

**DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION**  
**Management Committee Meeting 12 January 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. Charlotte confirmed that letters of thanks had been sent to the Davidson's Mains Pipe Band, the Davidson's Mains Primary School, the Manager of Tesco, and to Bo and Tim de Gruyther from the Episcopal Church for their help and support for the Christmas Lights event.

3b. Travelling people at Silverknowes (Item 13 in minutes)

It was noted that the travelling people had been moved on from the site of the former bus park at the foreshore at Silverknowes. The West Team Manager had been thanked for his assistance in resolving the problem and no further action was required.

3c. Grit bins (Item 17 in minutes)

It was noted that the problem of the empty grit bin at Silverknowes Shops had been resolved.

3d. Recycling facility at Silverknowes Golf Club (Item 18e in minutes)

It was noted that there had been further complaints about the appalling state of the recycling facility at Silverknowes Golf Club car park where the area on the access to the bins was in a very muddy condition. The committee agreed that we would press for a project to be raised to improve the site and that the matter would be discussed at a meeting with the West Team Environment Manager on the 25<sup>th</sup> January.

**4. Correspondence**

Charlotte confirmed that all relevant correspondence had been circulated to the committee and it was confirmed that for the present Rod would continue to circulate communications originating from Council sources. On one matter, Charlotte advised the committee that she had received a formal communication from the Scottish Government advising that the appeal by the applicant against the decision to refuse Planning permission for an illuminated advertising board at the corner of Craigcrook Road and Queensferry Road had been rejected. It was agreed residents would be notified of this welcome decision with a public notice.

**5. Reports**

5a Police Report

PC's Michael Dixon and Mike McGill were welcomed to the meeting to provide a verbal report on policing matters over the past month. It was concerning to note that there had been an increase in the numbers of housebreakings in the area, particularly in Silverknowes, Barnton and Cramond and the police made the point that in a number of instances residents were failing to take common sense measures to ensure the security of their properties. It was agreed that the Security Officer for our area would be contacted to obtain a poster with appropriate advice to display on the notice board and website. The police were advised that there had been further complaints about illegal and dangerous parking on the pavement outside the Tanning Salon, Vet, Coral and Mains Beauty on Main Street and they undertook to investigate and monitor the situation.

5b. Treasurer's Report

Gordon reported that after payments and expenses for the Christmas Lights event the balance in the account was £4697.07.

#### 5c. Community Safety Forum

The Minutes of the December Meeting of the Forum had been previously circulated to the committee. It was noted that the question of written police reports had been discussed at some length at the meeting and that Police Scotland were in the process of undertaking a review of their policy regarding the dissemination of information to community groups and other organisations.

### 6. Planning issues

#### 67a Lauriston Farm Road

The committee had received a communication from a member expressing concern at the approved plans for the refurbishment of the old farmhouse with regard to the access. The committee is delighted that the farmhouse is going to be refurbished but the plans show that a new access road would block the east access to the grounds of Lauriston Castle. The custodian of the castle is unaware of this plan and is very concerned as the gate is used by parties who are visiting the castle/grounds for events over the year. Bus drivers object to the sharp turn into the west gate from Cramond Road South and the custodian has an arrangement with the Toby Carvery that bus drivers can park in their car park which allows groups of visitors to access the castle and grounds via the east entrance in safety. Aileen agreed to find out exactly what the terms of the sale of the ground to the new owners state regarding the maintenance of access to the castle grounds. The committee will then take appropriate action depending on the outcome of this investigation.

### 7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

Rod reported that a meeting had been organised for 26<sup>th</sup> January at Craigroyston to which representatives from Community groups had been invited to receive a presentation on the new structure for management and provision of local council services. The main change was a reduction from six operational centres to only four with the change becoming operational in April at very short notice. Rod deplored the complete absence of information and any engagement to date on the matter.

### 8. Local Action List

It was noted that Rod, Seonaidh, Henry and Tim are to meet with the West Environment Manager on 25<sup>th</sup> January for the quarterly review of progress on the Action List.

### 9. Plaque for War Memorial

Charlotte provided details of a quote from Laings Foundry for an additional plaque on the War Memorial to include a missing name. The committee welcomed the quote which was from the company which had done the initial work at the memorial since they still had the template and specification and could ensure a match of the new work to the original and meet the same high quality of design. The complexity of the work meant that there was a risk that other companies could not achieve the same high standard. The committee accepted the quote in principal but it was agreed to ask the company for the cost of increasing the size of the plaque to allow space to make provision for one or more new names in future. The comparable costs would be addressed at the February meeting when a final decision would be made.

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

It was agreed that Brian, Henry and Gordon would investigate the best options for the purchase of new sound equipment for out door events and make recommendations to the committee at the February meeting .

### 11. Proposed Electoral Ward Boundary Changes

It was noted that the action to advise local residents of proposed local ward boundary changes remained outstanding and Rod confirmed this would be done over the next

week or so.

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

It was noted that the action to remove the road bumps on Barnton Avenue at the junction with Cramond Road South remained outstanding. Other matters arising from the technical audit of the design of the new crossing had been resolved. The speed bumps would be discussed at the planned "Action List" meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

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

It was decided to fix the date of the AGM for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, subject to Charlotte confirming the availability of the hall. Rod agreed to approach a suggested speaker to check if the individual would be keen to make a presentation.

## **14. AOCB.**

14a. It was noted that there is an ongoing problem with parking around the Corbie Café in the early evening and that parking attendants are rarely visible in the area. Rod reminded the committee that the West Team Roads Manager had undertaken to start an assessment as the first stage of introducing future restrictions but in the interim it was agreed that the problem would be raised with the wardens. Cllr. Shields volunteered to do this.

14b. A complaint had been received about the litter problem outside the Chinese Take-Away and it was agreed to report the problem to the appropriate authority. Cllr Shields would pursue this matter.

14c. It was noted that activity had been observed at the former video shop which has class 3 consent for hot food. The matter would be kept under review.

14d. It was reported that heavy lorries had been accessing the cycle track to reverse under the old railway bridge at Silverknowes Road to remove excess soil from the development of the new house at number 1 Silverknowes Drive. These vehicles had been churning up the grass surface at Silverknowes Road East and there was a question about authority for access to the cycle track, both on the Council owned section and the section owned by Tesco. This problem was additional to the issue of encroachment of the new development on to the Tesco path which the committee understood had been put in the hands of Tesco's lawyers. It was agreed these problems would be raised with the West Team and again with Tesco's Manager.

14e. It was reported that the bleeper on the crossing opposite the former video shop on the north side of Main Street is not working. The sound from the one on the other side of the road is very weak. It was agreed both matters would be reported.

14f. It was reported that there is a flooding problem at the crossing at the junction of Main Street and The Green. It was agreed to monitor the problem because it was considered it may have been temporary due to unusually heavy rainfall.

14g. Tim reported that 70 people had booked for the Scam event on Wednesday 13 January which was considered to be a good level of interest.

14h. Tim reported that he is continuing to try to establish contact with other Neighbourhood Watch groups in the area to try to co ordinate activities and share information.

14i. It was noted that the damaged bollard outside the RBS had been reported to the authorities.

14j. It was noted that the heavily scoured pot holes at the junction of Cramond Road South and Main Street had been reported to the authorities.

**15. Date of Next Meeting 9 February 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School**