

DRAFT

LOANHEAD & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 14TH March 2017 at 7.00pm

Loanhead Library

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present: Pat Kenny, John Thomson, Ben Shore, Bernard Foy, Charles Hamilton, Annabel Hamilton, Jack Aitchison, Peter Frame, Gina Temple and Jamie Moffat

Police Report – PC Lewis Hodgkinson attended and gave the police report for the last month. In summary there were 57 recorded crimes – 21 solved, and 251 calls to the police. A large number of the calls were about groups of youths causing mischief, vandalism and under age drinking. By the time the police attended to these calls the youths had dispersed. PC Hodgkinson reported that it was only a very small percentage of the youth population involved and some were not from Loanhead. The youth officers were also attending to this. Pat asked how the Community Council could help with reference to under age drinking – it was suggested contacting the Licensing Officer to request that he/she visit all the shops and supermarkets in the area that sell alcohol asking them to be more vigilant in respect of under age purchases. The full crime report is appended to the Minutes.

Action

1. **Apologies** Daya Feldwick.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting** approved – proposed Annabel Hamilton, seconded Peter Frame.

3. **Matters Arising**

- Dog litter bins. A request was made to Midlothian Council for additional bins on the walkway to Costco and the walkway to Loanhead primary school. Members were asked to report back to the Chair if this does not happen. The additional bins requested last November for Burghlee park had not been actioned by the Council. The amount of dog fouling in Loanhead had been noted in the Neighbourhood Walk Report and they had also reported this to the Council. The Council to be contacted again.
- Name change (Paradykes School). We wrote to the Council with the suggestion that the School name be changed to Park Primary School, the response was negative. We also wrote to the headmaster at Paradykes School – waiting a response.

GT

4. **Planning:**

- Planning applications:
 - Ref No. 17/00130/DPP – erect a porch + extend dwelling house at 1-2 Wheatfield Grove.
 - Ref No. 17/00155/DPP – extension to dwelling house 98 Dalum Grove.
 - Ref No. 17/000160/WTT pruning of protected trees at Monklands, Bilston.
 - Ref \no. 17/00080/ADV (retrospective)| FABB Sofas display of illuminated signs.
 - Ref \no. 17/00137/LBC – felling of trees at Woodland East of Greenhill House.
 - Ref no. 17/00094/ADV – Display of illuminated and non- illuminated signs - has already been granted with conditions that it is in keeping with character of surrounding retail park.
 - COSTCO application to extend area within warehouse for alcohol sales.

No objections were raised to any of the above.

- Mayburn House – we requested a meeting with the Head of Planning but were told that Midlothian Council had entered a legal process seeking to remove all of the cars stored within the grounds by 29th March 2017. They will also be serving separate notice(s) requiring the grounds to be cleaned up.
- Land –Pat Kenny had been contacted by Kevin Quinn (Midlothian Advertiser) asking if there was a problem with the site of the current doctors' surgery being private land – thereby possibly causing a problem with the proposed development of houses on the grounds of Paradykes School.
- Road Humps. We have written to Midlothian Council suggesting that it would be preferable to reduce the speed limit to 20mph on The Loan instead of installing road humps.
- Planning Workshop. Gina Temple had attended the workshop and tabled a copy of the Conclusions from the report of the day. The main theme was that local communities will have greater input to the planning process than before and therefore need to be more pro-active. Pat asked for volunteers to get involved in Planning - this would be raised again at the next meeting.

5. Correspondence

- Health issues In The Community Tutor Training Monday, Tuesday 21st and 22nd March 2017, 9.00 – 4.00 Loanhead Primary School community rooms – Noticeboard.
- MVA – grant distribution. Survey to be completed.
- Community Chartering Network has emailed offering to assist communities set up discussions on Unconventional Oil and Gas Exploration. The Scottish Government began a 4 month public consultation under the current UOG moratorium which ends on 31st May 2017.

PK

6. New legislation involving the community in decision making.

The Scottish Government will be introducing a number of initiatives that both give communities an increased opportunity to influence what is happening to them and also require them to take part in certain aspects of local government.

- **Community Empowerment Act** – three most relevant sections are: Asset Transfer, Participation Requests and Community Right to Buy.
- **Land Reform Act 2016** A lot in this but two things that directly impact on communities. The requirement for landowners to consult/engage with communities when making any changes /taking decisions that affect the land. In effect an absolute right to buy, ie. **without** landowners consent if the case can be made that the buy out would be in the public interest to promote sustainable development etc.

Two key pieces of legislation coming

- **Planning Bill** - discussed above most notable omission no right of **third party appeal**. Developer can appeal again and again. Planning Democracy are currently trying to get this changed and had provided postcards for anyone who wish to object to this to write to their MSP.
- **Local Democracy Bill**. This Bill will be part of the stripping out of powers from local government that obstruct progress.

Further policies being pursued that have an impact on communities: Participatory Budgeting; A Good Food Nation Bill and Midlothian Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017. The Improvement Plan is currently with Community Councils for consultation but it is not clear what obligations or involvement we would have. This item to be raised again at the next meeting.

PK

7. Any Other Current Business.

- Playpark equipment – Written again to the Manager of the Kabin re siting the playpark at the top of the new housing development adjacent to the Kabin grounds –awaiting a response.
- The Container has been removed from the rear of the Library HQ.
- Ideas for use of Library HQ site. The Council plan to build social housing on the site of the Library HQ and former Social Work building, probably starting in 2018.
- Under-age drinking under viaduct – see police report above.
- The bus shelter outside the Miner’s Welfare Club is being used as a public toilet and needs cleaned up.
- Jamie Moffat introduced himself. He is a new resident and is keen to kick-start the plans to provide a Skate Park in Loanhead. He was involved with the Skate Park and the skating community in Perth and has experience and enthusiasm to bring to a similar project in Loanhead. £25k has already been spent on the design of the park but the original location is now to be used for housing. Pat said that it had been agreed at an earlier meeting, that Ramsay Bing was an ideal site for a skate park and other sporting facilities, as this land is not suitable for housing. Jamie wanted to find out from the MSP and MP if the £5k each had promised to the project had been ring fenced. The estimated cost of a new facility would be £200K.

GT

JM

8. Date of Next Meeting – 11 April 2017.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY FEBRUARY 2017
BEAT AREAS MW01 AND MW03 – LOANHEAD & DISTRICT

During the month of February in the beat areas of Loanhead & District there were 57 recorded crimes reported, of which 21 were solved. During this time period there were 251 calls to police.

Incidents of Note

- About 4.05pm on Tuesday 7th February a male and female were stopped by police on Inveravon Road, Loanhead and searched under the Misuse of Drugs act. A 27 year old female and a 48 year old male were both found in possession of cannabis.
- About 1pm on Thursday 9th February a male was within the car park at Costco, Loanhead trying to sell televisions from a motor vehicle.
- About 5.15pm on Friday 10th February a 14 year old female was found at Straiton Retail Park under the influence of alcohol. She was conveyed home by police and left in the care of her parents.
- About 10.45pm on Friday 10th February police were informed that a number of cars were within IKEA car park and performing skids on the icy conditions. Police attended and no trace of any offending vehicles.
- About 6.20pm on Saturday 11th February a large group of youths were reported to be causing annoyance at the shop on McNeill Avenue, Loanhead. The youths had made off prior to police arrival.
- About 3am on Sunday 12th February police stopped a car on the Loan, Loanhead due to its manner of driving. A 27 year old male was subsequently arrested for drink driving. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.
- About 4.40pm on Tuesday 14th February a report was made to police regarding a large group of youths congregating on Muirfield Gardens and causing a nuisance. Police attended with no trace of the youths.
- About 7.15pm on Wednesday 15th February a group of youths were seen to throw a glass bottle at the fire exit door at Nandos Restaurant, Loanhead before making off on foot.
- About 11.30am on Thursday 16th February it was discovered that 2 number plates had been stolen overnight from a van parked on Harnes Court, Loanhead.
- About 2.20pm on Thursday 16th February it was reported that a garden shed on McNeill Avenue, Loanhead, had its roof damaged.
- About 7.30pm on Thursday 16th February a window at a property on George Drive, Loanhead was broken by a group of youths.
- About 4.15am on Saturday 18th February 3 industrial bins were deliberately set on fire whilst at the rear of Matalan, Straiton Retail Park, Loanhead.
- About 3pm on Sunday 19th February a report was made to police regarding two off road motorcycles being driven on Hawthorn Gardens, Loanhead. Both culprits were described as male wearing white helmets with no number plates on either motorcycle.
- Overnight on Tuesday 21st February a business premises under construction at Straiton Retail Park, Loanhead, was broken into and a quantity of items stolen from within.
- About 1.50am on Friday 24th February police stopped a car at McDonalds, Straiton, Loanhead where the driver was found to have no driving licence and no insurance. A 20 year old male was cautioned and charged with a number of driving offences and will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
- About 12.30pm on Friday 24th February police conducted a vehicle stop check on The Loan, Loanhead where a number of motorists were issued with tickets including not wearing a seatbelt, personal possession of cannabis and 2 tickets for not obeying a no entry sign.
- About 3.15pm on Friday 24th February a report was made to police regarding youths fighting at Memorial Park, Loanhead. There was no trace of youths on police arrival.
- About 4pm on Friday 24th February a report was made to police regarding youths congregating at the Viaduct, Loanhead and allegedly consuming alcohol. Police attended and traced 4 youths with no alcohol found.
- About 5.15pm on Saturday 25th February it was reported to police that a group of youths were seen to run over a number of cars on Mayburn Avenue, Loanhead. Police attended with no trace of any youths on the street and no damage to cars found.
- About 6.30pm on Saturday 25th February a report was made regarding youths vandalising a bus stop on the Loan, Loanhead. Police attended with no trace of the youths and no damage caused to the bus stop.

- About 8.55pm on Saturday 25th February a quantity of stones were thrown at a property on Mayburn Avenue, Loanhead.
- About 9am on Sunday 26th February it was discovered that a bus windscreen at Hunters Coaches, Loanhead had been smashed.
- About 7.25pm on Tuesday 28th February a group of youths were seen attempting to set fire to a fence on McKinlay Terrace, Loanhead. Police attended with no trace of the youths.

If any person has any information about the incident(s) listed above, or indeed any other crime, please contact your Community Policing Officer - PC Graham Black via 101 or email: LothianScotBordersPenicuikCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Additional Information

Hate crime and domestic abuse can now be reported online via the official Police Scotland website at www.scotland.police.uk or by visiting a Third Party Reporting Centre – details of which are also on our website.

Information regarding crime can be passed to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or through an Online Form - both of these routes are completely anonymous and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Police Scotland use social media to circulate the latest news, events and information to the public via Twitter (@LothBordPolice and @MidLothPolice) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/LothiansScottishBordersPoliceDivision and www.facebook.com/MidlothianPolice).

Your View Counts

Police Scotland consults with the public every year on what their priorities are for policing in their community. In the past this has always been by hard copy consultation questionnaires which were distributed by police officers within the community they work.

This year Police Scotland's consultation process is widening and becoming more flexible. The consultation process is moving online to a digital format and consultation will be open all year.

The public consultation is for you to tell us what is important to you in your community. Your opinion is valued – we need your opinion to inform our policing. Having your say in the decision making process of Police Scotland is a vital tool for residents of Scotland to be able to shape the way their public services should operate. Everyone's views across Scotland will be taken on board at a national and local level. We want you to help us focus on the priorities that will help communities most. There is no 'one size fits all' approach to local policing and all the needs and wants of individual communities will be considered.

This is the first time Police Scotland's public consultation is being hosted on a digital platform. This allows us to reach a much wider audience than ever before ensuring that everyone can have their say.

The online consultation is open all year which allows you to take part when it suits you but also gives the flexibility of being able to re-submit the consultation if your priorities change.

It's a very simple process that should only take a few moments of your time but will shape the way that policing is coordinated across Scotland and in your local community.

We will keep you updated on our quarterly results. The consultation will be a completely transparent process as it's all about your priorities.

Below is a link to the 'Your View Counts' page.

www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts