

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION
Management Committee Meeting 13 September 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library

Chairman Rod Alexander

1. Apologies: Councillors Norman Work and Alistair Shields; Henry Lennox; Gordon McGregor

Rod advised the committee that Henry had decided to stand down because he would be spending most of his time away. He was thanked for all his hard work during the time he had been a member of the committee. Rod also advised the committee of the sad passing of Jo Butt who had in the past been an active member of the committee and would be sadly missed by those who had known him.

2. Present: Coll Gardner, Judith Lowther, Laura Thomson, Tim Mitchell, Brian Flanagan, Seonaidh Edgar, Charlotte Cowe, Councillor Lindsay Paterson.

3.1 Minutes: The Minutes of the June meeting were approved.

3.2 Matters arising (excluding items scheduled for later discussion)

3a. Parking round the Corbie Café (item 3a in minutes)

It was noted that Cllr Shields had previously passed data which had been gathered by parking attendants to the police for assessment and the matter was carried forward to the next meeting for Cllr. Shields to provide an update.

3b. Plaque for War Memorial (item 3b in minutes)

Charlotte reported that she had received a draft copy of the plaque from Laing's Foundry with a confirmation that it would be in place at the beginning of November. This was approved by the committee

3c. State of the beach at Silverknowes (item 3c in minutes)

Rod reported that he had planned to meet with the organiser of the Beach Clean on Saturday 17 September to further discuss the idea to get local groups interested in looking after a section of beach at Silverknowes.

3d. Blue Lights at Holy Cross Church grounds (Item 3e in minutes)

Rod advised the committee that he had arranged a meeting with the Rector of Holy Cross to discuss the matter of the lights in the grounds of the church. He will report back to the committee.

3e. Loose slab outside Tanning Salon (Item 3f in minutes)

Brian advised the committee that this was located outside the vet's premises and he had discussed the problem with the manager who had been very understanding. It transpired that the staff had previously raised the matter with the landlord following an incident where a pedestrian had tripped and fallen but they would raise the matter again in view of the concern of local residents. Brian agreed to keep the committee advised on the issue.

3f. Letter sent to all members who had made comments (Item 10 in Minutes)

Charlotte reported that everyone who had contacted the Association to comment on local issues at the time of the AGM and who had left contact details had received an individual response.

3g. Zone parking in The Green (Item 17a in minutes)

Laura reported that parking problems in The Green had escalated over the summer and finding parking spaces was proving difficult. Charlotte agreed to re-circulate the email correspondence

exchanged on this matter earlier in the year with a view to discussing the options at the next meeting in October.

4. **Correspondence** Charlotte reported that there was no correspondence received over the summer period apart from the usual email from the council departments.

5. Reports

5a Police Report

The committee were disappointed to note that the police were not in attendance to provide the monthly report. It was assumed that this was due to urgent operational reasons but the matter would be raised with the local area sergeant.

5b. Treasurer's Report

In Gordon's absence, Rod advised that the balance in the account was £5574.55

5c. Community Safety Forum

It was noted that the Almond Community Safety Forum had been suspended for the present due to the disruption to council support arising from the ongoing restructuring. Tim reported on the second quarterly meeting of the West Edinburgh Community Safety Panel which is a parallel group which had been set up primarily to co-ordinate the activities of Neighbourhood Watch groups in West Edinburgh and to liaise with local police. The police priorities report for Almond indicated they were to continue to give priority to housebreaking in the area as well as tackling anti-social behaviour in the South Queensferry/Kirkliston areas. Rod reported that the police had specifically made mention at the recent NP meeting of ongoing motor cycle issues on the cycle tracks in the area.

5d. Health & Community Care Sub Group

Charlotte stated that she had missed the meeting once again due to holiday commitments and will report on the minutes at the next meeting.

6. Planning issues

6a. Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2)

It was noted that the latest version of LDP2 had been circulated following a review by the Reporter to the Scottish Government. The main issue for our area is that the updated plan continued to include all the proposed development sites on the north and west side of the city, including the contentious site on the green belt at Cammo without any consideration being given to investment in transport infrastructure to mitigate the effects on residents in north western suburbs who would suffer detriment due to increased traffic.

6b. 5 Vivian Terrace

It was noted that the planning application is scheduled to be considered by the Development Management Sub Committee at the meeting of 28 September.

7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

Rod reported that the recent business meeting had been dominated by a presentation and discussion about the proposed changes to the flight paths to and from Edinburgh Airport. These would have a significant effect for Cramond and West Lothian but would not significantly affect our local area. Peter Strong had given an update on the difficult exercise to re-structure Council Services; he had advised that all appointments to the new North West Team would now be made by the end of September. He had intimated that a consultation was about to commence on a Local Improvement Plan which the Council had a statutory obligation to complete by September 2017.

8. Local Action List and 9. Road and Footpath Maintenance

Rod advised the committee that the Locality Manager had agreed to a meeting in early October with the DMSA to discuss our Action List and the difficulties we were having in getting anything done. The meeting would endeavour to clarify the priority being given to local project work and to agree revised targets which both parties could consider as realistic and achievable.

10. Membership

Charlotte reported on the current position following membership applications and renewals for the new term. Of 246 members at the time of renewal, 29 had lapsed for various reasons and there had been 18 new members making a current total of 235. This was deemed to be satisfactory given that there was the likelihood of one or two more after the Autumn Newsletter.

11. Traffic/road issues

11a. Bollards at Cramond Road South/Lauriston Farm Road junction

Tim advised that he was still awaiting a response from the Roads Manager following the recent incident when a bollard was demolished. The issue was being pursued.

11b. Complaints about cyclists in Silverknowes

Tim provided the committee with a summary of the current situation following a sequence of email exchanges with the Council regarding complaints of speeding cyclists on Silverknowes Drive and Terrace and reports of inconsiderate behaviour by cyclists on the path between Silverknowes Terrace and Cramond Road South. The DMSA had suggested the installation of chicane style barriers at the Silverknowes Terrace end of the path or “Slow” signs to warn cyclists to slow down as they exited from the path. The response from the Council had been that they did not think that the extent of the problem justified either action and so nothing was being done for the present.

Regarding the more general issue about speeding cyclists on Silverknowes Drive and Terrace, our complaint had resulted in some interesting exchanges of views but again no specific action had been agreed. It was agreed to close the issue for the present but it would be kept under review.

11c. Speeding and non-vigilante activity possible for residents

Tim reported on a recent trial of a privately owned professional laser speed gun to show that it could be used by residents to obtain anonymous statistical information on the speed distribution of vehicles (rather than for specifically identifying speeding drivers) with the appropriate safety and operational protocols in place. It was recognised that it would be necessary to obtain the official views of the police regarding the use of the equipment and the status which could be given to any data obtained.

11d. Cars coming up Silverknowes Avenue on to Cramond Road South during morning and evening rush periods

It was noted there had been an increase in this problem arising from the recent congestion on Queensferry Road. It is a recurring issue and it appeared that the police had responded with a visible presence as a deterrent.

11e. Rock falls onto roadways, footpaths and cycle paths

Following discussion on the serious inconvenience for local residents following the incident on Queensferry Road the question was raised as whether the Council have a register of rock faces bordering on roadways, footpaths and cycle paths and a process for monitoring their condition to minimise the risk of rock falls. Cllr. Patterson agreed to pursue this on behalf of the Association.

11f Badly Faded Road Markings- Quality Street/ Queensferry Road Junction

It was noted that this matter remained outstanding but that the newly appointed Senior Transport Team Leader had been asked to include this location in the planned works programme, notwithstanding all the current resource shortages within the Road Maintenance Team.

12. DMSA Recurring Issue Log

Tim was thanked for producing the recurrent issues log. It would be progressively populated as issues arose and the committee supported its inclusion as a permanent item on the monthly agenda to provide a monitor on local problems which kept recurring.

13. Dogs in Lauriston Castle grounds

The committee spent some time discussing the results of the recent on-line survey regarding the question of dogs having access to the grounds and a proposition that they should be excluded to provide a “dog free” zone in our area. Tim reported on the outcome of the survey which had received over 90 responses, many of which were very detailed, with several well argued cases on each side of the issue. Very approximately the response in favour of banning dogs was about 2:1 although 10% of responses suggested compromise solutions. Following some debate within the committee it was agreed that a compromise solution may be to have separate areas within the castle grounds which would be separated by fencing to allow dogs to have access to one part but to be excluded from the other. It was decided to write to the Council to seek their views on this suggestion.

14. Design Review of Barnton Avenue/Cramond Road South Junction

Tim reported that a reply was still awaited on when the outstanding safety and other snagging items will be completed. It was noted that a retention payment to the contractor had been scheduled for payment in July at a time when the work had not been completed and the Council had been asked about the situation regarding the payment.

15. 64 Bus

It was noted that a review of the decision to withdraw the subsidy for the 64 bus had supported the original decision and so the service would not be re-instated. The committee accepted that the level of subsidy per passenger was difficult to justify and no further action would be taken.

16. Armistice Day Service

The service will take place on Sunday 13 November. Charlotte and Rod will contact all the relevant parties involved in the service and also the minister.

17. Xmas Lights Event

Discussion around planning for the event was deferred until the October meeting.

18. Open Space Maintenance Policy

Rod reminded the committee of the ongoing open consultation being undertaken by the Council regarding the future Open Space Strategy for the city. It was an opportunity to comment on grass cutting, dog fouling, proliferation of weeds and overgrown areas together with any other matters connected with open spaces. Concern was raised again regarding the problem of Himalayan Balsam that is plaguing the park and which some fear may spread to private gardens. The committee agreed that a formal approach should be made to the Council to seek clarification on the current policy regarding the range of concerns arising from the introduction of the current maintenance policy, including all those listed.

19. Local Tree Project

It had been established that the trees provided by the Woodland Trust were not large enough to be used for planting in an urban environment so the thirty trees were to be split between two secluded locations in Davidson's Mains and Cramond for each of the local primary schools to plant as an environmental project. Other proposals were being considered for progressing the original project to replace missing or damaged trees in Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes.

20. Newsletter

The timetable for the Autumn Newsletter was agreed. It would need to be ready for printing by the 20th October and distributed by around the end of the month. The timescale was dictated by the need to give appropriate notice for the Armistice Day Service on Sunday 13 November.

21. AOCB.

21a. The recurring problem of motor bikes on the Tesco Path was raised. This is an ongoing problem in the whole area which the police are aware of. The problem is that they are not allowed to chase motor cyclists and the helicopter has to be deployed to follow them.

21b. It was noted that the ongoing matter of verbal police reports instead of written ones had still not been resolved. The committee resolved to keep raising the issue with the police at every opportunity.

21c. Tim asked if Martin Pearce, the Poppy Collection co-ordinator for this area could be asked to write a short article for the newsletter regarding the poppy collection. The committee agreed with this.

22. Date of Next Meeting 11 October 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library