



**Gorebridge & District
Community Council**

What is Gorebridge & District Community Council?

Gorebridge & District Community Council (GDCC) is a voluntary organisation set up by statute by Midlothian Council and is run by local residents to act on behalf of our area.

As the most local tier of elected representation, GDCC plays an important role in our local democracy.

As well as representing the community to the local authority, GDCC facilitates a wide range of activities which promote the well-being of our community.



We bring local people together to help make things happen, and GDCC protects and promotes the identity of our community.

We advise, petition, influence and advocate numerous causes and cases of concern on behalf of our local community.

Here are some examples of the work that GDCC can do to give you an idea of activities that you may be interested in getting involved with if you become a member:

- Carrying out projects to enhance the community for all types of citizens – e.g The Miners Memorial / The ScotRail Station Adopters / Resilience Partnership
- Conducting local surveys – (e.g. housing developments / Community Assets)
- Campaigning on local issues (e.g. Speeding/anti-social behaviour)
- Organising community events (e.g. Annual Calendar / Remembrance Parade / Christmas Procession)

We really encourage residents to become a member of our Community Council.

OUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL IS COMPRISED OF LOCAL PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY AND WANT TO MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

Some of the things our members have achieved in the past 5 years with the help of local residents

- Increased the attendance at the annual Remembrance Parade & Service
- Silver medal for Keep Scotland Beautiful Competition
- Erected a memorial for our miners who lost their lives
- Reinstating the Second World War Memorial back to the Beacon
- Renovation of the Miner's Rest on The Temple Road
- Production of a Community Calendar to raise funds for other projects
- Successful sponsorship scheme for planters at the Train Station
- Organising a torchlight procession and Christmas Light Switch-On
- Collaboration with the Development Trust and Gorebridge Community Cares Groups during the COVID-19 pandemic creating a Resilience Partnership to support our most vulnerable residents in an unprecedented time of need

Being a Community Councillor

Community Council Standards

Being a community Councillor means you have shared responsibility for the success of our Community Council, even if you are not an office bearer.

You must commit to the role and uphold the standards and values of the Community Council.

All members should contribute to discussions and decisions concerning the work of the Community Council. There are various ways in which you can play your part in our Community Council.

Roles & Responsibilities

Each community council must have a Chairperson, a Treasurer and a Secretary – the office bearers – and these roles carry the most responsibility.

The office bearers, as elected members representing their local communities are responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the community council.

This doesn't mean to say that the office bearers must do all the work, but they are responsible for making sure that everything is done according to the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils.

All members of GDCC are equally responsible for the community council's decisions and actions and may take on additional activities in support of our community council.



**THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL IS ONLY AS EFFECTIVE AS THE MEMBERS WHO SERVE ON IT.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, WE CAN HELP YOU WITH SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE SO YOU CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY**

Your involvement

You don't have to take on a specific role to be involved in GDCC however all members play an important part by thinking creatively about what we can do together to improve the lives of local residents.

If you do take on a role, then you don't need to feel restricted to only doing this – the main role of the committee is to support each other and work together to make things happen.

A Day in the Life of...

The Community Council discusses and acts on things that affect the community as a whole. Typical components of a regular meeting include:

- Issues raised by the community (e.g. road safety, community facilities,
- Major planning applications (e.g. housing developments, community buildings)
- Police report
- Community Council Office Bearer reports
- Project Updates (e.g. Remembrance Parade, Christmas Lights, Station Adopters)
- Local Councillor reports



GDCC Office Bearers and other roles

The Office Bearers' roles are described below, followed by an outline of other potential roles within a Community Council.

Chairperson

The chairperson can make a massive difference to the success of a community council. Meetings are key to GDCC making decisions on what its priorities are and what work it must do. The chairperson is responsible for ensuring that discussions are productive and run on-time, and that clear action points are set.



Secretary

The Secretary ensures the smooth running of the community council by organising meetings, setting the agenda and keeping minutes and records. Secretaries also ensure effective communication between committee members.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for handling the community council's finances. It is his or her responsibility to ensure that the finances are kept healthy and the community council does not get into debt. The Treasurer must oversee all financial administration and transactions of the community council and make decisions regarding these.

Other roles

GDCC have considered specific roles in response to activities and projects that needs a lot of attention and we have created the following roles which may be of interest to members.



- **Publicity Officer** – promoting GDCC to other individuals / groups and creating links with residents of all areas of Gorebridge including new housing developments.
- **Community Engagement Officer** – carrying out surveys in various formats (online / face to face / door to door / email / post) to engage with residents and obtain community feedback on a variety of topics.
- **Fundraising Officer** – understanding which GDCC projects need funding and then sourcing & applying for funding to undertake various activities.
- **Communications Officer** – updating social media / website / noticeboards; writing and distributing a quarterly newsletter.
- **Events Officer** – applying for TTROs for Remembrance Parade / Christmas Lights and liaising with Publicity Officer and other groups to promote GDCC at local events e.g. Galaday / Beacon.

As well as members elected from the community, the Community Council also has a number of ex-officio members. These include our local Councillors in Midlothian South, our MSP, and our MP. Local Councillors regularly attend Community Council meetings, and our MSP and MP are copied on minutes and reports. Ex-officio members do not have a vote in Community Council decisions.

The Community Council is also supported by a Liaison Officer appointed by Midlothian Council. This ensures we have a dedicated contact within the local authority for advice and support.

The Community Council Framework & GDCC

GDCC aims to meet the Community Council Framework requirements by:

- Being non-party political and non-sectarian.
- Representing a full cross-section of the community and encouraging the involvement of people regardless of gender, race, age, disability, nationality or sexual orientation.

GDCC act as a voice for our local area.

Our constitution enables us to have 18 elected members who can vote on certain issues.

Meetings are public and open to anyone residing within the boundary of Gorebridge.

GDCC must establish and express the views of our community to Midlothian Council and other public bodies and take actions for issues which appear to be in the interests of our community.



The Community Council Framework

Community Councils must represent all people in the area without prejudice.

Community Councils act as a voice for their local area. Their specific role can vary according to their local area's needs. Their size, in terms of area and population, differs across the country.

They can complement the role of the local authority but are not part of local government. They should have a positive working partnership with the local authority - therefore they must be informed on the council's policies, and keep the council updated on their activities.

To effectively represent their community, they must be proactive in consulting and engaging with local residents.

In Midlothian there is a Federation of Community Councils. This is attended by a representative from each of the Community Councils in Midlothian, and GDCC is an active member. The Federation meetings allow us to escalate issues with other Community Councils in Midlothian and work together over larger areas to tackle common issues.

Find Out More | Contact Us

Meetings

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of July & December. Meetings start at 7pm and finish by 9pm.

More Information

You can find out more about the Community Council at our website:

 <https://communitycouncilgorebridge.weebly.com/>

You can also follow us on Facebook for updates, events and other news:

 [/GorebridgeCommunityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/GorebridgeCommunityCouncil)

Contact Us

You can send us a direct message on Facebook, or email gorebridgecommunitycouncil@gmail.com



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