



Dalkeith and District Community Council Note of Meeting, Tuesday 11th January, 2022, held online via Zoom.

1. Present and Apologies.

Present Ann Stewart-Kmicha (Chair), Andrew Watt, Shona Haggie,
Cllr. Margot Russell, Cllr. Colin Cassidy
There was one resident attending.

2. Welcome and Introductions.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Approval of note of last meeting.

Amendments to the draft Note of the December Meeting which had been pre-circulated were incorporated into the final draft of the Note of the Meeting which was then approved. 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 Geurilla Gardeners had had a very successful event before Christmas and had expressed their thanks to DDCC for their support.

4. Brief updates on Current Actions.

a) Action 21/1 – Defibrillators

The defibrillator at the Library had been used in earnest before Christmas. It meant that new pads were now required and it was agreed to buy two sets as it was marginally cheaper. The Chair said it was time to consider reviewing the area covered.

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

The shelter for outdoor education at Kings Park Primary was now under construction.

c) Action 21/6 – Speeding and traffic safety

No progress on this over the Christmas holidays.

d) Action 21/7 – Parking Issues

Charges had not yet been re-introduced into the town centre car parks at the beginning of the month as had been expected. This would now happen at the

AW

beginning of February.

e) Action 21/8 – Publicity leaflet

SH will send a copy to ASK

f) Action 21/10 – Notice boards.

It had not yet been possible to find a suitable date to erect the new boards but it was hoped they could be installed shortly..

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

The Chair had spoken to Fiona Clandillon, the Head of Development in the Planning Dept who hoped to have something ready shortly to bring to Community Councils. It was agreed that a meeting with her would be useful, possibly jointly with Eskbank & Newbattle CC. CC said there had been early discussions on a number of issues around how to attract people into Dalkeith, and the track of the old railway from Eskbank to below Kings Park was seen as a piece of land with potential. There followed a discussion on various aspects of improving the footfall in Dalkeith.

CC/MR

5. A.G.M. arrangements.

The Chair said that one item at the AGM in February was to make two amendments to the Constitution to take account of new modes of working arising from technological developments, namely to allow online meetings and to allow online banking. As these required 28 days notice it was proposed that the AGM should be moved back a week to February 15th. It was hoped this would be a face to face meeting and be held in the Library with the option of online attendance as well. If restrictions were still in place it would take place online only. Suggestions for possible speakers were made.

6. Councillors Reports.

Cllr. Russell gave the first report.

a) Dalkeith/Jarnac twinning plaque. Work was ongoing to put this on the Soutra Point building. The potential of projecting video art onto the wall of Soutra Point was also still being investigated.

Cllr. Cassidy had nothing further to report, given the break over Christmas and New Year.

7. Police Report.

There was no report this month.

8. Planning

It was noted that Royal Mail were requesting permission to reduce the height of a tree in the delivery office car park. It was also noted that the RAMPS aid to dealing with planning applications was now being used nationwide.

9. Licensing.

There had been no new applications.

10. TTRO.

It was noted that the High St. was to be closed to allow work to be carried out. Cllr. Russell confirmed that this was to enable the work to be carried out on the crossing outside Crystal Mount.

11. Matters arising not already dealt with.

a) Conservation Area. There is currently an appraisal of the Eskbank and Newbattle Conservation Area. It was agreed to hold a joint meeting with ENCC and Emma

Hay, the Planning officer leading the appraisal.

12. Questions arising from reports.

- a) EANAB. The Review Panel report was still not available. This was now causing considerable frustration among Board members.
- b) MFCC. The December meeting had been the AGM and Peter Arnsdorf, Head of Planning, had spoken about the new national planning framework.

13. Consultations

- a) **Survey on Active Travel.** This was currently being conducted online but assistance would be available for any who required it.

14. A.O.C.B

- a) It was noted that the Fire Brigade were no longer responding to all automated fire alarm calls.

15. Date Of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15th February at 7.00pm, hopefully in Dalkeith Library and also on Zoom, depending on the current Covid omicron situation.