

PRESENT:

Suzanne Ross (SR)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith and District
Joanne Gillies (JG)	Damhead and District
Keith Hamilton (KH)	Danderhall and District
Barbara Mackie (BM)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Jacqueline Frankitti (JF)	Gorebridge and District
Ruth Stephen (RS)	Loanhead and District
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses (Chair)
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses (Treasurer)
Andrew Hudson (AH)	Moorfoot and District
Sandy Howden	Newtongrange
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Helen Blackburn (HB)	Rosewell and District
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Johnson	Midlothian Council – Communities Lifelong Learning and Employability
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1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RH (Chair) welcomed Community Councillors to the meeting. There was agreement that the proposed agenda would be revised and that the meeting would focus on discussion and MFCC actions relating to the Midlothian Local Development Plan 2 (MLDP2). This meant that not all items on the agenda would be discussed.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVAL & MATTERS ARISING

March Minutes

With amendments to attendance

Proposed: Suzanne Ross

Seconded: Ann Stewart Kmicha

April Minutes

With amendment to AOCB content

Proposed: Andrew Watt

Seconded: Suzanne Ross

PJ thanked JT (MAECC) for recording the April minutes.

3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and District

- a. Bonnyrigg & District CC are in the first stages of trying to start a Community Vegetable Garden.
- b. We have spoken to Melville Housing who own the land that we wish to use and once the paperwork goes to their Board we will be able to lease the land for a sum of £1 a year for around 15 years.
- c. Midlothian Council Planning Department have been contacted. The initiative will require a change of use. A planning application is needed.
- d. A grant application will need to be submitted to pay for startup costs.

Roslin and Bilston

a. Community Litter Picks

Both villages had successful Litter Picks with over 90 villages attending and 50 Purple bags filled.

b. Roslin Pump Track (wheeled facility)

Has arrived and has been well received. 8 years in the making!

c. Roslin Community Development Trust

Held a community consultation on 26th April with lots of ideas to consider. Thanks to Pam Bowie of Newtongrange for her input. Attendance could have been better, and we are thinking of prioritising and sending out voting papers to all in Roslin for our next stage.

d. Landscaping, Greenspaces

We are having difficulty getting answers for basic things such as a Picnic bench near the Petanque Piste. Face to face meetings go well and then radio silence re next steps - we have monies to pay for this and installation costs. A storage shed is also a challenge for the gardeners with planning obstacles and any advice on permitted development welcome.

e. Bilston Community Garden

Good community engagement taking place with youths now helping out.

f. Roslin First Aid Responders

Have funded a defib outside the Pavilion which is a good location. Thank you.

g. Roslin Fete

Our Annual jamboree is moving to the last Sat in August from its usual first Saturday in Sept and the organising committee are ahead with planning and are well funded this year to cover expenditure.

4. MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 (MLDP2)

- a. The Midlothian Council Planning Committee is meeting on 10 June. See related papers here - [Planning Committee 10 June Documents](#).
- b. The Committee will review feedback received as result of engagement with interested parties.

- c. Although a Midlothian Council Planning Officer had contacted RH (MAECC) to offer to attend the meeting this evening, there was agreement that it would be preferable for MFCC to be able to have the opportunity to fully share and discuss any issues of concerns they may have and then meet with Council Planning officers.
- d. Those present agreed that it would be imperative that MFCC are able to meet with Planning Officers before the meeting on 10 June.
- e. The following issues of concerns were raised and discussed.
- There was recognition that as result of the 'call for ideas' initiative, that developers will have submitted proposals for every available piece of land and that many of them will never be developed.
 - That the majority of greenspaces in the county have been proposed for development (call for ideas).
 - Number of houses have been omitted from publicly available maps showing the proposed developments.
 - Elected Members (for their consideration) *have* been supplied with maps that have numbers proposed for each development site.
 - Those present expressed concerns that the figures have been *deliberately* kept from members of the public and in particular, Midlothian Community Councils.
 - This will hamper the ability of MFCC to engage with Midlothian Council on an *informed* basis.
 - BM (ENCC) highlighted that consideration needs to be given to ecological measures.
- f. Those present (representing individual Community Councils) were encouraged to contact their Elected Members (at the earliest opportunity) if they had concerns about particular sites in their areas.
- g. ASK (Dalkeith) highlighted that, during the discussions it will be important to give consideration to matters of infrastructure related to the development sites.
- h. MW (TWCC) noted that in addition to numbers allocated, it will be important for community councils to discuss the *process* of allocation of sites and numbers of individual sites.
- i. JG (Damhead) suggested preparing a list of 'definitely not' sites before the meeting with Planning Officers.
- j. RH (MAECC) noted that Community Councils will not be able to reject every proposal and therefore may find themselves in a position whereby they have to make 'difficult' decisions on behalf of their local community.
- k. Noted that during the discussions and engagement, the '20-minute neighbourhood' concept should be considered.

5. IJB – ATTENDANCE AT MFCC MEETING.

- a. PJ (Midlothian Council) advised that he had been in contact with Gill Main who had indicated that it wouldn't be possible for a representative to attend a MFCC meeting before the summer recess.
- b. Those present at the meeting agreed that as the September meeting (the first after the summer break) may be busy, it would be best to invite a representative of the IJB to the October MFCC meeting.

ACTION: PJ to invite IJB representative to October meeting. MFCC member to consider what information and items they wish to discuss with the IJB.

6. SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN MIDLOTHIAN (2025) (INC. UPDATED DOCUMENTATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME).

- a. PJ highlighted that the team is looking to deliver the training in range of formats including 'in person', online (video) or 'podcasts'.
- b. The team will work in partnership with MFCC to develop the format and content of the training programme, particularly in seeking a way to effectively provide training and updates on the revised Scheme and governance procedures.
- c. PJ has updated all the documents relating to the revised Scheme, including governance procedures, the Code of Conduct and Nomination forms.
- d. The updated documents can be found on the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils website (www.midlothiancommunitycouncils.org.uk) in the 'Documents' section.

ACTION: MFCC members to circulate the link to the revised documents (to their Community Council members. All Community Councillors are encouraged to read and review the '[Community Councillor Code of Conduct](#)'.

7. EDINBURGH AIRPORT NOISE BOARD

AW had circulated a report on May 21. The next meeting will be on 4 June.

8. CARE FOR PEOPLE MEETING

Not discussed

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING

Not discussed

10. PLANNING

Members are encouraged to check the planning portal for development proposals in their area.

[Weekly List \(midlothian.gov.uk\)](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk)

11. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Not discussed.

12. MIDLOTHIAN TRAFFIC ROADS & PATHS

- a. A meeting took place on Monday 12 May
- b. Those who had been present noted that there were no Midlothian Council Officers at the meeting.
- c. Alan Heatley (Midlothian Council - Network & Structures Manager), although working elsewhere on the day of the meeting had provided a detailed update on the progress of the Capital Works programme.
- d. PJ will circulate the *draft* meeting notes.

13. A.O.C.B.

a. Salters Battery Energy Storage Scheme - Dalkeith

A development proposal for a battery energy storage system was passed by the [Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit](#) on 12 May. Those present at the meeting expressed concerns that the decision was not widely known. Midlothian Council had not objected to the development.

b. Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme

In Scotland, from 1 April 2025, all individuals who carry out a regulated role with children, protected adults, or both, must be a member of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme to be compliant with new legal requirements. This must be renewed every five years.

Community Councils should be mindful of the scheme when they are organising events and activities.

They can check if a role needs PVG membership here - [Is the role carried out in Scotland? - Check if a role needs PVG scheme membership.](#)

c. Bus Trial between Pathhead and Penicuik (800)

- **From Monday 31 March 2025** Midlothian Council has been trialling a free (funded from the council's dividend from Lothian buses) bus service connecting communities from east to west.
- If it becomes a full service, fares would be in line with other Lothian bus services.
- **The trial will last** for 6 months.
- Passengers can hail the bus on some sections of the route if no designated bus stop.
 - Key locations along the route include:
 - Vogrie Country Park
 - Tesco, Dalkeith
 - Auchendinny
 - Midlothian train stations
 - Midlothian Community Hospital
 - Straiton Retail Park
 - The service timetable can be found on the Council website or the link below: [Full-service timetable and map on Traveline Scotland](#)

d. Crawlees Road

- There was detailed discussion about the future development of the route.
- The MSP for Midlothian has been contacted.
- A new assessment of the route will need to be made.
- Members of the 3 Community Councils adjacent to the route are encouraged to 'keep up the pressure' on developers, Council Officers, and local politicians to ensure that the needs of the local communities are reflected, and that development of the route is kept on the agenda.

14. NEXT MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE AT 7PM, ZOOM LINK

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486331372?pwd=TqRrNjIjPjKVGzKgSj5Z7xuXhUI3FTY.1>

Meeting ID: 864 8633 1372

Passcode: 584821

Approved 16 June 2025