

## DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION

Management Committee Meeting 14 March 2017 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library

Chairman Rod Alexander

1. **Apologies:** Coll Gardner, Laura Thomson, Cllrs. Lindsay Paterson, Alastair Shields and Norman Work.
2. **Present:** Brian Flanagan, Carolyn Williams, Seonaidh Edgar, Tim Mitchell, Gordon McGregor, Charlotte Cowe, Judith Lowther.

**3.1 Minutes:** The Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

### 3.2 Matters arising

Before discussing the agenda, Rod proposed the setting up of an "Ongoing Issue Log" where matters which are current but are awaiting action or information before they can be progressed can be held on the log until further discussion is required. This would have the benefit of reducing the length of the agenda each month while ensuring issues were not forgotten. The committee fully supported the proposal which would be set up for the April meeting.

#### 3a. Parking round the Corbie Café

It was noted that this issue was on hold pending completion by the Council of a requested parking survey and assessment of the results. In the meantime the matter would be put on to the Ongoing Issues Log.

#### 3b. Recycling Bins at Tesco

Charlotte reported on the unsatisfactory situation regarding the protracted delay in receiving a formal response from Cllr. Hinds to our complaints about the management of the paper re-cycling facility. A claim that an email had been sent in reply was not supported by the facts and the matter was being pursued.

#### 3c. Closure of Local Branch of RBS

It was noted that there had not yet been any response from RBS to our representations about the planned closure of the local branch. It was agreed reminders would be sent although the committee were not hopeful that anything could be changed.

#### 3d. Grit Bin at Lane between Silverknowes Terr and Cramond Rd South

Rod confirmed that a request had been made on Clarence for replacement of the missing bin at the Cramond Road South end of the lane. The situation would be monitored to ensure a new bin was in place before next winter.

#### 3f. Lights on Ferry Road

The committee were very concerned that despite frequent and numerous complaints on Clarence the street lights on Ferry Road adjacent to Silverknowes Neuk had now been out of operation for several weeks. Charlotte reported that she was being told that the problem was that the lighting heads could not be accessed due to the line of conifer trees which were growing around and enveloping the columns and that there were difficulties in contacting the property owners whose responsibility it was to get the trees cut back. The committee considered that this was a serious pedestrian and road safety issue and that the Council should cut the trees back under an enforcement order to allow the lights to be repaired as a priority with the residents being billed later. It was agreed this would be made clear to the Head of Lighting and to the Environment Manager.

### 4. Correspondence

Charlotte confirmed that all relevant correspondence had been circulated or was covered as appropriate by agenda items.

## **5. Reports**

### **5a Police Report**

PC Jim Loosemore was welcomed to the meeting to provide the verbal police report for February. The committee were pleased to hear that there had been a remarkably low level of crime in the local area during the month with only 8 reported crimes, although realistically it was accepted that this level merely demonstrated the cyclic and transient nature of crime in North West Edinburgh, with other localities experiencing high levels during the month.

Charlotte raised resident's concerns about inconsiderate parking on Corbiehill Crescent which had partially blocked access to the area. It was accepted this was a matter for the Council in the first instance although the police would take an interest if the problem persisted.

Charlotte also raised the issue of an HGV using Main Street and the unhelpful response from the company who claimed not to be able to identify the vehicle or the driver despite having been provided with the registration number. The advice from PC Loosemore was to advise the company that the police had been notified of the incident and that Main Street was being monitored for contraventions of the HGV regulations.

### **5b. Treasurer's Report**

Gordon reported that the balance in the account was unchanged at £4676.39

### **5c. Community Safety Forum**

Tim reported that the future of this forum is under review as part of a wider review of the supports and services provided by the North West Locality team following ongoing staff re-structuring. It was unlikely there would be any decisions on support for the Forum before July at the earliest.

### **5d. Health & Community Care Sub Group**

Charlotte reported on the meeting of the group which she had attended on 8 March.

The main topic had been about a website operated by a group called "Living it Up" to provide the elderly with information about activities and events to help keep them socially active. The committee shared Charlotte's concerns regarding the limitations of promoting this information only via an on line site. A second issue had arisen over the integration of local Health and Social Care Services where it appeared that each Service would retain its own separate telephone directories and that Social Services would continue with their present "number with held" policy when contacting clients. This seemed contrary to the philosophy of a joined up integrated service and again the committee shared Charlotte's concerns about the need for elderly and vulnerable residents to know who was calling before answering the phone. Clearly withheld numbers were highly problematic in such situations and the committee decided to raise these matters directly with the Health and Social Care Manager for the North West Locality.

## **6. Planning issues**

### **6a. 40 Barnton Avenue**

Charlotte confirmed that a letter of objection to the proposed development had been sent on behalf of the Association in line with the decision of the committee at the February meeting. The application had yet to be considered by the Planning Development sub Committee of the Council.

### **6b. Broadband Box at The Green**

Charlotte and Rod provided an update on the proposal. They had met BT Openreach on site and had reached agreement that the box should be positioned at a location beside the yellow grit bin at the entrance to the cul-de-sac. This position would not affect residents' views from any of the adjacent properties and would protect the sensitivity of the War Memorial. The committee discussed the issue of the close proximity of a litter bin to the Memorial and it was agreed to make a request to the Council to have it re-positioned beside the bench on Main Street.

## **7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership**

Rod reported on the business meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March at South Queensferry.

The Locality Manager had advised that all appointments to the new staff structure would be completed by the end of April and progress towards more stability and better standards of service would be made afterwards. The main issue of interest on the agenda had been an update on the North West Locality Development Plan. Following a period of public consultation, including engagement through seminars, a provisional draft list of priorities had been drawn up for more detailed consideration and subsequent selection of key objectives for the plan. It had been advised that the list would be available by the end of March. The plan was to invite representatives from all the community groups on Neighbourhood Partnerships across North West to an event at the Capital Hotel on 20<sup>th</sup> April for a presentation and discussion about the future priorities, although concern had been expressed that with the event being planned for the afternoon it would restrict the opportunity for some to attend.

Rod reported that the NP meeting previously planned for Davidson's Mains on 19<sup>th</sup> April had been cancelled and would be replaced by a meeting in June at a time and venue to be determined. It was still planned to have the problems of overload on the main traffic corridors into the city from the north and west as a main agenda item.

## **8. Local Action List**

The committee noted the current situation regarding the items on the list. The drop-kerbs on Cramond Road South at Tesco had been completed and a white lining team had been operating in the area with work being done on Corbiehill Road and part of Quality Street. It was presumed that the work on Quality Street was being phased and that it was about to be completed.

Rod said that the intention would be to seek a meeting in April with the Roads Manager to discuss the situation given the previous assurances that all the projects on the Action List would be completed by the end of March, a situation which now seemed very unlikely. Discussions still had to take place about the traffic problems on Lauriston Farm Road, including the positioning and design of bollards at the junction with Cramond Road South.

## **9. Road and Footpath Maintenance**

Rod reported that he had discussed the budget situation with the Transport and Environment Manager and had received an assurance that the list of projects for 2017/18 would be available around the 23<sup>rd</sup> March when the capital programme would become a matter of public information. At that stage the list of planned work for each of the budget streams would be available. The committee agreed that the programme should be discussed at the April meeting when we would also have our own priority list of roads and footpaths. Rod said he had our list in hand and it would be circulated before the meeting.

Two projects which are definitely proceeding are re-surfacing of footpaths at Easter Park, which is work being done under the current years budget, and the upgrading of the cycle path between East Barnton Avenue and Queensferry Road. There had been a recent meeting at the park which Rod had attended with representatives from the Council, the Consultants for the project, and Friends of the Park and there had been broad agreement and support for the proposals. These were on public display at Blackhall library on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

## **10. DMSA Recurring Issue Log**

Tim reported on the current projects on the log. There were no new projects but additional recent information had been added, particularly with regard to recent problems with litter collection.

The Committee agreed that the ongoing issue of parking problems at The Green should be added following recent complaints. The agreed plan was to continue to monitor the problem and review the case for action at a later date.

## **11. Christmas Lights Review**

The committee again considered ongoing issues from the Christmas Lights cancellation by the Council. After further representations an interim reply had now been received from the Director of Place regarding our complaints about his misunderstanding of our insurance policy and the costs we had incurred. To a degree our complaint had been acknowledged and we had been assured that a re-fund of our losses on administration charges had been set up for payment. The reply had said a more detailed response would follow regarding the Council's intentions around providing support for local decorations for Christmas 2017. The communication had suggested that the Council were considering the possibility of using a local tree, or trees on Council land to use to host decorations and the committee decided to give more detailed consideration to possible options at the April meeting.

## **12. Facebook page for DMSA**

Rod confirmed he had set up a Facebook page so that he and Charlotte could work on a DMSA page with Laura and work could be done on it before the next meeting.

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

On Wednesday 1 March, roadworks at the Barnton Avenue/ Cramond Road South junction and toucan crossing were in place for the much-delayed "final" snagging from the layout changes in July 2015. The disparity between the roadway surface and the lowered kerb at the North side of Barnton Avenue was reduced, and road markings and lines refreshed and enhanced, with new roundels on the footways highlighting the shared-use toucan crossing. Unfortunately, a couple of the stage 3 safety audit issues do not appear to have been fully rectified, and the new roundels are already subject to damage, probably by vandalism. Photographs and full descriptions of these issues have been sent to the current CEC project manager for this, Adam Molloy, who intends to inspect the site, and Tim hopes to meet him at that time to find what further remedial action, if any, will be taken.

#### **14. Dogs in Lauriston Castle grounds**

Charlotte circulated a recent reply from Cllr. Hinds to queries raised by the committee about access for dogs in areas of public open space as relating to the grounds of the castle. It was agreed the matter would be carried forward to the April meeting to give members of the committee time to reflect on the response from Cllr. Hinds and whether any further action should be taken.

#### **15. AGM**

Rod confirmed that Dave Sinclair, the Locality Transport and Environment Manager and local police Sergeant Richard Homewood had agreed to be members of the panel for the Q&A session at the AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> May. The intention would be to invite each of the new councillors for Almond to participate once the results of the local elections on the 4 May are known. It was agreed that Tesco should be approached with regard to providing refreshments.

#### **16. Pedestrian Crossing on Main Street at Silverknowes Road**

Rod provided an update on the situation regarding recent complaints about the risks to children using the crossing. Since the February meeting a formal reply had been received from the Council regarding the requests by the complainers.. The reply had explained that safety railings were not possible at the crossing because it would restrict space for wheelchairs and prams and that it was not Council Policy to install "20" flashing lights at locations remote from school premises . The other request to restrict the speed of traffic to 20 mph would be met shortly with the implementation of 20 limits in the area. Rod said he would contact the complainers to make sure they fully understood the situation, but realistically any further consideration would need to wait until after the implementation of the 20 zone and its affect had been assessed.

#### **17. Open Space Maintenance Policy**

Charlotte provided an update on the decision taken at the February meeting that the Council should be contacted to request a review of the grass maintenance policy around the Café at Silverknowes Foreshore where the grass had been allowed to grow in an area used by children and families for play and recreation. She had received an initial reply which in reality amounted to a defence of the current policy but she had been offered a site meeting to discuss the problem. Following discussion it was agreed to accept the offer of a site meeting, but to also ascertain the views of the owner of the café who's stance on the matter was clearly important . It was noted that the café owner had contacted Gordon to request a meeting about a number of matters so a meeting with him would be timeous.

#### **18. Corbiehill Avenue/Corbiehill Road Junction**

Progress on this issue remains on hold until the survey and assessment of the problem has been completed by the Council and it would be transferred to the Ongoing Issues Log in the meantime.

#### **19. Local Tree Project**

It was agreed that this item would remain on hold until detailed discussions on the costs of replacement trees had taken place. Rod reported that a number of dead and damaged trees had been removed from The Green. This had created even more spaces and had added to the case for some new trees.

#### **20. Programme of Events for the year**

It was noted that a programme had been circulated by Charlotte as agreed. The intention from now on would be to table an update for information at each meeting.

#### **21. AOCB.**

21a. The committee considered details of a council scheme to re-cycle surplus equipment which had been sent to Gordon for our attention. Following discussion it was agreed to take no action.

#### **22. Date of Next Meeting 11 April 2017 6.45 pm. Venue to be arranged due to school holidays.**