

# Notice of Meeting and Agenda



## Petitions Committee

**Venue:** Council Chambers,  
Midlothian House, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN

**Date:** Tuesday, 19 March 2019

**Time:** 10:00

**Director, Resources**

**Contact:**

Clerk Name: Verona MacDonald

Clerk Telephone: 0131 271 3161

Clerk Email: [verona.macdonald@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:verona.macdonald@midlothian.gov.uk)

**Further Information:**

**This is a meeting which is not open to members of the public.**

## **1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

---

## **2 Order of Business**

---

## **3 Declarations of Interest**

---

Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the nature of their interest.

## **4 Minute of Previous Meeting**

---

Minute of Meeting of Petitions Committee held on 18 September 2018 3 - 5

## **5 Reports**

---

5.1 Penicuik Astro turf Pitch - Report by Director, Resources 6 - 13

## **6 Date of Next Meeting**

---

The next scheduled meeting is 30 April at 10.00 am

# Minute of Meeting



## Petitions Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 18 September 2018	10.00 am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN

### Present:

Councillor Cassidy (Chair)	Councillor Baird
Councillor Curran	Councillor Russell
Councillor Munro	

### Also Present:

Mrs Logan	Petitioner
-----------	------------

### In attendance:

Garry Sheret	Head of Property and Facilities Management
Lyndsay Haddow	Policy Planning Manager
Gordon Aitken	Democratic Services Officer

### 1. Apology

---

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Winchester.

### 2. Order of Business

---

The order of business was as per the Agenda circulated.

### 3 Appointment of Chair

---

The Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Cassidy as Chair of the Petitions Committee

### 4 Declarations of interest

---

No declarations of interest were received.

### 5 Reports

---

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Traffic Calming Measures at Old Edinburgh Road, Dalkeith	Garry Sheret
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
<p>There was submitted report dated 3 September 2018 by the Director, Resources incorporating a petition from Mrs J Logan calling upon the Council to install traffic calming measures and signage at Old Edinburgh Road, Dalkeith to slow down traffic and alert drivers to the fact there were elderly people crossing at all times of the day, some of whom are very infirm or use mobility vehicles.</p> <p>The Committee then heard from Mrs Logan who advised that the Petition was to highlight the fact that traffic on Old Edinburgh Road was dangerous to the residents in and around the area. In order to slow it down they wished traffic calming measures to be put in place as well as signage to alert drivers to the fact that there were elderly people crossing at all times of the day, some of whom are very infirm or used mobility vehicles.</p> <p>Garry Sheret then addressed the Committee. He provided further information advising that Roads Services had assessed a request for traffic calming and or increased signage on Old Edinburgh Road.</p> <p>A traffic survey carried out from 17-25 April 2018 found an average of 3100 vehicles per day, at an average speed of just under 26mph. 85%ile speeds (ie speed which 85% of traffic travelled at or below) were 31mph.</p> <p>The traffic survey also measured gaps between passing vehicles to find how long a pedestrian would have to wait to cross the road without relying on traffic slowing or stopping. If they could cross the road in a 10 second gap then they only 4 times in the week would they have to have waited for more than one minute for a suitable gap, and two-thirds of the time they wouldn't have to wait at all. But if they needed a 15 second gap then there were 2 -3 times per hour they would have had to wait for more than a minute. This assumed crossing both lanes at once: if they used the nearby pedestrian refuge to cross each lane separately there would be less waiting time.</p> <p>The council prioritised road safety improvements by injury accidents. Traffic calming was installed where there was both an injury accident issue and a speeding issue. This was not deemed to be the case. In addition to this, adding road safety infrastructure that was not deemed essential could actually increase accidents.</p>		

The installation of traffic calming measures and signage would have a resource implication for the Council. A designed traffic calming scheme could cost in the region of £20,000 to £50,000. There was also an additional cost to maintaining any features constructed.

There followed a general discussion on the detail of the Petition and the subsequent issues raised during which Members acknowledged the effect to the community as described by Mrs Logan.

In summing-up Mrs Logan expressed surprise at some of the results of the traffic Survey which had been carried out, particularly in relation to the average speed having been estimated at 26MPH as this appeared to conflict with what the residents had witnessed.

The Chair thanked Mrs Logan for attending.

#### Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (a) That there was no evidence to suggest that a reduction in the speed limit at this location was either necessary or would be beneficial; and
- (b) That appropriate street signage advising drivers that there were elderly people crossing the road at all times of the day be erected on this stretch of road.

Action – Director, Resources/Head of Commercial Operations

The meeting terminated at 10.50 am.

## **Re-Carpet Penicuik Astro Pitch Report by Director, Resources**

### **1 Purpose of Report**

To present a petition from L. Shepherd on behalf of Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club calling upon the Council to re-carpet the astro pitch located adjacent to Penicuik High School which is used by pupils of the school and local primary schools in the town, for inter-school football festivals and hires every evening by youth and adult local football teams.

### **2 Petition**

The attached petition has been received from L. Shepherd on behalf of Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club and has been signed by another 82 persons. In addition, 2 letters of support have been received from a nurse practitioner at Penicuik Medical Practice and Christine Graham, MSP, and 2 emails from a former resident of Penicuik who is now a professional footballer and a former member of 2 of the clubs which use the facility.

### **3 Petitions – Rules and Procedures**

**3.1** The adopted Midlothian procedures identify 11 categories for which petitions cannot be entertained. The submitted petition is not proscribed by any of these categories and is therefore valid.

**3.2** The petition is in the following terms,viz:-

*“Penicuik Astro Pitch is used by the pupils of Penicuik High School and local primary schools across Penicuik and Midlothian for inter-school football festivals and is hired every evening by both Youth and Adult local football teams, including teams from outside Penicuik.*

*Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club (PAYFC) has 60+ Coaches and Volunteers running 14 football teams for 350 youths. It aims not only to make better football players but to improve health and fitness, keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.*

*PAYFC offers each player 2-3 hours of training during the week and a match at the weekend. The club is so big that each team needs to train one night on the Penicuik Astro and one night on the Beeslack HS Astro Pitch.*

*PAYFC and the Scottish FA arranged a “Site Inspection Report” of the Astro Pitch. The surface condition recorded was “Poor - subject to long-term wear, having reached the end of its useful life”. The cost to bring it up to standard is £255k (excluding VAT). Yet the Council has increased the costs of hiring their*

*facilities over the last 6 months, with PAYFC having to increase the player monthly standing order fee despite the poor condition of the pitch.*

*PAYFC has a duty of care to all members. We have real concerns for all the players given the poor condition of the pitch. Players have been injured playing football. On Thursday 17 January 2019 a boy fell during training, badly injuring his elbow. PAYFC have reported this injury to Midlothian Council which it believes may very well be the result of the poor surface.*

*PAYFC want Midlothian Council to fund re-carpeting and maintenance and to increase the security as this site (possibly CCTV) to help prevent any damage or vandalism”.*

## **4 Response by Property and Facilities Management**

**4.1** Torkildsen Barclay were commissioned by Midlothian Council in September 2016 to undertake a review of the 2017 Sports Pitch Needs Assessment with the aim of updating population projections, pitch usage, and demand criteria, and providing recommendations as to future levels of pitch provision, in particular those provided by the local authority. The Needs Assessment was to cover the period 2017 to 2027.

**4.1.1** Torkildson Barclay informed through their Sports Pitch Needs Assessment that the Penicuik Park 3G full size pitch carpet was in need of replacing.

**4.1.2** A site report from Pitch Maintenance Company, Replay Maintenance, conducted on 6 February 2017 assessed that the general surface was in poor condition as it was very worn and had numerous burns on its surface. It also found that carpet pile wear was very worn, especially at the goal mouth areas.

**4.1.3** A bid of £300,000 to the Capital Strategy 2018/2019 to 2027/2028 Asset Management Plan was submitted by officers to upgrade the facility at Penicuik.

**4.1.4** The sum of £300,000 corresponds with the Site Inspection Survey dated 17 January 2019 from Sportslabconsult lodged by the Petitioner which quotes a figure of £306,820.08 (approximately £255k excluding VAT).

## **5 Report Implications**

### **5.1 Resource**

The re-carpeting of Penicuik Astro would have a resource implication for the Council. The Site Inspection Survey lodged by the Petitioner quotes a figure of £306,820.08. However, Sport and Leisure Services do not have financial resources available to fund this project.

## 5.2 Risk

The Petition stated that Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club have concerns for all players given the poor condition of the pitch. It further suggests that players have been injured playing football and the Club believes this may well be as a result of the poor condition of the surface.

Sport and Leisure Services have recorded very few incidents reported to the staff within the Leisure Centre who provide first aid, as any accident caused by the playing surface at the 3G pitch

## 5.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- X Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- None of the above

## 5.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Not applicable

## 5.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable.

## 5.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable.

## 5.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The availability of a Petitions Committee allows stakeholders to raise issues for consideration by the Council.

## 5.8 Ensuring Equalities

Not applicable.

## 5.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable.

## 5.10 IT Issues

Not applicable.



## **6 Recommendations**

1. The Committee is invited to consider the Petition submitted (Appendix 1) and afford the Petitioner the opportunity of addressing the Committee and speaking to the terms of the Petition and:
2. consider the information contained within this report provided by the Head of Property and Facilities Management and afford him/his representative the opportunity of addressing the Committee and speaking to the terms thereto and;
3. decide what action should be taken with regard to the Petition –
  - i. take no action and in which case give the Petitioner the reasons for the decision or;
  - ii. pass the Petition to the relevant Director or other Council Committee to look into, with or without any specific recommendation

**5 March 2019**

**Report Contact:**

**Verona MacDonald      Tel No 0131 271 3161**

**E-mail [verona.macdonald@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:verona.macdonald@midlothian.gov.uk)**

**Background Papers:**

**Appendix 1 Petition from Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club**

**Appendix 2 Replay Maintenance report sheet dated 6 February 2017**

## MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL – FORM TO BE USED TO LODGE A PETITION

Before completing this form you should read Midlothian Council's "Procedures for Dealing with Petitions" which can be found on the Council's website at [www.midlothian.gov.uk/petitions](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/petitions) Copies can also be obtained by telephoning Democratic Services on 0131 270 7500.

The completed form should be delivered:-

- by email to [petitions@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:petitions@midlothian.gov.uk); or
- by mail or by hand to Democratic Services, Resources Directorate, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN.

If you require any further information or advice, please contact the Democratic Services by telephoning 0131 270 7500.

### Details of Principal Petitioner

Please enter the name of person raising the petition. Please include a contact address to which correspondence may be sent and a contact telephone number. Only the principal petitioner's name and no other details will be made public.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Louise Shepherd</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>217 Rullion Road</b>
	<b>Penicuik</b>
	<b>Midlothian</b>
	<b>EH26 9JQ</b>
<b>Tel No:</b>	<b>07801 282 055</b>
<b>e-mail:</b>	<b>Louise.shepherd217@sky.com</b>

### Petition Statement

Please state clearly in the box below the purpose of your petition and what action you wish Midlothian Council to take.

**(Important – Please note that petitions will be rejected and returned to the Principal Petitioner in cases where the wording contained within the Petition Statement box below differs from that on any accompanying petition signature sheets.)**

Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club (PAYFC) Petition to Midlothian Council to Re-carpet the Penicuik Astro

Penicuik Astro Pitch is used by the pupils of Penicuik High School and local primary schools across Penicuik and Midlothian for inter-school football festivals and is hired every evening by both Youth and Adult local football teams, including teams from outside Penicuik.

Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club (PAYFC) has 60+ Coaches and Volunteers running 14 football teams for 350 youths. It aims not only to make better football players but to improve health and fitness, keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.

PAYFC offers each player 2-3 hours of training during the week and a match at the weekend. The club is so big that each team needs to train one night on the Penicuik Astro and one night on the Beeslack HS Astro Pitch.

PAYFC and the Scottish FA arranged a "Site Inspection Report" of the Astro Pitch. The surface condition recorded was "Poor - subject to long-term wear, having reached the end of its useful life". The cost to bring it up to standard is £255k (excluding VAT). Yet the Council has increased the costs of hiring their facilities over the last 6 months, with PAYFC having to increase the player monthly standing order fee despite the poor condition of the pitch.

PAYFC has a duty of care to all members. We have real concerns for all the players given the poor condition of the pitch. Players have been injured playing football. On Thursday 17 January 2019 a boy fell during training, badly injuring his elbow. PAYFC have reported this injury to Midlothian Council which it believes may very well be the result of the poor surface.

PAYFC want Midlothian Council to fund re-carpeting and maintenance and to increase the security as this site (possibly CCTV) to help prevent any damage or vandalism.

### **Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the Petition**

Before a petition is submitted, you may have already raised the issue in question with the relevant Council department or other agency and it would be helpful if you could briefly outline what measures if any you have taken. This could include, for example, details of any individuals or organisations approached. Please limit any information to no more than 4 sides of A4 paper.

I have had several meetings and discussions with Tony Malone (Sports & Leisure) over the last few years regarding the poor condition of the Penicuik Astro Pitch. Tony advised that he had already put a budget request in for 2019-2020 to re-carpet the Penicuik Astro and this request will be discussed on 12th February 2019.

Any accidents that have occurred on the Penicuik Astro have been reported to the Penicuik Leisure Centre Duty Manager and the appropriate accident forms has been completed and submitted to Midlothian Council Head Office.

I have discussed the re-carpeting of the Penicuik Astro with both the Head & Deputy Head Teachers (Mr Eadie & Mr Jamieson) of Penicuik High School and they are both supportive of the re-carpeting of the Penicuik Astro, as are the teachers of the PE Department.

Several other Football Clubs out with PAYFC are supportive of the re-carpeting of the Penicuik Astro, including Penicuik Athletic FC (Juniors), Peebles Rovers FC, Penicuik Athletic Amateurs Team, Penicuik Athletic Over 35's Team, Midlothian Walking Football Team, Linton Hotpurs FC, Vale of Leven FC & Lasswade YFC.

The Scottish FA have also been involved in this project to date and they arranged a Site Inspection Report of the Penicuik Astro Pitch.

## Presenting your Petition

As the principal petitioner you will be invited to appear before the Council's Petitions Committee to speak in support of the petition and also to answer any questions which members of the Committee may wish to put to you and assist them in reaching their decision.

You may be accompanied by one supporter who may speak on your behalf.

## Signature of Principal Petitioner

When satisfied that the petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Procedures for Dealing with Petitions, the Principal Petitioner should sign and date the form in the box below.

All other signatures gathered should be appended to the form.

**(Important – Please remember that petitions will be rejected and returned to the Principal Petitioner in cases where the wording contained within the Petition Statement box above differs from that on any accompanying petition signature sheets.)**

**Signature**

Louise Shepherd

**Date**

05/02/2019

(Please type your name if sending by e-mail)

**Name in block capitals**

LOUISE SHEPHERD

(Please type your name if sending by e-mail)

# MAINTENANCE SITE REPORT


MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL

SITE: PENICUK LEISURE

FACILITY: 1 x 3G	WEATHER: Frosty A.M.	DATE: 17.11.17
------------------	----------------------	----------------

OBSERVATION	STATUS	✓	COMMENTS	PHOTO	ADVISORY NOTE
General Surface Condition	ACTION MONITOR OK	✓	POOR OVERALL CONDITION -	(tick)	VERY WORN. NUMEROUS BURNS ON SURFACE.
Seams/Inlaid Lines	ACTION MONITOR OK	✓	SEAMS AND INLAIDS APPEAR OK.		
Pile Wear	ACTION MONITOR OK	✓	VERY WORN THROUGHOUT. ESPECIALLY GOAL MOUTHS.		
Infill Levels/ Infill Distribution	ACTION MONITOR OK	✓	LEVELS LOOK OK.		
High Use Areas Infill Levels, eg. Tabs	ACTION MONITOR OK	✓	TOPPED UP PENALTY SPOTS.		
Surface Debris, eg. litter, leaves etc	ACTION MONITOR OK	✓	ALL DEBRIS AND LITTER REMOVED.		
Surface Contamination ie. within pile	ACTION MONITOR OK	✓	CONTAMINATED WITH MUD AND SILT.		
Weed/Moss Infestation	ACTION MONITOR OK	✓	SOME PERIMETER WEEDS.		
Access /Detox Area	ACTION MONITOR OK	✓	ALL CLEANED.		
Line Markings	ACTION MONITOR OK	✓	LINE MARKINGS A BIT FADED.		
Perimeter Fencing/ Rebound Boards	ACTION MONITOR OK	✓	NO NEW DAMAGE TO REPORT.		
Equipment	ACTION MONITOR OK	✓	OK FOR PLAY.		
Other:	ACTION MONITOR OK				

MAINTENANCE PROCEDURE	✓	✓	✓
Litter Pick	✓	Revive (Powergrooming)	✓
Seam/Inlaid Line Check	✓	Static Brushing	Infill Check
Repair		Reline	Weed/Moss Treatment
Athletic Track Clean		Fieldman Testing	Infill Top Up
			Other:

Replay Operative Signature: 

Client Signature: 



Replay Maintenance  
Newbridge Industrial Estate, Newbridge EH28 8PJ  
Tel : 0131 335 6800 Fax : 0131 333 4154  
E-mail : info@ecossesports.co.uk

Website : www.replaymaintenance.co.uk

ES-6607