

NEWS IN BRIEF

Consultation response delight

Midlothian Council is happy that 72 people attended the recent public consultation on the draft proposals for the redevelopment of the Stobhill Depot and part of Lady Victoria Business Centre.



Brewing up extra capacity

Steart Brewing in Loanhead had a variation of premises licence granted at last week's licensing board meeting, allowing the brewery to increase capacity from 50 to 800 to accommodate events such as beer festivals, eliminating the need for occasional licences. The day to day maximum will now be 100. The brewery promised to work with building standards on concerns about toilet provision.

Man and woman steal store items

At about 3pm on Thursday, June 8, a man and woman were seen to steal a number of items from Asda, Pentland Road, Straiton. Police are continuing enquiries into the theft. If you can help police call 101.



FEATURE

Regular visits to care home mutually beneficial

Nursery project bridges the generation gap in Gorebridge

Nursery and care home tie-in helps the young and the old

FEATURE

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A Gorebridge nursery is helping to bridge the generation gap by pairing up the youngest members of the community with the oldest.

Mel Scrimgeour, manager, always had community development in the back of her mind when setting up Newbyres Nursery in May 2016.

She had a lot of community help with funding and renovation, and decided that her nursery should give something back.

Having read about inter-generational projects in the USA, Mel decided that her

nursery pupils should take weekly visits to Newbyres Village care home.

She said: "The friendships that have developed between our children and the older adults at the care home are meaningful and inspirational, and both groups look forward to the visits each week."

"Elderly residents seem to come alive with the breath of fresh air that the children bring."

"Their memory for everyday tasks may be waning, but suddenly they are brought back to the days that they looked after their own small children, reciting nursery rhymes and songs word for word that they may not have recalled for many years."

"They have also built relationships with children and this has helped to tackle issues such as loneliness and vulnerability."

The projects started in September 2016, with the

age range 3-90. Every week two staff members from the nursery take seven children to the care home, and residents choose whether to take part in the activities, which include indoor sports, baking, crafts and songs.

Mel added: "It was very important that the project was not tokenistic and it was decided that regular meetings would be best rather than meetings and projects purely around holidays."

"Activities which take place support sharing skills, memories and ideas between the different generations. As we play indoor sports together this improves motor skills and turn taking. We are also able to cover many aspects of the curriculum for excellence, and obtain quality observations of the children's learning and progress from our visits."

The project is free, with children going on a minibus as part of their nursery day.



Pupils from Newbyres Nursery have been enjoying regular trips to nearby Newbyres Village care home, making lots of friends along the way.



News

Car park agreement sought by surgery

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Cllr McCall said: "Patients need to access GP and nurse services. They should not have to buy products from Lidl to allow them to park. There is a lot of anger. People deeply unhappy about it."

"We are looking to spend a lot of money in Penicuik Town Centre but if there aren't places to park where does that leave us? We want to encourage people to come into the town centre."

Penicuik Medical Practice insists the car park is a matter for Lidl, but hopes to reach a compromise.

Gail McCabe, assistant practice manager, said: "Lidl has created this problem and it should solve it. We do feel for our patients, -the elderly in particular. They need to use the car park. We would like to think Lidl could be more flexible with our patients."

A spokesman for Lidl said: "It was recently brought to our attention that a number of customers were experiencing ongoing problems locating available parking spaces. As a responsible retailer we are committed to prioritising the needs of our customers and took the decision to install a car park management system to help ensure availability of parking spaces."

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