**Report to Gorebridge Community Council. Cllr Jim Muirhead**

Apologies for non attendance I had it in my head that the meeting was next week and have committed to something else this evening. I will therefore provide this brief written report. I have waited until the last minute to submit this as I wanted to include information from a meeting that Cllr Johnstone and I were having at 4.30 today.

**Gorebridge Library**

Gorebridge Library will be re-opening on Thursday 17th June at 10.30am. It will be providing bookable browsing sessions and bookable PC access, a Reserve and Collect service along with taking returns of stock and dealing with other enquires such as those for NEC cards, hearing batteries etc.

Work on the bid to transform the children’s area is continuing. Cath and I were consulted on this and we thought it would be better to get the library up and running again with the work on the children’s area following on rather than waiting for this work to be carried out.

**Gorebridge Leisure Centre**

I asked after the last meeting for some feedback on what alternatives we were providing for those displaced by the use of the Leisure Centre for the Vaccination programme. Below is the current position.

An analysis of Tone Zone use has shown that from the 6 months leading up to the 1st lockdown in March, 2020, the Tone Zone had 4059 visits, which breaks down to 676 per month, 169 per week and to note that 330 of the total were either free or concession users.

At present staff at the centre have assisted with other facilities accommodating most of the displaced users/lets and have been informing callers of the situation and the options they have at other sites, such the other facilities at Newtongrange and Newbattle.

• Gorebridge Galaday Committee relocated to the Beacon.

• Goreglen football lets were relocated to Newbattle and some to Newtongrange. 5-a-side lets also relocated. That’s the letting not the actual facility.

• The Judo sessions relocated to alternative accommodation in the window between lockdowns and the Judo mats are now off site.

• Thistle Foundation had a let and aimed to relocate to the Beacon as clients are Gorebridge locals and they only required a small meeting room.

• Gorebridge Community Cares have acquired their own accommodation and now operate out of the old Police station in Gorebridge.

• Bumblebee Sports have moved to alternative accommodation.

• Ageing Well sessions for badminton, bowling and line dancing lets moved to other suitable times and venues throughout the county.

A dance group and a Yoga let remained unmet while discussing alternative options.

**\*\* If anyone is aware of any other groups who have been displaced and not accommodated please email me and let me know.**

The intention is to offer Gorebridge Tone Zone members a concessionary or fixed price entry fee when using other facilities (although TZ memberships are currently suspended as we cannot offer a full programme).

I did try to see if there was a possibility of using some of the COVID consequences funding sources to do some work in Vogrie Hall to make it more available for general use even on a temporary basis, but apparently there are other issues with the building including involving asbestos that would not make this a runner.

Cath and I had a meeting with Kevin Anderson just now about further activities over the summer and Cath will update you on this at the meeting tonight.

**Potholes**

Like all areas we are suffering from potholes in many areas. As I think I reported to the last meeting the Council is investing an additional £5m over the next 2 years to tackle roads issues on unclassified roads including in our towns and villages. This will free up resources for pothole work. I raised the issue of the state of the B6372 at a number of points and these are being addressed this week by an additional Jet patching team which has been formed.

**Gully Clearing**

I understand that the intention is shortly to provide additional gully clearing equipment which will result in units being allocated, one in the east and one in the west of the county. These will no longer operate solely on a reactive basis but will operate to a planned maintenance programme.

**Building Back Better**

I mentioned at the last meeting the intention to draw forward as many capital projects as possible to stimulate the local economy and also to move Council services closer to our communities. Part of this will possibly result in many Council staff being located out in smaller offices in our communities or indeed working from home. It is important to note that staff are not being forced to work from home where that is not possible or practical or indeed desired. We have not decided to pull down the Council buildings in Dalkeith and as a result require to have our staff working from home. Rather, we are recognising the possible consequences of more staff working from home or in the communities and are investigating what this means for the buildings that the council has in Dalkeith.