

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION
Management Committee Meeting 8 March 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library

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

3a. Proposed Local Electoral Ward Boundary Change.

Rod reported that a flyer had been produced to let residents who would be affected by the proposed change know about the detail. It would be delivered within a few days once all the relevant supporting documentation had been put onto the website.

3b. Parking around the Corbie Café

It was noted that Councillor Shields had advised the committee that, as believed, recent attendance by wardens had been during normal working hours. It had not been when the problem was at its worst during early evening at the week-ends. Cllr Shields had said he would continue to pursue the matter. Separately, Rod reminded the committee that the West Team had a remit to monitor the parking situation as the first step towards introducing statutory restrictions although that would take time to implement.

3c. Heavy Lorries accessing Tesco ground at Silverknowes Road Bridge

Rod had previously advised the committee about a number of legal matters being pursued by lawyers acting for Tesco and the committee agreed they had no further role in that matter. The problem of the damage caused by builders' vehicles to the access to the cycle pathway at Silverknowes Road East remained outstanding and a reply was still awaited from the Environment Manager regarding remedial action.

3d. Bleeper at pedestrian crossing on Main Street (at The Green)

It was noted the bleeper had been repaired and no further action was required.

3e. Plaque for war memorial

Charlotte reported that she was still waiting to hear from Laing's Foundry about a start date. This matter was not urgent but she would contact them again before the April meeting.

3f. Parking on Pavement on Main Street

Charlotte reported she had let the police know about further incidents and it was noted that wardens had been seen to be attending. The police had agreed to continue to monitor the problem.

3g. Allegations at Mackenzies pub

It was noted that the Business Manager for Trust Inns had provided assurances about the future management of the pub and that there had been no further incidents.

3h. Planning and Environmental Appeals Division

Charlotte reported that a reply had not yet been received from the Planning and Environmental Appeals Department regarding giving reasons for planning decisions in writing instead of online. The committee fully supported Charlotte in pursuance of this matter and it was agreed she should write again.

3i. Tight turn from Cramond Road South to Silverknowes Avenue

Rod reported that the West Team had been notified of this concern which was a long standing issue.

3j. Budget for road maintenance

It was noted that Cllr. Work needed more time to establish the comparable budget figures for the year 2016/17 compared with the current year but he was pursuing the matter and would report to the committee as soon as he had them.

2. Correspondence

Charlotte reported that all relevant email correspondence from the Council had been circulated by Rod. The only correspondence received had been a list of approved amendments to the original 20mph zones but these had no local implications. Rod reported that a letter had been written in support of a resident in Vivian Terrace who was applying for white lines to be re-instated outside their driveway. If approved the work would be undertaken on the re-chargeable basis which now applied.

3. Reports

5a Police Report

PC's Aidan Douds and Jim Kelly were welcomed to the committee to provide a verbal police report for the month of February. It was concerning to note that domestic housebreakings still dominate the local crime figures although the police believe they know some of the perpetrators and some arrests have been made. Police Operation RAC is still in operation to allocate additional resources to targeting the problem. There have been a number of thefts of bikes from garages and sheds and the police are concerned that residents are not taking sufficient care to lock these premises. The police helicopter has been used to follow motor cycle thieves because they cannot be pursued by road vehicles for public safety reasons. The recent incident when the Royal High School had to be evacuated following a bomb threat was part of a threat which affected a number of schools across the UK and this is being investigated at a high level.

5b. Treasurer's Report

Gordon reported that the balance in the account was £4402.10. A significant item of expenditure had been for the purchase of the new sound system at a cost of £394.97.

5c. Community Safety Forum

Tim had previously circulated the committee with information about the discussions at the recent meeting of the Forum. The main items of interest were the priorities set by the police. The main priority would continue to be the number of house breakings across Almond under Operation RAC. The second priority would be to address anti-social behaviour particularly in the South Queensferry area. The problem of dog fouling had also been discussed. It was noted that this was a current problem at The Green and the wardens had been notified.

6. Planning issues

6a Lauriston Farm Road

It was noted that revised plans to show the means of assured ongoing right of access to the east gate of Lauriston Castle grounds had not yet been received. These would have to be available in association with the necessary re-application for planning approval so the current situation was not a concern at present.

6b Plans for 1200 houses at Craigiehall

The committee had a full discussion about the implications for our area of plans to build 1200 new houses on the former MOD HQ site at Craigiehall. The main concern is the effect of additional traffic on top of all the other planned developments to the north and west of our area with the implications for increased traffic congestion on Queensferry Road and through Davidson's Mains, where the problems at peak times are already serious. Rod advised he had already had a discussion with the Chair of Queensferry Community Council who were the lead Council in pre planning engagement and we would now be kept informed about the process with the opportunity to be engaged as appropriate.

7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

It was noted that the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership was to take place on 9th March. The agenda included an item relating to the approved changes to the Council Community Support structure. This would permit discussion around the implications for the NP

and for local community groups. Rod agreed to email the committee after the meeting and the whole matter would be discussed at our April meeting.

8. Local Action List

The local project action list with status of projects as at 31st January was discussed and approved. A sub-listing of projects which were delayed from 2015/16 was also discussed and both listings would be put on public display. Rod reported that four members of the committee had met with the Environment Manager to discuss delayed projects and had welcomed his assurances that a high priority would be given to completing these projects as early as possible in the new financial year. It was noted that the problem was a shortage of technical staff to plan the work and not one of funding.

9. Purchase of new PA/Sound equipment

Gordon demonstrated a new Sound System which had been purchased to meet the needs of the Association for supporting both indoor and outdoor events. This purchase from DMSA funds had been necessary following the complete failure of the sound equipment at the Armistice Day Service last November, a situation which could not be risked again. Gordon, Brian and Henry were thanked for the time they had spent investigating the various options to meet the necessary requirements.

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

It was noted that a reply was still awaited from the Environment Manager regarding the current status of a number of issues which had been raised by residents regarding the design and construction of the project. A later technical audit had recommended removal of the speed bumps at the junction and this was still to be carried out. It was agreed this item would remain on the agenda until all these matters had been resolved.

11. Planning for AGM

The committee were once again reminded that the AGM had been fixed for 25 May. Representation from the Council to lead discussion on the Local Action List had still to be arranged due to delays in starting to make managerial appointments within the new Council Structure.

12. AOCB

12a. It was noted that the missing lamppost in Corbiehill Place had been installed and was now working.

12b. Rod reported that a complaint had been received about an attempt to install bollards on private property using alleged false documentation implying approval from the council. The complainant had advised he was content to pursue the matter with the Council for the present but had been advised we would assist if needed.

12c. It was noted that the rear garden at 5 Vivian Terrace had been advertised for sale with outline approval for a new property on the site. Final approval would still depend on a series of conditions being met regarding the design and impact of any new property.

12d. Rod reported that the possible extension of the cycle route from Silverknowes Road to Tesco was unlikely to go ahead in the foreseeable future. Pedal for Scotland had made it clear they did not see it as an immediate priority and Tesco had not been willing to sell the ground on the initial terms which had been offered by the Council.

12e. The question of the availability of toilet facilities at Silverknowes Promenade had previously been raised within the committee. While these had been available to the public within the café under the terms of the lease from the Council it was not known what the situation was regarding the lease to the new tenant. Rod agreed to contact the tenant in the

first instance to establish what the situation was. If the agreement had changed the lack of provision would be raised with the Council.

12f. The committee welcomed the offer of a generous contribution by one of its members towards the cost of the new plaque on the war memorial.

12g. It was reported that the beach at Silverknowes is filthy with broken glass and litter. Discussion centred on the fact that most of the beach cleaning by volunteer environmental groups takes place towards the Cramond end and that the beach at Silverknowes is neglected. Rod agreed to raise this issue with the Marine Conservation Society.

12h. It was noted that there had been complaints about the increased incidence of dog fouling at The Green. There had also been complaints about the same problem in the vicinity of the shops on Quality Street (at Timpsons and the Hair Salon). Tim agreed to pursue this matter with the Environmental Wardens.

12i. It was reported that the tennis club lights are irritating for the occupants of Barnton Gardens. The planning consent has clear guidelines about light spillage but not with regard to reflective light. The committee was advised that the complainant is dealing with the matter but wanted to inform us of his actions.

12j. The matter of planning for the Christmas lights events was raised. Henry agreed to co-ordinate this once again and this was welcomed by the committee, as was the fact that Davidson's Mains Primary School and Davidson's Mains Pipe Band had indicated they would again support the event. The committee recognised one problem area may be the organisation through the Council because the department had been disbanded. It was recognised the situation may become clearer as a better picture emerged of the new Council structure so this was left for the present.

12k. Cllr. Work mentioned the centenary of the commencement of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July this year and said he would be interested in receiving any personal stories or information from that time. The committee agreed to put an article in the Spring Newsletter which would be ideally timed to advertise any event to commemorate the centenary.

13. Date of Next Meeting 12 April 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library.