

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
17 May 2023
ZOOM Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

Jan Irvine (JI)	Bonnyrigg and District
Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and District
Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle (Vice Chair)
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chair)
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot
Sarah Matthews (SM)	Newtongrange and District
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
Mark Whittam (MW)	Tynewater

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities & Lifelong Learning
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Apologies

Lorna Crook (LC)	Moorfoot & District
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1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

BF (Vice-Chair) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

2. PRESENTATION - TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE – CIARA BURKE

- i Due to technical issues Ciara was unable to attend the meeting
- ii Group members agreed Ciara would be invited to a meeting later on in the year

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES (MARCH) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

Moved: Jan Irvine

Seconded: Judy Thomson

4. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and District

- i Members are keen to commence the preparation for the Local Place Plan (LPP)
- ii PJ highlighted that Planning team members are keen to support Community Councils with preparation of LPP's. Further information is available in Section 5 of these minutes

Dalkeith and District

- i No update

Damhead

- i No update

Danderhall and District

- i No update

Eskbank and Newbattle

- i No update

Gorebridge and District

- i No update

Howgate and District

- i No update

Loanhead

- i No update

Mayfield and Easthouses

- i No update

Moorfoot

- i The CC is beginning to look at Local Place Plans.
- ii There is concern about how our small group will manage the effort required to produce a meaningful LPP by the required deadline
- iii However we have two big planning proposals that we must be involved with:
 - NWH recycling plant at their quarry near N. Middleton
 - RES wind farm in the Torphichen area
- iv A local resident has brought to our attention the very poor condition of a historic information board near Borthwick Castle and we are investigating how this might be replaced

Newtongrange

- i **Guest speaker** - Archie Lockhart (AL) – Newtongrange Star President – Highlighted their business plan with an emphasis on discussed community engagement
- ii **Protecting and improving services: Newtongrange Guerrilla Gardeners (Community Garden) Update** - RM thanked Councillors for kind donations. The local support has been overwhelming. The group have built relationships with Duncan from Vogrie Country Park, Midlothian Community Payback Team, Wizz Kids Nursery, and a local occupational therapist
- iii **Fun Fair @ Newtongrange Park 28/4-1/5** - Concern about damage to grass from vehicles
- iv **Newtongrange Petanque Club** NCC membership has increased. June will represent Scotland @ Home Nations Championship in Leamington Spa in August
- v **Midlothian Climate Action Network** - NCC agreed to be participants in shaping the hub

Penicuik and District

- i No update

Rosewell and District

- i No update

Roslin and Bilston

- i No update

Tynewater

i No update

5. LOCAL PLACE PLANS – SUPPORT FROM PLANNING TEAM

i Sharing Data

Council officers have completed a Data Protection Impact Assessment on this matter and data collected from surveys is deemed as low risk for sharing with community bodies preparing a Local Place Plan. Every effort has been put in place to ensure that the Council is not intentionally collecting personal data through the [Place Standard Surveys](#) or in-person activities

The Planning team will be able to share survey information supplied directly to them, e.g. through the Council website or at drop in events. The Council will still require the permission of schools and youth groups to share data collected from them with community bodies for Local Place Plan purposes. This would be done through a written data sharing agreement between the Council and school or youth group. This agreement would be secured with the group when they meet with those groups (schools/youth groups).

The Council will ask community bodies that any such data shared with it is used solely for the purposes of a Local Place Plan preparation

ii Engagement

Local Place Plan regulations require community bodies to demonstrate how they have engaged with the public. The Council will be unable to guarantee that it will have data from children and young people from individual Local Place Plan areas to share

The Council recommend that community bodies also look into ways in which they can engage with children and young people in their local area to compliment any data the Council gathers in support of its Local Development Plan preparation

iii Engagement Resources

Engagement resources are available on the (Local Place Plan) [LPP pages of the Midlothian Council website](#) or please contact LPP@midlothian.gov.uk with any specific questions

iv **MLDP2 Drop-in Events**

Remaining MLDP2 drop-in events		
Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 23 May	1 - 7pm	Lasswade Library , The Lasswade Centre, 19 Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA
Thursday 25 May	1 - 7pm	Newtongrange Library , St David's, Newtongrange, EH22 4LG
Thursday 1 June	1 - 7pm	Penicuik Library , Carlops Road, Penicuik, EH26 9EP
Tuesday 6 June	1 - 7pm	Newbattle Library , 1 Newbattle Gardens, Easthouses, EH22 4SX

[MLDP2 drop-in events](#) have been running since the start of May. The table above shows the remaining programme of drop-in sessions. Thank you for your support in raising the profile of these sessions. The Team would be grateful if you could circulate information on the remaining drop-ins around your contacts and post on your Community Council social media platforms, if you use them. Thank you to all who have visited the sessions to date, and we look forward to welcoming more of you in the coming weeks

v **'Place Standard Surveys'**

The team want to know the views of local communities on the areas of Midlothian that they live, work or spend time in. Where we spend our time has an important effect on our lives and our wellbeing. Understanding what is good about a place now, and what could be better, will help us make good decisions and allow us to plan for the right things.

The team has prepared a "Place Standard Survey" to ask for opinions on different aspects of a community:

[Local Development Plan 2 Activity - Place Standard Survey - Midlothian Council - Citizen Space](#)

The survey asks for opinions on:

- Moving Around, Public Transport and Traffic & Parking
- Streets and Spaces
- Natural Spaces, Play and Recreation
- Facilities and Amenities
- Work and the Local Economy
- Housing and Social Contact
- Safety, Care and Maintenance

For each question, participants are asked rate these aspects on a scale from 1 (a lot of room for improvement) to 7 (very little room for improvement). There is also space to write comments in relation to the questions. It is not necessary to answer all of the questions

The results of the survey will help us understand the good things about living in Midlothian and the things that we may be able to improve through the next Local Development Plan. The team will also present the results of the survey in the Evidence Report that will be submitted to the Scottish Government for approval in early 2024

There are three “Place Standard Surveys” specifically for children and young people. These surveys cover similar topics as the above “Place Standard Survey”:

[Local Development Plan 2 Activity - Children & Young People's Place Standard Survey for 4 - 10 Year Olds - Midlothian Council - Citizen Space](#)

[Local Development Plan 2 Activity - Children & Young People's Place Standard Survey for 11 - 15 Year Olds - Midlothian Council - Citizen Space](#)

[Local Development Plan 2 Activity - Children & Young People's Place Standard Survey for 16 - 25 Year Olds - Midlothian Council - Citizen Space](#)

The team is asking Midlothian's organisations and businesses to tell us about their needs and interests relating to Midlothian as a place. We also want to know what information they think we should be considering for the Evidence Report. There is a separate survey for businesses and organisations here [Local Development Plan 2 Activity - Organisations & Businesses Survey - Midlothian Council - Citizen Space](#)

Please contact LPP@midlothian.gov.uk email address if you have any questions.

Action: PJ to invite Grant Ballantine to June MFCC meeting to discuss LPP's

6. COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE TRAINING

- i An enquiry had been made about the availability of training on running and updating web site content. Members reached agreement that due to the diversity of Web Site providers, it would be difficult to provide training to a group
- ii Dougie West (BDCC) offered to support Loanhead and District with updating and maintaining the LDCC website.
- iii **MFCC Website** JT (Mayfield and Easthouses) provided information about the development of the MFCC website. The site is still to be fully developed although some content is available. [Midlothian Federation of Community Councils | Home \(midlothiancommunitycouncils.org.uk\)](https://midlothiancommunitycouncils.org.uk)
- iv **Social Media** – PJ circulated a guide for Community Councils. The document will be recirculated with the Minutes

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME (NWS)

- i Documents providing information about the NWS scheme have been circulated
- ii Further information can be found here on the [Neighbourhood Watch Scotland website](#). There is a range of information including a 'Neighbourhood Alert' messaging system which provides advice and guidance on a wide range of topics such as online safety, scams, water safety, local crimes in your area, etc. Alert messages help you protect yourself, and loved ones, from various aspects of crime. To sign up, visit the website and click on 'Sign up for Alerts'
- iii Midlothian Neighbourhood Watch schemes can be found here: [Scheme Lookup - Neighbourhood Watch Scotland](#) and inserting the Post Code

Action: Those present agreed that Community Councils would promote the NWS on their Websites and Social Media pages

8. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

- i AW has circulated a report on the last meeting
- ii The Board is keen to encourage participation by local Community Council members
- iii Communities Fund – grants have been awarded to 2 local groups. Further information can be found here: [Edinburgh Airport Community Fund | Edinburgh Airport](#)

Action: MFCC members to highlight opportunities for their Community Council members to join the Board

9. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING

- i There had been a meeting in April but minutes have not been circulated at the time of the meeting

10. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i The draft Single Midlothian Plan (SMP) has been circulated for comments and Community Council members are encouraged to review and submit comments about the SMP. Further information can be found on the Midlothian Council Website: [The Single Midlothian Plan | Community Planning in Midlothian | Midlothian Council](#)

11. PLANNING

- i RH (Mayfield and Easthouses) encouraged MFCC and Community Council members to review the Planning applications list on a regular basis.
- ii ASK highlighted concerns about the requirements and capacity of schools to accommodate the rise in the number of young people requiring a school place. Many schools are reaching their capacity to accommodate young people in their catchment area.
- iii MW noted that this is having an impact on small schools in rural areas.

12. INFRASTRUCTURE

- i The Orbital Bus consultation closed on Monday 15 May
- ii Members noted that Lothian Buses are making changes to the timetable and bus services in the county.
- iii Members noted that there had been no consultations about the reduction in service provision.
- iv The alteration to service provision is going to have an impact on Midlothian residents
- v MW (Tynewater) highlighted concerns that the area relies on the very limited Border Bus service subsidised by MC - should this subsidy be cut, the area will lose all of its public transport provision and that this may lead to isolation of vulnerable groups and residents relocating to other areas of the county where they would have access to a bus service. However he informed the group that a 'Bus Action Group', supported by Tynewater Community has been formed to challenge potential cuts. BF noted that 'Edinburgh Bus Users Group' may be able to provide some support to the Tynewater group

Action: BF agreed to draft a letter on behalf of MFCC to Lothian Buses drawing attention to the concerns about the changes in service provision and inviting a member of Lothian Buses to join a MFCC meeting at a future date. The letter will circulated before being sent to Lothian Buses.

13. ENVIRONMENT

- i ASK highlighted that the Forth River Trust is about to initiate an 'Outfall Safari' project on the River Esk. Information about similar projects can be found here: [Outfall Safari | Forth Rivers Trust](#)
- ii SM (Newtongrange) noted that spraying around trees and bins has been undertaken in the area. This was thought to be instead of weeds being trimmed

14. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (NEXT MEETING, 5 JUNE 2023)

- i Minutes of the April Meeting have been circulated
- ii Midlothian Council is running a competition to name the new Pot Hole Pro machine. See further information here: [Help us name our pothole repair machine | Midlothian Council](#)
- iii RH noted that 'lamp post charging' will be on the next MTRaP agenda

15. A.O.C.B.

- i Subject to availability, Midlothian Council meeting spaces can be used by community groups. They are equipped for 'hybrid' meetings.
- ii Lloyds pharmacy branches located in Sainsbury's stores will be closing. Although there has been speculation that other branches may be closing, this has not been confirmed by the company owners.
- iii Next full Council Meeting is 27 June
- iv ASK noted that she had been in contact with Midlothian Council about the administration grants awarded to Community Councils. Clearer guidance about the amount that can be applied for would be helpful.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 21 June 2023, 7:00 - 9.00 pm (Zoom)

Zoom Meeting Details

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81305650984?pwd=MzdMRnpNUVM4RHNrNHBTUEVUSUh0QT09>

Meeting ID: 813 0565 0984

Passcode: 015784