

# Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

17 November, 2021

## ZOOM Meeting Minutes

### PRESENT

Jan Irvine (JI)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith
Ailsa Carlisle (AC)	Damhead
Victoria Milton	Danderhall
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Cath McGill (CMcG)	Gorebridge
Daya Feldwick (DF)	Loanhead
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chair)
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Mali Purkayastha	Moorfoot
Dougie West (DW)	Poltonhall
Edith Cameron	Rosewell
Peter Brouwer (PB)	Tynewater
Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater
Jim Orr (JO)	Tynewater

### **Apologies**

Lorna Crook	Moorfoot
Andrew Marshall	Newtongrange
Diane Easton	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade

### IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council (Minutes)
Angela Lamont (AL)	Midlothian Council
Artemis Panna (AP)	Scottish Rural Action
Douglas Westwater (DW)	Scottish Rural Action

### **1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

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

### **2. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Previous Minutes**

## Scottish Rural Parliament

- i** Key role is conducting research and consultation with local communities
- ii** Priorities for East and Midlothian are working with young people and rural businesses.
- iii** Encouraging everyone's voice. Asking how would people engage in policy and decision making?
- iv** Are keen to work with the hard-to-reach people and groups
- v** Can be a conduit for local and rural issues to be raised.
- vi** Historically Midlothian residents have not be well represented in the Parliament.
- vii** SRP would like some assistance in identifying who the hard-to-reach groups would be, and looking at the most effective way to engage members of these groups
- viii** RH (Mayfield and Easthouses) asked about LEADER funding. There will be no more LEADER funding due to the UK exit from the European Union. Scottish Government may announce further funding but there has been no official statement – it is not definite.
- ix** AW (Dalkeith) noted that, historically much of the focus on work in Midlothian was around the county's mining heritage rather than rural and agricultural matters. He observed that much of the Midlothian countryside has been disappearing under housing developments and that the Green Belt is rapidly being eroded. Residents in Midlothian need to see something happening that are of a benefit to them. In this regard funding would be of a great help. Residents and groups will be keen to get involved if they can see that the issues that have an impact upon their situation would be addressed.
- x** GB (Tynewater) highlighted that there many pockets of deprivation in rural areas. Tynewater has very little in the provision of public transport for its residents to use. They would be keen to be able to get a greater influence in both Midlothian and National policy matters.
- xi** Artemis Panna noted that the SRP is attempting to identify such issues. Rural areas are often presented as the problems rather than being the solution to problems. The SRP is working to change the narrative and in the course of that emphasising the value of Community Councils, particularly those in rural areas.
- xii** The next meeting of the SRP is in 2023. In the short term the SRP is intending to hold regional events in 2022. The SRP could support the provision of a local Midlothian event.
- xiii** AL (LEADER) will be in touch with MFCC members to highlight potential local events and availability of funding.
- xiv** Membership of Scottish Rural Action is free

### **3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES**

#### **Bonnyrigg and Lasswade**

- i** Concerns about traffic management and road safety around the new St Mary's Primary School. BLCC has asked one of the local councillors to escalate this with Midlothian Council.
- ii** Representatives from BLCC attended Remembrance Day Wreath Laying ceremonies in Bonnyrigg and Lasswade.
- iii** Bonnyrigg Christmas lights switch on event to be held on Saturday 27 November.
- iv** Continuing to meet using Zoom for the time being; however member numbers are sadly dwindling which needs to be looked at in the coming months.
- v** Continue to work on the merger with Poltonhall CC
- vi** Concerns have been expressed with traffic with 'near misses' being reported on the roads leading to Primary schools in the area

#### **Damhead**

- i** Meetings are still held using Zoom.
- ii** The A701 relief road is the main topic in the community.
- iii** A presentation was held on 5th October on the 6 possible routes proposed going through Damhead. Website for relief road is: [www.A701reliefroad.co.uk](http://www.A701reliefroad.co.uk) Members felt that the presentation gave poor description of the different routes.
- iv** It is claimed that the A701 relief road represents essential infrastructure necessary to support planned development in the A701 corridor, ease congestion, and support the City Deal growth project at Easter Bush, promoted by Edinburgh University.
- v** The relief road should result in a 3 minute travel time saving for traffic.
- vi** Loss of much agricultural land in the area will ensue. The Welsh Government has recently introduced legislation requiring all road proposals to meet strict sustainability criteria. DDCC believe similar requirements should be applied to the A701 realignment.
- vii** It is argued that such significant land loss, and disruption, is unsustainable to save such a small amount of journey time

#### **Danderhall**

- i** Had their AGM in June
- ii** Continue to undertake work to increase the involvement of local residents in the work of the Community Council
- iii** Vicky will share information about methods of working with residents with other MFCC members
- iv** The *Queen's Green Canopy* (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across

the United Kingdom to “**Plant a Tree for the Jubilee**”. Further information can be found here: [www.queensgreencanopy.org](http://www.queensgreencanopy.org)

- v Danderhall Hub is not able to open its Café area.

### **Eskbank and Newbattle**

- i The Midlothian Campus of Edinburgh College have offered their facilities for use by local community groups and organisations. This may be particularly helpful for the neighbouring Community Councils and groups in their areas.

### **Gorebridge**

- i A number of people had expressed their desire to step down as Community Councillors. CMcG has encouraged 2 of that group to remain.
- ii The Community Council has reorganised the work of some of the Office Bearers and split up some of the tasks
- iii The AGM has been rearranged.

### **Loanhead**

- i The Loanhead Hub has been able to reopen its Café area
- ii Had good attendance at the Community Council AGM with new members join
- iii Daya Feldwick is returning as the Loanhead Community Council Federation representative.
- iv Currently do not have anyone in the ‘Secretary’ position.

### **Mayfield and Easthouses**

- i Have held their first face-face meeting for some time
- i Concerns have been expressed about the continued limited (Tuesday and Thursday evenings and 10-1 on Saturdays) access by the local residents to the public library based in NCHS.
- ii Nursery school provision has been moved into the Primary School

## **4. EDINBURGH AIRPORT FLIGHTPATHS**

- i AW (Dalkeith) has previously circulated a report
- ii AW thanked MFCC members for their contribution and comments on the revised flight maps consultation
- iii **Scottish Government Major Consultation on Future Aviation Strategy**  
The Scottish Government is carrying out a major consultation on what the Aviation Strategy should be moving into a future dominated by concerns for the state of the climate. This is a very wide ranging consultation and not just focussing on noise but covering pretty much anything to do with Aviation.

Community Councils may well wish to submit a response, as indeed may individuals. It runs until 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

The document for discussion can be found here:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/disability-and-transport-findings-from-the-scottish-household-survey-1/>

The consultation document is on Citizen Space at

<https://consult.gov.scot/transport-scotland/aviation-strategy/>

## **6 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

- i Rebecca Lewis (member of Eskbank and Newbattle Community Council) is the new Chairperson of the Climate Challenge group.
- ii ERIG meeting notes are published on MSP Colin Beattie's Website – see here: <http://www.colinbeattiemsp.org/esk-river-improvement-group>
- iii Coal Authority has given permission to commence mine water treatment programme.

## **7 INFRASTRUCTURE**

- i Invite has been sent to Transport Scotland to attend the next MTRaP meeting to discuss progress of Sheriffhall Roundabout

## **8 COMMUNITY PLANNING**

- i Next Meeting is 18 November – ASK will circulate notes
- ii Community Planning Conference will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November (details previously circulated).
- iii A Community Planning Development Worker has been appointed.

## **9 PLANNING**

- i Peter Arnsdorf will presenting at the MFCC AGM on 15 December

## **10 CARE FOR PEOPLE**

- i Next meeting is 1 December

## **11 MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS**

- i Date of next meeting – Monday, 10 January 2022, 6.00 – 7.00 2022 – contact Paul Johnson for the link to meeting.

## **12. A.O.C.B.**

### **i Webcasts**

ASK reported that almost all of the recordings are available to view online, on the Midlothian Council You Tube Channel

**ii Boundary Commission**

Changes will not have an impact on any Constituencies in Midlothian

**iii Complaint**

JT (Mayfield) has submitted a Stage 2 complaint relating to responses from Midlothian Council

**iii Common Good Fund**

Midlothian Council will be required to publish a list of areas that have a Common Good fund.

**Post meeting Update**

A public consultation is now open on the Council's plans to set up a register of Common Good Property in Midlothian.

To find out more or to make a representation for an asset to be considered for the register of Common Good Property, visit

[https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200284/your\\_community/713/common\\_good\\_property](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200284/your_community/713/common_good_property)

**iv Food Waste Collection**

Collection of Food Waste is being extended to rural areas of the county.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 16 DECEMBER, 7.00 – 9.00, Zoom**

Annual General Meeting including Midlothian Planning presentation from Peter Arnsdorf - Senior Manager Planning Sustainable Growth and Investment

**Zoom Meeting details**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88115442894?pwd=Zkl3ais5K08wOG1IOVQ4OXU5eEd2UT09>

Meeting ID: 881 1544 2894

Passcode: 484938

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING IN 2022**

19 January, 7.00 – 9.00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83364279240?pwd=Wjd1RzhTMm9iNGQ0bHY2WWY1TWM3QT09>

**Meeting ID:** 833 6427 9240

**Passcode:** 612068