



About Moorfoot Community Council (MCC)

We are a voluntary organisation and Community Councillors are representatives of the local villages and surrounding countryside. We help with local issues, such as road repairs, new schools, public safety and commenting on planning applications (a statutory requirement). We do this through consultations, lobbying Midlothian Council and other bodies. We also administer various grants.

If you have concerns about a proposed development, please contact the Community Council. Our official response on these schemes will be submitted once a full planning application is submitted by the developer.

You are welcome to attend the monthly meetings at North Middleton Hall: 7pm first Wednesday of the month except in July and January. The AGM is held at the February meeting. See www.moorfoot.org.uk for information about the council, meetings, grants, a map of Moorfoot boundaries and more.

In Memoriam

Ken Adam, who has been Chairman and Vice-Chair of MCC, died peacefully on Friday 5th December after a valiant battle against cancer. We would like to express our gratitude for and appreciation of his enormous contributions to MCC, the Federation of Community Councils and many other roles through which he helped to make our community area a better place to live.

Note from the Chair

2014 has been a year of changes. We have benefitted from several new Community Councillors giving us a wide representation across

the Moorfoot area. In February, Ken Adam stepped down as Chairman. Ken helped develop the new Constitution for all Community Councils in Midlothian, which was recently approved by Midlothian council.

This approval opens the possibility to agree border changes for Community Councils, which could be something that Moorfoot and Gorebridge Community Councils will need to consider in the next year or so. Growth around Gorebridge is expanding into Moorfoot. People living in these new housing developments may be best served as part of the Gorebridge community. It might be in Moorfoot residents' interests to remain in a primarily rural community. Moorfoot currently has about 500 addresses across the whole area. About 250 new houses are being proposed in one development at Harvieston and more will be proposed at Redheugh.

The Borders railway construction has had considerable impact on Moorfoot residents living along its boundaries and anyone using the A7. Future development is expected along the railway corridor, in line with 1) reduced travel time extending viable commuter-belt around Edinburgh and 2) intentions to raise economic development and generate more wealth within Midlothian.

Sue Mitchell, MCC Chair

Neighbourhood plan: Our heritage - Our future

A Neighbourhood Plan gives local people a voice in shaping what happens in our communities. It brings together local residents with public agencies in order to identify opportunities and find solutions to local issues.

Why do you like living in Moorfoot? Do you want to influence priority developments that shape our future? How do you see Moorfoot in the future, 5, 10 or 25 years ahead? What would you love your children and grandchildren to enjoy? What would you like to be happening here now and in future? Please do get involved. Tell your views in the Neighbourhood Plan survey to contribute to the future you want for Moorfoot, either on the paper questionnaire attached or at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3R87DJL>

Why not join the steering group to create the neighbourhood plan? Contact Derek Welsh at Midlothian Council: 0131 271 3452 or email Derek.Welsh@midlothian.gov.uk

Make sure your voice is heard.

Farming in Moorfoot

The farms and estates in Moorfoot are the custodians of most of the wonderful countryside we are so fortunate to live in and enjoy.



Life at Temple Farm

www.templefarmstables.co.uk

We run a 40 horse livery yard which is British Horse Society Approved, so never a dull moment. Not only is it keeping the horses happily fed and watered (or restricted in summer!), it is making sure that all of our clients are happy too. We have a relaxed atmosphere, in beautiful surroundings. Having happy, contented horses is our main priority and we are lucky enough to offer extensive grazing as well as offering home grown haylage during winter which is fed ad lib.

Most months we offer some sort of competition from friendly show jumping, trec or even a fund raiser for charity. Our big news is that we are hosts to the 2015 British Championships of Le Trec. The competition encompasses orienteering, obstacles and control of paces with competitors coming from all over the UK and Ireland. So what a boost for us and the local community and it puts Temple on the map!!

Carrington Barns Farm www.supernature.uk.com

Carrington Barns Farm is a small, traditionally-run farm, where the Mann family have been tenants for five generations. The fertile soil around Carrington is particularly suited to growing oilseed rape. They plant a spring variety in April and harvest in September. Its natural rapid growth means that there is little need for herbicides or fungicides, so it fits with their ethos of practical, responsible, sustainable farming.

Rapeseed oil started as a way of diversifying and has been so successful that they've invested in equipment to cold press oil directly on the farm. They produce pure rapeseed oil and infused oils with various herbs and spices. This year three oils won Great Taste awards and the truffle oils have been prestigiously selected by Harrods. The oils are also sold directly from the farm, farmers markets, online and the original oil is now in all Scottish Co-op stores.

Hydro energy in Moorfoot

Malcolm Spaven, one of our Community Councillors, organised a conference on behalf of the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils to investigate the feasibility for hydro energy to be developed, potentially by the community within Midlothian. While there is a rich historical legacy of hydro power on the North and South Esk Rivers and the Gore Water, the economics and technical requirements of hydro energy in Midlothian today are challenging. Many potential projects are "low head", run-of-river projects, which may face significant difficulties in adapting historical features such as weirs, meeting environmental licensing requirements and connecting to the grid.

The attendees resolved to investigate projects that could prove viable. This will build on work already under way by the Penicuik Community Development Trust. Anyone interested in this work should contact Malcolm Spaven at malcolmgspaven@gmail.com.



Twinning: Moorfoot and Ivry le Temple

Three French visitors, including two in their 20s, arrived on Friday 27th September in time for a convivial buffet supper in Temple. Saturday started with a visit to the wind farm off the A7 and a drive via the Moorfoots to South Queensferry for a walk and look at the bridges. In the afternoon we had an open top bus tour in Edinburgh and a walk on the Royal Mile.

Sunday morning saw a brief tour of Temple village and Kirk before departing for their return flight to France.

We welcome more people to be involved in the twinning and also encourage younger members of Moorfoot community to join us for next year's visit to Northern France. If you're interested, please contact Tam Bell on 01875 830752.



Tug of War at Summer Temple Fete, 2014

Moorfoot Primary School

This academic year 2014 -2015, we welcomed 17 new children who have settled in really well.

Children are encouraged to take part in our Moorfoot Medal initiative, celebrated with bronze and silver certificates and a gold medal. Based on the Duke of Edinburgh awards, it is tailored for younger children to develop over the year in three areas of Sport, Skill and Service.

Children are encouraged to recognise and record all their achievements in Personal Learning Portfolios, which are shared with parents throughout the year.

Our Parent Teacher Group have been doing a great job fundraising, raising £180 at our stalls at Middleton Fete and a whopping £1300 from the annual Duck Race held in September. Thank you to everyone for supporting us!

The Borthwick Women's Rural Institute

Our Branch has gone from strength to strength and we have 40 members from all around Moorfoot and Gorebridge.

This year we have had many interesting demonstrations and speakers on a wide range of topics and also trips away.

We meet in Middleton Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 7PM. We welcome visitors and prospective members to all of our meetings. Please come and join us.

Moorfoot Community Council Micro grants

www.moorfoot.org.uk (about MCC/Micro grants)

Grants from £40 to £150 are awarded 3 times a year, with application deadlines 1st Jan, 1st May and 1st September, to support small projects that would not qualify for other grant programmes. Last year two groups were awarded grants:

Temple Village Nursery: £150 for craft materials; Middleton Munchkins (Under 5s group) £150 for room hire costs to enable the group to meet.

MCC councillors are also on the panel for the Carcant Wind Fund SSE Grant. Application details are on www.moorfoot.org.uk.

Planning and Developments

MCC often hears presentations from developers, mostly about proposed wind farms and housing developments either within Moorfoot or close to our boundaries. We spend a lot of time deliberating about the potential impact and what would be best for Moorfoot. We welcome your input so we can represent all our community.

The Mount Lothian Wind Farm proposals generated strong opposition from many residents in Moorfoot and MCC represented their opinion in the planning process. The application is now in the appeal process with the Scottish Government.



North Middleton

Village Reports

Borthwick

The Borders Railway construction has provided throughout 2014 a throbbing soundtrack from early morning until evening, often seven days a week. In early May the road bridge over the railway was declared unsafe and closed for three months causing locals considerable inconvenience.



Rail workings looking east from the road bridge
Borthwick September 2014

The railway footbridge at Halflaw Kiln has been renovated and is now open, allowing easier use of the Borthwick to Crichton right of way.

All year renovations have been continuing in Borthwick Castle Hotel for a projected opening date in early 2015. Tree felling around the castle has changed the landscape.

The congregation of Borthwick Church celebrated the 150th anniversary of the opening of the present church in May 21st 1864. Lord John Borthwick spoke about his family connections with the church while Mrs Betty Tait gave a brief history of the church and its many historic features.

Carrington

During the last year Carrington has benefitted from improvements and upgrading of many houses along Main Street. Although one of the two flowerbeds has been removed, Midlothian Council have kept the remaining larger flowerbed beautifully which has helped keep Carrington a very attractive village to live in.

There is always plenty of wildlife around Carrington. Every year a group of swifts nest in local buildings and fly high over the village in July and August. A flock of waxwings were spotted just outside Carrington in early November feeding on the hawthorn bushes along the hedgerows. Earlier

in the year, a merlin was seen hunting for prey as it skilfully flew at great speed along the road and over the hedges.



Carrington

Fushiebridge

The Borders Railway construction has also dominated life in Fushiebridge over the last few years and it is with great delight that residents see the end in sight. This year has seen many frustrating meetings with representatives of BAM, who are responsible for the construction, where promises kept being broken.

North Middleton

North Middleton Village Hall continues to be the centre for much of village life. It is a magnificent facility which deserves your support. It is open every Fri and Sun for a drink and a chat. Numerous events are staged throughout the year {bands, ceilidhs, fund raising events} it is also available for functions. Check the web page www.middletonvillagehall.org.uk for details.

Progress is slow on action for a 40 mph speed limit at the junction with the A7. Despite increased road usage and numerous accidents and near misses, Midlothian Council are satisfied with the current set up. The restoration of the right of way at Torcraik to Cleuch Road has also slowed up. We will continue to push for these issues and perhaps one day we will make a breakthrough.

Temple www.templevillage.org.uk

The community around Temple continues to be very active and welcomes all to activities at the village hall, including monthly Saturday coffee mornings; films at Temple Village Hall and run by Moorflick; midweek soup lunches and more. The annual Fete and Spring Walk were well attended and great fun was had by all.