

# Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

21 June 2023

## ZOOM Meeting Minutes

### PRESENT:

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
Joanne Gilles (JG)	Damhead and District
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Barbara Mackie (BM)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chair)
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater and District

### IN ATTENDANCE

Grant Ballantine (GB)	Midlothian Council - Lead Officer Conservation and Environment
Keith Luke (KL)	Midlothian Council - Planning Officer
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities & Lifelong Learning

### Apologies

Jan Irvine (JI)	Bonnyrigg and District
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle (Vice Chair)
Daya Feldwick (DF)	Loanhead and District
Sarah Matthews (SM)	Newtongrange and District

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH (Chairperson) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

### 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES (MAY) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

**Moved:** Robin Barclay

**Seconded:** Dougie West

## 2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH (Chairperson) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

## 3. PREVIOUS MINUTES (MAY) APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

**Moved:** Andrew Watt

**Seconded:** Robert Hogg

## 4. LOCAL PLACE PLANS - MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL

- i The team has completed the first stage of the Evidence Gathering Report.
- ii Team members have held 7 Drop-In events across the county, engaging with Third Sector groups, 5 Primary Schools and 2 Secondary Schools (Lasswade and Newbattle). In addition, they have engaged with the 'traveller' community and the Chamber of Commerce.
- iii GB (Tynewater) noted that TWCC has been actively promoting online engagement and enquired as to the extent that online engagement had been happening.
- iv GB (Tynewater) enquired as to whether data gathered through the Place Standard Tool (PST) would be available for use by Local Place Planning groups.
- v GB (Midlothian Council) noted that the PST can be a time-consuming method to gather (input) data. Map-based exercises are an easier method to get participation.
- vi There was another enquiry about use of data from schools. GB (MC) will discuss with members of the Planning Team. A high number of questionnaires have been returned.
- vii If LPP groups require data to support development of their plans they can contact GB (MC).
- viii Members enquired as to whether funding to support development of Local Place Plans will be available. GB (MC) will discuss with the Planning Manager.
- ix The Planning team has a collection of settlement maps and Community Council boundary maps in PDF format, which we can easily be shared for LPP use. If LPP groups are looking for a printed map of their area, they should contact GB (MC) who will be able arrange for printing if possible. Community Council Boundary maps can be found at this location: [Community Council boundary maps | \(midlothian.gov.uk\)](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk).
- x GB (MC) highlighted that his team recognised the effort and work being undertaken by LPP (on a voluntary basis) groups.

- xi GB (Tynewater) thanked the Planning Team for the support that they had provided to Tynewater and District Community Council.
- xii There was discussion around the suitability of a mapping software. KL (MC) advised that he would look at the Parish Online software with a view to preparing a short tutorial for MFCC members. **Update:** KL has investigated. Although it is free for 12 months for community bodies, Midlothian Council need to pay a subscription. The Council therefore does not have access to this mapping tool. Support and extensive guidance in the use of this tool for community bodies is however available via the Parish Online website (Knowledge Base/ Community Forum/ Tutorials, etc.): <https://www.pariah-online.co.uk/support>.

## 5. LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

### **Bonnyrigg and District**

- i The consultation about Line Marking along Lothian Street has been completed.
- ii A developer will be attending a BDCC meeting to discuss a planning proposal.

### **Dalkeith and District**

- i No update.

### **Damhead**

- i The A701 realignment route proposal has been withdrawn. Alternative routes will now be reconsidered.
- ii It is anticipated that cost of the project will increase.
- iii There are concerns that alternative proposals will open up the opportunity for further housing development to be undertaken.
- iv The potential change in designation of another plot from 'business' use to 'residential' use will increase the potential for housing development. This would have an adverse impact upon the provision of infrastructure (GP surgeries, Dentists et) which is already under pressure.

### **Danderhall and District**

- i No update

### **Eskbank and Newbattle**

- i No update

### **Gorebridge and District**

- i No update

### **Howgate and District**

- i Held its AGM on Tuesday 20 May.
- ii Existing Office Bearers have stepped down.
- iii New members will be joining.
- iv Looking for a venue to meet as the Village Hall has been sold. May have to meet in Penicuik.

### **Loanhead**

- i No update.

### **Mayfield and Easthouses**

- i No update.

### **Moorfoot**

- i No update.

### **Newtongrange**

- i No update.

### **Penicuik and District**

- i KB highlighted that a planning application for a 3 storey Care Home has been received. 70 objections have been lodged.

### **Rosewell and District**

- i New pond has been created by Midlothian Ranger Service near the Dalkeith to Penicuik walkway close to the Rosewell Carpark.
- ii 3.5km stretch of the walkway is to be tarred to improve drainage issues and allow access for cyclists as current surface was only accessible by mountain or hybrid bikes.
- iii Incidents of negative Youth behaviour seems to have reduced thanks to interventions by Lothian Buses and Police Scotland.

- iv Changes to bus route 49 has caused unrest among residents - elected councillors are taking it on with Lothian Buses and MC are helping.

#### **Roslin and Bilston**

- i No update.

#### **Tynewater**

- i No update.

### **5. RESILIENCE RESOURCES**

- i PJ noted that 'resilience' resources are stored in Fairfield House. He has circulated a list of available items. MFCC members are encouraged to review the list and email requests to Paul Johnson ([paul.johnson@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:paul.johnson@midlothian.gov.uk)).

**Action: Community Councils to review list and contact PJ re requirements**

### **6. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD**

- i AW has circulated a report of the last meeting.

### **7. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING**

- i The next meeting of the group will be in July.

### **8. MIDLOTHIAN PHARMACY PROVISION**

- i AK noted the closure of Lloyds pharmacy in Dalkeith.
- ii In Mayfield, the former Lloyds pharmacy has been replaced by an independent pharmacy. KB noted that the same has happened in Penicuik.
- iii ASK suggested that it would be helpful if information could be provided on a Midlothian wide basis.

### **9. PROPOSED SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARIES**

- i ASK highlighted proposals for Scottish Parliamentary boundary changes that will mean that Dalkeith will move into a different Constituency. Consequently, in terms of voting at Scottish Parliament elections, Dalkeith will be removed from the rest of Midlothian.
- ii Penicuik would rejoin Midlothian.
- iii On behalf of MFCC, Ann Stewart Kmicha will circulate a 'draft' to members and then submit a letter of response.

## 10. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i The Single Midlothian Plan (S.M.P.) was discussed at the last meeting. The new S.M.P. will cover the period 2023 – 2027. Progress reports will be delivered every six months. The report for the period October 2022 – March 2023) will be submitted at the next full Midlothian Council meeting. See here for further details: [Midlothian Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com).
- ii A full version of the 2023-2027 Plan can be found on the Council website at this location: [The Single Midlothian Plan | Community Planning in Midlothian | Midlothian Council](#).

## 11. PLANNING

- i Community Councillors were reminded to monitor the applications for developments, particularly over the summer period.
- ii ASK noted what appeared to be poor organisation and processes at the last meeting of the Local Review Body.

**Action: Community Councils encouraged to monitor planning applications**

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

- i A short overview of the last meeting was provided. The meeting minutes have been circulated to MTRaP members.
- ii The next meeting of the group will be on Monday, 28 August (6.00 – 7.30, Zoom).
- iii PJ (Midlothian Council) will circulate the June minutes to MFCC members. In the future MTRaP minutes will also be circulated to MFCC members.

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

- i **Mainstream Participatory Budgeting (PB)**  
RH (Mayfield and Easthouses) requested that an update on PB be provided at the next MFCC meeting in September.
- ii **Midlothian Council Budget**  
Information about financial monitoring will be provided at the council meeting on 27 June.  
[Midlothian Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com)
- iii **Return to Face-Face Meetings**  
Members discussed meeting in person. Agreement that Zoom meetings will continue until the Annual General Meeting.

**iv Annual General Meeting**

The proposal to have the AGM meeting 'in person' was agreed.

There was also agreement that the AGM would be held (as per the MFCC Constitution) at the November meeting.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday, 18 October 2023, 7:00 - 9.00 pm (Zoom)**

**Zoom Meeting Details**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85613946966?pwd=NTEybWJacE8xTmlWSmxqMVkyeURuUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 856 1394 6966

**Passcode:** 622417