

Minutes of the Eskdalemuir Community Council Meeting on 17th January 2019 at 7pm, Eskdalemuir Hub, Eskdalemuir

Agenda item number	Record	Action taken by	Action to be completed by
1. Welcome	Nick Jennings (NJ, Chair) welcomed everyone to the Eskdalemuir Community Council (ECC) meeting. Those present were John Furlonger (JF, Vice-Chair), Beatrice Furlonger (BF), Bernard Provost (BP, Treasurer), Jenny Mills (JM), Paula Gilfillan (PG of Berry Proofreading and Copyediting, Minute Secretary), May Reid (MR), Lorna Curtis (LC), PC Irons (PCI of Police Scotland) and Councillor Karen Carruthers (KC). Visitors were George Birrell (GB), Jamie Marr (JM) and Steven Parkin (SP) from Eskdalemuir Forestry, Alasdair Hendry (AH) from the Forestry Commission and Eskdalemuir community, Yeshe Palmo (YP) and Sue Bradley (SB).		
2. Apologies	None received.		
3. Presentation from Eskdalemuir Forestry	<p>GB gave a short presentation on the revised plan for Eskdalemuir Forestry (formally Kronospan) following the completion of further surveys. He introduced JM, SP and AH. A woodland creation species map, a pre-planning survey ecology report, tree planting proposals and archaeological walkover survey were provided for the ECC to view and discuss. The use of Eskdalemuir Forestry will be for timber, farming of livestock (sheep and cattle at Clerkhill Farm) and the creation of woodland areas. The revised plans have made improvements in the structure of the site, the creation of sheltered areas, not had a negative impact on the farm and will stimulate an increase in the species of local flora and fauna.</p> <p>ECC members asked a series of questions to which GB, JM, SP and AH responded at different times. The site has been increased by 144ha by the creation of woodland areas: 14ha will be mixed conifer, 88Ha will be spruce and 42ha will be native broadleaf. To help reduce the incidence of flooding, watercourses will be planted with woodland buffer zones (apart from areas with a peat geology); this will minimise cattle intrusion and therefore soil compaction, but will also promote biodiversity. The farm area will be 860Ha. There is an option to allow shooting on some areas of the site. The management of fallen trees will be prioritised in areas where aesthetic impact is deemed high, balanced with promoting flora and fauna that depend on fallen trees. The site will be a mix of commercial value for the Forestry Commission and the farm. Overall, the site will need to be farmed sustainably and the Forestry Commission will help with this. It was not necessary to consult with Scottish Natural Heritage because the site is not a statutory designated area. The Forestry Commission aim for their site not to have a negative impact, aesthetically, on the topography of the local area. The increase in site forestation will provide more habitats for the local red squirrel population. Further information is</p>		

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	<p>available on the public register.</p> <p>GB agreed to provide maps and information for a display at Eskdalemuir Hub for a formal public consultation. Although the deadline to hold a public consultation was the end of January 2019, AH said that this could be left open. NJ agreed that ECC would approach Eskdalemuir Hub to host a public consultation, to share a link to the online maps and information on community websites and social media, and to distribute information to members of Eskdalemuir Hub mailing list for comment.</p> <p>NJ thanked Eskdalemuir Forestry and the Forestry Commission for their presentation. JM, SP and AH left the ECC meeting.</p>	<p>GB to provide scheme information for the public consultation.</p> <p>NJ to approach The Hub and distribute scheme information for the public consultation.</p>	<p>Not stated.</p> <p>Not stated.</p>
4. Sports Shooting	<p>NJ said that the minutes from the November ECC meeting were sent to the operators of local game shooting following complaints from residents that shooting had taken place near their properties. The main points of their response were read out by NJ (shown in full at Enclosure 1). They are unable to change the direction of the shoot in the next two weeks, but after that, they will move their location.</p> <p>GB said that it was standard practice that shoots took place on Saturdays during the shooting season.</p> <p>NJ said that it would be of value to find the right balance for all parties concerned. The Scottish government view game shooting as an economic activity.</p> <p>GB added that game shooting was a source of income for the Scottish government because land owners are charged a fee for permitting game shooting on their land. The operators will be able to move some shoots away from residential areas once the brush has grown. They will review the feeding location for pheasants; it has been a mild winter and so there has been an unusual growth in their population.</p> <p>BP said that it was important that communication was maintained between all parties. ECC agreed.</p>		
5. Minutes of the previous meeting	<p>The minutes of the previous ECC meeting on 8.11.18 were approved (proposed by JM and seconded by JF).</p>		

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6. Matters arising	Not discussed.		
7. Crossdykes wind farm update	NJ explained that the planning application notice for changes to the permitted plan for Crossdykes wind farm had still not appeared on DG Council's website, but he was aware that Muirhall Energy had been in scoping discussions with DG Council. Update: community benefit has been increased by 40% if Muirhall Energy's planning application is successful (£5K/MW to £7K/MW). ECC has been invited to attend a presentation by Local Energy Scotland to local community councils on 24.1.19; NJ to attend. ECC stand to receive 20% of overall pot, plus 2% of the 10% share. If Muirhall Energy are not successful in their revised planning application, they will fall back to the original plan for 15 smaller turbines which already has planning permission (though this is time limited).		
8. Correspondence	<p>PCI read through the report from Police Scotland (Enclosure 2). JM has spoken with Callum Benson to inform him that CCTV from Eskdalemuir Hub was now accessible, if Police Scotland wished to view it with regard to previous thefts.</p> <p>NJ wrote to DG Council after the November ECC meeting regarding whether the Over Cassock firing range had planning permission following concerns raised by local residents as to whether it was operating legally and safely. DG Council had responded stating that they were undergoing a scoping request with the operator; a precursor to decide if a planning application was required. This information is not currently in the public domain, so no further information could be provided to the ECC. If DG Council deem that the operator is required to apply for planning permission, further information will be released to the public. Planning permission can be applied retrospectively. Operators can work at 'their own risk' while the need for planning is assessed.</p> <p>NJ also said that regarding the issue of safety, he had had a response from Police Scotland. PCI said that he was aware that Police Scotland had visited the range and that all owners of the guns used on the range were licensed. Police Scotland had no issues with the range.</p> <p>MR said that her farm neighboured the range and she had been assured by David Moffat (farm manager) that the range met current safety requirements.</p> <p>YP said that concerns had been raised because of a perceived change of use from farmland to range and the reported use (in social media and the press) of the .50 calibre gun at the range.</p> <p>KC said that the community needed clarification that the range was being operated in a legal manner.</p> <p>There followed a debate as to the exact location of the range, its size and times of operation. While its</p>		

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	<p>location was known, its size and times of operation were not known.</p> <p>KC said that if planning permission was granted for the range, then conditions would apply. She will speak with the head of planning at DG Council to confirm that a range can continue working during a scoping exercise. She said that a public consultation would only take place for major planning applications.</p> <p>PCI said that all firearm holders are vetted. People can shoot on private land so long as they have the permission of the land owner. He offered to speak to the firearms department again regarding Over Cassock range.</p> <p>JF asked if the range would need to be insured. GB said that the operator would need public liability and employer's liability insurance.</p> <p>NJ will write again to Police Scotland and DG Council to request an update on the situation. He will await to see if planning permission will be needed before inviting Marc Gardener to an ECC meeting. BP and KC agreed that this was a good way forward.</p> <p>GB, KC and BF left the meeting at 8.30pm.</p> <p>NJ said that the ECC had been asked by DG Council to respond to their call for council budget cut ideas. NJ felt that they had nothing to add and so did not respond.</p> <p>JF reported that KC had informed him that DG Council funding for pothole repairs had run out.</p> <p>NJ reported that after being told that DG Council no longer supplied sandbags and gave recommendations for alternatives, a batch of sandbags was delivered.</p> <p>LC asked if the local flood action committee was still operating. The ECC concluded that it wasn't.</p> <p>NJ had received correspondence from UEDG requesting funding for the fitting of lights and a picture</p>	<p>KC to speak to head of DG Council Planning.</p> <p>PCI to speak with firearms department.</p> <p>NJ to remain in contact with Police Scotland and DG Council.</p>	<p>18.1.19</p> <p>18.1.19</p> <p>Not stated.</p>
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	<p>hanging system for Eskdalemuir Hub. MR said that some residents were under the impression that funding applications had to be into the ECC by 31.1.19. NJ explained that this deadline was for the Ewe Hill 16 wind farm and submissions had to be made through the Southern Uplands Partnership, not the ECC, as they didn't fall into the scope for this funding.</p> <p>The ECC were expecting a further £4,400 shortly. There followed a debate on how future funding applications to the ECC should be made. Some ECC members felt that funding should be made to projects that had a wide community benefit in the long term, and to projects that had a strong likelihood of being successful; funding had been given, in the past, for projects that didn't come to fruition. Due to the tight funding application criteria, it meant that only constituted groups could apply (with limited response); the ECC thought that perhaps a more strategic approach could be used when considering funding applications in the future. It was agreed by EC members that a formal campaign inviting funding applications from local residents should be made.</p> <p>NJ informed the ECC that he recently found he was no longer a signatory on the ECC bank account. MR said that the ECC needed to have more than one signatory for financial security reasons. BP said that he was only sent monthly statements and these were often out of sync with what they believed to be their current funds. BP was actioned to add NJ, JF and JM as signatories and for telephone and online banking access be made available to these members too.</p> <p>NJ said that he had also been approached by Ian Donnell to complete a funding application through the Ewe Hill 16 for the upkeep of the three defibrillators in the local area. He was currently actioning this.</p>		
9. Treasurer's report	As of December's bank statement, the ECC's bank balance was £820.		
10. Esk Valley Reference Group	<p>NJ said that there was nothing to report from this group.</p> <p>MR reported that in the previous minutes, it stated she had attended this group. She had not, but had attended the Eskdale Foundation.</p>		
11. Planning	NJ said that there was nothing to report.		

BP to request Bank of Scotland for new signatories to be added and to set up online and telephone banking.

Not stated.

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Notices			
12. Wind Farm Community Benefits	This was discussed at point 7.		
13. AOCB	None.		
14. Date of next meeting	The ECC agreed to meet on 21.3.19.		
15. Close	NJ thanked attendees. The meeting was closed at 9.35pm.		

Enclosed:

- 1. Police Scotland report for Dumfries and Galloway Community Councils**
- 2. Update for the ECC on the pheasant shooting situation in Eskdalemuir**

Enclosure 1.

Update for the community council on the pheasant shooting situation in Eskdalemuir.

There have been two meetings with George Birrell of Kronaspan to discuss this issue. There have been written complaints to him especially the shoots after Christmas around shooting too near to houses and people, one person finding a beater on their land with a gun and two ducks, another complaint being shooting happening towards the road, scaring people on the road with their dogs, the shot pheasant landing in private property and then being retrieved. George Birrell is looking into these issues with Marc Gardener.

George Birrell has discussed the placement and direction of the drives. They cannot be changed for the last two weeks of this season but there will be changes for the next season. These include:

1. Purelands: The shoot will relocate to Miller's Turn (Walker's Knowe). This means it will relocate to the opposite side of the road to Purelands and it will be fenced to keep the pheasants that side i.e. there will be no shooting on the Purelands side of the road.
2. Riverside shoot: (This is the other side of the river to the village and where people have been distressed seeing the birds shot) It is hoped to relocate this completely possibly up the back through Clerkhill farm where there are no residences.
3. Home Farm shoot: (That's coming out of the village just past the farm with all the geese and ducks on the field on your right with the small amount of forestry) At present this will be changed to shooting away from the village. However, the trees past Holm Farm are due to be felled so this will bring an end to the shoot there.
4. Black Crag Shoot: (This is the shoot on the field above Vin and Marilyn's/Lorna & Clair's). At present it is directed from the clump of trees downwards towards the road. This will be changed to shooting behind Black Crag to the trees. This means it is the same direction but much further back and out of sight.

George is looking at bringing the shoots in the long run to the other side of Clerk Hill farm, through the farm. This will take at least two years to get the cover grown for the birds.

George confirmed that the project to plant more broadleaf in the valley is nothing to do with the shooting.

A third meeting is planned where this will be discussed, confirmed and information put out to the general public, and hopefully a map to show everyone where things will be. Marc Gardener hopefully will attend this meeting.

George also made it clear that it is not his domain to inform when and where the shoots are being held.

The final information after this third meeting will be sent the community council.

Yeshe Palmo

Enclosure 2. Police Scotland report for Dumfries and Galloway Community Councils

<p style="text-align: center;">POLICE SCOTLAND</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT</p>
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Community Council - ESKDALEMUIR
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Date of Meeting - 17/01/2019

Officer Attending / Report Prepared By –PC IRONS

Updates Required / Requested From Previous Meeting

Firearms Licensing Dept were contacted regarding the shooting range and they were aware of the circumstances and are monitoring the situation.
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Crime Update (cover Performance / Issues / Trends)

29/12/18-Theft of vehicle.

15/01/19-Wildlife crime.

Significant Incidents / Occurrences - (Local / Divisional / National)
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Community Issues

As the nights get darker earlier Police Scotland is reminding you to review your home security.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use timer switches on lights and radio to make it look as if your home is occupied• Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed• If possible use security lighting at the front and back of your property• Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used |
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- Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses
- Make note of all makes, models and serial numbers of your property
- Create a FREE private and secure inventory of all your personal property at www.immobilise.com

If you notice anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it to Police Scotland on 101

Community Information

#AskforAngela

The Police Service is working with venues across the country to help prevent and reduce sexual violence and vulnerability.



By telling customers that they can 'Ask for Angela' we're giving them a discreet codeword that they can give to staff if they feel unsafe or threatened. Posters making them aware of this will be displayed in toilets.

Matters brought to Police attention by Council

Response given to above points at the meeting

Further action to be taken regarding above points

Section Sergeant (Comments)

Area Inspector (Comments)