

**DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION**  
**Management Committee Meeting 9 February 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library**

Chairman – Rod Alexander

**1. Matters arising** (excluding items scheduled for later discussion)

**3a. Recycling facility at Silverknowes Golf Club**

Rod reported that the Environment Manager had accepted the need to upgrade the facility and it had been added to our local action list.

**3b. Proposed Local Electoral Ward Boundary Changes**

Rod apologised for the delay in preparing a flyer to circulate to residents affected by the proposed boundary change between Corbiehill Road and Queensferry Road. He had decided that it would be best to circulate a flyer with only the basic information and to make reference in the flyer to fuller and more detailed information being available on our website for those who wanted background information. It was noted that while the proposed changes, if ultimately approved by the Boundary Commission, would not come into effect until the Council Elections in May 2017, so despite the delay, the matter was not time critical.

**3c. Parking around the Corbie Café**

Cllr. Shields reported on actions which had been taken in response to complaints about the car parking problem around the Corbie Café. The committee welcomed these actions but raised some doubt as to whether the attendance by wardens had been in the evenings at week-ends when the problem was most marked. Cllr Shields undertook to take this up with the wardens. Rod reminded the committee that the matter was on the action list and that a formal survey of the parking problem was to be undertaken as the first stage of the possible introduction of parking restrictions

**3d. Litter around Chinese Take-Away**

Cllr. Shields reported that the Environmental Wardens had investigated the problem but at the time of a visit there had not been any litter. A constructive discussion had taken place with the owners of the premises and the situation would continue to be monitored.

**3e. Heavy Lorries accessing Tesco ground at Silverknowes Road Bridge**

Rod reported that this matter had been raised with the Environment Manager and he was awaiting a reply from him regarding both the question of whether access had been authorised over the Council owned section of the cycle path and also to complaints about the damage being caused to the grass surface. Rod had a forthcoming meeting arranged with the Manager at Tesco to get an update on their concerns about the transgression of vehicles onto their property and the alleged impingement onto their ground of the new development at 1 Silverknowes Drive.

**3f. Bleeper at pedestrian crossing on Main Street (at The Green) not working.**

It was noted that this problem had not been fixed. Rod advised the committee that he had made a further complaint today and had been assured that action to investigate the problem would be taken within 24 hours.

**3g. Damaged bollards**

It was noted that the bollard outside the RBS had been put back in position. Discussion took place about the issue of bollards outside Boots (62) and the Opticians (68) on Main Street. It was accepted that there was no requirement to replace the bollard outside Boots as there were no longer any incidents of parking on the pavement at that location. However the committee were in no doubt that the bollard at the junction

with Corbiehill Road, on the corner at the Opticians, was definitely required because of delivery and other vehicles parking on the narrow footpath at the corner.

### 3h. Potholes at junction of Main S and Cramond Road South

It was noted that action had been taken to make temporary repairs to the largest of the potholes around the junction.

## 2. Correspondence

Charlotte reported that all relevant email correspondence from the Council had been circulated by Rod. An email had been received from the School of English asking for our help in organising summer accommodation for overseas students. Charlotte had replied stating that we would be pleased to assist by advertising the requirement on our notice board and website but it would not be possible for us to become directly involved. As yet there had been no response to our offer. An email had also been received from the local cub leader asking for our advice on any possible projects that the cubs could do for their World Challenge Badge. It was agreed that Charlotte would contact him and suggest that he get in touch with the Friends of the Park (Eunice) to see if there was any suitable environmental project for the park in which they could participate.

## 5. Reports

### 5a Police Report

PC Kelly was welcomed to the meeting to provide a verbal report on policing matters over the past month. The report once again reflected the recent upturn in the numbers of housebreakings in the area, although the problem is not specific to our locality, and this demonstrated the important need for residents to give full attention to their security by following the best advice. The police had a special operation in place (Operation RAK) specifically directed at countering the incidence of housebreaking and had achieved some success with a number of recent arrests for some of the local crimes. The committee had been concerned to receive recent reports about alleged drug taking and abuse of licensing regulations at McKenzie's. The details were provided to PC Kelly who undertook to follow these up and to have these serious matters investigated.

### 5b. Treasurer's Report

Gordon reported that there had not been any bank transactions during the past month and that the balance remained at £4797.07.

### 5c. Community Safety Forum

It was noted that the next meeting of the Forum would take place on 9 th March and Tim confirmed he would be able to attend.

## 6. Planning issues

### 67a Lauriston Farm Road

Rod provided the committee with an update regarding the complaints about the proposed new driveway to the former farm house cutting off access to the east gate. Following the January meeting, Aileen had established that continued right of access to the east gate had been included as a condition of sale to the new owners of the farm house. Discussions with the Council Estates Department had subsequently confirmed that revised proposals had been agreed which would ensure continued access to the east gate. Rod was to receive amended plans showing the revised proposals and he would circulate these to the committee in due course.

### **67b Signage at Lauriston Castle.**

On a separate issue Rod reported that he had been advised by the custodian at Lauriston Castle that they had been ordered to remove the garish advertising signs at the entrance by the Council Planning Department and that with budgetary cuts in 2016/17 they had no money to purchase new ones. The committee very much regretted this outcome. While the objections by residents to the garish nature of the signs had been fully understood and supported, it had been assumed that the signage would have been replaced by a design which was more dignified and in keeping with the heritage of the castle.

## **7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership**

Rod gave the committee a brief report on a presentation which had taken place at Craigroyston on 26<sup>th</sup> January to let leaders of district councils and community groups and council staff know about forthcoming changes to the council operational structure which will come into effect from the start of April. The main change is that the council is to reduce the number of operational units from six currently down to four. The relevance to our local area is that the West Area is to be combined with North to form a single North West Unit covering from Kirkliston, Ratho and Queensferry, through Corstorphine, Cramond and Davidson's Mains and eastwards to Granton and Trinity. The slides from the presentation are to be circulated and Rod said he would pass these onto the committee. The changes will be discussed in detail at the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership on 9<sup>th</sup> March.

## **8. Local Action List**

A progress meeting had taken place on 25<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the Action List. It had been attended by Rod, Seonaidh, Henry and Tim who had met Dave Sinclair, the Environment Manager, and Corrie Boucher who manages the maintenance of our list. The meeting had been very satisfactory in that assurances had been received that our local projects scheduled for completion by 31<sup>st</sup> March would all be given priority for completion even if there were subsequent delays to other projects because of staff and budget cuts. Any projects not completed by the end of March would remain top of the list for completion early in the financial year 2016/17. It was agreed the updated list would be displayed on the notice board and website and that it would be fully discussed at the March meeting of the committee.

## **9. Plaque for War Memorial**

Charlotte reported on the up to date position regarding the estimates for work at the War Memorial. An estimate to provide space for one or more additional names in future had proved to be unjustifiably expensive, being approximately double the cost of the original estimate for the one new name. The committee were fully in agreement with Charlotte's advice and it was agreed she should proceed on the basis of acceptance of the original estimate from Laing's Foundry. It was agreed that public support towards the cost would be sought in the Spring Newsletter but that the Association would in principle underwrite the total cost.

## **10. Purchase of new PA/Sound equipment**

The committee heard from Gordon, Brian and Henry who had investigated different options for the purchase of a new sound system. Their recommendation to purchase a system from Maplins at a cost of up to £300 was accepted and approved, with some discretionary level of payment above that limit if clip-on roving microphones could be included in the package.

## **11. Design Review of Barnton Avenue/Cramond Road South Junction**

It was noted that removal of the redundant speed bumps on Barnton Avenue at the junction had still to be undertaken as recommended following the technical audit of the project. The separate safety audit of the project had identified a number of other issues

which had yet to be resolved. Tim had recently written to the Environment Manager about the current status of these matters and a response was awaited.

## **12. Date and Planning for AGM**

The date for the AGM had previously been fixed for Wednesday 25 May. Charlotte confirmed that the hall had now been booked and Rod confirmed that the Curator of Lauriston Castle had been delighted to accept our offer to him of making a presentation about the programme of activities at the castle being planned over the summer. Following discussion it was decided that the other main topic would be the local action list and it was agreed the local Environment Manager would be approached to lead a matters.

## **13. AOCB**

13a. It was noted that there were further complaints about the issue of parking on the pavement outside the shops beside the Tanning Salon. It was agreed this would again be reported to the police. Cllr. Work drew attention to the fact that a Bill was in progress through the Scottish Parliament which was intended to prohibit any parking on pavements, although if it became law it would take time to be implemented.

13b. There was further discussion with regard to the allegations regarding illegal activities at Mackenzies Public House (See item 5 Police Report). Aileen offered to contact the area manager with these concerns and this was supported by the committee.

13c. Charlotte reported that a letter had been sent to the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division asking for reasons for decisions to be included with letters instead of advising objectors to view them on their website. A reply had not yet been received.

13d. Charlotte reported that a hustings meeting for the Scottish Parliamentary Election had been organised for 28 April at St. Columba's Church, Blackhall at 7.30 pm. It was agreed to advertise this and other hustings on our notice board once dates were available.

13e. Concern was expressed regarding the very tight turn from Cramond Road South into Silverknowes Avenue. It was noted that this was the subject of periodic complaints and the matter would be raised again with the Environment Manager.

13f. It was noted that the Association were in receipt of numerous complaints about potholes and the state of local roads. Rod had endeavoured to follow up press reports that the budget for 2016/17 for road maintenance had been cut but had been unable to establish the details because none of the budget reports to the Council had shown the comparative figures. Each of the Councillors acknowledged this regrettable deficiency in the presentation of the budgetary information and Cllr. Work agreed to try to get the comparable figures.

## **14. Date of Next Meeting 8 March 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library.**