

# Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

18 October 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
Constance Newbould	Damhead and District
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses (Chair)
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Gordon Brown (GB)	Tynewater and District
Sarah Matthews (SM)	Newtongrange and District

### IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council – Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability
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### Apologies

Brian Farrell	Eskbank and Newbattle (Vice Chair)
Helen Blackburn	Rosewell and District
Judy Thomson	Mayfield and Easthouses
Robin Barclay	Eskbank and Newbattle

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH (Chairperson) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting.

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

**Moved:** Robert Hogg

**Seconded:** Andrew Watt

i **Archie Pacey – Funeral**

ASK attended the service and sent a card on behalf of MFCC members.

ii **Jan Irvine**

It was with sadness that the group were informed of the passing of Jan Irvine and tributes were made at the meeting.

Jan was well known for her community activism including work as a former Chairperson of Bonnyrigg and District Community Council, work with Midlothian People's Equality Group and with East and Midlothian Women's Aid.

Jan's funeral will take place on Tuesday 24th October 2023 at 2:30pm within the small chapel at Mortonhall Crematorium.

ASK will send a card and attend on behalf of the MFCC membership.

iii **Coalfields Regeneration Trust**

RH had a sent a letter re support to CRT (the organisation has had a substantial cut in funding support from the Scottish Government) but had not had any response at the time of the meeting. RH will use the letter template (provided by CRT) and send to Scottish Government indicating support for the work of CRT by MFCC.

**Action: RH to send letter of support for CRT to Scottish Government.**

3. **LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES**

**Bonnyrigg and District**

- i **AGM.** Meeting has been held and new Office Bearers have been elected.  
**Chair** - Dan Lennie, **Vice Chair** - Dougie West, **Treasurer** - Alison Thomson  
**Secretary** - Diane Easton, **Media Officer** - Kirstie Malley  
**Minute Secretary** - Liz MacDonald (Minute Secretary)
- ii **Local Place Plan.** Survey is being launched.

**Dalkeith and District**

- i No update

**Damhead and District**

- i **Planning Development.** CN highlighted work to seek information about plans for development (Allanvale land) of land in the area. It is anticipated that the developers will attend the 5<sup>th</sup> December meeting.
- ii **Housing Allocation.** Will be supporting the 'Housing Allocation' letter.
- iii **Local Place Plan.** Had a good response to the Local Place Plan (LPP) survey. A draft LPP will be submitted at the end of October.

### **Danderhall and District**

- i No update

### **Eskbank and Newbattle**

- i No update

### **Gorebridge and District**

- i No update

### **Howgate and District**

- i No update

### **Loanhead and District**

- i No update

### **Mayfield and Easthouses**

- i No update

### **Moorfoot and District**

- i **NWH Quarry infill work at North Middleton.** The CC continues to be in communication with NWH about the promise for road improvements to their quarry.  
PM will send plans for NWH development to RH (Mayfield and Easthouses).
- ii **Planned Extension of another quarry.** An application has been made to extend the area of another quarry.
- iii **Speeding on the rural roads around Borthwick.** The Community Council has endorsed a letter sent to Derek Oliver by one of our CC members from the Borthwick area.  
She listed several near accidents and actual incidents, one causing severe injury to a rider.
- iv **Road Signs.** Ideally, we would like to have “Quiet Road” signs on these bendy, narrow roads and a 30mph speed limit through the village of Borthwick with appropriate signage and traffic calming.
- v **Local Place Plans.** The CC held an extra meeting this summer to make some headway with our plans for Moorfoot.

- vi **Support with Planning Application responses.** Moorfoot Community Council members would appreciate being able to contact other Community Council to discuss procedures for responding to planning applications. You can email [councillors@moorfoot.org.uk](mailto:councillors@moorfoot.org.uk) if you are able to provide some support.

#### **Newtongrange and District**

- i **Local Place Plan** Members have been working on developing the Local Place Plan.
- ii **Swimming Pool Site** The development of the former Swimming Pool site is underway.
- iii **Parking and Speeding** Concerns about parking and speeding through the village have been raised by local people.
- iv Concern about the poor state of derelict buildings in the village has been raised.

#### **Penicuik and District**

- i No update.

#### **Rosewell and District**

- i **Bat Walk** We are having a Bat Walk in conjunction with Midlothian Wildflowers at Rosewell Park on 28th October from 6-7pm.
- ii **Christmas Fayre** We are having a Christmas Fayre on Wednesday 6th December at St Matthew's Church Hall. 6-9pm. Salvation Army City Corps playing carols, Santa Claus, tea, coffee, and mince pies, lots of craft stalls selling Christmas gifts.
- iii **Community Calendar** We are currently putting together our annual community calendar and hope to send it to the printers by the end of the month.
- iv **Environmental Fayre** After the success of our Environmental Fayre in the summer, we are planning next year's fayre and applying for funding through our membership of MCAN to organise some environmentally friendly activities for children and young people.

#### **Roslin and Bilston**

- i **Local Place Plan.** Consultation has been completed. Anticipated that draft plan will be submitted by the end of the month.

## **Tynewater**

- i **Office Bearers**. Currently do not have a designated Chairperson. However, Community Council members are acting as Chairperson on a rotating basis. This issue (getting members to function as office bearers) is reflected amongst other organisations in the wider Tynewater area.
- ii **Meeting**. TCC has organised an area wide meeting to bring organisations to share information and ideas. The meeting will be on 24 October.
- iii **BEAR**. The organisation is improving responses to issues relating to the A68.
- iv **Lothian Broadband**. The company is now working to reinstate footways that have been affected by work to supply Broadband in the Tynewater area.
- v **Local Place Plan**. Has been a lot of work especially collating and processing data. GB highlighted that:
  - Midlothian Council Planning team members have been as flexible as they can be and are working hard to meet deadlines.
  - Planning Team members have been incredibly supportive in providing information and providing support.
  - Documents provided by the Planning team are particularly good and will take you through the LPP process.
  - Really appreciate what has been done.

## **4. REVISED COMMUNITY COUNCIL GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS**

- i PJ (Midlothian Council) highlighted that a set of revised documents has been issued. The documents provide support on a range of matters. Further information and copies of the documents (in a range of formats) can be found here: [Model Scheme Documents 2023 | Community Council \(communitycouncils.scot\)](https://www.communitycouncils.scot.gov.uk/model-scheme-documents-2023).

## **5. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD**

- i AW gave a summary of the 4 October meeting. A new chairperson has been appointed. Airspace changes are being tested.

## **6. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING**

- i No update available at the meeting
- ii Noted that valuable feedback had been given re the provision of 'in home' care and services to local residents.

## 7. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- i Meeting will be held week beginning 23 October.
- ii Emphasis of work is focussed on alleviating child poverty.

## 8. PLANNING

### i Letter of Support re Housing Allocation.

At the September meeting, Stephen Liddell had given a presentation on a proposal for a letter to be sent on behalf of MFCC. A draft letter has been circulated for discussion and the consideration by local Community Councils. Tynewater Community Council have already compiled a response.

JT (Mayfield and Easthouses) had sent out an email on 29 Sept.

The letter from MFCC needs to be submitted by 31 October and the definitive version needs to be circulated to MFCC members before being sent out.

There was agreement that a short meeting via Zoom may be required to fully discuss the response before it is submitted.

### iii Woodland in Tynewater

GB noted 2 contentious planning applications.

### iv Nail Bar in Dalkeith

A business had been subject to a planning enforcement notice after making changes to the façade of the building. This has now been referred to Scottish Government ministers.

**Action: If Community Councils have any responses to the Housing Allocation letter (supporting or opposing) they should be sent to JT at the earliest opportunity.**

**Zoom call to be organised if appropriate.**

## 9. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### i Gladhouse Reservoir

Noted that anti-social behaviour had been happening in the area.

### ii Esk Valley Trust

Have recommenced a programme of presentations.

## 10. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS (MEETING, 9 OCTOBER 2023)

- i PJ was unable to attend the October meeting. He will circulate the meeting minutes when they have been sent to him.
- ii Tynewater Community Council will be inviting a member of the Active Travel Team to its next meeting.
- iii Noted that the Ranger service are doing a fantastic job in facilitating community events.  
See further information here: [Midlothian Ranger Service | Midlothian Council](#)
- iv **Old Pentland Road (Damhead)** - will be closed for 6 weeks to facilitate the construction of the entrance to the Aldi development.
- v **Dalkeith to Penicuik Path** - Highlighted that cyclists are riding at excessive speeds and causing danger to other users of the path.
- vi **Yellow Lines in Lothian Road (Bonnyrigg)** – Proposal will be discussed at the Council meeting on 24 October.
- vii **Next Meeting** The next meeting of the group will be on Monday, 20 November (6.00 – 7.30, Zoom).

## 11. INFRASTRUCTURE

### **Mayfield and Easthouses**

**In It Together group** - RH (Mayfield) noted that the group has not had a meeting for a year although MFCC has been pushing for it to move forward on agendas. Noted that there is little or no money to fund the ideas.

**Primary Schools** – Construction of Primary schools is on track.

### **Broadband**

Residents interested in superfast broadband can ascertain whether it is available in their area by selecting this link: [Openreach](#).

### **Bus Services in Tynewater**

GB highlighted that the lack of available public transport in the evenings has an adverse impact on local residents who want to access services in areas outside the community. He also noted the lack of a strategy for provision of sports facilities in Midlothian.

### **Sheriffhall Grade Separation**

ASK (Dalkeith) noted that the Reporter has sent the Enquiry Report to Scottish Ministers

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

**Annual General Meeting**

There was agreement that Police Scotland will be invited to attend the meeting.  
ASK will contact Police Scotland.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday, 15 November 2023, 7:00 - 9.00 pm (in person)**

Venue still to be confirmed (26/10/23).

Approved 15 November 2023