

**GOREBRIDGE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**16 SEPTEMBER 2025, 7PM, BIRKENSIDE PAVILION**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Community Council Members**

Chair Gael Robertson (GR), Secretary Richard Horsburgh (RH) Alice Drever (AD), Lorraine Amedro (LA), Heather Webb-Nelson (HWN), Jac Frankitti (JF), Mary Davidson (MD) John Campbell (JC) Ian Hewitson (IH)

**Midlothian Councillor**

Cllr Ellen Scott (ES)

**Police**

Inspector Rourke PC Wilson, PC Cunningham

**Visitors**

R Rafferty, Amedro, J Paget, R Rafferty, B Santos, M Cowie, A Murry

**WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her pleasure at seeing so many new faces.

**APOLOGIES:**

M Webb, Cllr D Bowen

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes were circulated to members and changes were made to Cllr Scott's report.

Approved – R Horsburgh

Seconded – L Amedro

**MATTERS ARISING**

None.

## **MIDLOTHIAN CLIMATE ACTION HUB**

- The Chair welcomed Brono Santos from the Midlothian Climate Action Hub. Brono explained the purpose of the Hub and its aims to support community-led action in response to both the climate and nature crises. He outlined plans to contribute to the MLDP2 consultation, ensuring that local voices are heard and priorities for climate and the environment are integrated.
- Brono highlighted ongoing collaboration with other organisations on projects such as community-owned renewable energy and local heat networks, which have the potential to reduce carbon emissions and deliver meaningful responses to climate change. He stressed the importance of ensuring that the wealth, social value, and economic benefits of such projects remain within communities rather than flowing to large corporations.
- The Hub is seeking the views of local people to help shape its position and priorities, aiming to build a clear understanding of what communities want from these initiatives. This feedback will help ensure that projects are designed to reflect and represent the needs of Midlothian's communities.

### **Action to be taken:**

- Members to consider the points raised and share community views with Brono Santos to inform the Hub's ongoing work.
- Invite to a future Meet and Share meeting

## **MIDLOTHIAN PLANNING & MDLP2 ISSUES**

### **Local Review Body (LRB)**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> September Midlothian Council Planning Officers Emma Hay and Keith Luke met with Gael and Richard to discuss the draft Place Statement for Gorebridge and wider MLDP2 issues. Key points included:

- Local Place Plans – clarification sought on their role in planning decisions (MC to confirm).
- Draft Place Statement – first draft shared with GDCC; feedback invited.
- Housing mix – MC developing new policy to require a greater variety of housing types.
- Infrastructure – GDCC requested clearer explanation of what falls out with planning scope.
- Deliverability – emphasis on the new requirement for housing sites to be realistically deliverable.
- Other matters – supermarket provision, bus services (including the 800), drainage, Redheugh sites, and recognition of the National Mining Museum.

### **Action to be taken:**

- GDCC members to review the draft Place Statement and provide comments to Midlothian Council.

## **MIDLOTHIAN PLANNING & MDLP2 ISSUES (continued)**

### **Gorebridge Local Place Plan**

- Gael informed the meeting that we asked the planning officers about the legal status of Local Place Plans (LPPs) in the planning system. It was confirmed that LPPs are recognised in legislation and must be considered by planning authorities when preparing Local Development Plans. However, their direct weight in the determination of individual planning applications and appeals is limited. While LPPs provide an important means for communities to set out local priorities and influence the Local Development Plan, they do not carry legal standing in planning policy.

#### **Action to be taken:**

- GDCC will conduct a review of the draft Gorebridge Place Statement and continue to advocate for the LPP to be given greater weight in planning decisions, ensuring that local priorities are fully reflected in the planning process.

## **MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL ISSUES**

### **Gorebridge High School & FOI Response Update**

- The Scottish Information Commissioner has contacted Midlothian Council regarding the FOI request on school roll projections.
- The Council has withheld the data under Section 33 (commercial interests and the economy).
- The Commissioner is applying the Public Interest Test before making a final ruling.
- A response setting out arguments for disclosure is required by 26th of this month (today).
- Members agreed that release of the data is in the public interest, particularly due to:
  - The importance for school planning in Gorebridge.
  - The need for transparency and accountability in decision-making.
  - The fact that developers already hold similar projections, giving them an advantage over the community.

#### **Action to be taken:**

- Gael and Richard to meet and write a public interest response to the Scottish Information Commissioner by the deadline of 26th [Month/Year].

## **MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL ISSUES (continued)**

### **Crawlees Road Safety**

- The Crawlees Road issues were discussed at the meeting with representatives from Barratt's and will be covered in the correspondence section.

### **Circular Bus Route (800 Bus Service)**

- No final update yet on the continuation of the 800 bus service.
- Operators are expected to consult with the community soon and seek further direction.
- At present, there is no indication that the service will be reinstated on the full 3–9 timetable.
- The service is currently under evaluation, particularly in relation to previous funding provided.
- Community members stressed the importance of maintaining a direct service, especially for links to key destinations (e.g., the voting station).
- The 800 service is continuing for now, but its future depends on the outcome of the evaluation.
- Members agreed to keep pressing for the continuation and strengthening of the service.

#### **Action to be taken:**

- Continue to advocate strongly for the retention and expansion of the 800 service.

### **Midlothian Council Investment to transform Midlothian Bus Infrastructure**

Jac Frankitti reported that Midlothian Council has secured £1.071 million from Transport Scotland to improve bus infrastructure. The funding will not add new routes but will improve reliability and facilities for passengers.

#### **Key points:**

- £735,000 for a smart traffic light system at 15 junctions (6 on the A701) to prioritise late-running buses.
- £100,000 for a study on future Park & Ride sites, ahead of the Straiton lease ending in 2027.
- £44,000 for a new bus terminus at Destination Hillend. £192,000 for 23 new bus shelters.
- £505,000 joint project with Edinburgh and East Lothian councils to improve key transport corridors.
- Improvements will make buses quicker and more reliable, though no new bus services are included.

#### **Action to be taken:**

Jac to provide an update on progress and timescales.

## **MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL ISSUES (continued)**

### **Midlothian Council Surveys**

- Travel survey and Local Transport Strategy survey have started.
- Surveys are available online.
- Members questioned whether the surveys are worthwhile but agreed they are important to complete.

#### **Action to be taken:**

- GDCC members are encouraged to complete the surveys.

### **LPP Audit**

- Gael informed the meeting that only a limited number of formats have been received so far.
- No significant new information is available at this stage and therefore, there is nothing further to report until more responses are received.

#### **Action to be taken:**

- GDCC to follow up on the LPP audit survey, raise the lack of responses from local organisations at the next Meet & Share meeting, and identify gaps in provision for young people in Gorebridge.

## **COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

### **Cllr Drummond:**

No report submitted.

### **Cllr Bowen**

No report submitted.

## **COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (continued)**

### **Cllr Scott (Abridged)**

- Dalhousie Business Park: Raised concerns about vehicle congestion; Licensing confirmed it was not a licensing matter.
- Temple Land Slip: Productive meeting with residents, Council Officers, and Savills to update on monitoring.
- Gladhouse Reservoir: Parking restrictions implemented; enforcement and longer-term solution being pursued.
- Flying Fox: Investigating potential restoration of equipment in local parks.
- Line Dyke Wall: Monitored by structural engineers; Lothian Estates proposing partial removal and rebuilding.
- Main Street Bollards: Works order raised; operations team contacted for urgent processing.
- 339 & Circular Bus Route: Officers appraising community bus; no current plans to reinstate 339.
- Gore Glen Primary School: Improvements to play areas progressing; school crossing on Whitehouse Road in current year's programme.
- St Anne's – Retirement Housing: Supported residents in discussions with landlord and local MSP regarding service charges.
- Community Council GDPR Costs: Officers investigating potential Council support for registration fees.
- Battery Storage Judicial Review: Council challenging Scottish Government consent for Dalkeith Schools battery site due to safety concerns.
- Education & Admissions Policy: Policy updated to prioritise Midlothian children, manage school roll growth, and maintain arrangements for Loretto RC pupils; statutory consultation to ensure no disadvantage to Roman Catholic children.

**Cllr Scott's full report is attached to this document**

## **ROAD CALMING & MAIN STREET ISSUES:**

- Speeding: Vogrie Road/Lady Brae, Powdermill Brae and other hot spots continue to have drivers who are going too fast. Cllr Scott met with Officers on site to discuss these issues to try to find a solution.
- The rollout of the new 20 mph speed limit was discussed at length; while generally seen as a positive initiative, it was agreed that the implementation could have been managed more effectively.

### **Action to be Taken:**

- Cllr Scott to share speed monitoring data with the Community Council.
- Police to be contacted to discuss further enforcement and educational measures regarding speeding in the area.

## **WITHDRAWAL OF MCAT AND IMPLICATIONS ON ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Inspector Rourke provided a detailed breakdown of issues and answered questions from GDCC members.

### **Road Safety & Speeding**

- Reducing speeds from 30mph to 20mph significantly lowers the risk of serious or fatal accidents.
- Historic accident data is available via CrashMap, which can be searched by street or area and covers the past 20–25 years.
- Local authority is responsible for traffic-calming measures such as flashing signs, chicanes, traffic islands, and speed monitoring devices.
- GDCC members raised concerns about:<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>
- Aggressive driving and tailgating.
- Non-compliance with 20mph zones.
- Buses and other vehicles running red lights.
- Inspector emphasised the need for evidence-based action rather than relying solely on anecdotal reports.
- GDCC could participate in Community Speedwatch and engage with the council to request local monitoring.
- Suggested inviting a council officer (Gillian Bathgate) to explain the council's approach to road safety.

## **WITHDRAWAL OF MCAT AND IMPLICATIONS ON ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (Continued)**

### **Police Reporting**

- Moving from individual community council reports to ward-level multi-member reports.
- Benefits include reduced administrative workload for officers, more meaningful and comparable data across wards.
- Community officers will continue attending GDCC meetings where possible.

### **Community Policing Teams**

- One dedicated community officer per ward continues as before.
- Additional support from school liaison officers, local investigation officers, and a new “problem-solving” team for local issues.

### **MCAT Funding & Community Safety**

- Midlothian Community Action Team (MCAT) disbanded in April 2025 due to insufficient funding.
- Council investing in CCTV and other initiatives to address antisocial behaviour; core community officers remain in place.
- Inspector Rourke reassured that there is no reduction in local community officers despite the MCAT changes.
- Scrutiny Board will review the funding and community safety arrangements; Inspector noted ongoing engagement with the council to ensure best use of resources.

### **Actions to be taken:**

- Consider inviting the relevant council officer to a future meeting to discuss road safety and traffic measures.
- Explore GDCC participation in Community Speedwatch.
- Police to share template outlining the process for responding to community concerns.
- Continue engagement with Midlothian Council on allocation of resources for antisocial behaviour and community safety.



## **POLICE REPORT / SURGERY**

PC Wilson and PC Cunningham attended the meeting on behalf of PC J McFarlane and read out his police reports for August. The full police report for August was circulated to GDCC members.

### **Police Report Summary – Gorebridge August 2025**

- **Total calls: 219**
- **Key issues included:**
  - Birkenside and St Andrews Way see repeated violent incidents, including bail breaches.
  - Youths involved in shoplifting.
  - Residential property crime (vandalism and break-ins) is common.
  - Fires appear isolated with no clear suspects.
  - One major drug seizure occurred.

**The full police report for August is Attached to this document.**

### **Action to be Taken:**

- Alice to arranged for PC Jason McFarlane to attend the next police surgery at Gorebridge Parish Church on 23 September 2025, 10am – 1pm

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Barratt Redrow**

Gael and Richard meet with representative of Barratt's on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September and the following issues were discussed:

### **Crawlees Road:**

- Main concern raised: Road safety issues on Crawlees Road.
- Barratt's confirmed a traffic survey will be conducted in September. The results will be compared with a previous survey taken during the Covid lockdown.

### **Housing provision:**

- Gael and Richard raised concerns about the type of housing being proposed, stressing that more emphasis should be placed on housing suitable for elderly residents.

### **Limitations of the meeting:**

- Attendees from Barratt's included a PR representative and an architect, rather than a road engineer, so technical answers on traffic and road safety were limited.

### **Positive outcomes:**

- The meeting was still considered useful as it allowed face-to-face engagement.

### **Action to be taken:**

- To continue to engage with representatives of Barratt's and Council Planning Officers.

## **CORRESPONDENCE (continued)**

### **Constituency MP's Office:**

RH reported that GDCC had contacted the MP's Constituency office to highlight ongoing road safety concerns at Crawlees Road and to arrange a meeting to brief them on the issues.

### **Action to be taken:**

- GDCC members to meet with the MP's constituency office to brief them on ongoing road safety concerns at Crawlees Road.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- All invoices paid prior to holiday; grant monitoring forms submitted.
- Outstanding items: one invoice pending, Treasurer to follow up.

### **Website & Digital Matters:**

- New website setup underway; Office 365 transfer to be scheduled.
- GDPR/ICO registration and website domain renewal to be progressed.

### **Funding & Expenditure:**

- Funding covers newsletter, Christmas activities, signage, railing banner, noticeboard repair, local police plan review, and community promotion.
- Orders for banner and signage to proceed.

### **Financial Position:**

- Current balance: £2,349.51 as at 16/09 – split as follows:
- GDCC: £1,261.31
- Awards: £1,132.82
- Community expenditure for GDCC as per grant funding: £1074.99
- Remaining balance after planned expenditure: £186.32 – Community Projects £1,132.82

### **Actions to be Taken:**

- To arrange Office 365 training for Gael and Richard
- Order banner

## **MIDLOTHIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FEDERATION**

- Next meeting: 17 September 2025.

### **Actions to be Taken:**

- Secretary to email the GDCC members the minutes of the meeting once they are received.

## **PERSIMMONS/NEWBYRES UPDATE**

- Improvements had been underway, and some progress was being made. However, with the recent changes of the Site Agent, several issues are starting to re-emerge.
- Cllr Scott will visit the site to request a meeting with the developer to understand why the site rules are not being consistently followed.
- Cllr Scott will also seek an update on the progress towards the adoption of Whitehouse Road.

### **Action to be Taken:**

- For the reestablishment of the monthly meeting.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Meet & Share meeting:**

- Will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025 in the Beacon at 09:30.

### **Action to be taken:**

- For GDCC members to attend the meeting.

### **Leaflets:**

- Leaflet distribution is progressing well, and we have already received positive feedback on their content. The response so far has been very encouraging, showing that the leaflet is not only reaching people but also making a real impact. This effectiveness highlights the value of the material and gives confidence that the leaflet is achieving its intended purpose

### **Actions to be Taken:**

- GDCC members to update on the progress of the leaflet distribution at the next GDCC meeting in October.

## **AOCB**

### **The Goth**

A question was raised regarding the status of the Goth and whether there were any updates. Gael and Richard explained that GDCC has been in correspondence with the Arniston Improvement Trust and that legal proceedings are ongoing. As a result, no further information can be shared at this time.

### **Action to be taken:**

- GDCC will provide an update when new information becomes available.

## **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025, 7pm, Birkenhead Pavilion

## **Councillors Reports**

### **Councillor Ellen Scott's report for September 2025**

#### **Dalhousie Business Park.**

I raised the issue with Licensing on how busy Dalhousie Business Park is very busy with vehicles parked outside which is creating a hazard. What is the number of vehicles etc that are allowed there and if this could be checked to see whether they were over their quota [if there is one]. Licensing responded that it was not a licensing issue.

#### **Temple Land slip**

I held a meeting with residents, Midlothian Council Officers, a representative from Savills at the site which was very productive and I think helped to let the residents know that monitoring had been taking place since this had happened.

#### **Gladhouse Reservoir**

Signs had been erected to restrict parking on the Clearway and it was hoped that wardens would go up to enforce this at times. It was important that a parking solution be progressed for next year. There were continuing problems over the last few weeks, but it is hoped that now that the summer season has passed this will slow down over the Autumn/Winter.

#### **Flying Fox**

I am investigating whether the Flying Fox in Arniston Park and Newtongrange Park can be restored as this is very popular with slightly older children.

#### **Line Dyke**

I raised the condition of the wall as it was felt to be in a dangerous state in parts. Officers responded that they were aware of the condition of the Line Dyke wall and had structural engineers appraise it and it is not in imminent danger of collapse however it is a risk they are monitoring. It is not owned by Midlothian Council and is not part of the new Cruden site.

Further investigations has discovered that it appears Lothian estates have taken responsibility and propose removal of c30m of wall for safety - it will however be rebuilt.

#### **Main Street Bollards**

I have again chased this up and have received a reply that a works order was raised and that the operations team will be contacted to try to get this processed urgently.

#### **339 and Circular Route**

Officers will be appraising the community bus soon and seeking direction for rolling it out further.

There is no indication of Borders Buses seeking to reinstate the 339 at this stage.

## **Lease on Tennis pavilion**

### **Gore Glen Primary School**

I was delighted to visit the school to see the work that was going on to make better use of the bottom grassy area to give the pupils more room to play. I had identified funds that could be used for this and it was beginning to take shape. It will also mean that pupils can access their class entrances safer, rather than going across the car park for the ASN.

Tenders are all ready to go for the school crossing on Whitehouse Road. It is included in this financial year's works programme through Tier 1 funding so is progressing.

### **St Annes – Midlothian Retirement Housing Association**

I have been supporting residents at St Anne's in Newtongrange, who wanted to complain about the additional amounts they were being charged for services. It resulted in a very good meeting at Gorebridge Bowling Club, where the Landlord - Places for People, MSP Colin Beattie, myself and representative of the newly formed Midlothian Retirement Housing Association met. The Midlothian Retirement Housing Association now includes

### **Cost of Registering to the Information Commissioner [GDPR]**

After a query from Moorfoot Community Council, I have asked that Officers look into whether the cost of registering can be paid by Midlothian Council, similar to the Insurance premium for Community Councils, as £70 can be quite a significant amount of allocated budgets. This is being investigated.

## **Council business**

### **Battery Storage**

I am very pleased that the result of my moving for a Judicial Review in the Planning Committee and after deliberations in private, the result was:

“Midlothian Council is challenging a decision made by the Scottish Government on 12 May 2025 to grant consent for a battery storage site the Dalkeith schools campus.

The site will store energy using large lithium-ion batteries, but it is close to the campus which has around 2,500 pupils as well as staff members. Councillors are worried about safety concerns, especially the risk of fire which may create the potential for toxic fumes.

## Application Notice

### **Change to Admissions Policy**

#### **Educational benefits**

The revised policy, effective from September 2025 has been updated to prioritise places for Midlothian children and young people taking into account changes in our learning estate and growth in the school-age population arising from new housing developments. An independent report by Education Scotland confirmed the policy changes would help manage rising school rolls and bring educational benefits.

#### **Maintain the current arrangement**

It was also agreed to maintain the current arrangement for Loretto RC Primary School pupils in East Lothian to transfer to St David's RC High School in Dalkeith.

#### **Statutory consultation**

Council agreed to take all legally required steps, including any necessary statutory consultation, to end current arrangements and create a new agreement with East Lothian Council which will clearly define:

- The catchment area for St David's RC High School
- The criteria for admission to the school
- Any priority given to pupils from Loretto RC Primary School who wish to attend St David's RC High School

#### **No disadvantage**

The council also instructed that:

- The new arrangement must not disadvantage Roman Catholic children from Midlothian
- It must support and promote the Roman Catholic ethos of St David's RC High School



# Gorebridge Community Council Report 1<sup>st</sup> – 31st August 2025



Between 1<sup>st</sup> & 31st August 2025, there were 219 calls received to the Gorebridge area.

## Incidents of note

On 1<sup>st</sup> August at Birkenhead a male was assaulted to the face by an unknown male in an unprovoked assault. The male was assaulted got a black eye and claims he does not know the person responsible. Details noted from the complainer and further enquires to be carried out to try and trace the male.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August at Clearburn Road a house window was smashed by a male known to the occupier. Details noted and the male will be traced and charged with vandalism.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August at Whitehouse Avenue a car window was smashed overnight. No person seen at the time of the incident no CCTV covering the area and door to door has been carried out.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August close to Lady Brae a fire was set in a derelict building by unknown persons. No persons seen at the time of the incident, NO CCTV covering the area and no scope for door to door.

On 4<sup>th</sup> August at Scotmid 3 foreign females attended and attempted to steal around £300 worth of goods. Staff managed to stop the females before they left the shop and all the goods were retrieved. Attempts to be made to try and ID the females.

On 6<sup>th</sup> August at St Andrews Way, police executed a search warrant at an address and found a large quantity of white tablets. The occupier was arrested and the tablets have been sent for analysis. If they return to be illegal the occupier will be reported to the PF.

On 7<sup>th</sup> August at Birkenhead a report of a male having been assaulted by another male using a mallet was made to police. Officers have attended and traced both males. Details noted and one male arrested for assault. This male was taken to St Leonards police station where he was later released with special bail conditions and a report submitted to the PF.

On 8<sup>th</sup> August at Birkenhead the male in previous incident breached his bail conditions and was arrested and taken back to St Leonards and held for court the following day. A report was submitted to the PF.

On 10<sup>th</sup> August close to David Herkes Way a vehicle fire was reported to police. Police and the fire service attended, and the fire was extinguished. It is unclear if the fire was started deliberately.

On 12<sup>th</sup> August at Morrisons Daily, 2 youths have entered and stolen a quantity of Vape products. Both youths known to the staff and details have been noted for a crime report. The youths were later traced and charged and a report submitted to the JLO.

On 19<sup>th</sup> August at Powdermill brae a report of a male with a knife was made to police. Officers attended and traced a male who had injured himself by cutting his neck and arms. The male was treated by the SAS and taken to the ERI, no knife was traced.

On 27<sup>th</sup> August at St Andrew Way a house was broken into and items stolen from within. No persons seen at the time of the incident and further enquiries to be carried out with door to door and a CCTV trawl. Enquiries are ongoing.



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[David.Rourke@scotland.police.uk](mailto:David.Rourke@scotland.police.uk) – Community Inspector.

[David.Reilly@scotland.police.uk](mailto:David.Reilly@scotland.police.uk) – Community Sergeant

[Amanda.Johnston@scotland.police.uk](mailto:Amanda.Johnston@scotland.police.uk) - Community Sergeant

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#### Additional information

The community are reminded that your local Community Officer PC McFarlane and the Dalkeith Community Policing team can be contacted at any time to provide guidance and advice and are available at the below email address.

[MidlothianSouthCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:MidlothianSouthCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

#### *For Information Purposes Only*

If any person has any information about the incident(s) listed above or indeed any other issue, please contact your Community Policing Team at

[MidlothianSouthCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:MidlothianSouthCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Police Scotland use social media to circulate the latest news, events and information to the public via Twitter/X (@Midlothpolice) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/policescotland](https://www.facebook.com/policescotland)).