting one on the High St. by St. Nicholas Buccleuch. It was also suggested that one be put on the outside of the Ironmills Park pavilion. It was noted that all Common Good Assets were to be discussed at the next Midlothian Council meeting.

ASK

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

It was agreed that the resident who had raised this issue be invited to the December meeting. It was thought that some work was already being initiated and Cllr. Cassidy agreed to investigate and get further details.

AW

c) Action 21/6 – Speeding and traffic safety

A revised draft of the survey had been produced, with a version now both on paper and online. Suggestions for amendments in q's 6, 9, 10, and 11 were made. It was also suggested that specific mention of the Zebra crossing on the High St. be included.

AW

d) Action 21/7 – Parking Issues

The new council officer with responsibility for parking had done a walk round, but not with anyone from the Community Council. He had indicated he was

willing to meet with DDCC but not at present.

e) Action 21/8 – Publicity leaflet

The Rotary Club had been asked about the effectiveness of their leaflet drop but the actual response was still unknown. The Loanhead CC poster had drawn 2 responses. It was agreed that the focus of the leaflet would be to bring residents to the February meeting, the AGM. One possible target might be the St. John's Community Cafe on the second Monday in January. Topics to be included on the leaflet might be Climate Change, Sewage, Afghan refugees. Posters could be displayed in shops, schools and PTAs contacted as well.

SH

f) Action 21/10 – Notice board repairs and how they are used.

It had been intended to erect the one in Eskdail Court on Sun 14th, but as that was Remembrance Sunday it was agreed to postpone it to later date. For the other two suggestions were sought for potential decorations on them. It was felt the Cowden Park one might have a sports theme and the Easter Langside Residents could be invited to suggest a suitable picture. It was noted that the holes for the new boards needed to be deeper.

g) Action 21/11 – Using Social Media

There was still no response from DHS. It was agreed that a presence on Social Media was highly desirable, but once a person had been identified who was willing to undertake this task, it would be necessary to draw up guidelines as to what was put on public view.

h) Action 21/12 – Use of the Arts Centre.

The second planned session had had gone well with over 20 people attending and 4 musicians performing. It was not a continuous performance and coffee and cake was available at no charge, though this may not continue. CLLE had sent an email expressing concern that this was an inappropriate definition of a Community Council meeting for which there is no charge for the use of the building. However, the Chair said she had spoken on the phone to the CLLE officer concerned to explain the situation.

i) Action 21/14 Town Centre re-development.

There had been no response to the request for further information. It was suggested that it might be time to submit a complaint.

5. Councillors Reports.

Cllr. Russell gave the first report.

a) Jarnac Court. She had requested a progress report on the work being undertaken.

b) Miners' memorial. This project was moving on well. Discussions were ongoing with James Kinch to find the best location and the Dalkeith Miners Club was assisting by allowing their bank account to be used for gathering donations, through Crowd Funding. As Cowden Foot Mine was where Woodburn Primary School now is, it was hoped to involve the children there in the project.

ASK

c) David Smith House. Work on this has now begun. Dalkeith Arts has been gathering information to assist in designing the plaque that will go on the building.

d) Portrait. Dalkeith Arts have very kindly presented Cllr. Russell with a magnificent portrait of herself which is currently gracing her office. She said she felt very touched to be recognised in this way.

Cllr. Cassidy gave his report.

e) Recruitment issues. Midlothian Council was facing recruitment issues as many staff had recently retired or moved to other jobs. This was leading to difficulties in several areas including communications, both with the council and within the council. Democratic Services had new staff still finding their feet in their new jobs and some papers for meetings were not being issued until the day before.

6. Police Report.

The written report had been previously circulated. It was noted that youngsters on bikes were now causing problems in the town centre.

7. Planning

It was noted that trees in Ironmills Rd. were to be lopped in the near future, and that the Veterinary Practice on Edinburgh Rd. was seeking to build an extension. Notifications had also been received from East Lothian Council in connection with the new Primary School at Whitecraig.

8. Licensing.

There had been no new applications.

9. TTRO - Remembrance Sunday.

It was noted that the road closures for the Remembrance Sunday parade were slightly more extensive than previous years.

10. Consultation.

- a) *Educational Reform.* The attention of members was drawn to a consultation regarding the Scottish Government's proposals on Educational reform. An information session organised by Midlothian Council had not been well attended. It was hoped that further session would attract more interest.
- b) *Air Transport in Scotland.* Another Scottish Government consultation just launched is seeking views on the future strategy for air transport in Scotland. This is a very wide ranging consultation that runs until January 21st.

11. A.O.C.B

- a) **Sewage pipe on N. Esk.** The scaffolding erected to give access to the sewage pipe was still in place. However, no activity on it had been observed. It was hoped that there would be an update from Scottish Water at the next ERIG meeting.
- b) **High St. Tweak.** Although there was no specific action, this was still on our list of actions. It was agreed the Chair would write to High St. Tweak to find out what the current situation was.
- c) **Sheep at Aldi.** These have been vandalised and will need repair.
- d) **MFCC** The December meeting will focus on Planning Issues and Peter Arnsdorf, Head of Midlothian Planning Department, will be giving a presentation on the current planning system.
- e) **Community Grit Bins.** There are two, one in Kings Park and one at Dalkeith Miners' Club. The Chair complimented Midlothian Council on having the bins available and filled in advance of the bad weather.
- f) **CLLE support.** Pressure on staff resources means the amount of support that the CLLE Dept. can give to Community Councils in the future will be reduced.

12. Date Of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th December at 7.00pm in Dalkeith Library.

ASK