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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Community Council Members**

Chair Gael Robertson (GR), Secretary Richard Horsburgh (RH), Treasurer Juliet Bruce-Dickie (JBD), Alice Drever (AD), Lorraine Amedro (LA), Heather Webb-Nelson (HWN), Jac Frankitti (JF), John Campbell (JC) Ian Hewitson (IH)

**Midlothian Councillor**

Cllr Ellen Scott (ES)

**Police**

PC Alastair Livingston (AL)

**Midlothian Council Officer**

Gillian Bathgate (GB)

**Visitors**

E Moffat, M Cowie, R Rafferty, J Paget, A Murray, J Campbell, J Glover, W McEwan

**WELCOME**

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

**APOLOGIES:**

M Webb, M Davidson, Cllr K Drummond Cllr D Bowen

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes were circulated to members and changes were made to Cllr Scott’s report. Corrections made to the Treasures Report.

Approved – Ian Hewitson  
Seconded – Jac Frankitti

**MATTERS ARISING**

None.

## MIDLOTHIAN PLANNING & MDLP2 ISSUES

### Gorebridge Local Place Statement and Local Place Plan

- During discussion, members highlighted that the Gorebridge Local Place Plan (LPP) has been used to enhance the Gorebridge Local Place Statement prepared by Emma Hay (Midlothian Council Planning Officer). It was noted that GDCC members had contributed their views and agreed a final draft of the Local Place Statement, which was subsequently submitted to Emma Hay.
- Cllr Scott requested a copy of the group's submission to Emma Hay; however, it was confirmed that the Place Statement remains confidential and is to be shared only with GDCC members and Emma Hay at this time.
- Members discussed the legal status of the LPP, considering concerns that a recent Local Review Body appeared to have disregarded it when overturning a previous planning application. There were discussions among GDCC members regarding the actual legal status of the LPP and it was agreed to seek clarification from Midlothian Council. While the LPP has no formal legal standing, its registration with Midlothian Council ensures it is an officially recognised reference, reflecting the views and priorities of the Gorebridge community.
- It was also noted that the LPP had been referenced by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Drummond in their successful objection to the proposed housing development on the site of the former Arniston Gas Works, demonstrating its continued relevance and influence in planning discussions.

### Action to be taken:

- That the GDCC seek clarification from Midlothian Council Planning Services on how the LPP will be reflected and given weight within future planning decisions, given that it has been used to enhance the Gorebridge Local Place Statement but currently has no formal legal status.

## MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL ISSUES

### Gorebridge High School & FOI Response Update

- No further updates have been received regarding the FOI case on Gorebridge High School.
- The Public Interest Test statement was submitted to the Scottish Information Commissioner on 26 September, ahead of the 27 September deadline.
- The Community Council is awaiting a response from the Commissioner.
- Feedback is expected by the next meeting or by the end of the year.
- The process has been ongoing since January and has taken considerable time.

### Action to be taken:

- Await feedback from the Scottish Information Commissioner and provide an update at the next meeting.

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

### **Crawlees Road Safety**

- A meeting was recently held with the constituency MP's office, attended by Mary, Gael, Robert, and Bronwon Jackson, Cara]. The meeting focused on continuing concerns regarding the safety of Crawlees Road.
- It was noted that Barratt Homes had previously agreed to carry out a new road safety survey, which was scheduled for September, but no results or feedback have yet been received.
- Concerns were raised about the division of responsibility for different sections of the road. Barratt Homes are believed to be responsible for the section leading to the industrial estate, while Midlothian Council has responsibility for the section running through the industrial estate. The boundaries of responsibility remain unclear.
- The constituency MP has agreed to write to the Chief Executive of Midlothian Council to seek clarity on responsibilities and request an update on what actions the Council intends to take to improve road safety.
- It was further noted that the original traffic survey, undertaken by Springfield Properties at the end of the COVID period, is now outdated, as current traffic levels are significantly higher. Independent local monitoring supports this finding.
- The Committee agreed that the primary focus will continue to be on road safety. While housing and planning issues will continue to be observed, they are not within the direct remit of the group.

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

- Await the Chief Executive's response to the MP's letter.
- Await the results of the Barratt Homes safety survey once published.
- Continue to monitor traffic and safety concerns along Crawlees Road.
- Keep Crawlees Road as a standing item on future GDCC meeting agendas.

## MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL ISSUES (continued)

### 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.
- 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.

Harassment on the buses. This continues to be a problem. The Lothian Buses Youth Strategy was welcomed. Cll Scott to obtain a copy of this strategy.

### Newbyres Care Home

- The Council revisited the ongoing issue regarding the partial closure of one of the wings ("streets") at Newbyres Care Home.
- It was noted that this matter had been discussed at the previous meeting, and members agreed it should remain on the agenda for updates.
- A local resident had raised concerns about the continuing closure, explaining the challenges faced by families needing to visit relatives placed temporarily at Highbank Care Home, which is further away.
- Members requested clarification from Midlothian Council on the timeline for reopening the closed section.
- The care home currently provides accommodation for 48 residents, ranging in age from 68 to 98 years old. Between 2016 and 2025, several changes have been made to the service, including temporary reductions in available beds due to staffing shortages and the need to consolidate care provision.
- The decision to reopen the remaining beds lies with Midlothian Council's Social Work Department, which is monitoring staffing and care quality.
- It was noted that management is prioritising a sustainable reopening, to avoid the risk of reopening prematurely and facing another closure due to insufficient staffing.

- Members acknowledged the wider challenge of recruiting and retaining care staff, and the high cost of relying on agency (“bank”) workers.

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

### **Newbyres Care Home (continued)**

- It was agreed that GDCC will request an updated statement from Midlothian Council manager Kevin (Kenny) on the expected timeframe and ongoing work to address staffing issues.
- Members stressed the importance of keeping the local community informed and reassured, especially families with relatives in care.

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

- Ellen to provide a short-written note for inclusion in the minutes to ensure the record accurately reflects the discussion.
- Item to remain on the agenda for the next GDCC meeting until a confirmed update is received.

## **Midlothian Council Planning Enforcement Issues**

- Members discussed ongoing concerns regarding the lack of response from Midlothian Council Planning Enforcement Officers.
- A number of enforcement matters previously raised have not received updates or visible action, with some cases outstanding for over two years.
- The heritage property on the Main Street was highlighted as an example where no enforcement progress has been reported.
- Concerns were also raised about the King’s Meadow development:
  - Roads, lighting and play park areas remain incomplete.
  - Factors have not yet been appointed as the site has not been fully signed off by the Council.
  - It was understood that enforcement notices may have been issued, but no clear communication or feedback has been received.
- Members expressed frustration over the lack of clarity around:
  - The criteria used by the Council to determine when enforcement action is taken.
  - The legal mechanisms available once a case has been escalated.
- It was agreed that a better understanding of the planning enforcement process would be beneficial to the community.
- It was suggested that a Planning Enforcement Officer, or other suitable Council representative, be invited to a future GDCC meeting to explain the process and answer questions.

- Members requested that two-way communication with Council officers be improved so updates are provided when enforcement matters are raised, under investigation, or referred to legal.

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

### **Midlothian Council Planning Enforcement Issues (continued)**

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

- GDCC to request that Midlothian Council provide greater clarity on planning enforcement procedures and consider arranging for an appropriate officer to attend a future meeting.

#### **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.

### **Cllr Ellen Scott**

- Cllr Ellen Scott provided an update and confirmed her written report had been circulated. She highlighted recent matters discussed at Council and offered to take any questions.
- Members thanked Cllr Scott for the presentation and layout of her report, noting that the format was clear, informative, and helpful in showing updates across different areas. It was agreed that this style of reporting was appreciated and useful for the community.

### **Abridged Version of Cllr Ellen Scott's Report**

### **Moorfoot Community Council**

#### **Telephone Box:**

Community Justice Team interested in assisting with repainting. Meeting to be arranged.

#### **Pump Track:**

Hole refilled; further digging by youths reported.

## COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

### Abridged Version of Cllr Ellen Scott's Report (continued)

#### Carrington Updates:

- Road sweeper visit, potholes, and gullies completed.
- Give-way lining in progress.
- Sandys Bridge–Carrington road centre joint failure raised; permanent repair proposed for 2026/27 budget.
- Bin emptying issue resolved.
- No Council budget or responsibility for Christmas lights or lamp post connections.
- Church gates reported dangerous; ownership under investigation (building currently for sale).
- Data protection costs – no update.
- Verge damage by lorries – awaiting meeting with Community Council member.
- Old planters removed.
- Water scarcity – meeting requested with Scottish Water re potential rural mains connections, awaiting response.

#### Gorebridge Community Council

##### Speeding (Barleyknowe Road / New Hunterfield):

Discussions ongoing with Officers. 20 mph limit not reducing speeding; traffic calming options being considered. Gillian Bathgate to attend meeting.

##### Local Place Plans:

Confirmed as *material considerations* in planning decisions. Awaiting any further clarification.

#### Newtongrange Community Council

##### Primary School Playground:

Play equipment installation and centenary celebrations progressing well.

Tennis Pavilion: No update.

##### Pot Hole Pro Machine:

Recently active locally (1st–4th Street, the Square, Lothian Terrace, Lingerwood Road); noted for speed and effectiveness.

##### Swimming Pool & Church Sites (Car Access):

Update to be provided at meeting.

##### Crawlees Road Survey: Ongoing.

##### “Newtongrange Streets” – Lanes & Factors:

Places for People investigating ownership and maintenance responsibilities for communal areas and lanes; awaiting outcome.

## COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

### Abridged Version of Cllr Ellen Scott's Report (continued)

#### General Updates

##### Visits:

Newtongrange PS, Gore Glen PS, Dalkeith PTA, local home visits.

##### Surgeries & Enquiries:

Housing and speeding remain main concerns. Surgeries resumed – appointments by email (Ellen.Scott@midlothian.gov.uk).

##### Meetings Attended:

Cabinet, Planning, Education Finance, COSLA, PTA, and regular Education briefings.

Serving on recruitment panel for new Director of Education (Fiona Robertson retiring end of November).

#### Education:

- Attainment meetings show strong performance at Newbattle CHS (SCQF results).
- Attended leadership events across Midlothian schools – foundation for new “Cabinet for Young People” initiative.

#### Council Business

##### Arniston Gas Works Planning Application:

Cllr Scott moved refusal per Officer recommendation due to:

- Site contamination (coal tar, cyanide, heavy metals, etc.) and safety risks.
- Lack of site investigation (requested 2021).
- Environmental and biodiversity impact on Gore Glen area.
- Inconsistency with Local Place Plan and NPF4.

Cllr Scott emphasised the heritage and ecological importance of Gore and Arniston Glens and called for their protection within future local development planning.

Developer contributions for education remain a priority consideration.

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

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

### **Introduction**

- The Chair welcomed Gillian Bathgate (Midlothian Council Roads and Traffic Transportation Team) to the meeting to discuss ongoing concerns regarding speeding, road safety and parking in the Gorebridge area.

### **Speeding and Traffic Monitoring**

- GB advised that the Council is completing new signage and road markings before commencing a period of speed monitoring using both permanent and temporary devices.
- Current monitoring locations include New Hunterfield, Barleyknowes Road, Newtongrange, and Newbattle.
- Data gathered will be used to determine whether additional traffic-calming measures are required.
- Cllr ES requested early access to monitoring data when available.

### **Traffic-Calming Measures**

- GB explained that the Council is moving towards less intrusive measures such as raised tables, speed cushions, and chicanes, which reduce noise and vibration.
- The choice of measure will depend on road layout, vehicle speeds and consultation outcomes.

### **Consultation Process**

- GB confirmed that any future traffic-calming works will require public consultation, involving residents, GDCC, ward councillors, emergency services and bus operators.

### **Parking and Enforcement**

- Members raised concerns regarding illegal parking on Main Street, obstruction of bus routes, and misuse of disabled bays.
- GB advised that all parking issues should be reported to the Council's parking mailbox, which is monitored daily.
- Parking attendants and police are deployed as required. Enforcement hours are being extended beyond 5 p.m., with weekend coverage planned.

### **Conclusion**

- The Chair thanked Cllr Scott and Gillian Bathgate for attending and for their continued support in addressing these issues.

### **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.

## **POLICE REPORT / SURGERY**

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

### **Gorebridge Police Summary – September 2025**

**Total calls:** 182

#### **Key categories:**

- 5 public nuisance, 2 drug-related, 26 public assistance, 4 theft, 12 domestic, 16 road traffic.

#### **Incidents of Note:**

- Vandalism: Vehicle scratched in Birkenside (1 Sept).
- Assault: Male attacked outside TJ's shop after confronting motorbike rider (2 Sept).

#### **Vehicle crime:**

- Stolen and false-plate vehicles recovered (6 & 19 Sept).
- Stolen car pursued to Edinburgh; driver arrested (18 Sept).

**Fires:** Wheelee bin deliberately set alight in New Park Gardens (5 Sept).

#### **Drugs:**

- Small cannabis possession warning (14 Sept).
- Cannabis seized under warrant (16 Sept).
- Suspected dealer arrested (17 Sept).

**Shoplifting:** Repeated thefts at Scotmid, Hunterfield Rd (19–27 Sept).

**Off-road bikes:** Ongoing issue across several areas; one rider charged (13 Sept).

**Suspicious activity:** Reports of males trying car and shed doors (4 & 25 Sept).

#### **Overall:**

- September saw continued problems with illegal motorbikes and shop thefts. Several stolen vehicles were recovered and drug-related actions taken. No serious assaults or housebreakings reported.

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

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

- Alice to liaise with Jason (PC McFarlane) to arrange a suitable date for the next police surgery.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Response to Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC)

- The Public Interest Test statement was submitted to the Scottish Information Commissioner on 26 September, ahead of the 27 September deadline.
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### MDLP 2 Questionnaire:

- Gorebridge Local Place Statement and Local Place Plan was submitted to Emma Hay at Midlothian Council Planning.

### Lord Lieutenant

- Letter sent inviting the Lord Lieutenant to attend the Memorial Service.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

- The Treasurer provided an update on the current financial position.
- The account balance remains healthy, with no significant changes since the last meeting.
- A new Office 365 account for GDCC has now been set up. Gail has access, and support is being provided by the IT company assisting with setup.
- A community council laptop has been provided through the IT company's support. This will allow for a smooth handover of information when officer roles change.
- All council documents and correspondence are now being stored securely on SharePoint, with dedicated GDCC email accounts in place.
- The Treasurer noted appreciation for the support received from the IT contact based in Loanhead, describing them as very helpful and professional.
- The new GDCC website is nearing completion. The developer has built the new site and is awaiting confirmation of names and contact details to include before finalising. It is expected to be ready for review by the next meeting.
- Once available, members will be invited to view the website and provide feedback before it is shared publicly.
- A local supplier, Abbey Print, is being approached regarding the production of banners for GDCC. Another local contact, known for providing poster printing previously free of charge, may also be used for signage and promotional materials.
- Preparations for Christmas community activities are underway, including coordination with local churches.
- The Treasurer suggested preparing a brief financial summary ahead of each meeting to avoid any errors and allow for efficient review.
- No further financial issues were raised.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT (continued)**

### **Financial Position:**

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

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

- Treasurer to circulate a short financial summary before the next meeting.
- Treasurer to finalise website contact details and bring draft version for review at next meeting.
- Contact Abbey Print and local signage provider regarding banner and printing options.

## **MIDLOTHIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FEDERATION**

- The Federation meeting was held last week (earlier than usual due to the calendar).
- The Police Inspector attended and provided an overview of community issues raised across other areas.
- Discussion focused on encouraging youth involvement in community activities, with several councils engaging Scout groups to help address antisocial behaviour.
- Edinburgh Airport is consulting on proposed new flight paths, which could increase air traffic over Gorebridge:
  - The Federation's representative on the Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board will keep members updated.
  - The nearest consultation venues will be Musselburgh and Peebles.
- The next Federation meeting and AGM will be held on 19th November.
- **Note:** Although the issue of surface water and icing near Gorebridge Primary School was not discussed during the Federation meeting itself, it was raised separately as part of the GDCC discussion under the Federation agenda item. Concerns were expressed about the recurring problem of standing water and ice forming in the area, particularly during colder months, and the potential safety risks this poses for pupils, parents, and pedestrians. It was agreed that this matter should be noted for further consideration and referred to the appropriate authority for investigation and action.

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

- Jac to attend the next Federation meeting on behalf of GDCC. Richard to provide Jac with the meeting details.
- Cllr Ellen Scott to investigate the ongoing surface water and icing issue near Gorebridge Primary School.

## **PERSIMMONS/NEWBYRES UPDATE**

- Concerns were raised about noise, traffic, and road conditions caused by Persimmon site activity. The issue of mud on roads has worsened due to recent rain, leading to complaints from residents.
- The road sweeper did not attend on the day expected due to a breakdown. Persimmon have a contract for four hours of road sweeping per day, but only two hours are spent cleaning, as the remaining two are reportedly used for travel to and from the site. This arrangement is being challenged and addressed.
- The site manager and Victoria (Persimmon representative) have both been contacted regarding ongoing concerns. A new site manager has recently been appointed, but residents had not been informed of this change. Further contact is expected later this week to confirm future communication processes.
- There was discussion about resuming regular liaison meetings with Persimmon to improve coordination and address community concerns more promptly.
- A recent Persimmon promotional video featuring Gorebridge was positively received by members, with comments that it portrays the area attractively. The video link will be circulated to anyone interested.

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

- Ian to follow up with Persimmon and establish a regular communication link with the company.

## **COMMUNICATION**

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

- The next Meet and Share meeting will take place on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at the Beacon.

### **Remembrance Service Planning Meeting:**

- The Remembrance Service planning meeting will be held on Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm, also at the Beacon.

### **Leaflets:**

- It was noted that a full update on leaflet distribution was not available, as Mary was unable to attend the meeting. The matter will be followed up at a future meeting.

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

- Mary to provide a full update on leaflet distribution at the next meeting, as this information was not available due to her absence.

## **AOCB**

### **Running a Business from Home**

- Concern raised about a resident operating a vehicle repair business from home, causing parking and visual issues.
- Property described as cluttered with vehicles and equipment, creating an eyesore and blocking access for residents.
- Similar issues noted elsewhere (e.g. gardening business operating from residential address).
- Members queried what permissions are required to run a business from a residential property.
- Concerns also raised over parking on corners, obstruction of pavements, and safety near school crossings.

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

- Cllr Ellen Scott to visit and assess the property.
- Photographs to be forwarded to Jason (Midlothian Council) for follow-up.
- Community Council to seek clarification from Midlothian Council Planning on regulations for home-based businesses.

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

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 7pm, Birkenside Pavilion.

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## Councillors Reports

### Councillor Ellen Scott – Report for October 2025

#### Moorfoot Community Council

##### **Telephone Box**

I have emailed the Community Justice team to ask whether they would be able to help paint the telephone box. They have replied that the project sounds interesting and they are arranging a meeting.

##### **Pump Track**

The hole has now been filled, but unfortunately young folk have been digging there again.

#### **Carrington – various**

Officers have been working towards clearing this list and I understand that:

Sweeper should have been up to Carrington

Potholes and gullies should now be done.

Lining of give ways - in progress.

The road from Sandys bridge towards Carrington has centre joint failure. Wayne has already raised this with the area engineer. He is hoping to factor permanent repairs in for 2026/7 budget

I have contacted the Officer concerned regarding the emptying of the bin, which is now resolved.

Christmas tree lights – there is no budget for Christmas lights at Carrington and the Council cannot take any responsibility for them or any connection that has been carried out to the lamp post.

Carrington church gates – Officers are looking into who has ownership of the gates as they have been reported as dangerous. The building is up for sale at the moment ad it is not always clear were and by who responsibilities lie.

#### **Data Protection – cost**

No update to report

#### **Verge damage to Water supplies by heavy lorries**

This was carried over until a meeting took place with Community Council member.

#### **Removal of old planters**

This has now been carried out.

#### **Water scarcity**

I have had a meeting with Environmental Health to ask for a meeting with Scottish Water about whether there is a possibility of any of our rural properties connecting to mains water. I am awaiting to hear whether Scottish Water will meet with us, or whether this has to be raised by the residents themselves.

## **Gorebridge Community Council**

### **Speeding Barleyknowe Road/New Hunterfield**

I am in discussions with Officers regarding speeding. I agree with residents regarding the need for calming measures on these two roads. In my opinion, the 20 mph has not resolved the issue of speeding traffic and I will update the Community Council when I have more information. Gillian Bathgate has kindly accepted the invitation to attend the Community Council meeting.

### **Local Place Plans**

At a recent meeting of Moorfoot Community Council, I asked about the legal status of Local Place Plans. The response I received was that these are Material Considerations to any application. I am not sure if Gorebridge Community Council has received any further information.

## **Newtongrange Community Council**

### **Newtongrange Primary school playground**

I was delighted that this is progressing and that the play equipment should be installed soon and that the celebrations for the school's 100 year are well advanced.

### **Tennis Pavilion – no update**

### **Pot Hole Pro Machine**

I enquired about this as people had not seen it locally. I am pleased to say it was heavily involved with the recent works in 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Street, the Square, Lothian Terrace and Lingerwood Road - "You need to be quick to see it as its so speedy" [Wayne ☺]

### **Swimming Pool and Church sites [access for cars]**

An update will be given at the meeting

### **Crawlees – Road Survey**

Ongoing.

### **Factors for the "Newtongrange Streets" and problem with lanes**

I have been in touch with the Director for Places for People about who is responsible in Newtongrange for lanes. The maintenance of communal areas in Newtongrange is quite complex. Places for People are currently working with their solicitor to clarify their legal responsibilities in relation to these spaces, including identifying any other parties who may have obligations under the deeds of conditions and land registry documentation. At present, Places for People Scotland maintain certain green spaces, but not all.

It sounds like this may take some time to work out but will update everyone when I hear any updates.

### **Visits:**

Newtongrange PS; Gore Glen PS; Dalkeith members PTA; Constituency home visits;

### **Surgeries and emails**

Housing issues continue to be one of the main enquiries, along with speeding on the roads. My surgeries have started again and dates and times are attached to this report. – please email to arrange an out of surgery meeting:[Ellen.Scott@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Ellen.Scott@midlothian.gov.uk)

**Meetings I attend:** Cabinet Meeting, Planning Meeting, Education Finance Meetings, Regular Meetings with Director of Education/Chief Officer of Education and briefings as and when required. COSLA meetings. I am on the recruitment panel for the replacement of the Director of Education, Fiona Robertson, who will retire at the end of November. PTA.

**Attainment Meetings:** Twice per year there are meetings regarding the attainment achieved at the Secondary Schools and the challenges of reducing the poverty attainment gap. I am pleased to report that Newbattle Community High School is doing very well using the SCQF tariff points.

**Primary and Secondary School Leadership events:** I attended these two events which had representatives from every primary and secondary school in Midlothian. They were amazing events, which I gave a keynote address. This is the building blocks of having a “Cabinet for Young People” to give them a voice on matters that affect them at school and in their community and a pathway to leadership. The first of which will be at the end of the month. I am happy to update any members regarding Educational issues.

## General Council Business

### Planning Committee – Arniston Gas Works Planning Committee

I moved that this application be **refused** as per the Officer's recommendation.

I called in this application as I was very concerned about an application for housing which is being built on the former gas works and I am pleased that Environmental Health have raised their very real concerns. As a report will be sent to Scottish Ministers as the house numbers are above 10, I thought I should set out the reasons.

1. As it is a former gas works, I was worried because the site is contaminated, , with various substances and hazardous chemical contamination– for example, coal tar, cyanide compounds, heavy metals and other by-products of gas production and would prove a very high risk to health to future residents of any houses – are gas holders underneath – that wasn't clear? Remediation work on such a site would be extremely costly, with potential risks of explosive gases. A requested site investigation in 2021 was not submitted.
2. I emphasised the importance that the site nearby had a ground fire a few years ago which took some time to put out. The Emily and Gore were mined here and the site has been used for gas works, shallow mine workings, coal bings and there is already a Burning bing nearby.
3. The Gore Glen is a haven for wildlife and walkers alike, and highlights how an industrial landscape can be reclaimed by nature. Page26 of the report highlights missing key details and concern over the impact on ancient woodland and the local biodiversity.
4. **A great deal of work was undertaken on the Gorebridge Place Plan and this Place Plan should be a material consideration when any planning applications are made.**

Page 10 of the Place plan – Sustainable Places to Live

The Gore and Arniston Glens are a significant part of Gorebridge, Arniston and Birkenside (this area also falls under the remit of Moorfoot CC).

- 1.1 The protection, conservation, preservation of its ecosystem, rivers, walks and heritage are essential.
- 1.2 The development of green corridor along Gore and Arniston Glens linking with the South Esk River is important as a legacy for future generations to enjoy nature and the surrounding countryside.
- 1.3 The Glens are important for heritage and a path / trackway is indicated with information boards at the relevant sites.

*Ref: MLDP 2017 Section 8.2.55*

*Ref: SMP 2023-2027 7.Midlothian will be greener*

**1.4 There should be no house building or development that encroaches on this site.** The Council must ensure that developers that border the Glens treat the neighbouring ecosystems and biodiversity with respect, especially the Gore Water, the associated water courses, wild flowers and wildlife habitats.

I believe this area is an integral part of the Gore Glen Local Biodiversity Site and is an unjustified development and does not comply with NPF4

Developer Contributions - Education, any additional developments can only be approved subject to a resolution about a High School provision.

We talked before about Greenfield areas and I asked that a Greenfield corridor should be included in MLDP2 around Midlothian South/Bonnyrigg/Midlothian East Wards and Borders to ensure green areas for future generations. I believe this site is an important heritage site for the community and Midlothian. Councillor Kelly Drummond seconded the motion.

## Gorebridge Community Council Report 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Between 1<sup>st</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025, there were 182 calls received to the Gorebridge area. These included 5 public nuisance calls, 2 drug calls, 0 neighbour dispute calls, 26 assist a member of the public calls, 4 theft calls, 0 house breaking call, 12 domestic related calls, 16 road traffic related calls.

### Incidents of note

On 1<sup>st</sup> September at Birkenside a vehicle was damaged after the owner discovered the vehicle covered in scratches as if it has been keyed. No person seen at the time of the incident, no CCTV covering the vehicle and door to door was completed with a negative result.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Outside TJ's shop a male challenger a motor bike rider on the manner of his riding. A short time later 3 males have attended at the shop and assaulted the male. No serious injuries sustained and enquiries ongoing to identify the males using the CCTV footage.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September at Whitehouse Loan a report of a motorbike having been stolen was made to police. Police have attended and noted detail for a theft of motor vehicle. There was no person's seen at the time of the incident, there is no CCTV covering the locus and door to door has been completed. The bike was found a short distance away hidden in a bin storage area.

On 4<sup>th</sup> September at Barleyknowe Road a report of 3 males on illegal electric bike was made to police, no officers were free to attend this call.

On 4<sup>th</sup> September at Louis Braille Way a member of the public called the police to report he observed 2 males on his ring doorbell looking down the side of his house the previous evening. Due to the time delay no officers have been sent to this call.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September at New Park Gardens, a wheelie bin was set on fire close to a garden fence. The fire service attended and extinguished the fire. No person seen at the time of the fire, no CCTV covering the area and door to door completed with a negative result.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September at Robert Franks Avenue, Officers observed a parked vehicle which was on false plates. The original plates relate to a stolen vehicle. This vehicle was seized and recovered and will be checked for any forensic opportunities.

On 7<sup>th</sup> September at Burnside Road, Police received a call regarding a male using an off-road bike on the pavements. No officers were free to attend this call.

On 9<sup>th</sup> September at Swan Crescent, Police observed a male on an illegal electric motor bike. The male saw the police vehicle and made off.

On 13<sup>th</sup> September at Burnside Road, Police managed to stop an off-road bike being used on the public roads. The rider was spoken to and cautioned and charged.

On 14<sup>th</sup> September at Carlowrie Place, a member of the public was stopped by police due to a smell of cannabis coming from them. They were searched and personal amount of cannabis was found. They were given a recorded police warning.

On 14<sup>th</sup> September at Burnside Road, a call regarding an illegal electric motor bike being used on the pavements was made to police. No officers were free to attend this call.

On 15<sup>th</sup> September at Barleyknowe Crescent, a road traffic collision was made to police after 2 males 1 electric motorbike crashing into a parked vehicle was made. The motor bike did not stop and made off after the collision. Enquiries to be carried out for CCTV in the area.

On 16<sup>th</sup> September at The Crescent, officers executed a search warrant and an address and found a quantity of cannabis within. The cannabis was seized, and the occupants will be interviewed to establish ownership.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September at Braeside Road, North police stopped a vehicle known to be used by a drug dealer. The male was detained for a drugs search and then arrested by Musselburgh Pro active team for another offence.

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September at Louis Braille Way, a resident called police station there were person trying car door handles. Police attended the area and a vehicle made off from police. This vehicle was pursued to the Gogar area of Edinburgh where person dumped their vehicle and made off. All person were caught, and the driver of the vehicle was arrested for theft by housebreaking in Livingston where he stole the vehicle they were in.

On 19<sup>th</sup> September at South Quarry View, Police traced a stolen vehicle which had been stolen in a house breaking in Kirkcaldy. The vehicle was recovered and will be checked for any forensics opportunities.

On 19<sup>th</sup> September at Scotmid, Hunterfield Road, a known shoplifter entered the store and stole a quantity of alcohol. Police attended but the male had left prior to police arrival. Detail noted for a crime report and the male will be reported for warrant.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September at Scotmid, Hunterfield Road, 2 known shoplifters entered the store and stole a quantity of items. Police attended but they left prior to police arrival. Efforts to be made to trace the suspects where they will be cautioned and charged.

On 25<sup>th</sup> September at St Andres Way a report of males trying shed doors was made to police. Officers attended and carried out search of the area, but no persons were traced.

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On 25<sup>th</sup> September at Braeside Road, South a report of 2 youths on a dirt bike was made to police. No officers were free to attend this call.

On 27<sup>th</sup> September at Scotmid, Hunterfield Road, a male entered the store and stole a crate of beer. Police were called but the male had left prior to police arrival. Details noted and CCTV seized, attempts to be made to ID the male. Enquiries are ongoing.

On 29<sup>th</sup> September at Hunterfield Road, a report of 3 youths on illegal electric motor bikes was called into police. Road traffic officers attended the area but there was no sighting of the bikes.

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Additional information

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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)

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