

**DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION**  
**Management Committee Meeting 12 December at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School**

1. **Apologies:** Laura Thomson, Brian Flanagan, Carolyn Williams, Councillors Graham Hutchison and Kevin Lang.
2. **Present:** Rod Alexander (Chair), Charlotte Cowe (Secretary), Coll Gardner, Tim Mitchell, Seonaidh Edgar, Ellen Searle, Gordon McGregor.

Councillors Louise Young and Norman Work; P.C. Jim Kelly for the Police Report.

**3.1 Minutes.** The Minutes of the November meeting were approved.

**3.2 On-going and Recurring Issues Logs – to note**

It was noted that there were no changes to either log.

**3.3 Matters arising** (excluding items scheduled for later discussion)

3a. Re-Cycling Bins at Tesco

It was noted that the Cleansing Department had tried to deliver a second waste paper bin to the site but had been unable to gain access. They had advised Kevin another attempt would be made on the next uplift cycle. As recorded at the November meeting, the committee would wait to see the impact of having two bins on the site before deciding whether to press for fortnightly uplifts as had been promised previously.

3b. Street Lights on Ferry Road

It was noted that an enforcement order had still to be raised to get the overgrown conifer trees cut back. In the meantime the committee were concerned that one street light remained out of action due to access being prevented. The matter would be kept under review.

3c. Vivian Terrace Street Play Event

Rod reported that, as agreed at the November meeting, a letter had been sent to the Council Manager who was undertaking a review into the scheme, to withdraw our criticisms of the organisers of the events at Vivian Terrace and Silverknowes Gardens but to request that our comments around a number of policy issues and Council procedures should stand. The Manager had acknowledged our request and had confirmed he was content with our position. In addition the Council had just issued a consultation document for anyone involved with the schemes or who took part to pass on their comments to the Council with a closing date of 11<sup>th</sup> January. Rod said there were matters he would wish to comment on following our communications with the organiser of the Vivian Terrace event and he would use the survey form to address these.

3d. Bus Engines Idling

It was noted that warning notices had now been put on lampposts at the Royal High School and Davidson's Mains Primary School. Norman was thanked for his help on the matter.

3e. HGV's on Lauriston Farm Road

Charlotte advised that an acknowledgement had been received from the management of Neil Williams Haulage to our letter requesting that the company use the recommended route for industrial vehicles via Telford Road instead of using Lauriston Farm Road. There was no indication that the company were willing to consider their position but since they were not breaking the law the matter was closed, at least for the present.

3f. Grit bins at Silverknowes Road, Cramond Road South and Main Street.

It was noted that a replacement grit bin had now been provided at the bus stop at the shops on Silverknowes Road and Kevin was thanked for pressing the matter with the Council. Kevin had also agreed to pursue the provision of grit bins on Cramond Road South at the lane to Silverknowes Terrace and on Main Street at the path to Silverknowes Road East. These had previously been promised by the Council and the committee were concerned about the delay with the advent of winter.

### 3g. Box Junction Markings on Lauriston Farm Road

Rod confirmed that he had been assured by the Locality Transport and Environment Manager that the request to have the markings at the box junction at Silverknowes Terrace repainted had been added to the Locality work programme.

## 4. Correspondence

Charlotte confirmed that all material correspondence had been previously circulated or would be referred to under the appropriate agenda item.

## 5. Reports

### 5a Police Report

PC Jim Kelly was welcomed to the meeting to provide a verbal police report for November. There had been 29 crimes reported in the area across a range of categories including vandalism, theft, housebreakings and assault, although it was pleasing to note that the youth problem had reduced significantly over the past few weeks due to targeted police action. The committee noted that Sergeant Richard Homewood would be moving to a new post after two years leading the Community Police Team and everyone passed on their best wishes to him in his new role. He had been very supportive and helpful to the committee and the committee looked forward to continuing the same positive relationship in due course with his successor Sgt. Scott Kennedy who we hoped to meet in January.

### 5b. Treasurer's Report

Gordon reported that the balance in the account has risen substantially to £8833.50 due principally to the receipt of donations to the Christmas Lights Fund. Most of the costs associated with setting up the Christmas Lights Switch On event, the Santa Fun Run, the Memorial Service, and the Newsletter had yet to be paid and Gordon undertook to provide a full income and expenditure analysis of the events for the January meeting.

## 6. Planning issues

### 6a. New Build at Davidson's Mains Primary School.

It was noted that the application has yet to be considered by the Planning Development Sub Committee.

### 6b. Former RBS Building.

Charlotte confirmed that a submission had been made by the Association to request that any approval for operation as a café should not permit opening after 9pm in the evening to protect the amenity of local residents. This was in line with committee decisions in November.

The requested restriction in hours was consistent with a precedent which had been set for the Village Café in 2016. It was noted that there had been only three objections and accordingly a determination on the application would be delegated to the Planning Officer.

## 7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

Louise provided an update on the setting up of the four new Locality Committees and the question of the continuation of the Neighbourhood Partnerships. It appeared that each Locality would have the discretion whether or not to continue with Neighbourhood Partnerships or whether other sub-committee structures should be considered as the best means of facilitating community representation. For Almond it was the intention to continue with Neighbourhood Partnership meetings until the Locality Committee came into operation, but even afterwards it was generally recognised that the Neighbourhood Partnership had been successful in the past and there was support for it to continue. Tim drew attention to the fact that the Almond Community Safety Panel under the Neighbourhood Watch umbrella was continuing to function and this was important for discussing local policing priorities in a situation where the equivalent Neighbourhood Partnership sub committee (Almond Community Safety Committee) was currently in abeyance.

## 8. Local Action List

Rod confirmed that an updated list had been produced for the Notice Board and website. It included previous target completion dates, many of which had been missed, and he welcomed an assurance from the Locality Transport and Environment Manager for a meeting early in the New Year to discuss priorities.

## **9. Newsletter Review**

The committee discussed reaction to the recent newsletter and noted that there had been very little feedback from residents. Rod said it was absolutely clear from this time and also past experience that if a specific request is made for feedback on local issues, with inclusion of space for return of specific comments, then we get a high level of responses but otherwise the numbers tend to be low. This should be kept in mind for future reference. The committee discussed a proposition that the Christmas Lights Group should be given a section of the spring newsletter to comment on local issues of relevance to younger people and this was accepted in principle as a worthy idea.

## **10. Christmas Lights Event Review**

The committee had a discussion about the planning for the Christmas Lights this year and the Switch on Event on 1<sup>st</sup> December. The consensus was that it had been a remarkable success and that the new Christmas Lights Group could not be praised more highly for what they had achieved in such a short time from the initial meeting at the beginning of October. The only problems had been around crowd management due to the large numbers who had turned up and the switch on time for the lights which many had considered to be too late. The Lights Group had acknowledged these problems which they would address for next year. It was noted that the fund for new lights had already reached £4140 against the target of £10000, with significant contributions from many local businesses. Ellen said the Lights Group would be meeting early in the New Year to start to think about next year's event and to firm up on plans for further fund raising events.

Rod said that the Council had agreed to take decisions about any possible funding for Christmas Lights for the next three years by March next year to avoid the last minute decisions which had been such a problem for us in both 2016 and 2017. Nothing could be decided about what to plan for Lights next year until the Council's decision was known. There was also the issue of the £2500 community grants fund award and whether it could be carried over to the next financial year. It had been made on the basis of £4000 being donated through local community fundraising and that target had been achieved. Rod said he would be seeking clarity on the situation in the New Year.

## **11. Facebook page for DMSA**

The committee further discussed the Facebook Page which had been set up but there was a general recognition that priority now had to be given to make it fully operational and relevant to communications with local residents. It was also recognised that for it to have substance and be linked to ongoing issues as they arise Rod and/or Charlotte would need to be involved in daily monitoring and in providing replies.

Louise offered to spend a session with Rod and Charlotte in January to demonstrate how data was accessed and managed and this was welcomed as a way of making progress.

## **12. Silverknowes Roundabout**

It was noted that the roundabout upgrade was to be finished shortly by 14 December. The general consensus was that the disruption for residents and traffic had been much less than had been anticipated and that the vast majority of residents welcomed the improvements.

## **13. Rat Running in Silverknowes**

Tim advised that he had still not heard from the resident who had been interested in undertaking a local opinion survey regarding possible restrictions and the matter was again carried forward.

## **14. Withdrawal of 32 and 42 bus services**

Rod provided feedback on a meeting he had attended at the City Chambers with Ian Williamson from Cramond and Barnton CC to hear from Lothian Regional Transport (LRT) on the reasons for the withdrawal of the 32 and 42 bus services from Davidson's Mains without any prior consultation, with the 32 being re-branded as the 200 for an Airport Service to and from Ocean Terminal but avoiding Davidson's Mains. LRT had been represented by their Director of Marketing and their Route Planning Manager. Also present were the Council Transport Convenor, the Council's Chief Transport Planning Officer, and Alex Cole – Hamilton MP, who had campaigned for an airport link out the A90 corridor but had been surprised and disappointed at the outcome. In short, the meeting had been unsatisfactory. LRT stated quite bluntly that they were not under any kind of obligation to discuss service changes in advance and they were extremely selective in the information they provided to justify the route changes. From a local perspective they stated that traffic queuing and congestion on Quality Street and Main Street at peak periods was a serious impediment to providing reliable bus services and was at least in part the reason for the 200 being routed along the Queensferry Road. When it was put to LRT that this could be a factor in justifying the 41 being routed directly from Davidson's Mains to Cramond the LRT representatives resorted to the argument about low passenger potential along Cramond Road North being a problem. With regard

to the 42, LRT stated the service had been operating at a significant deficit per customer for some time and the service had not been commercially viable. LRT denied there was any subsidy for the 200 from Edinburgh Airport, despite the Airlink branding and the buses carrying an "In partnership with Edinburgh Airport" logo, which seemed incongruous to say the least. During discussions it came to light that a report had been prepared for the Council in 2009 to identify possible options for reducing traffic congestion on the Queensferry Road corridor. At the time very few of the options had been considered, principally due to funding difficulties, although there were other reasons. It was agreed this report could now be made available to the MSP and Community representatives. Rod said he would make sure he received a copy of the report and it and the Minutes of the meeting would be considered at the January meeting.

## **15. AOCB.**

15a. Charlotte reported that she had received a complaint from a resident concerned about the amount of equipment left on the pavement outside the electrician shop on Silverknowes Road to be collected every morning about 7 am by employees. The resident had implied that the material was left overnight each night. Louise agreed to raise this matter with the Council.

15b. Charlotte reported that she had received a complaint that the time for the pedestrian crossing phase at the traffic light controlled crossing on Queensferry Road at Quality Street had been reduced following recent road works . Norman agreed to get this checked out.

15c. Tim reminded the committee that the consultation into the use of the grounds at Lauriston Castle had a closure date of 31<sup>st</sup> December.

15d. It was noted that feedback from the recent police home security event had been very positive.

15e. Tim reported that had taken the opportunity to praise the role of the DMSA at a recent Neighbourhood Watch Christmas Party and had encouraged members to join the Association. Rod said he had made similar overtures to the Lights Group and some had been delighted to support us with membership.

15f. It was reported that the bus tracker at the stop at The Norhet on Main Street was out of operation and Norman agreed to take the matter up with LRT .

15g. Seonaidh mentioned the difficulty for drivers exiting from East Barnton Gardens onto the junction at Main Street. It was noted that the design and operation of the junction and the crossings was subject to review by the police as part of the fatal accident enquiry following the incident last May and the situation was noted for the present.

15h Louise advised that she and Kevin had asked about the status of the police investigation into the fatal accident on the crossing on Main Street last May but the report had still not been completed.

15i. Louise advised she had raised problems with internet provision at the RHS with the Council Education department. 200 new laptops were unavailable for use because of the inadequacies of the IT provision.

15j. Norman advised that he had been contacted by local residents about the ongoing litter problem relating to pupils from the RHS school.

15k. A question was raised regarding Council policy in relation to gritting of cycle tracks on the public highway, particularly in relation to designated national routes. It had been observed that Silverknowes Drive and Terrace and the path to Cramond Road South (all part of N1) had been very slippery with cyclists falling off their bikes. It was agreed clarification on the gritting policy would be sought.

## **16. Date of Next Meeting 9 January 2018 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School**

Rod closed the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.