

## Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

21 September 2022

### ZOOM meeting Minutes

#### Present:

Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses (Chair)
Douglas West (DW)	Poltonhall & Hopefield
Myrtle Pont (MP)	Tynewater
Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater
Constance (CN)	Damhead
Edith Cameron (EC)	Rosewell
Daya Feldwick (DF)	Loanhead
Claire Ross (CR)	Danderhall

#### Apologies:

Paul McGrath	Moorfoot
Robin Barclay	Eskbank
Caroline Brown	Howgate

#### In Attendance

Catherine Duns (CD)	Midlothian Council – Communities & Lifelong Learning
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#### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

## **2. PREVIOUS MINUTES (JUNE) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING**

### **i MFCC email and document storage**

JT introduced the item, looking at Spanglefish, £30 to remove the adverts and get secure area. Spanglefish3 is more expensive (£103ish) and also provides a domain and would give everyone access to same email address.

### **ii Planning**

Comment on whether there was an update on NPF4 and Local Place Plans, CD explained no update, Neil Wallace from Planning has retired, Keith Luke is leading on Local Place Plans.

### **iii Council Staff**

Request for up to date list of council staff – CD explained staff changes were constant and to direct queries to her or Paul if they were unsure whom to contact.

**Proposed by:** Brian Farrell

**Seconded by:** Dougie West

## **3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES**

### **Eskbank and Newbattle**

#### **Defibrillator**

- i** ENCC funded defibrillator part funded by St Johns has now been installed at Eskbank Trading (Lasswade Road side) and is now live. Ambulance service will provide code as required.
- ii** We have recently discovered Police Scotland have installed a defibrillator at Dalkeith Police Office next to the public entrance.
- iii** ENCC now exploring how to expand coverage within the ward.

#### **Planning**

- i** Sheriffhall South Drive Thru was granted consent despite objections from ENCC, BLCC and numerous residents. There is now an application for illuminated signage, which is felt to be excessive due to location on Green Belt site, and ENCC will object.
- ii** Still awaiting retrospective application for wastewater works by Miller Homes adjacent to Newbattle Abbey Crescent/A7.

## Police

- i Numerous shoplifting issues at Tesco Hardengreen – mostly alcohol.
- ii Road traffic offences also numerous, speeding and drug driving.

## Environment

- i Sewer leak in July in Lord Ancrum Wood and August at several locations within Newbattle Abbey Crescent. Assistance sought and given by Colin Beattie MSP to gain answers from Scottish Water. Woodland leak caused by tree roots blocking pipe, NAC due to wet wipes & grease during dry spell low flow. Repairs and clean up undertaken and CCTV survey has identified a previously unknown blockage next to A7 which is now being excavated for clearance. ENCC will continue to monitor.

## Speeding

- i Remains an issue on several main roads converging at Eskbank Toll.
- ii Enforcement activity will continue to target the area as resource allows.

## Newsletter

- i ENCC distributed a newsletter to approx. 2500 homes in late June highlighting recent work and successes (question from MP on impact of newsletter, residents are enthusiastic to have received the newsletter and have passed comment, generated doorstep discussions. Newsletters were hand delivered, approx. 350 each.

**Action: BF to circulate copy of newsletter round MFCC).**

## Rosewell

- i Working on production of the Rosewell calendar that contains useful local information and is distributed to all residents in the district. This may be our final year of doing it due to cost increases and the amount of work it involves.
- ii Rosewell Tennis club hopes to open later this autumn. Delayed due to weather preventing the surface being laid.
- iii 'Cash for kids' charity funded repair and widening of a disabled path through the council owned, Rosewell Park.
- iv Not heard anything from the second pharmacist who was trying to open premises.
- v Rosewell Steading hub has a vaccination centre for the next few months.
- vi Farmer's market delayed until next year.
- vii Youth crime has reduced significantly since the schools went back.

### **Bonnyrigg and District**

- i Inaugural meeting of BDCC was planned for 15/9/22 but was postponed as a mark of respect. Rearranged meeting has been arranged for 13/10/22. BLCC and PDCC have both wound up and nominations for BDCC have been received.

### **Damhead**

- i Quiet summer, litter picking, and tidying up the area. Aldi received planning permission for the left hand site of old Straiton but planning permission was refused for Pentland Parks applications.
- ii Waiting on the plans for the final line of the road to which Damhead CC will be objecting.

### **Mayfield and Easthouses**

- i Focus on planning, particularly the development to the south, Springfield for 1,000 homes and Barratts development to the north for 200 house. Community council remaining impartial on ongoing issue with Neil Williams Haulage and the developers.

### **Loanhead**

- i Still not been able to recruit a secretary.
- ii Still dealing with the derelict building (Mayburn House), environmental health involved as there are rats, ongoing issue with the scrapyard and cars parking on the pavement.
- iii Two councillors attended at the last CC meeting.

### **Other**

- i There is a thanksgiving service happening on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October at St Nicholas Buccleuch Church, Lorraine Brown will be sending invites to CCs.
- ii The meet the councillor event organised by MVA provided the opportunity to speak to elected members, particularly about the issues of attendance at CC meetings.
- iii It was noted that it was disappointing that there was no amplification of the microphone at the proclamation at the Corn Exchange.
- iv Hybrid meetings – is this something that should be considered in the future?
- v Question on the number of council staff working at home and in the office – Cllr Parry is going to get this in for Loanhead CC and DF will report back.

#### **4. ALIGNING AGMs**

- i** Survey closes on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, all encouraged to complete.
- ii** Great discussion about differing reasons for particular months AGMs are held, concerns that it may cause issues with office bearer roles (especially if people are signed in for 3 years and this happens midterm), accounts are done at different times, people being elected just before the holidays and not getting a good run at the role.
- iii** If the change were to provide an opportunity for a recruitment campaign could this not be done anytime
- iv** Various suggestions for recruitment – leaflets, facebook, school links, Midlothian Youth Platform, having a table at parent evenings, advertising posts on Volunteer Midlothian website.

**Action: If this is something MFCC and the CCs would like support with then this can be arranged with CLLE.**

#### **5. COMMUNITY COUNCIL INDUCTION TRAINING**

- i** Planned for 6 October, 18:00-19:30, continue to promote.

**Action: CD to get the training opportunity advertised on Mid Council socials for prospective CCs.**

#### **6. SMALL GRANT FUNDING**

- i** Deadline is 14/10/22. Insurance certificate needs to be attached, CCs will need to login to their Zurich account to download the certificate (EC at Rosewell knows how to do this if anyone is stuck). JT suggests copy and paste what you put in last year if going for the basic £300 running costs.
- ii** The process is formal to ensure we are IN line with Following the Public Pound Guidance.
- iii** Decision taken that MFCC will not apply this year as the bank account is healthy.

#### **7. HSCP INPUT AT OCTOBER MEETING**

- i** See email from PJ on 15/9/22 with collated comments/questions.
- ii** JT is working on a paper to present and will share in advance.
- iii** **Action: Any additional questions for Dr Green to be sent to PJ by 14 October.**

## **8. SCHOOL ESTATES FUNDING**

- i RH in contact with school estates to keep updated on what is happening locally, particularly with expected budget cuts.
- ii General interest in how many new schools are planned for future.

**Action: PJ invite an Education rep to update on the school estate plan at the December meeting**

## **9. EMERGENCY THIRD SECTOR FORUM MEETING**

- i RH had noted the meeting that was scheduled for 20/9/22 was aimed at Third Sector organisations working in the area and felt this could have been broader. MP had attended and there will be outcomes from the meeting
- ii ASK shared that MVA have acquired the old hairdressers next to the MVA office and that the space is available for community groups to meet, costs TBD

**Action: RH to contact Lesley Kelly with his concerns about the inclusivity of the meeting**

## **10. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD**

- i AW had circulated the latest report (21 September). Members can email Andrew if they have questions relating to the report.
- ii Positive development with EANB – new Chairperson, outcome statement, and terms of reference. In the future, meetings will be made public.

## **11. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING**

JT noted that the last 2 meetings had been cancelled, next meeting 6/10/22.

## **12. COMMUNITY PLANNING**

- i Cost of Living Taskforce and Strategic Poverty Prevention Group being established and discussion about structure and protocols.  
Cost of living Supports available:  
[Stay warm and well this winter | Support coping with rising living costs | Midlothian Council](#)  
[Cost of living crisis - Cost of Living Support Scotland \(campaign.gov.scot\)](#)
- ii Discussion about the commitment of “The Promise Scotland” - responsible for driving the work of change demanded by the findings of the Independent Care Review: [Home - The Promise](#)
- iii Tried to look at shared priorities using mentimeter but this will be done using a different approach to establish the Single Midlothian Plan priorities for 23/27.

- iv Bus service changes were raised and it was requested a bus representative attend the next CPP Board mtg on 28/10 – all points to ASK in advance of the meeting.
- v There were sudden changes to courses run at Edinburgh College in June that affected on learners – there was no rep from the college so this will be discussed further next month.
- vi The Community Planning day will be held on 8/11/22 at Newbattle Abbey College, only 100 places so make sure you sign up. If MFCC wish to have a table on the day to showcase and network then let ASK know.
- vii Youth community planning event planned for 7/10/22, looking at different themes and involving reps from all the secondary schools.

### **13. PLANNING**

- i BF suggested emailing objections to all elected members in advance of planning/local review body meetings to ensure they are all fully aware.
- ii JT feels there is a lack of respect for CCs, especially as requests are not followed up by Midlothian Council, as the system is inadequate. There has been a discussion with Cllr Parry about have a designated email address.
- iii Loanhead CC has lost secretaries because they get frustrated that the Council do not get back to them.

### **14. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

- i 3 badger setts were found in Mayfield and have been registered and logged.
- ii Daya highlighted an issue in Roslin where builders had breached the conditions around the badger setts. Residents took action and the Scottish Badger Association and Police Scotland were involved.
- iii Successful River Esk project run over the summer

### **15. INFRASTRUCTURE**

Nothing

### **16. CITIZENS PANEL**

Question on whether the questions are passed to the CCs. Discussion on how the panel is currently run and that the questions/document is very wordy and lengthy.

**17. 51/52 BUS ROUTE**

- i MP reported that the 51/52 bus route is under threat and advice on how to bring this case to the forefront.
- ii Need a campaign and support from Borders Council too.

**18. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS AND PATHS**

- i The next meeting will be on 24 October and minutes from previous meeting have been circulated. The pothole machine was discussed, hedging, and yellow lines.

**Action: PJ to send invite to CR (Danderhall) for the next meeting.**

**PJ to add grit bins to the next MFCC agenda.**

**19. A.O.C.B.**

**20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING, 19 October, 7 - 9PM (ZOOM)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87613638807?pwd=VFh2aUFCSnM2bTFFVDZsRFovTTNUUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 876 1363 8807

**Passcode:** 222036