

4.2 Additional Graveyard space. The next step is for Councillor McMillan and Wendy to agree a date to meet to discuss how to progress the SEPA survey. It has already been agreed that Community Council cannot fund this. **ACTION:JM/WF**

4.3 Traffic Calming

4.3.1 Duns Road. Richard has not yet received an update from the council about whether there are plans to carry out a 2nd survey to assess the effectiveness of the speed cushions.

4.3.2 Edinburgh Road. As previously minuted, the council intends to look at the feasibility of traffic calming measures on the Edinburgh Road when they conduct the survey for widening the footpath (see 4.1 above).

4.4 Wheelie bins on Main Street pavement

Councillor Akhtar reported that Waste Services have not yet engaged with residents and this is not likely to happen until the New Year, as they have been focusing on the implementation of the new recycling system. Councillor Akhtar agree to follow this up. **ACTION: SA**

Rita raised a related issue of AirB&B properties needing to have a bin management strategy in place. Complaints had been made about a property on the The Wynd, where a very full bin was being left on the corner. Rita had contacted the owner and they had arranged for a notice to be displayed in the property saying when the bin is to be put out for collection. This seems to have solved the problem.

4.5Defibrillators.

Wendy reported that she had met with the Acting Head Teacher and the Janitor at the school to agree the location. Wendy has also spoken to the Scottish Ambulance Service about what to order. The next step is to place the order and liaise with the planning department about the installation. **ACTION: WF**

4.6. Beautiful Scotland signage. Adam intends to apply for Area Partnership funding at the February meeting to cover the costs of this. Wendy offered to help with the funding application. **ACTION: AW**

4.7 Tree at the Witherspoon plaque. This can now be linked to the planting of the commemorative cherry trees outside the Tweeddale. Adam will be meeting Mike Foy to move this forward. **ACTION: AW**

4.8 School Railings. Councillor Akhtar reported that the Community Payback Team has all the details and will be carrying out a risk assessment. Councillor Akhtar will check up on this **ACTION: SA**

4.9 Christmas Events

4.9.1 The Christmas Light Switch on was a huge success and was very well attended.

4.9.2 The Christmas Post Box is in Lanterne Rouge from Monday 13th December - Saturday 18th December.

4.9.3 Christmas Carols. Adam reported that they were considering whether it would be safe to go ahead with the carols. **\*\*\* After the meeting, the decision was made to cancel the carols to take into account the impact of the Omicron variant and revised government guidance about social interaction. \*\*\***

4.10 Noticeboards. New framework has been put in place to replace the old notice board on the High Street opposite Carla's by ELC. Job to be completed. Ongoing consideration of replacing the notice boards on the gable end of Nisa shop. The framework on the existing CC noticeboard has had repair work done to it. They are fine until replaced with new ones. **ACTION: DG**

4.11 Dog poo bins in the Bleachfield**.** Nothing new to report. The council cannot fund a new bin at the cost of £400 and do not seem keen to move one of the existing bins over to the river-side. The next step is to apply for Area Partnership funding to cover the cost of the new bin. Rita also suggested that Community Council could fundraise in the Spring. **ACTION: RB/AW**

4.12 Lorry parked at entrance to Bolton Walkway. This issue has now been resolved.

4.13 Xmas bags/Xmas cards. Xmas cards will be sent out to community residents who have been supported by community council during the year. The cards can mostly be sent out using the Gifford post. The cards were bought from a local artist.

4.14 Planting bulbs at the Wynd. Wendy confirmed that community council funds are available to support this. Dave had confirmed before the meeting that no bulbs had been sourced. Councillor McMillan agreed to speak to Andrew Hogarth about this.

4.15 Encouraging use of local businesses. Local businesses were promoted as part of the Xmas Lights Switch On. Jill will do some further ‘shop local’ promotion on Facebook.

**5 External Reports**

**5.1 Police**

This report is based on incidents between 8/11/2021 and 12/12/2021. During the period since the last police report there have been very few incidents of note in the Gifford area. There may be more incidents but due to the nature of these or ongoing investigations I cannot give full details.

5.1.1 In response to reports of underage drinking in the Walden Place/Terrace areas of Gifford, these areas will continue to be patrolled by both police and community wardens.

5.1.2 There continues to be complaints of inconsiderate parking in the Walden Terrace/Place areas of Gifford.

Councillor Akhtar wanted to draw attention to the success of the recent Police pop up event in Gifford. Several residents took the opportunity to speak to the police. The meeting agreed that these events were very useful.

**5.2** **East Lothian Council**

5.2.1 The Corn Exchange is to be used as a Vaccine Centre.

5.2.2 The Polling Station in Gifford might be moved from the Village Hall to the Bowling Club to improve accessibility.

5.2.3 The Boundary Commission are considering changes to the electoral boundaries which would affect parts of Musselburgh.

5.2.4 Councillor Akhtar wanted to flag up the publication of 2 external reports relating to East Lothian Council: an Audit Scotland Report looking at the management of the council’s finances during the pandemic; and an Annual Performance Report.

5.2.5 An Amnesty ‘Write for Rights’ event had been held in Lanterne Rouge.

5.2.6 Councillor McMillan congratulated Wendy on receiving the Lawrence Beveridge Award.

5.2.7 Resurfacing work on the footpath between Station Road and Tweeddale Crescent has been pushed back to Feb/March.

5.2.8 Councillor Hoy pointed out that the Scottish Government Budget Settlement would result in some difficult decisions for East Lothian Council.

**5.3 Community Woodland**

Adam reported that the Community Woodland xmas decoration event at the Xmas Lights Switch on was a huge success. Volunteers had used rhododendron and ash cleared from the woods to create xmas decorations. These had been ‘sold’ in return for donations, raising almost £500 for the Community Woodland.

**6 Internal Reports**

Councillor McMillan has forwarded Dave’s report to Alan Stubbs.

**6.1 Roads and Footpaths**

The stretch of road from Long Newton cottages to Kidlaw has had new tar laid. The stretch from Long Newton cottages to Dunbadam Wood (towards Pishwanton wood) is closed this week from 13th - 17th for resurfacing work. A G Thompson is doing the work for the council. The quarry manager informed Dave that the quarry is repairing the bad potholes between the quarry entrance to Longyester, until the quarry and ELC come to a solution to repair it.

There are odd potholes on roads within the community area which is expected during the winter but no bad holes have been reported. Verges on some side roads have been cut up with vehicles going off the tar.

A collapsed manhole cover has been reported to Road Services today in the pavement on the corner of Walden Terrace and Bablins Wynd.

A resident on Station road mentioned to Dave that the pavement in front of the houses is in need of repair, not good if wet and slippy. Dave said that it has been brought up before in a meeting and that it is down to ELC to decide if it needs improvement work done.

A stretch of the pavement on Edinburgh road from the bridge up to the entrance of Tweeddale Avenue looks very untidy due to weeds growing next to the curbstones. There is an area roughly a foot wide that has no tar, just soil, it is a wide pavement. Dave thought the policy is not to use weed killer so much these days, hence there are more weeds on that pavement and other areas around the village?

**6.2 Street lighting.** There have been a couple of times when street lights have been out on Duns Road from the Walden Terrace entrance to the 30 mph, and Walden Terrace to Bablins Wynd. Out from Friday 3rd in the evening to Monday 6th and again on Wednesday 8th December. Cause not known. It has happened once before.

**6.3 Drainage**. Nothing to report.

**6.4 Signs.** Nothing to report.

**6.5** **Planning**

Please see attached report for planning applications within and outwith GCC Area. Hugh passed on some information about the application for the ‘Nature Kindergarten’ at Wester Wood. He had the impression that the project would be carefully managed and that access would be via Redshill.

**6.6 Finance**

Wendy informed the meeting that the accounts were now with the Independent Examiner. She asked the meeting whether Community Council would like to make a charitable donation of £250 to the Lammermuir Larder and there were no objections to this. **ACTION: WF/AW**

**6.7 Website**

Jill will be meeting Liz in the New Year to discuss the website. If anyone has anything they would like to add/change, please pass it to Jill

**6.8 Covid Vaccination Update**

A report is attached as an appendix. Eleanor wished to highlight the very positive increase in booster uptake. The Councillors wanted to thank everyone involved with the vaccine roll out in East Lothian. Eleanor asked if Community Council could encourage people to come forward for their vaccine or booster. Jill agreed to publish something on Facebook. Adam raised the issue of Test Kits not being available locally. No reason was known for this. **ACTION: JH**

**6.9 Yester Estate**

Nothing to report from Yester Estate.

**6.10 Resilience Update**

Wendy reported that fish and chips had been delivered at the end of November, and also that Christmas Cards will be delivered to people that have been supported by Community Council

**7. Correspondence**

7.1A letter had been received thanking those responsible for the path widening at The Wynd/Park Road.

7.2 A resident had asked Community Council for their help in getting the Paypoint up and running at the NISA store. This had now been resolved and the Chair thanked the councillors for their help with this.

**8. AOB**

**8.1 Commercial vehicles parking on High Street**.

A resident had complained to Rita about commercial vehicles parking on the High Street and had asked whether they could be encouraged to park by the Bleachfield. The Chair was doubtful this could be enforced, but Councillor McMillan agreed to speak to the Tweeddale to see if they could assist by encouraging vehicles to park responsibly. **ACTION: JM**

8.2Jill informed the meeting that the Council had requested contact details for all Community Council members. These details are to be kept as an internal record and are not to be published. Jill will pass on the details.

8.3 Jackie asked whether the minutes of the meetings could be added to the website more quickly. The Chair pointed out that the minutes can only be added once they have been approved.

**Date of next meeting -** 7:30pm on Monday 10th January 2022. Venue tbc as meeting may be held via ZOOM.

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**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 21/01523/P | Replacement windows and doors. | Ardlea Haddington Road Gifford Haddington EH41 4JD | 06/12/21 | Dec 2021 | Replacement double glazed windows in white uPVC to south elevation and rear of house. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01313/P | Change of use of woodland to domestic garden ground, extensions to house, erection of wall, gate, building for residential ancillary accommodation, generator building and installation of air source heat pumps | Quarryford House Yester Gifford East Lothian EH41 4PL | 10/11/21 | Dec 2021 | Two storey extension and annexe on west face of Quarryford House. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01294/P | Extension to house, installation of oil storage tank and formation of hardstanding areas | Highwood Tweeddale Avenue Gifford Haddington EH41 4QN | 08/09/21 | Nov 2021 | Further to earlier application 20/01265/P, approved 20/01/21. This now includes a larger extension to the rear. | Approved |
| 21/01242/P | Erection of shed | Dolphin Cottage The Square Gifford Haddington EH41 4QJ | 24/09/21 | Oct 2021 | Timber shed approx. 3m x 2m to rear of house. | Approved |
| 21/01128/P | Erection of outbuilding for use as ancillary residential accommodation | Curlew Cottage Duns Road Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QW | 06/09/21 | Sept 2021 | Studio in garden behind Coop car park. Comprises living area, bedroom and wetroom shower/WC. Design statement refers to office and studio space for Curlew Cottage residents use – not to be sublet. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01108/P | Change of use of woodland area for use as a nature kindergarten for nursery children, erection of log cabin, toilet, log store and associated works | Wester Wood Near Gifford East Lothian | 09/09/21 | Sept 2021 | Erection of 6.5m x 2.75m log cabin, compost toilet and log store in Wester Wood. Possible implications for right of access? | Awaiting decision |

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 21/00563/P | Change of use of woodland area for the erection of domestic garage | Membland Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JH | 21/7/21 | Aug 2021 | Erection of a garage in woodland to the right of the driveway to Membland. Nov 2021 – proposed garage location changed to be south of house, further from the driveway, behind Membland Cottage | Awaiting decision |

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

None

**Report for 13th December 2021:**

**From national statistics, source below, as of Thursday 9th December:**

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview>

**Nationally:**

Over 12s + all adults: Dose 1= 91.0%

Over 18s: Dose 2 = 88.6%

Booster/Dose 3 over 18s plus all adults: 45% (NB no data on over 50s only Boosters, not comparable with figures below) however November this was 20.8%

**Lothian:**

Over 12s + all adults: Dose 1=89.7%

Over 18s: Dose 2 = 88.6%

**Over 50s:** Boosters =71.7%

Booster/Dose 3 over 18s plus all adults: 38.2%

**East Lothian: (**detailed breakdown on next page)

Over 12s: Dose 1= 95.5%

Over 18s: Dose 2: =93.5%

Over 50s Booster =72.8% (November 30.5%)

**JCVI advice on response to Omicron variant**: (29-11-2021)

* 12-15 yrs. offered Dose 2 minimum of 12 weeks from Dose 1
* 16-17 years Dose 2 after 8 weeks
* Severely immunosuppressed individuals: primary course (3 doses) plus booster dose at minimum of 3 months between the third and booster dose. Those who have not yet received their third dose may be given the third dose now to avoid further delay, and a booster dose in 3 months.
* Boosters to be offered to **all adults** at 12 weeks from 2nd dose,
* 18-39 not yet being offered jags unless in a JCVI group.

**East Lothian by Age group and Dose:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AGE** | **DOSE 1 %** | **DOSE 2 %** | **Booster Dec** | **Nov** |
| 12-15 | 71.8 | 2.0 | 0.1 | 0 |
| 16-17 | 92.1 | 29.8 | 0.5 | 0 |
| 18-29 | 87.8 | 79.4 | 8.2 | 3.6 |
| 30-39 | 91.7 | 86 | 13.2 | 6.3 |
| 40-49 | 93 | 89.9 | 21.3 | 8.8 |
| 50-54 | 99.1 | 97.3 | 36.5 | 9.8 |
| 55-59 | 98.8 | 97.4 | 46.9 | 12.1 |
| 60-64 | 100 | 100 | 79.1 | 20.7 |
| 65-69 | 100 | 100 | 92.9 | 49.3 |
| 70-74 | 100 | 99.9 | 92.8 | 51.6 |
| 75-79 | 100 | 100 | 96.5 | 67.1 |
| 80+ | 100 | 100 | 94.3 | 76.5 |

**Additional information on NHS Inform website about Booster Vaccinations published 3rd December:**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccinebooster>

Vaccine boosters are now being offered to > 40s as of 6th Dec. There are still 50+ attending for flu and Covid booster and that is now being given at 12 weeks form 2nd dose.

There was some initial confusion 2 weeks ago several people > 40yrs attending for their flu jag asking for their Booster too because their 2nd Dose was given between 12 and 22 weeks. However vaccinators could not give it then. AS was subsequently explained on the news the national leads and Health Board medical, nursing and pharmacy leads to update the legislation (Patient Group Directive) to authorize staff to dispense the vaccine following the new regulations.

Eleanor Hulme

(Dr Eleanor Kerr GMC: 2344618)