

	asked to speak to John Blair, Director of Commercial Services, to ask if the steps area could be opened up by removing shrubbery and installing brighter lighting, or better still, block off the steps area completely.	
2.	CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM	
2.1	The Chair welcomed Ian Johnson, Head of Planning, Midlothian Council (MC) who spoke about the biggest reforms to the planning system in 60 years. A brief summary of changes included: Faster decision making of applications; devolving more decisions to local authorities (LAs) and introducing strategic and local development plans. The latter will replace the current Local Plan. Neighbour notification will now be carried out by the LA. The Inquiry Reporter's decisions will be binding. Planning permission will lapse after 3 years instead of 5 years. Changes will take effect from 3 rd August 2009, and developers will be required to lodge appeals with the local authority. Prior to forwarding their applications, developers will be required to consult with Community Councils and also arrange a public event in the community to publicise their applications. Developers must notify LAs of start and end dates of developments, with fixed penalty notices being issued if these are not met. Appeals concerning developments under 50 houses will be dealt with by LA Planning Committees. E-planning is now up and running. Residents were encouraged to use this by going to www.midlothian.gov.uk >Online planning > Weekly Lists to view local planning applications on line. Mr Johnson said he would be pleased to come along to future RDCC meetings as and when proposed developments arise. The Chair thanked him for this and his informative presentation.	
3.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	
3.1	Apologies had been received from John Sime. Cllr Thompson had hoped to attend but had been delayed at a meeting in Loanhead.	
4.	TREASURER'S REPORT	
4.1	The balance of the account was £346.98. Annual donation of £25 had been paid to Esk Valley Trust.	
5.	COUNCILLORS' REPORTS	
5.1	Cllr Imrie gave an update on Roslin Glen closure. This would be discussed at Midlothian Council 's meeting on 23 June. Both councillors hoped the road would be re-opened. The cost of repairs was £350,000. This was not available in the capital budget and would use up the entire year's roads' management budget. The Chair asked if this sum might be sourced from alternative monies, eg Gourlaw Sub Cttee, planning gain or by means of a loan. Cllr Imrie said he would put these views to the meeting. Some residents asked why £100,000 had been used to improve the stretch of walkway between Rosewell and Bonnyrigg and why this sum could not have been put towards the re-opening of Roslin Glen. The Chair read from the MC Press Release, which said that this money had been funded by WREN and by revenues generated by the opencast coal workings at Newbigging. These funds were used to improve the environment in the vicinity of the Opencast workings. Other residents welcomed improvements to the walkway. Everyone hoped that MC would be able to find money to re-open the Glen and awaited the outcome of the meeting with interest..	
6.	CHAIR'S REPORT	
6.1	Crown Estates SSCI application for a village centre and rented housing had been unsuccessful. However, Richard Thompson of Smiths Gore had e-mailed the Secretary with the following comments. They remain committed to developing the steading. He hoped to agree a project brief with Simpson & Brown for some scoping architectural work to establish cost effective uses of the buildings. He would also investigate a doctor's surgery, pharmacy	

	and sheltered housing for the elderly. Katherine Storrar of Smiths Gore had resolved the flooding problem at Thornton Road. RDCC still awaited her update on identification of ownership of the flooding area where Gorton Loan meets Cochrina Place, and also flooding of the carriageway at Gourlaw Farm, which remains unresolved.	Katherine Storrar
6.2	The Chair asked Councillors about the possibility of upgrading the Broadband facility in the village and suggested it may be a sensible idea to approach BT and ask them if, when the repairs to Roslin Glen road are being carried out, they could upgrade the existing cable to fibre optic. Cllr Imrie agreed to explore the possibilities and would report back his findings at the next meeting.	Cllr Imrie
6.3	Whitehill Welfare FC had invited the Chair, Local Councillors and Castle Rock to a meeting at the club on 29 June for further discussion of their Sports Academy proposals.	
6.4	Some residents had expressed interest in setting up garden allotments. This might also tie in with Castle Rock's Neighbourhood Plan suggestions relating to community gardening. We would need to identify a site, and Cllr Imrie said he would ask MC if it could donate some Council-owned land. The Secretary would also contact Richard Thompson to ask if any Crown Estate land might be made available. To start with, we would have to establish if there was sufficient interest from residents. <u>If any residents would like to register an interest in taking on an allotment please e-mail Dave Mackay, at rdcc@hotmail.co.uk or call him on 440 2086.</u>	Cllr Imrie Secretary Residents
7.	SECRETARY'S REPORT	
7.1	The Secretary asked residents about the new 31 service, and there were no complaints. The new Midlothian Community Hospital was discussed and the current newsletter is attached, or can be e-mailed on request rdcc@hotmail.co.uk . The Vice-Chair had attended the MC Planning Gain Seminar on 14 May. Enquire, the Scottish Advice Service for Additional Support for Learning notice had been displayed on the Community Notice Board further info at www.enquire.org.uk . Policy DPI: Development in the Countryside – Housing Groups was displayed and can be viewed at www.midlothian.gov.uk >Planning page, or Council Offices.	
8.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
81	A resident complained that flooding around the 5-a side pitches in the Park had not been rectified. Councillors were asked to raise this with John Blair.	Councillors
9.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
9.1	The next meeting would be held on Monday, 7 September at 7pm in Rosewell Parish Church Hall.	

Contact the Secretary on 0131-440 2086 or rdcc@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

Please view the Community Notice Board in the public garden at the corner of Carnethie Street/Gorton Road for up-to-date information on community issues.