

Estate Walkabout Reports 2017

January 2017

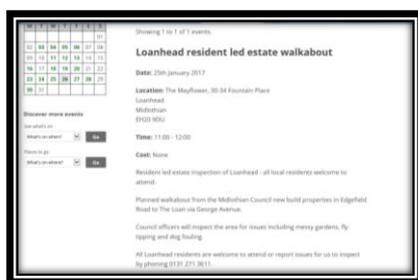
Loanhead

In attendance:

Midlothian Council: Housing Officer Claire Harrison, Housing Officer Gail Paterson, Communities Officer Catherine Duns, Tenant Participation Officer Lesley Connell

Residents: Norah Stewart, Caroline Allan

This walkabout took place on Wednesday 26 July 2017. The walkabout was advertised on the council's website, social networking pages and Black Diamond FM. Posters were displayed in the local area on lampposts, bus stops, library etc., flyers were sent to local tenants and the event was advertised on the Loanhead and District Community Council Facebook page.



The group met outside the Mayflower pub at 11am. One tenant had reported an issue in advance and as both Housing Officers were aware of the complaint, it wasn't appropriate to investigate it further at a public event.

The group started by having a look around the brand new Midlothian Council properties in Edgefield Gardens and Edgefield Road. There are 42 properties and they are a mixture of houses and flats.

Edgefield Gardens is in very good condition and no issues were reported. It was good to note that the latest Midlothian Council new build estates have measures in place to protect the new trees and plants as these have been vandalised in other new build streets in the past.



Issue: Dog fouling in Edgefield Road

Action: Reported to dog warden and street cleansing (ref. no 1168952)

The group crossed the road and walked along George Avenue and passed by the new Loanhead community hub which will house a primary school, leisure centre, library and doctor's surgery.



A local resident from the Mayburn estate had a number of concerns about her area. Housing Department staff advised that as none of her concerns were housing related, they would be noted in the walkabout report and passed to the appropriate departments:

Issue: 'On street van and car parking especially after 6pm, renders exiting Mayburn Loan and driving up Mayburn Avenue very difficult due to parked vehicles'.

Action: Reported to Contact Centre. The roads department will contact the resident via email for further details (ref no 1168960)



Issue: 30mph street sign needs replaced as it has worn away and now appears to advise that the 30mph zone ends rather than begins. The complainant also thinks that the 'speed limit should be 20mph throughout the estate'.

Action: Reported to Contact Centre. The roads department will contact the resident via email for further details (ref no 1168960)

Issue: 'Access path from Mayburn Avenue to Sainsburys desperately requires new surface'.

Action: Reported to Contact Centre. The roads department will contact the resident via email for further details (ref no 1168960)

Issue: 'Air pollution in area has increased dramatically due to park and ride and commercial developments. Real health hazard!'

Action: Reported to Contact Centre. The appropriate department will contact the resident via email for further details.

Issue: 'Dog fouling and dogs not on leads, no pick up!'

Action: Reported to Contact Centre (ref no 1168952)



The group continued along George Avenue and then George Drive.

Issue: Lots of broken glass on pavement beside leisure centre.

Action: Reported to Contact Centre (ref no 1168952)

Issue: More dog fouling in George Drive

Action: Reported to dog warden and street cleansing (ref no 1168952)

There was a discussion on Dryden Terrace. The road has been 'bus only' for years but now as no buses use the road, the locals would like it reopened. The Loanhead and District Community Council have received several requests in relation to this.

A resident asked the group to visit Old Engine Road.

The area surrounding the second hand car dealers was quite untidy and unsightly.



A new dog care service has opened along Engine Road. One resident expressed concern about the perimeter wall as it looked old and unstable.

Action: Reported to the council Contact Centre on 30 January 2017 (ref no 1168957)

As requested, the walkabout inspected the site of the former Loanhead Social Work Centre. A resident reported that it is used at night by 'boy and girl racers' and flytippers. Litter had blown about everywhere and there was glass





all over the ground. The site looks onto the back of the primary school. It was suggested that the school would benefit from having a bin at the rear entrance and a pupil litter pick of the wooded area (within strict health and safety guidelines).

Following the walkabout, the head teacher of the primary school advised that both the pupil and parent councils will be writing to Midlothian Council in relation to the issues above.



Catherine Duns (Communities Officer) arranged for the Unpaid Work Team to tidy the area in the interim.

There was some discussion on the future plans for the land and what the timescales are. The group was also interested to know how this would affect the primary school's 'safe journey to school route'.

Update: Stephen Clark, Housing Strategy and Performance Group Manager – 'We are planning to build (council houses) on the site of Loanhead Library HQ and Social Work Building. Not exactly sure when we will be on site here and we will have to secure planning permission but would hope that building work would begin in 2018. Consultation would take place with Planning/Roads (department) for access to the school.'

The next walkabout will take place on Wednesday 22 February in Dalkeith

February 2017

Dalkeith (but held in Woodburn)

In attendance:

Midlothian Council: Housing Officer Alan Rice, Housing Officer Team Leader Claire Douglas, Communities Officer Derek Welsh, Land Operations Officer Ian Welsh, Community Safety Officer Elaine Wilson, Councillor Margot Russell, Tenant Participation Officer Lesley Connell

Residents: None

This walkabout took place on Wednesday 22 February 2017.

The walkabout was advertised on the council's website, social networking pages and Black Diamond FM. Posters were displayed in the local area on lampposts, bus stops, library etc and flyers were sent to 114 local tenants.



A3 poster



A5 flyer

Midlothian Council Housing Information



Facebook page

The group met outside Dalkeith Library at 11am. No residents were waiting to take part in the walkabout so the officers made their way to the Dalkeith Miner's Club where they had arranged to meet other officers and Place Charente residents.

No Place Charente residents had chosen to take part. The street was particularly chosen for the walkabout as residents had complained about people driving along pavements and green areas in order to take short cuts.



One of the pavements used by motorists



Woodburn Court



Tyre tracks in the grass

The next walkabout will take place on Wednesday 22 February in Dalkeith

March 2017

Penicuik

In attendance:

Midlothian Council: Housing Officer Alan Rice, Tenant Participation Officer Lesley Connell

Residents: Mr Black, Alan from the Penicuik and District Community Council

This walkabout took place on Wednesday 8 March 2017.

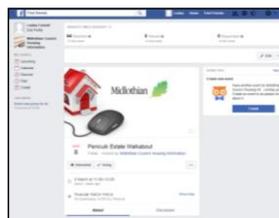
The walkabout was advertised on the council's website, social networking pages and the local radio station Black Diamond FM. Posters were displayed in the local area on lamp posts, bus stops, library etc and flyers were sent to 90 local tenants.



Midlothian Council website



A5 flyer



Midlothian Council Housing Information Facebook page



The group met outside the YMCA at 11am. Although both residents lived in Dykes Road, the Community Council member had other resident's complaints to pass on. The group therefore agreed a route which took in Cuikenburn, Queensway and Dykes Road.

The group began by walking along the path at the back of Cuikenburn. Although no fly tipping was evident on the day, it was pointed out that the area suffers from people dumping their rubbish in the woods.



The Community Council representative pointed out two unused posts (outside no. ** Cuikenburn and outside the astro turf next to the YMCA) which had been erected for dog bins but currently serve no purpose.

The Cuikenburn area was looking very clean and tidy with nothing to report.



The group continued along Rullion Road and into Dykes Road.

Damage to grass verge at the entrance to Dykes Road.

Sofa dumped at the top end of Dykes Road (near number **)

Action: Reported to Housing Officer

Possible benefit issues at number ** Dykes Road.

Action: Reported to Raymond Trower, Fraud Officer



Rubbish round the back of number **.

Action: Reported to Housing Officer

Rubbish outside number ** at front door and in the garden.

Action: Reported to Housing Officer

Rubbish outside numbers *, ** and **.

Action: Reported to Housing Officer

Rubbish outside number *:

Action: Not Council property so no further action.

The group finished the walkabout by inspecting the garage area at the bottom of Dykes Road. The attendees reported that drug dealing takes place here.



Offensive graffiti on the side of the garages.

Action: Passed to Community Safety.

Two abandoned cars in garage site.



The next walkabout will take place on Wednesday 24 May in Gorebridge

June 2017

Gorebridge

In attendance:

Midlothian Council: Tenant Participation Officer Greig Henderson, Tenant Participation Officer Lesley Connell

Residents: None

This walkabout took place on Wednesday 21 June 2017.

The walkabout was advertised on the council's website, social networking pages and the local radio station Black Diamond FM. Posters were displayed in the local area and flyers were sent to 160 local tenants.



Gorebridge flyer



Facebook event

The group met outside Gorebridge Primary School, 2C Barleyknowe Lane at 11am. As there were no residents present, the Housing Officers left and the Tenant Participation Officers carried out the walkabout.

The walkabout began by walking from Barleyknowe Lane up towards Burnside Road and then down Newbyres Avenue.



Noted gardens at ** Barleyknowe Lane and ** Barleyknowe Lane were overgrown and messy, however neither addresses belong to Midlothian Council.

Half way down Newbyres Avenue a resident approached the group about her neighbour's garden. The garden was messy and in stark contrast to her own.



Action: Messy garden at ** Newbyres Avenue to be reported to Melville Housing Association.

Action: Nominate neighbour's garden in Melville HA garden competition.

There was another attractive garden at ** Newbyres Avenue, which will also be nominated in Melville Housing Association's garden competition.

The walkabout continued along Barleyknowe Crescent, Barleyknowe Street and Barleyknowe Gardens. There were no issues in any of these streets.



The walkabout continued into the Burnside Road new build development where the group noted a dumped sofa in **** and a clamped car parked in a parking bay.

There were 2 nice gardens at *** and *** Burnside Road which will be nominated in Midlothian Council's garden competition.



On turning up Barleyknowe Road there were 3 more nice gardens (***, ** and **) which will be nominated in Melville Housing Association's garden competition.

The next walkabout will take place on Wednesday 28 June in Dalkeith

June 2017

Dalkeith

In attendance:

Midlothian Council: Tenant Participation Officer Greig Henderson, Tenant Participation Officer Lesley Connell, Housing Officer Alan Rice and Community Safety Officer Elaine Wilson.

Councillor Colin Cassidy

Community Police Officer Scott Robertson, Traffic Warden Thomas Curtis

Residents: 6

This walkabout took place on Wednesday 28th June 2017.

The walkabout was advertised on the council's website, social networking pages and the local radio station Black Diamond FM. Posters were displayed in the local area and in some local businesses and flyers were sent to 140 local tenants.

The group met outside the Dalkeith Corn Exchange at 11am. At first only one resident was present, however as we started our walkabout, others joined us.



Three residents wanted us to visit Allan Terrace and Gibraltar, however given that the housing department are in the process of carrying out some work in these streets, it was agreed that the housing officer would meet with the residents at a later date to look into the issues and concerns they had.

Action : Housing Officer to contact one of the residents to arrange visit.

The walkabout began by walking to Lansbury Court, where one of the residents on the walkabout had a number of concerns.



At the entrance of Lansbury Court, a leather sofa and chair was lying beside the recycle bins.

Action : check if removed after one week.

Update: Checked on 4/7/17, sofa and chair removed.

At the back of Lansbury Court, concerns were raised regarding piece of land that was being used for flytipping and was not being used by the community.

Actions : Councillor Cassidy to explore possibility of a Community Asset Transfer and getting the land changed into allotments or something else to benefit the community.

Action: Lesley to contact John Blair to advise him of concerns.

Action: Lesley emailed Councillor Cassidy and John Blair (Resources Director) on 30/6/17 for feedback

Action: Follow up email sent on 28/7/17

Action: Second follow up email sent on 12/09/17

Update: Reply from Councillor Cassidy *'I have been talking to a member of One Dalkeith with a view to clean it up. I shall let you know whenever I have news.'*

N.B. One Dalkeith is a community organisation that works collaboratively to develop community owned enterprise and facilities in order to regenerate Dalkeith socially, economically and environmentally.

Land at the back of Lansbury Court



The walkabout continued along Shadepark Crescent, Shadepark Drive and Shadepark Gardens. There were no issues in the Crescent or the Drive.



Messy garden at ** Shadepark Garden.

Action – Housing Officer to contact tenant

The next walkabout will be on Wednesday 26th July in Loanhead.

July 2017

Loanhead

In attendance:

Midlothian Council: Housing Officers Gail Patterson and Lesley Gillan, Tenant Participation Officers Lesley Connell and Greig Henderson, and Councillor Pauline Winchester

Residents: None

Due to the heavy rain, it was agreed that we would walk up George Drive then along Paradykes Avenue onto the Loan and back along Clerk Street into Fountain Place.

Due to an enquiry received, it was agreed with Councillor Winchester that we would take a look at Mayburn House in Hawthorn Gardens.

Picture 1: Holes in pavements in George Drive due to new energy efficient lampposts being installed in the area.



Picture 2: Messy Garden at ** Paradykes Avenue

Action – Housing Officer already aware of this garden

Picture 2: Rubbish left in driveway at ** Paradykes Avenue



Action – Housing Officer aware of this and monitoring

Picture 3: Graffiti on walls of shop on corner of Paradykes Avenue



Action – non offensive so business' responsibility to remove



The group commented that McNeill Terrace looks in good condition following its substantial refurbishment which was completed in 2015.

The group continued walking along McNeill Avenue, The Loan and Clerk Street. No issues were noted however the library HQ and Social Work building have both been demolished since the last Loanhead walkabout in January. If planning permission is granted this site will be used for Midlothian Council new build properties (with construction due to begin in 2018).

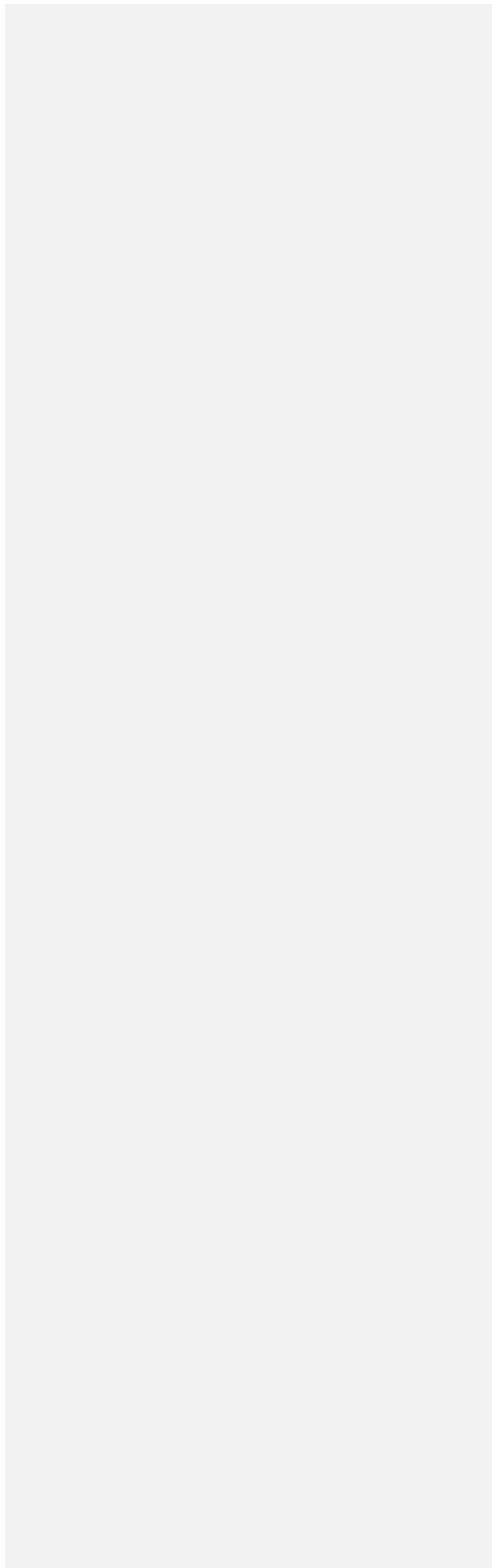


Picture 4 – Overgrown tree at ** Fountain Place



Action – None as not a MC property

Mayburn House





Actions –

Contact Planning and Environmental Health for advice

Contact Police Scotland regarding 15 untaxed vehicles without MOTs

Update: Email received from Bruce MacLeod, Planning Enforcement Officer on 8 August 2017:
Planning enforcement, environmental health and building standards have all had involvement in the building. Planning enforcement are in a legal process which is seeking to have all of the cars removed and for the condition of the grounds to be improved.'

The next walkabout will take place on Wednesday 23 August in Mayfield

August 2017

Mayfield

In attendance:

Midlothian Council: Housing Officers Natasia Lewis and Lesley Gillan, Tenant Participation Officer Lesley Connell, Councillors Baird and Smail, Community Officer Paul Johnson

PC Trevor Newton Jones, PC Scott Lambert

Residents: six residents and two children

The group met at the corner of Willow Road and Oak Place following advice from the Housing Officers for the area. A group of residents and PCs Newton Jones and Lambert stayed behind to discuss police related complaints whilst the walkabout set off along Willow Road.

Pictures 1 and 2: Housing Officers and Councillors inspecting Willow Road



Lesley Connell had received an anonymous complaint regarding untaxed vehicles without MOTs in Steele Avenue, Willow Road and Oak Crescent. This information was passed to the police.

There was a lot of broken glass on the road and pavements

Action : reported to street cleansing, ref. no. 52574

Various messy gardens within walkabout area

Action: noted by Housing Officers, tenants contacted and reminded of tenancy conditions.

Picture 3: Garages



One of the councillors queried whether the garages are being removed.

Councillor Small queried whether there are any planned harling or painting works due in the area.

Councillor query re. tenants using their tenancies for business premises.

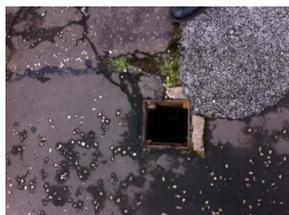
Response: the tenant would have to submit a written request and this will be looked at on an individual basis based on the nature of the business and any disruption to the tenancy.

Photo 4: dumped rubble beside steps



Action: Locals to report this to Midlothian Council contact centre – 0131 270 7500

Photo 5: missing gas cover outside no. ** Steele Avenue



Action: Reported to Midlothian Council contact centre

Photo 7: extensive green space in the area



Photo 8: Crumbling steps near ** Willow Road



Action: Reported to Midlothian Council contact centre.

Reply: *'Thank you for your email. The team lead was out on the 12th September 2017 to inspect the steps, a repair will follow. Regards Customer Service'*

The next walkabout will take place on Wednesday 20 September in Bonnyrigg

September 2017

Bonnyrigg

In attendance:

Midlothian Council: Tenant Participation Officer Greig Henderson, Councillor Janet Lay Douglas and Councillor Dianne Alexander

Community Police Officer Dan Lennie

Residents: 1

This walkabout took place on Wednesday 20th September.

The walkabout was advertised on the council's website, and social networking pages. Posters were displayed in the local area and in some local businesses and flyers sent to 9 members of the Bonnyrigg Residents Group who requested the walkabout.

The group met outside the Pitcairn Centre at 11am. Only one resident was present.

As per the Bonnyrigg North Residents meeting in August, it was agreed that we visit Lothian Street, Eldindean Road, Rae's Gardens and Bonnyrigg High Street.

The walkabout began by walking to Lothian Street and looking at the building at the corner of Lothian Street and Dundas Street in which masonry had fallen off the walls and slates/tiles fallen off roof.



Action : Check with Building Services whether any work scheduled to make safe and repair building.

Midlothian Council have no responsibility for this property but I am aware that Building standards were involved in speaking with the owners.

The group also raised concerns regarding the condition of the pavement around the shops in Bonnyrigg High Street and outside the mosque in Lothian Street. These pavements were covered in bird mess. Although Midlothian Council cleans the pavements, it is the responsibility of the local businesses and the mosque to deal with any issues they may have with birds nest on their property.



Action – Contact the Task Force to arrange clean up of the pavement and contact Environment Health to check if anything can be done to address the issue with birds nest.

Passed over to Environmental Health

Concerns were raised regarding a messy garden in Lothian Street and whether planning permission had been sought.



Action – Check if this is a Midlothian Council property if so advise the local housing officer of the concerns.

Not a Midlothian Council tenancy

The group continued down Lothian Street and checked the dog waste bins which were all empty. This was following concerns that the dog bins were full and spilling onto the pavements.

Concerns were raised regarding a disused telephone box in Lothian Street. This phone box did not have a telephone within and appeared to have been locked. The phone box was dirty and had been graffitied.



Action- Contact BT to see if phone box is due to be repaired or if it can be uplifted.

Thankyou for your e-mail. The kiosk is scheduled for removal. The mechanism has already been recovered but we cannot determine exactly when this will be removed completely. It will however be take away as soon as possible. Many thanks for your enquiry.

As the group approached Eldindean Road, a lady asked for the Community Police Officer to follow her into her garden. The lady reported that she had discovered a small, clear packet containing a white powder on a bench in her back garden. The Community Police Officer removed the packet and was going to send it to the forensic team for analysis to determine the substance.

Concerns were raised regarding a couch left lying in the garden of a property in Eldindean Road.



Action – Check if this is a council tenancy and if so advise the housing officer for the area.

Not Midlothian Council tenancy, however check if sofa has been uplifted.

The group proceeded to walk back into Bonnyrigg High Street, a short discussion took place regarding parking issues within Bonnyrigg Medical centre. It was agreed that although no actions required at present, further discussions were required to remedy the parking congestions in the medical centre.

The group proceeded to walk back to the Pitcairn centre. PC Lennie asked if we could take a quick look at the road leading into King George V Park as there had been numerous complaints raised to the police and Bonnyrigg Community council regarding the speed bumps installed at the entrance to the park. These complaints were that the speed bumps were too high and were causing damage to motor vehicles entering the park. It was observed that due to the type of speed bumps, temporary rubber tracks, they were to try and get vehicles to reduce their speed to 5 MPH, it was agreed that this was reasonable given there was a nursery within the park and that there had been a lot of people driving too fast into the park. The police advised that the speed bumps had worked as a deterrent in preventing motorists driving excessively into the park.

Action – Is it possible to get 5 MPH painted onto the road at the entrance of the park to advise drivers that this was the speeds required for crossing these speed bumps.

‘The road is actually part of the park rather than the road network so isn’t my responsibility but I’ve had a quick word with the Land and Countryside manager who would be agreeable and we (Roads services) could do the work as a favour. This is assuming we are talking about two or three painted roundels on the road within the park (the park extends to the pillars). ‘

The next walkabout will be on Wednesday 27th September in Poltonhall. This is to be a litter pick event.

September 2017

Poltonhall

In attendance:

Midlothian Council: Tenant Participation Officer Lesley Connell, Unpaid Work Supervisor Michael Beveridge and Councillor Dianne Alexander

Unpaid Work Team: 3

Residents: 2

This walkabout included the Poltonhall Community Litter Pick which was arranged by the Poltonhall Residents Group.

This walkabout took place on Wednesday 27th September.

The litter pick/walkabout was advertised on the council's website and social networking pages. Posters were displayed in the local area and flyers sent to all Midlothian Council tenants in the area and all Poltonhall Residents Group members.

The group met in the Poltonhall Play Park at 12noon in order to coincide with the school lunch breaks. Hawthornden Primary School held their own litter pick in the playground on the same day.

The group split into two with the unpaid work team tidying the playing fields and the remaining participants tidying the area surrounding the primary school.



Over the course of an hour the volunteers picked up 8 bags of rubbish which the unpaid work team took to the recycling plant to be disposed of.



The next walkabout will be on Wednesday 25th October in Penicuik.

October 2017

Penicuik

In attendance:

Midlothian Council: Tenant Participation Officer Greig Henderson.

Community Police Officers Phil McDonald and David Shirley

Residents: 12

This walkabout took place on Wednesday 25th October 2017.

The walkabout was advertised on the council's website, social networking pages and the local radio station Black Diamond FM. Posters were displayed in the local area and in some local businesses and flyers were sent to local tenants.

The group met outside the Ladywood Leisure centre at 11am.

The walkabout began by walking to Ledi Terrace, where the residents reported 3 faulty streetlights on the pathway.

ACTION – Numbers of the faulty streetlights noted (RM02, 8 and A) and reported to the street lighting team (References 56056 and 56058)

One gentleman raised concerns regarding the chemicals used in controlling weeds and overgrowth in the communal garden areas. He was concerned that these chemicals were being sprayed in public areas and near schools and was concerned about any possible impact this would have on people's health.

Tried to reassure the gentleman that these sprays would not be harmful to anyone however he wanted this confirmed.

ACTION – Seek clarity from Justin Venton, Land and Countryside Manager regarding safety of the sprays used by Midlothian Council to control weeds in public grassed areas. E-mailed on 26/10/17



Concerns were raised regarding the overgrowing bushes on the pathways at Ledi Terrace which were scratching people walking by.

ACTION – Arrange for bushes to be cut back by Task Force. E-mail sent to Contact Centre 26/10/17



Moss on the back pathways causing the path to be slippy and could lead to someone falling. Also some elderly and disabled residents concerned about falling and worried about putting their bins out. Residents say this has been reported however no response to date.

ACTION – Contact the Community Payback team to see if this is something they could help with. Email sent to Hamish Fraser, 26/10/17

Concerns raised regarding a property in Ledi Terrace, in which the bushes in the front garden have overgrown and spread out onto the public footpath. Residents say they have reported this to Midlothian Council however nothing appeared to have been done to date.

ACTION – Check that property of concern is a council property and if it is, pass to Housing Officer for the area to investigate concerns. Passed onto Housing Officer to investigate

Concerns raised regarding messy garden in a property in Lomond Vale. Residents believe this is a Midlothian Council tenancy.

ACTION – Check if council tenancy and if it is pass onto Housing Officer. E-mail sent to Housing Officer on 30/10/17

A number of residents raised concerns regarding dog fouling, particularly in Wyvis Park. They agreed that about 80-90% of dog owners do pick up after their dog however they were concerned that people were throwing the bags into the vennels in Wyvis Park and not putting into bins. Advised residents to make sure that they reported dog fouling to Midlothian Council and if possible to note as much information as possible and if they could to give the name of the dog owners.

ACTIONS – Could signs be put up in the area reminding people of consequences of not picking up after their dogs? E-mailed Contact Centre (Ref 56068)

Could a Dog Bin be situated in Wyvis park? – E-mailed Contact Centre to explore possibility of dog bin. (Ref 56069)

A number of residents raised concerns regarding wheelie bins. Firstly, concerns were that a number of residents throughout the area were not taking their bins back into their gardens. This was causing the vennels and back pathways to have limited room for people with wheelchairs and buggies.

Secondly, concerns were that the bin collection team were not returning the bins near to the properties in which they were collected and leaving them at the end of the street.

ACTION – Contacted Waste Services to see if they could speak with their teams to ensure bins returned as close to the point where they were collected. (Ref 56071). With regards to residents not returning their bins to their gardens once emptied, will need to speak Waste Services Team Leader to see what action can be taken.

Concerns were raised regarding a property in Wyvis Park which residents believed to be an abandoned council property. Residents claimed that a male who resided in Mayfield popped in and out of this property once a week raising a number of concerns.

ACTION – Check that property is a Midlothian Council property and if it is, notify the housing officer for the area of the concerns raised.

Some residents raised concerns regarding the road and pavements in Wyvis Park and Vorlich Crescent. They stated that part of the roads and pavements had been upgraded however they raised concerns that no-one had returned to complete the remaining upgrade of the streets.

ACTION – Contacted Planning team to check if the both street were to be fully upgraded and if so, were they due to return. E-mail sent to Lindsay 26/10/17



Concerns were raised regarding a lot of wood and debris which was lying out in the street in Lomond Vale. It was clear that the debris belonged to a property which was in process of erecting new garden fence. This property is not a Midlothian Council tenancy.

No action required, however residents agreed that they would keep an eye to ensure that debris was removed.

Residents also raised concerns regarding a boat which was parked on a parking bay in Lomond Vale, although they agreed it was not causing any problems. Concerns were raised regarding the length of time the boat had sat there and not been moved or used. Police stated that they did not have any concerns however if the boat was damaged or targeted by local youths, it could become an issue.

ACTION – Reported boat as an abandoned vehicle. (Ref 56077)

A resident who was unable to attend the walkabout, raised concerns regarding dog fouling in Lomond Vale.

ACTION – Passed onto the Contact Centre to arrange clean up.

Another resident who was unable to attend the walkabout, e-mailed the following concerns –

- Gentleman at a property in Volrich Crescent seems to run a garage from the street – *‘there is constantly cars being repaired on the roadside. Outside the back fence, on the pavement, there are tyres and bottles of antifreeze, etc. I have a picture of this on my mobile phone which I will forward onto you’*



ACTION – This is not a Midlothian Council property, therefore not housing remit. Passed concerns onto Environmental Health who are going to look into this.

- Residents at a property Lomond Vale put up a new back fence in the summer and have left the fence posts, slats, etc lying on the pavement at the side of their garden and at the side of the garages next to the house

ACTION – This is not a Midlothian Council property. Residents on walkabout stated that this is a new fence that has been erected and they feel that owner of property will remove old fence and debris.

- Rubbish (old garden fence, etc) has been dumped at the side of a property in Wyvis Park and has been there since spring/early summer



ACTION – Not a Midlothian Council tenancy. Passed onto Contact Centre to see if they can arrange wood to be uplifted.

Emailed complaint received prior to walkabout:

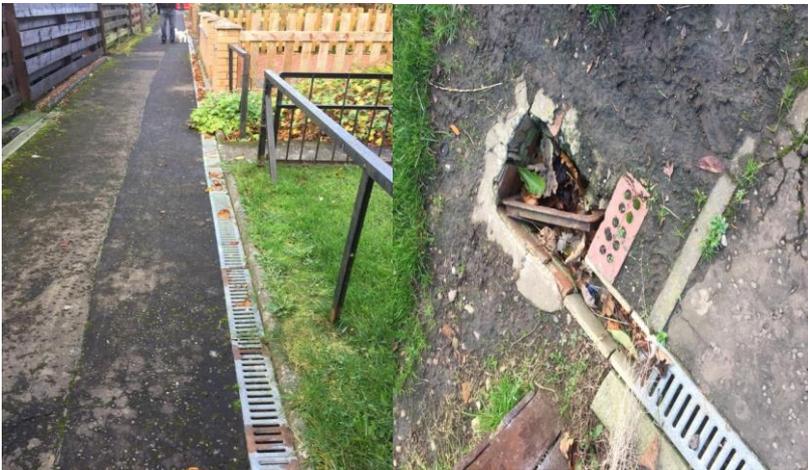
- *'In general terms the pavements are in disrepair, with paving lifted, cracked, etc (an example of this is outside my own house in Lawers Square – where a tree was removed some years ago but the pavement was cracked and lifted where the roots were – some slabs were placed around the stump of the tree but the pavement was left untouched)*
- *Weeds are growing everywhere, in cracks in pavements, along paving edging outside houses, etc'*

ACTION – Passed onto the Roads Team

- *'Wheelie bins are left on the pavements outside houses, causing obstructions on the pavement. There may also be an environmental issue if bins are overflowing with rubbish? Again this is particularly bad on the pavement behind my own house'*

ACTION – This is a concern which was raised by several residents on walkabout. E-mail passed to Refuse Collection Manager.

Two residents from Armine Place raised concerns regarding the drainage and the missing chamber cover in Armine place. They stated that they had reported this in June 2016 and nothing appeared to have been done to resolve the issue.



ACTION – Email sent to Housing Operations manager to look into this issue.

Residents keen to set up a Residents Group and meet in Ladywood Community centre.

ACTION – Book community centre and arrange meeting.

The next walkabout is in Woodburn on 25 November 2017.

November 2017

Woodburn

In attendance:

Midlothian Council: Tenant Participation Officer Greig Henderson, Tenant Participation Officer Lesley Connell

Residents: None

This walkabout was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 22 November but was rescheduled due to extreme weather. Instead the walkabout took place on Tuesday 28 November.

The council officers met outside the Dalkeith Miners Club at 11am and decided to inspect some of the issues reported at a recent Woodburn Tenant Group meeting.

The walkabout began by walking to Place Charente as tenants had complained about overgrown trees and youths riding stolen motor bikes through the area. It was obvious that car(s) had been driven over the grass recently – see pictures below



The officers crossed over to Woodburn Park and made their way to the Thornybank development, a five year old Midlothian Council new build estate.



It was observed that vehicles had been driven over the grassed areas causing damage to the surface.

ACTION – Reported to Housing Officer



Messy garden in Salter's Road and car parts in driveway

ACTION – Passed onto Housing Officer to action



Litter gathering in bushes at footpath into Thornybank estate.

ACTION – Passed onto Contact centre to arrange clear up.

Back up at Woodburn Avenue the officers noticed a lot of litter around the shops and stuffed behind the electricity generator.



ACTION – E-mail sent to Scottish Power to see if they could arrange clean up.

Across in Spalding Crescent, the officers noticed a sofa dumped in a garden.



ACTION – Passed on to Housing Officer, who advised this is a privately owned property

The group walked round to Woodburn Drive where the following issues were noted:



Bag of bedding lying out in street

ACTION – Passed onto Contact Centre to arrange clear up

The walkabout briefly walked along James Lean Avenue before using the vunnel to get back to Woodburn Drive.



Overgrown hedge, spilling over onto pavement in Woodburn Drive

ACTION – Passed onto Housing Officer for action



Sofas lying out in front garden in Woodburn Drive

ACTION – Passed onto Housing Officer for action



Graffiti on side of building, windows covered in eggs and messy gardens in Woodburn Drive

ACTION – Passed onto Housing Officer, who is aware of the issues and addressing them.



Mattress lying in front garden of property in Woodburn Drive

ACTION – Passed to Housing Officer for action



Broken fence and gate at vennel between James Lean Avenue and Woodburn Drive

ACTION – Passed onto Contact Centre to arrange repairs

The walkabout concluded by inspecting Woodburn Road and then returning to the Miners Club.

The next walkabout is in Loanhead 24 January 2018.