



Dalkeith and District Community Council Note of Meeting, Tuesday 15th February, 2022, held in Dalkeith Library and online via Zoom.

1. Present and Apologies.

Present Ann Stewart-Kmicha (Chair), Andrew Watt, Shona Haggie,
Cllr. Margot Russell (via Zoom)
PC Tracy McShane, Sgt. Michelle Lindsay,
Daniel Baigrie, CLLE
There were five residents attending.

Apologies. Cllr Colin Cassidy

2. Welcome and Introductions.

These had been done at the start of the AGM which had preceded this meeting.

3. Approval of note of last meeting.

The Note of the January Meeting which had been pre-circulated was approved. The Acting Secretary informed the meeting that he had contacted the Chair to inform her that he was stepping down from taking the minutes after the current meeting.

The following matters arising were raised.

- a) Development of the Cross Keys. MR had received two letters which made it clear that the development was undertaken as part of the THI/CARS scheme and the money put towards it was a grant and not a loan.
- b) Outflow at Junkies Adit. A consultation/information exercise with residents was planned but the effect of the omicron Covid surge had delayed this slightly. The Coal Authority had also apologised for the lack of proper communication in respect of this.
- c) Grit Bins. All bins have recently been checked and refilled where necessary. New bins are being provided. All bins now are numbered making it easier to identify any where there is a problem. There are still a couple of Community bins that have not been allocated. With regard to the former bin at the junction of N. Wynd and Old Edinburgh Rd., CC had ascertained that it had been removed as it had been causing an obstruction. A possible alternative location had been identified and was being followed up. Old Edinburgh Rd is not a priority route for gritting, even though it is the route of two bus services.
- d) Dalkeith Guerrilla Gardeners had had a very successful event before Christmas and had expressed their thanks to DDCC for their support.

4. Police Report.

PC McShane gave her report on events that had occurred in January. Between 14/12/2021 and 7/2/2022 the beat codes which cover the Dalkeith area had received over 452 calls to the police. There had been 147 crimes recorded of which 86 had been solved at the time of this report. This is a solvency rate of roughly 58%. Her written report had given further details of some of the incidents of note. She went on to say that an ongoing problem was the careless and illegal use of e-

Scooters and e-Bikes. This is partly because e-Scooters are widely available to purchase but cannot legally be used in public spaces. Likewise irresponsible and sometimes illegal use of bikes was causing annoyance and danger to members of the public when they were ridden along pavements at speed.

Sgt Lindsay said that there was an increase in illegal hare coursing in the area and also more incidents of dogs worrying livestock, especially with the lambing season beginning. She also said that Water safety was being looked at in conjunction with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

5. Councillors Reports.

These focussed on the main Midlothian Council meeting which had taken place earlier in the day.

- a) *Environmental Crime Enforcement team.* This was to be piloted for 12 months and the firm providing the enforcement officers for parking would also provide a team to enforce the rules regarding environmental issues such as dog fouling and illegal fly tipping. This would be achieved by issuing fixed penalty notices to offenders. The upgrade to the CCTV system would assist in identifying offenders.
- b) *Issues in the High St. Pedestrian Crossing at Crystal Mount.* This had been delayed by Covid associated issues within the workforce. It was hoped it would be done soon. A solution to the many commercial waste bins from premises in the vicinity of the Cavaliere was being proposed which would create a separate bay for the bins and involve extending the pavement. It was felt accurate plans of what was proposed would be helpful as there was a danger the solution to one problem might only serve to exacerbate another.
- c) *Site of former Lugton Inn.* The owner of the site had been contacted and it was hoped he was going to have the site tidied up. If not, it was likely he would be served with a formal notice to have this done.
- d) *MARC building in Woodburn.* A new porch is to be erected on the front of the building and the railings removed as they are problematical for wheelchair access. It was hoped that the Developer Contribution that the Council has to make on the old DHS site might be spent on the MARC building, perhaps to initiate some of the ideas that had been in the design project carried out a few years previously.
- e) *Meeting.* There had been a meeting at Dalkeith Miners Club in connection with the Bill currently going through the Scottish Parliament which it was hoped would have the criminal records of those arrested during the miners' strike quashed.
- f) *Council Tax.* Council Tax was to be increased but not by the maximum allowable percentage. A new Welfare Fund would help reduce the shortfall so this year should be alright, but subsequent years might be difficult.

In answer to questions from residents she said that the Brown Bin garden refuse service was to continue as a charged service.

It was agreed that Midlothian's Libraries were a very important service which should be maintained.

6. Planning

- a) As part of the Coal Authority plan for treating the outflow at Junkies Adit, it was proposed that the old sawmill and house which had been on an 1822 map should be demolished. The current tenants would have to move out.
- b) The tree at the Post Office delivery depot was now to be crowned.
- c) A joint meeting with Eskbank & Newbattle CC had been held to hear about the Conservation Area Appraisal that was being undertaken. It was thought another joint meeting to consider the planning applications at Sheriffhall South might be beneficial.

7. Licensing.

It was noted Lidl had now applied for a licence for the former Blacksmith's Forge building which they own. Work being carried out on it suggested that it might be about to be let to another tenant.

8. Consultations

- a) **Survey on Active Travel.** This was currently being conducted online but assistance would be available for any who required it.
- b) **Health and Social Care.** This is to help with setting the priorities for the next three years.

9. Date Of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th March at 7.00pm, in Dalkeith Library.