

**Midlothian Federation of Community Councils**  
**20 January 2021 via ZOOM**  
**Minutes**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

**PRESENT**

Diane Easton	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Jan Irvine	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Ann Stewart-Kmicha	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt	Dalkeith
Ailsa Carlisle	Damhead
Vicky Milton	Danderhall
Cath McGill	Gorebridge
Gina Temple	Loanhead
Robert Hogg	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chair)
Judy Thomson	Mayfield and Easthouses
Lorna Crook	Moorfoot
Andrew Marshall	Newtongrange
Andrew Littlefair	Penicuik
Rab Aitchison	Penicuik
Dougie West	Poltonhall
Ann Montague	Rosewell
Mirabelle Maslin	Roslin and Bilston
Sid Gardiner	Roslin and Bilston

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Paul Johnson	Midlothian Council (Minutes)
Annette Lang	Midlothian Council
Jamie McGaw	NHS Lothian / Health and Social Care Partnership

**APOLOGIES**

Jim Hiddleston	Roslin and Bilston
Jeremy Adderley	Newtongrange
Robin Barclay	Eskbank and Newbattle

## **1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

- Robert welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies of those members unable to attend the meeting were noted.

## **2 JAMIE MEGAW, NHS Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership**

- The vaccination process in Midlothian is following procedures set out by the Scottish Government.
- The first priority has been that of providing vaccinations to residents and workers in the county's care homes. This process has been completed.
- Health and Social Care workers will be next on the list.
- Vaccination of the rest of the population will follow, based on the age of recipients and according to their level of risk.
- People, aged 80 and over, will be invited directly by letter or telephone call to receive their vaccinations in their local GP surgery. This process has already commenced.
- People in the over 80s age group, unable to leave home, will be vaccinated on the weekends of 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January.
- Residents in the under 80's age group, who are unable to leave home, will be vaccinated during February.
- The next priority will be those in the 70 – 79 age group and letters will be sent out week beginning 25 January.
- It is anticipated that all those aged 65 and over will have received their first dose of vaccination by the end of February.
- Home Care workers are anticipated to be receiving the vaccine by the end of February.
- The capacity for vaccination in Midlothian is expected to be between 1500 – 2100 per week.
- Booking will be available online or by telephone.
- Staff members are ready and buildings are prepared, to undertake the vaccination process with Midlothian residents.

### **Vaccines**

- There are 2 vaccines in use at the moment, Pfizer and Astra Zeneca.
- Currently there is a greater supply of the Pfizer available.
- The Pfizer vaccination is less stable and is required to be stored at -70c.
- The Astra Zeneca vaccine is able to be stored in GP surgeries.

- There is little or no difference in the vaccines – both are effective and there is no discernible difference in the side effects experienced by recipients.
- There are some problems in the supply chain and this is having an impact on availability in Scotland as a whole.
- 50% of the supply required will be in Midlothian by the end of week beginning 26 February.

### **Uptake of the vaccine in Midlothian at this point**

- There has been a strong uptake from care home residents and health care staff.
- Uptake of the vaccine is estimated to be 93%, with the other 7% of potential recipients being unwell and therefore unable to accept the vaccine.
- No one has refused the vaccine so far.
- Will have to wait to see what the public do once the programme is started.

### **Wastage**

- Across the Lothian region, vaccine wastage is less than 1%.
- In addition, there are contingency plans that will aim to ensure that all supplies of available vaccine are used up.

### **Side effects**

- Both vaccines have been approved for use by the regulatory authorities.
- In the short term, no serious side effects have been detected but in the long term, it is difficult to predict.
- Those side effects that have been detected indicate that they are very similar to those experienced when receiving the flu vaccine.
- Robust early warning systems provide immediate feedback when any side effects have been detected.

### **Process**

- As indicated previously, over 80's will be contacted by their local GP surgery.
- Those aged 79 and younger will receive letters that will contain a code enabling them to make a booking.

### **Location of vaccine centres**

- Midlothian Community Hospital, Cairngreen Unit.
- Will run Monday to Fridays with an anticipated 1500 – 2100 people being treated per week.
- Gorebridge Leisure Centre is a potential location and if possible, to be used, will be operating by March.
- In addition to suitable locations and buildings, additional trained staff members are required and a recruitment process is underway.
- Supplies will be provided to **all** GP practices in the county.

### **3 COVID-19**

- The Red Cross have been providing support to collect food shopping and prescriptions.
- The Midlothian Food Fund is currently receiving 100 applications per day.
- Available funds are limited.
- The Citizen Advice Bureaux (CAB) has had a significant increase in the number of requests for support during current lockdown.
- There is a requirement for an increased numbers of advisors. Training lasts for a period of 3 months.
- CAB are reviewing and modernising their referral systems.

### **4 PREVIOUS MINUTES (DECEMBER) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Elected Member's Environmental Budgets**

- MFCC members expressed concern that there is a lack of transparency about the way elected members are choosing to spend their funds.
- It is not clear how local community groups can access this available funding.
- Community Councillors have been advised (by their elected members) of a range of amounts of funding available.
- Paul informed the group that each elected member is awarded £10,000 per annum.

#### **Developers Contributions**

- There have been examples where these funds have been used to support community developments but there does not appear to be clear guidelines.
- In Danderhall, developers' contributions have been used to develop the Miners Club and development of facilities in Millerhill Park (walkways).

- In Rosewell, there was no input from community members with regard to the way that developer's contributions have been spent.
- MFCC members noted that more clarity about the criteria for expenditure of Developers contribution is required and whether developers are following these guidelines.

**Action:**

- A MFCC 'Developer Contributions' sub-group to be formed.
- Paul to contact Peter Arnsdorf to see whether he is able to meet with the group and provide further information.

**Previous Minutes:**

Approved by Gina Temple

Seconded by Jan Irvine

**5 LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES**

**Bonnyrigg and Lasswade**

- BLCC members have been asked to provide suggestions for the roads capital expenditure.
- Have asked elected members to provide written reports in advance of each Community Council meeting
- Diane is going to be a representative on the Neighbourhood Services group.

**Dalkeith**

- Country Park gates have been closed for cars at weekends.
- Pedestrians are permitted (subject to current social distancing restrictions)
- Changes have made in the ALDI planning applications.

**Damhead**

- Members are seeking more detailed information about the development of the A701 Link Road.
- As with Loanhead, Damhead Community Council is closely following the progress of the planned Straiton West development.

**Danderhall**

- Zoom based planning meetings have been held to facilitate the discussion of new developments in the area.

- In addition to Shawfield representatives, members of the Midlothian Council Planning team, 30 local residents and community council members joined the meeting. Questions were submitted in advance. Use of the 'chat' function enabled a wide-ranging discussion and a successful meeting.

### **Gorebridge**

- Concerns are being expressed in the community about the operation of the Hunterfield Tavern Trust.
- There are concerns in the community about planning applications.
- The Gorebridge station adopter group (inc. Cath) has received a Bronze award: Adopt-a-Station (ScotRail in the Community).

### **Loanhead**

- Have postponed their AGM until November.
- There are 2 large planning proposals. 'New Pentland' and 'Straiton West'.
- The developments are likely to have an impact on neighbouring community councils.

### **Mayfield and Easthouses**

- The 'In it Together' group has facilitated public meetings to enable residents of Bogwood Court to discuss their concerns about proposed Town Centre developments.
- Work is being undertaken to gather information about the development of proposals for a primary school in Easthouses.

### **Moorfoot**

- Has created a Facebook page in order to improve and further develop communications with local communities and their members.
- There has been a significant increase in traffic through Gladhouse and Temple.
- There are concerns that COVID-19 restrictions are not being followed.
- There have been changes in local community policing staff and there was no police report at the last meeting.
- Noted that elected members who represent the area did not attend.

### **Newtongrange**

- Jeremy will represent MFCC (along with Diane - BLCC) at NESTA meetings.
- A gritting action plan for the village is being devised.
- Newtongrange Community Council would welcome any information from other CC's if they have similar plans in place.
- The Newtongrange Development Trust is in the early stages of formation.

### **Penicuik**

- Opening of the recycling centre has been delayed.
- Midlothian Councillors voted to close Glencorse Primary School.
- There was a question about whether the public were permitted to attend Council meetings. Robert Hogg is going to investigate.

### **Poltonhall**

- Have been able to proceed with the vote to agree the merger with BLCC.

### **Rosewell**

- Fiona Kennedy (Community Justice) attended the last meeting.
- One of the local elected members has indicated that they will no longer attend Community Council meetings.

### **Roslin and Bilston**

- There are concerns about the ongoing extent of expansion and development in the area.
- The loss of woodland is a particular worrying aspect of new developments.
- The Community Council has nevertheless developed good relationships with the developers and a sub-group meets with developers regularly.

## **6 INVITATION TO MICHELLE LINDSAY (POLICE SCOTLAND) TO FEBRUARY MEETING**

- Paul informed the group the Michele has accepted the invitation in principle but will need to check that it will be possible to attend using a telephone link.

## **7 COMMUNITY COUNCIL PLANNING DISCUSSIONS**

- Diane noted that elected members attending the BLCC meetings do not 'sit in' on the planning discussions and was interested in what happened in other Community Council areas.
- In Danderhall, planning matters are dealt with in separate meetings. This enables matters to be discussed in detail and Community Council members to be able to familiarise themselves with use of the Midlothian Council Planning portal.
- Roslin and Bilston Community Council have a planning sub-committee that meets separately.

## **8 REPRESENTATION OF ELECTED MEMBERS AT CC MEETINGS**

- Although varying across the county, many community councillors have noted that elected members do not attend their meetings.
- There is recognition that in some cases, there are mitigating circumstances but non-attendance can have a negative impact on Community Council business.
- Leaders of the political parties could be contacted to highlight these issues of concern.
- There was also a suggestion that non-attendance of elected members be highlighted in Community Council Minutes.

## **9 CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING**

- The last meeting focussed on the impact that the ongoing lockdown was having on the mental health on Midlothian's residents and the necessity for efforts to be focussed on addressing this.
- The provision of information to support improved mental health is going to be refreshed.
- The use of the county's Foodbanks is increasing.
- Applications from a range of organisations to the Connecting Scotland Fund for IT equipment have been collated and submitted.
- 3800 devices have been supplied to families in the county.



## **10 PLANNING**

- Ann has circulated a report from Kate Robertson about a recent planning conference.

## **11 INFRASTRUCTURE**

- No Update

## **12 MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (5.30, MON, 25 JANUARY 2021)**

- Paul highlighted the date of the next meeting.

## **13 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

- Concerns about the number and impact of new developments across the county were expressed. In particular, whether environmental concerns, (capability of sewage systems, loss of green spaces / trees etc), are being fully addressed by developers and planning officials.

## **14 EDINBURGH AIRPORT FLIGHTPATHS**

- The Edinburgh Airport Noise Board has been trying to get more information about the review. Minutes of meetings are on the airport website but are not necessarily easy to find.

## **15 A.O.C.B.**

- Community Planning Day – feedback from members was mixed with some MFCC members in attendance indicating that it had been a good event.
- However, one group was mainly comprised of council officials and it would have been better if a greater number of community members could have been present in those groups.
- Concerns were raised about the support for the Mental Health of young people. Midlothian Young People's Advice Service (MYPAS) are providing some support by running an online Drop-In for young people (12 – 21) 3.30-5.30 every day. See: [www.mypas.co.uk/looking-after-your-wellbeing-during-lockdown/](http://www.mypas.co.uk/looking-after-your-wellbeing-during-lockdown/)
- Judy will organise the addition of the MFCC Googlemail address to be added to the MVA electronic newsletter.
- MFCC February agenda – A proposal to make an amendment to the Constitution to facilitate the use of online banking, to be added to the agenda.

**16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 17 February

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89169101959?pwd=aFR6SDBYMVdmNFdFWkpRUWhHYlpVQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 891 6910 1959

**Passcode:** 217507

**Dial in:** 0131 460 1196

**Meeting ID:** 891 6910 1959

**Passcode:** 217507

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