

# Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

16th March 2022

## ZOOM meeting Minutes

### Present:

Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith
Ailsa Carlisle (AC)	Damhead
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Caroline Brown CB)	Howgate
Daya Feldwick (DF)	Loanhead
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses (Chair)
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot
Jamie Tennant (JT)	Penicuik
Jan Irvine (JI)	Poltonhall & Hopefield
Edith Cameron (EC)	Rosewell (Minutes)
Myrtle Pont (MP)	Tynewater
Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater

### Apologies:

Diane Easton	Bonnyrigg & Lasswade
Douglas West	Poltonhall
Lorna Crook	Moorfoot
Paul Johnson	Midlothian Council

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Everyone was welcomed and the apologies were read out. Some people came and went during the meeting due to prior commitments.

### 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Previous minutes: Proposed by ASK, Seconded by EC

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

#### **Bonnyrigg and Lasswade**

- i. BLCC did not hold its March meeting as a number of members were unavailable. We should meet as usual in April and will update the Federation at its next meeting.
- ii. Poltonhall merger of CCs was hopeful for the 29<sup>th</sup> March but held up by the legal department so they might host a special meeting to push things along, as they need to get it done for the benefit of the 4 areas. Members spoke about the delays and suggested that Catherine Duns could be contacted for help.

#### **Damhead**

- i. AGM to take place on 4<sup>th</sup> April
- ii. No information yet on chosen route for A701 re-alignment
- iii. Proposal to build a new Aldi store on Old Pentland Road. No response to DDCC from Aldi after letters written in December
- iv. Fly-tipping getting worse in Damhead, despite efforts by residents to curtail it.
- v. One resident pursuing slowness and complexity of fibre optics cable installation in Damhead area.
- vi. Some residents getting involved in humanitarian convoy to Polish/ Ukrainian border on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Gift aid possible advertised wider in Midlothian and further afield.

#### **Rosewell**

- i. The Crown Estate Scotland has opened the second round of community conversation on the future use of Whitehill Estate. They have 1300 hectares. It seems their main areas to consider are around the development of Rosewell, Roslynlee and Dalhousie. This doesn't mean more housing necessarily but they're looking at how to use the land to support current settlements, create employment, provide commercial return and respond to climate change. It would be pertinent for the people of Bonnyrigg, Hopefield, Penicuik and Roslin to be aware of this consultation so they can provide their opinions as it comes very close to their areas. [www.whitehillestate2030.com](http://www.whitehillestate2030.com)
- ii. Mairi McAlken (Minister for biodiversity, environment and land reform) visited this week along with members of crown estate Scotland and the Scottish Government.

#### **4. AIRPORT NOISE**

##### **Report on March meeting held on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.**

- i. Given that there had only been three weeks since the last full meeting, there was not much by way of new business this month. The bulk of time was taken up in discussing how the report from the Review Panel was going to be considered and which, if any, recommendations should be taken up. It was decided that initially there would be three small group meetings where everyone can give their point of view. These will be facilitated by an independent facilitator. It was also emphasised that the views of the Community Councils should be included and not just the personal views of those representatives on the Board. As I reported last month, I will shortly put up an online survey and anyone in your Community Council area can respond.
- ii. The report is a public report and can be found at **EANRP Review Report Feb 4th 2022**  
A flip version of the report is available here:  
**EANRP Review Report Flip version 4th Feb 2022. (This is at <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/244287061/> )**  
AW can email a printable pdf version if required.
- iii. AW provided updates on the progress of the new ACP. They are still at the stage of considering possible options for new routes. They are proposing to move the holding point, which is currently roughly at Peebles, a little further to the West. What is not clear yet is how the flights will get from there to Inchkeith. AW suggested that they might fly along the line of the Pentlands, over Penicuik, before turning right over Bonnyrigg or Dalkeith or Shawfair. He suggested that they are trying out possible new routes and waiting to see if there is a big outcry over any of them.

##### **Aircraft Noise**

- i. AW highlighted that it is more important than ever that complaints be made to Edinburgh Airport if the passing planes make excessive noise. The link to the noise complaint page is Submit Noise Enquiry (casper.aero) or an email be sent to noise@edinburghairport.com.

##### **FlightRadar24 Website**

- i. The link to the FlightRadar24 site is <https://www.flightradar24.com>

##### **Capacity of Edinburgh Airport**

- i. MFCC members questioned whether the airport was running at full pre-pandemic capacity and AW stated it was about 60% at present, so any increase in air traffic might be a return to existing schedules.

## **5. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROAD AND PATHS**

- i. Correspondence was received from Colin Beattie MSP asking to join MTRaP meetings. Members discussed the purpose of MTRaP, whether politicians would be required, pondered the timing of the request given that elections are in May, highlighted it was a closed group and that any invitation to a politician would have to be extended to all and thus lead to a more complicated membership. It was decided that MTRaP will remain with its current membership, but with the option to invite MSP's or other politicians if it was felt that there was a specific issue where members felt a politician would be useful.
- ii. A7 was discussed at the last MTRaP meeting. New cycle lanes are being proposed.
- iii. Midlothian Council plan to create an 'in-house' road marking team. Currently the work is contracted out to a company from Northumberland.
- iv. Active Travel meetings – JT attended and felt it was mainly about cycling and encouraged others to join, especially if they had interests in walking.

## **6. CARE FOR PEOPLE**

- i. Gorebridge are getting their Leisure Centre back after the elections.
- ii. Grit bin location maps were still felt to be inaccurate. Some Community Councils had a walkaround and emailed Midlothian Council. Members discussed privately factored grit bins and that these will never appear on MC maps. New housing estates have privately funded factors to place, use and refill these grit bins, as well as litter pick, prune bushes and maintain the park areas so they will never be adopted by MC. MC do not have information on the privately funded grit bins.
- iii. It was felt that there was little discussion about Care homes and Covid at the last meeting.

## **7. NPF4**

- i. ASK asked whether MFCC should submit a collective response on NPF4. A small sub-group will be formed of those interested in submitting a collective response and will try to meet next week. There are 58 questions in the consultation but you don't have to answer them all. PAS are running workshops on NPF4. Closing deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## **8. ENVIRONMENT**

- i. RB stated that ENCC were concerned about some excavation work being done near the Sun Inn and were not sure who was doing it. Members suggested various organisations to contact.
- ii. Murdo Fraser's fly tipping bill has been shared. It would be useful if members could respond, as fly tipping is becoming an increasing problem.
- iii. Scottish Water is promoting its 'Nature Calls' campaign aimed at combating the issue of people flushing wet wipes or other items down their toilets. It was felt this was particularly an issue in Roslin and Bilson and that if the situation didn't improve, residents would get a leaflet mail dropped to their houses.  
See information here: [Nature Calls - Scottish Water](#).

## **9. INFRASTRUCTURE**

- i. Residents cannot access Leisure Centres through the day due to them being on shared school premises and the school had priority. It was clarified that Swimming pools were always managed like this, with a term-time and holiday schedule. Libraries used to be open through the day but were required during the pandemic hence residents not being permitted access. Residents are advised to write to their elected representative if they feel it's an issue.

## **10. SINGLE MIDLOTHIAN PLAN**

- i. ASK will ask Annette for an update on this. It's a charter of what Midlothian Council plan to do for the next year and can be used to hold them to account.

## **11. AOB**

- i. Gorebridge Community Council is facing a crisis in terms of membership. A number of Community Councillors have resigned and they've not had a quorum 3 times so could dissolve. They plan to try one more meeting and attract more people. RH contacted Midlothian View who could do an article on community councils and why they're important. MFCC members offered to help.
- ii. Police haven't attended various CC meetings. PS Michele Lindsay spoke to one CC about how some staff have taken on new roles or were required to provide front line cover rather than attending meetings. Some CCs have had police in attendance. It was advised that each CC ensure they have the correct contact details of their current community officer.
- iii. Elected Member's Environmental Budgeting. Each elected councillor was given £40,000 and there has been a lack of communication about what the money has been spent on, has each of them spent their money, what's the next stage, would earmarked / ring fenced money for projects be honoured after the

elections even if that elected representative lost their seat? It was suggested we put this on the agenda for next meeting. Information needs to be more transparent or we would request via an FOI Act. RH will contact Annette and Gary Fairley to ask for more information.

- iv. Midlothian Voluntary Action is looking for nominations for their various categories this year. The Federation can only nominate one person or group. Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> March. It was suggested that the Midlothian Paths Group could be nominated for the “active volunteering and Climate Change” category. <https://www.thirdsectormidlothian.org.uk/vm/volunteering/volunteer-week-awards/>
- v. Lesley Kelly was to be invited to a meeting to talk about “Towards the planet” – but we’ve no update about the funding.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022, 7-9PM (ZOOM)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89122610093?pwd=bVlFRkZHWkxXVnZ4dHRUdWVhVlQrZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 891 2261 0093

**Passcode:** 397884