About Moorfoot Community Council (MCC)
Community Councils are voluntary organisations that represent residents in the local villages and surrounding countryside. We help with local issues through consultations, lobbying Midlothian Council and other bodies. We also administer various grants. See our website www.moorfoot.org.uk for information about the council, MCC meetings & minutes, grants, a map, the ‘Moorfoot Profile’ and more.

Message from MCC Chair
MCC Councillors have worked hard in 2016 to represent residents’ wishes to maintain the best aspects of Moorfoot and balance essential development with preserving the desired rural nature of our surroundings. The Borders Railway offers a lot of opportunities but also brings development pressures that change the nature of this area. (e.g.: boundary changes, see below).

Please do contact us with your concerns about local issues. You are welcome to attend the monthly meetings: 7pm first Wednesday of the month except in July and January; usually at Middleton and sometimes Temple or Carrington Village Halls.

Can you contribute? MCC is looking for new councillors of all ages from all parts of the community to join us. Please come to the AGM on Wed 1st Feb 2017, 6:45pm, Middleton Village Hall. Email secretary@moorfoot.org.uk
Dr Sue Mitchell

Planning
2016 has been another busy year for the Community Council on planning issues. We have made submissions on:
- Midlothian Local Development Plan
- South East Scotland development plan (SESPlan)
- the restoration of the former Middleton Lime Works
- a proposal for housing at Yorkston
- developments at Currie Glen

See meeting minutes on our website for details of our work on these and other planning issues.

Changes to the Community Council Boundary.
With our new constitution now in place, the large housing developments on our border with Gorebridge prompted us to contact Gorebridge Community Council to discuss possible boundary changes to better support Gorebridge and Moorfoot residents. Harvieston is now underway, and Redheugh is still at early planning stage.

Both councils were of the opinion that these developments would be better suited to inclusion in the Gorebridge area rather than Moorfoot:
- The population in this number of new dwellings will far outnumber the current rural and wide-spread population of Moorfoot. As a more urban situation, their issues are likely to be different to rural issues experienced in the rest of Moorfoot.
• New residents would be expected to use Gorebridge facilities and infrastructure and interact more closely with that population. Details and a map of the boundary changes can be seen on our website. Any comments from the consultation which closed in December will be considered before moving to the final stage.

Our Red Telephone Boxes
BT are de-commissioning all telephones that are no longer being used by the public and offering them to communities at £1 each. MCC decided to buy the phone kiosks in Carrington and, together with North Middleton Village Hall, N Middleton.

The aim now is to raise funds to install a defibrillator in each kiosk. Their availability could save lives in the event of an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Although the equipment has clear instructions to allow anyone to use it, volunteers will be asked to come forward to receive basic training. Fund raising events, such as a coffee morning, and training sessions will be planned once the purchases are complete.

Please contact us if you would like to help or be trained. We hope there will be a good response to help set up and support this invaluable service to the communities.

Broadband
The Community Council has been exploring the options for improving broadband speeds across the area. The Scottish Government has now committed to supplying superfast broadband to all premises in Scotland by 2021 but we are pursuing interim solutions that will improve the service in Moorfoot before then. A questionnaire is being sent to all Moorfoot residents to test the demand for better broadband services.

Neighbourhood Plan for Moorfoot Area
Of Midlothian’s sixteen Community Council areas, Moorfoot is the only one still to complete a plan. We urgently need your help to create the plan for our area and shape how it feels to live here both now and in the future. Anyone who lives or works in the Moorfoot Community Council area can be involved and all ages are welcome.

Neighbourhood Planning is about improving local communities in a way which brings together local people with agencies to work together to identify realistic changes and improvements. The process aligns the neighbourhood’s ambitions with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.

Work on the Moorfoot neighbourhood plan started in 2014 with community consultations. Many of the issues raised then still remain today. Unfortunately there has been a lengthy delay in making progress on tackling the issues identified. Thematic areas that have already been highlighted are broadband, planning, path networks, fly tipping and roads. As well as looking at the small changes that can make a difference, there is an opportunity to look ahead and decide what the long term vision is for Moorfoot. What would you like it to look like in 20 years’ time – remain as it is or further development? Actions taken now may safeguard adverse decisions being taken in the future. You can help make a difference.

If you would like to join the steering group or would like further information, please contact the Communities Officer for your area, Gillian Cousin: email: Gillian.cousin@midlothian.gov.uk or telephone: 0131 271 3436.
**Borthwick**
At the request of the Community Council two new road signs have “put Borthwick on the map” this year.

The Scout camp has had a very busy year with about 34 bookings of varying duration.

The deterioration in the stonework of Joe’s Bridge across The Gore Water is giving concern. Midlothian Council have given assurances that repairs are scheduled in the next few months.

After discussions with others in the community, Borthwick church members voted to explore the sale of the Borthwick Church, due to the dwindling size of the congregation.

The ROW between Borthwick and Crichton is again open with a ladder stile over the deer fence.

In May the “Flying Scotsman” thundered through the village, admired and photographed from many vantage points.

**Carrington**
Carrington now has faster broadband speeds available as BT Openreach have supplied a fibre connection to the new Carrington switch box. The speed of your actual broadband depends on which package you purchase through your broadband provider.

Rosebery Estate have refurbished most of the smaller farm cottages and are in the process of refurbishing the farmhouse and converting the outbuildings into a house and small business units.

**Temple**
The coffee mornings (1st Saturday of the month) and Temple Soup Lunches continue to be popular. Moorflix Community Cinema showed an interesting season of films, and can be hired to show films at private and community events. See useful contacts on page 4 for websites.

**North Middleton**
Some of the Issues we discussed this year include the Right of Way from Torcraick to Cleuch Road, traffic through the village and various planning issues such as Guildiehowes Quarry infill.

**North Middleton Village Hall** is a community facility and the community should make full use of it. There are many events throughout the year and it is open Fri, Sat and Sun for a drink and a chat. Check the notice boards and website [http://middletonvillagehall.org.uk/](http://middletonvillagehall.org.uk/) for events and opening hours. The organisation and running of these events and facilities falls on too few people and the committee are always looking for new members and willing helpers. *Derek Scott*

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**MCC congratulates Lewis Donaldson, from Newtongrange, who won The Scottish Youth Landscape Photographer of the Year 2016 with this photo of the steam train and Borthwick castle.**

**Message from Moorfoot Primary School**
As the new headmaster of Moorfoot Primary School, the close community ethos I am experiencing at Moorfoot is stirring fond memories of growing up in the Village of Finstown in the Orkney Isles.

On 29th November, parents started the process
of establishing what they want the school to be like and what they want for their children. I hope this picture will become clearer by consulting staff and children. The key ideas that emerge will then be shaped into a new vision for the school. I would welcome any contribution from community members so please get in touch.

A recent notable success has been our Nursery achieving grade 5 – Very Good for Quality of Care and Support and Quality of Environment. Feedback also praises the positive, open and friendly approach we have at Moorfoot.

I would very much welcome an opportunity to meet community members to find out how we can work together to provide the best learning opportunities for the children. I therefore plan to host an event in January 2017 to develop community partnership. Plans for this will be on our website or Twitter.  

Steve Wood, Head Teacher

Borthwick Women’s Rural Institute

We have had another interesting year with 38 members meeting monthly in the Middleton Village Hall. Events included “Travelling Life”; an exciting ‘hands-on’ and fun evening by Susan Adam from Fushiebridge; Reflexology; our Open Night and our 95th Birthday Party.

Four long standing members were awarded Honorary Membership: Anne Baxter (65 years membership), Jessie Mitchell & Beth Wright (both 51 years) and Francis Smaill (43 years).

After “chatting up” some bikers on our Pitlochry outing, 83 year old Mrs Marjory Mockett said she would love to go on a motorbike. Marilyn Dubickas arranged a sponsored trip for Marjory, who exchanged her 4-wheeled walker for a 3-wheeled motorbike, and raised £1170 for Rachel House Children’s Home in Kinross.

Newbyres Medical Practice Gorebridge

The proposed extension of the building is now at the planning stage and include three new consulting rooms, a room for nurses’ use and also a meeting room.

All information about the practice can be seen online at www.newbyresmedicalgroup.co.uk

Practice policies

• Triage: a walk-in policy is discouraged even for emergencies. Patients should phone in, and a doctor will decide whether they need an emergency appointment.

• Privacy protection: all outgoing calls come from a withheld number. If expecting a call from the doctor, please ensure that any ‘call barring’ feature is removed. Unless a patient gives specific authority, a message will not be left.

Grants

SSE, Scottish Hydro - Carcant Community Fund

Up to £5000 is available each year to not-for-profit, charity and constituted community groups within the Moorfoot area. Grants between £200 and £1,000 can be given for each application, with a preference for projects which benefit large numbers of people.

Moorfoot Community Council Micro Grants

Grants from £40 to £150 to support small projects that would not qualify for other grant programmes are available by applying to MCC three times a year: 1st Jan, 1st May and 1st Sept. This year we awarded grants to Temple Nursery and N. Middleton Village Hall.

E.ON Energy Trust Fund

This can be applied for via Charis Grants. More information on www.eonenergy.com/energyfund

Big Lottery Funding

Grants are available from £10,000 to £150,000

Tesco Community Grants

These grants can fund capital projects which provide community benefit.

Useful Websites and Contacts

Moorfoot CC  www.moorfoot.org.uk
Email MCC at secretary@moorfoot.org.uk
Moorflix Community Cinema  www.moorflix.org.uk
Temple Village Website  www.templevillage.org.uk
North Middleton Village Hall  www.middletonvillagehall.org.uk
Carrington Village Hall  Contact the caretakers on 01875 830333 or 01875 830263