**Report to Gorebridge Community Council – Councillor Jim Muirhead – August 2020**

I’m afraid we ran out of time for me to make a report to the Community Council last Tuesday. I have therefore made the following small report that covers most of what I would have said at the meeting for your information.

**GATEWAY SIGNAGE FOR GOREBRIDGE**

This has been an issue that has been raised for some time at the meetings. Identifying a suitable source of funding has been a problem.

When I was made aware of the SUSTRANS Places for Everyone Funding and the Council’s bid for a number of projects I requested that “Community Designed Gateway features” be added to the Council’s bid. If this is unsuccessful I have obtained a commitment from officers to explore other ways to fund this.

Under this funding application Midlothian Council propose to change our urban speed limit to 20mph. This would entail changing all existing 30mph speed limits in towns and villages to 20mph subject to a public consultation, and Council decision.

We would propose to carry out an online consultation and advertise this to members of the public, community councils and community groups.

Findings of the consultation would be reported to Council for a decision on taking the project forward.

The purpose of the project is to encourage active travel, harness the active travel established during lockdown and further the Climate change agenda.

By changing the urban speed limit Midlothian Wide, we hope to reduce speeds, reduce accidents and encourage active travel and modal shift.

We also plan to build community designed gateway features.

**CORONOVIRUS RESILIENCE**

As I said at the meeting I was incredibly proud of the response from our community to the pandemic. We were first off the mark, even before the official lockdown kicked in and ran a professional response throughout. We appeared to have the right balance with 3 separate complementary group providing support in accordance with their particular areas of expertise. It worked very well from the support for picking up prescriptions through to the phone calls and reassurance from Ellen and her team for our more vulnerable residents. Well done to all involved.

**Stobhill Depot**

Community Council members may recall that I was not supportive of the original decision to move the Stobhill Depot to Hopefield in Bonnyrigg. As a result of the Covid pandemic and our climate change emergency commitment, the Council is taking the view that it would be more beneficial to disaggregate our services to be closer to the point of delivery, more localised if you will. As a result it is no longer felt that a “Super Depot” it the most appropriate way to go. There will still be a need for more modern but more modest depot facilities and it has been agreed that this would be developed on the current Stobhill site. This will have an impact on the Masterplans for the Stobhill, Mining Museum and Newtongrange which has yet to be worked through.

**NEWBYRES CRESCENT SITE**

Given the situation that existed at this site, the Council is being very robust in scrutiny of development proposals for the site. At the moment the plans are undergoing a peer review process. This process should conclude by the end of October with planning processes continuing until January 2021. Following this the expectation is that the Council would be in a position to commence re-building on this site in March 2021 with a completion of the site by around October 2022. Suggestions that it could be used on a temporary basis for car parking would therefore not be appropriate.