



Dalkeith and District Community Council Note of Meeting, Tuesday 12th October, 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, Daniel Baigrie, Catherine Duns, CLLE.

2. Welcome and Introductions.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Cllr. Russell who was joining online via Zoom. PC McShane had sent her apologies and also notified the meeting of her absence in November as well as she would be undertaking duties in connection with COP26.

3. Approval of note of last meeting.

The draft Note of the Meeting had been pre-circulated. No comments had been received prior to the meeting but the Chair tabled some amendments she was proposing. In particular she wanted amendments to section 3. She also had suggested changes under TTROs to reflect what had happened with regard to the closure and alterations in connection with Let's Rock Scotland. The Acting Secretary agreed to take these away and draw up a revised version of the Note of the Meeting which he would circulate for approval by email.

AW

4. Action 21/1 – Defibrillators

The Chair reported that there were still some things to be sorted out. The defibrillator in Pettigrew's Close had still to be moved. The fear was that lorries turning might hit it and the result of further investigations was awaited. It was suggested that there should now be a formal launch to coincide with "Restart your Heart" day which was the next Saturday. It was agreed to have a photo taken at the defibrillator outside the Library with all those who had been involved in the project. SH said she would volunteer her husband to take the photo. There was a discussion on where further defibrillators might be sited to ensure the most effective coverage.

SH

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

(Before taking this item, the Acting Secretary drew attention to the revised layout of the list of current actions that had been circulated with the other papers for the meeting. He had identified one action that had been written in very general terms which he was suggesting be deleted. However, the Chair said she felt it should be left as it referred to the High Street Tweak project. This was agreed. A survey had been conducted on the footfall in the town centre.)

The Chair reported that the site of the old tennis court had been identified as a possible new area, but the scope of what was envisaged was quite ambitious and expensive. It would also make that site unavailable for the number of other activities that went on in what was actually quite a busy location. It was agreed to invite the resident who had raised this to the next meeting. It was felt that One Dalkeith probably were too busy with projects of their own to become involved in this. Contact was still to be made with Kings Park Primary School PTA. Eskbank and Newbattle CC were being kept informed.

AW

6. Action 21/6 – Speeding and traffic safety

A draft of a possible survey had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. Although this was on paper it was hoped that the final version would be online, with a paper backup version. The rationale behind the questions was explained. There followed a discussion on the survey. Some felt it was too wide ranging having originated just with a perceived problem for children living in Lugton walking to school but others thought a wider survey would have greater benefit. Cllr. Russell said the possibility of a 20mph speed limit in parts or the whole of the town was currently in the very early stages of being considered. In the discussion that followed various suggestions for amendments were made. These would be incorporated into the second draft.

AW

(Problems with congestion and parking around Kings Park primary were raised. It was pointed out that traffic congestion around other schools was also an issue.)

Problems with collection of data online, and with assurance of validity of responses was raised and it was agreed that advice should be sought from the CLLE team.

AW

7. Action 21/7 – Parking Issues

No response had yet been received from the council officer concerned regarding a joint walk round.

Concerns had been raised over the pressure on the N. Wynd car park since the removal of charges. It was felt that the recent work in the town centre and the unavailability of the Lidl car park had increased the number of cars wanting to use it. Instances were cited of occasions when there were no free places. Exiting onto Edinburgh Rd. in disobedience to the No Entry sign had also been observed. It was felt that widening the pavement on the North side of the entry road and erecting a second sign there opposite the present one might help stop this dangerous practice. There were also concerns over the working of the one way system which perhaps needed to be made more obvious. It had also been observed that on most days there were spaces in the Ramsay croft car park, perhaps because the presence of the test centre was discouraging people to use it.

8. Action 21/8 – Publicity leaflet

Several members had received a recent mail shot from Esk Valley Rotary which made their activities seem very attractive. It was felt it was a good leaflet but it was perhaps easier to promote because of the type of activities Rotary were involved in. A CC had attended the community cafe at St. John's and had observed the Red Cross going round tables talking about their work and handing out leaflets, and it was felt this was a possible course of action for DDCC. It was also felt that a good tag line would be helpful.

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

An inspection of the three notice boards had taken place and metal based replacements were now being suggested. Possibilities on additional decorations were discussed. It was agreed to proceed with the one in Eskdail Court, complete with a gorilla climbing up it. But the wording should, as a minimum, be "Dalkeith Community Council", but ideally also include "& District" It was agreed to leave the review of the policies on placing notices on the notice boards until the next meeting and to circulate the current guidelines before then.

ASK

10. Action 21/11 – Using Social Media

DHS had been contacted and a response awaited. This was deferred to the next meeting.

11. Action 21/12 – Use of the Arts Centre.

The first session had had to be cancelled because of illness. Concern was expressed that DDCC had been asked to take first consideration of an item in the presence of one

of the instigators which had made CCs feel inhibited in what they might say. The Chair agreed it might have been better to have taken this item slightly differently and gave a fuller explanation of what was intended. While no objections were raised to the principle of moving the singing indoors, there was some concern that the DDCC would be supporting a commercial venture. The Chair assured the meeting this was not the case as the commercial aspect had been during the day in Kings Park. It remained to be seen how successful the move indoors would be.

12. Councillors Reports.

Cllr. Russell gave the first report.

- a) **Midlothian House Car Park.** The Midlothian Council car park would be closed from November 1st onwards while the work on the new building proceeded which could take up to one year. Access to Kings Park Primary through the car park would not be possible. In the new building the shops at street level were being retained. Cllr. Cassidy added that he thought that they were being designed in such a way that if there was no demand for them to be shops they could fairly easily be converted into flats.
- b) **Christmas Lights.** This would involve children from Kings Park Primary and Penicuik Silver Band as well as Santa on his sledge. Collaboration with One Dalkeith had taken place to ensure there was not a superfluity of Santas on that day!
- c) **Scaffolding round Jarnac Court building.** This might not after all be removed in time for the switch on. It had been hoped to put the Christmas Nativity scene in the former Sub-Way shop but this might not be possible. Other places were briefly considered.
- d) **David Smith House** David Smith's widow had been informed of the choice of name for the new building and it was anticipated there would be a formal opening ceremony involving the family in due course.
- e) **School Dates.** Cllr. Russell was asked about the newly published school dates which again were different from Edinburgh and East Lothian. She said this was caused by a regrettable lack of communication. She said it had been noted that this had happened and steps would be taken to ensure it didn't happen again.
- f) **Town Centre Re-development.** Concern was expressed that nothing further had been received about this. Both Cllr. Russell and Cllr. Cassidy said there had been nothing further sent out. But the Chair said she had been given to understand that there were plans now in existence. It was agreed that the Chair would write to Kevin Anderson to ask for an update on this.

Cllr. Cassidy had nothing further to add.

13. **New Stores in town.** It was recorded that Aldi was now open and that the sheep had made a significant impact. The refurbished Lidl store would open on Oct 28th and would be the largest in Scotland.

14. Consultations

National Care Consultation. All were encouraged to study the document as it was wide ranging with significant implications.

15. Dalkeith Police Station.

This can now be used as a court.

16. Remembrance Sunday.

The Chair said this was on Nov. 7th, before the next meeting, and a wreath had been ordered. She asked if anyone wanted to represent DDCC but it was agreed the Chair should do this.

As the meeting had overrun and there were no new items under Planning, Licensing and TTROs the meeting was closed.

ASK

ALL

