

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

1. **Apologies:** Carolyn Williams, Ellen Searle, Gordon McGregor.
2. **Present:** Rod Alexander, Charlotte Cowe, Seonaidh Edgar, Tim Mitchell, Judith Lowther, Coll Gardner, Brian Flanagan, Laura Thomson.

**In attendance:** Councillor Norman Work, who was congratulated on his recent success in being re-elected a local councillor; PC's Jim Kelly and Joanna Coull for the police report.

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

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

Tim tabled the Recurring issues log which had been updated to include the parking problems at The Green and the litter problem on East Barnton Avenue, as had been discussed at the April meeting of the committee. The position was noted and agreed.

Rod confirmed that there was no change to the On-going issues log from the previous meeting. All matters requiring immediate discussion had been included on the Agenda for the meeting.

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

3a Recycling Bins at Tesco.

Charlotte reported that after months of delay she had finally received a substantive reply from Cllr. Lesley Hind's office regarding our complaints about the management of the site. The Council had agreed to provide a second waste paper container and to ensure that there would be regular fortnightly uplifts. The committee welcomed this positive response, even after a long delay, and the situation would be monitored to ensure the improvements were implemented.

3b. Closure of RBS.

Charlotte reported that there had been no response to our letter of 26 January 2017, or to subsequent reminders. The committee once again expressed their disappointment at the complete absence of engagement by the bank on matters of concern to local residents but with the closure date for the local branch now approaching and most residents being aware of the situation, with reluctance, it was agreed to close the matter.

3c. Street Lights on Ferry Road.

The inability for the Council to gain access to the inoperable street lights on Ferry Road because of the large conifers at the boundary fence with Silverknowes Neuk remained a serious problem, although it was noted that with the lighter mornings and evenings the road and public safety implications had reduced for the present. The committee accepted the situation for the present to allow the Council time to resolve the problem but there was no doubt that the trees would have to be cut down before the autumn. The problem would be kept under review.

3d. Lane between Silverknowes Drive and Crescent.

Rod reported that he had inspected the lane following the complaint about the broken and uneven surface. There was a section of about 10m in length where the surface had been badly broken and distorted by tree roots from an adjacent garden. He had reported the problem to the Locality Team and the issue would be added to our Action List.

3e. Heavy Goods Vehicles travelling through the area.

The committee further discussed the problem of transgression of restrictions by heavy goods vehicles travelling through our area. Tim reported that he had received a positive response from the management of one company, Yuill and Dodds, whom he had contacted regarding a blatant infringement of the 10 m length limit at the Cramond Road South/ Barnton Avenue junction, but that another, DHL, had yet to reply. The Police were being kept informed and had confirmed they would be contacting each of the companies to remind them of their obligations. Rod and Charlotte confirmed that the Newsletter would carry an item about the 10m length limit on Lauriston Farm Road and the 7 ton weight limit on Main Street and what residents could do to help with enforcement of the regulations.

#### **4. Correspondence**

Charlotte confirmed that no correspondence had been received other than information from the Council which had been circulated and that which is pertinent to agenda items.

#### **5. Reports**

##### **5a Police Report.**

PC's Jim Kelly and Joanna Coull were welcomed to the meeting to provide the verbal police report for the month of April. It was concerning to note that there had been a resurgence of the motor bike crime which had been concerning for residents a few months ago although the committee were reassured by the resources which were being allocated to tackle the problem, including a dedicated city wide team under operation Soteria. An advantage of the centralised specialist team was that the community officers were free to deal with other local crimes. The importance of reporting local crimes to the police was discussed and PC Kelly made it clear that anyone who was worried about being identified by a subsequent follow up home visit could opt to phone Crimestoppers as an alternative to 101 since there was no follow up visit for reports to Crimestoppers. The committee agreed they would publicise this distinction.

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

In Gordon's absence Rod reported that the balance in the accounts was unchanged from the previous month at £4409.33. He confirmed that the formal inspection of the Accounts had been completed. These were unchanged from the provisional accounts which had previously been considered by the committee and so the Accounts were given final approval prior to the AGM. The committee wished to put on record their appreciation of the ongoing support with the annual inspection of the accounts from Anne Wilkinson and it was agreed she should be sent a letter of thanks together with a small gift as a token of appreciation.

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

Tim confirmed that the Almond CSF is still in abeyance pending the outcome of the review into the future of the Neighbourhood Partnership and its sub committees. He advised that in the mean while the Almond Community Safety Panel (Neighbourhood Watch liaison) would meet on May 24th, and this had the advantage of at least providing some continuity for discussing local policing priorities. The meeting would also consider progress on developments within Neighbourhood Watch and he would report back on this at our next meeting.

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

Charlotte reported that there had not been any recent meeting, nor had any date been set for the next one. As recorded elsewhere, the situation with all sub committees of the Neighbourhood Partnership remained under review.

#### **6. Planning issues**

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

It was noted that this application still remained outstanding.

#### **7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership**

Rod reported that there had not been any recent meeting and that arrangements for the next one were on hold pending the outcome of the Council Elections, although it had been tentatively suggested there may be one in June. There had been a recent meeting at the Capital Hotel to discuss the outcome of consultations on the Almond Local Improvement plan from which he was waiting for feed back. He said that there had been criticism that the important session had been held at a time on a mid week afternoon when many community representatives had found it difficult to attend and he was sorry that he had not managed to get back from Glasgow because of road congestion. The committee could consider the feed back when it was received.

#### **8. Local Action List**

Rod reported on a recent local walk about he and Tim had had with Patrick Coogan, the local roads engineer. It had primarily been to have an on site meeting to discuss details about the replacement of the bollards at the junction of Lauriston Farm Road and Cramond Road South but the opportunity had been taken to walk along Cramond Road South to the RBS, on to the east end of Main Street and then back through Silverknowes. The crossing at Silverknowes Road had been considered in some detail, particularly the very worn road markings on the approaches to the crossing. Rod advised that an up to date Action List which would reflect recent discussions and project completions would be circulated to the committee before the AGM.

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

Rod advised the committee he was still waiting for the details of the forward programme for 2018 to 2020 so the committee deferred a full discussion on the programme until the information was available. Brian reported that his neighbours were very pleased with the role of the committee in persevering to get road repairs started in Vivian Terrace even if the recent temporary withdrawal of the squad without notice or explanation had caused confusion.

## **10. Christmas Lights Review**

The committee again discussed the uncertainty around local decorations for Christmas 2017 and the question of any local switch on event. It was confirmed the Newsletter would carry an article explaining the problem and to highlight the importance of a local Events Committee to take charge of the issue.

## **11. AGM**

The committee discussed and approved the detailed arrangements for the AGM on 30th May, including individual responsibilities for the event. Charlotte confirmed that the new councillors had been invited to attend and each had been pleased to do apart from Graham Hutchison who would be abroad on business and had tendered his apologies. Laura agreed to be nominated for the vacant position of Deputy Chair despite her demanding work commitments. All the other committee members and current office holders confirmed their willingness to stand again for re-election for a further year.

## **12. Newsletter**

Rod and Charlotte reported on progress on the Newsletter. It was scheduled to go to the printers on Wednesday 17 May and Rod said he would have it out to deliverers for the week-end of 20/21 May. The long list of local issues to be covered was a problem and the committee agreed with the suggestion that the notice for the AGM plus the membership renewal form and information should be included on a separate insert to the Newsletter to make space for other topics.

## **13. Open Space Maintenance Policy**

Charlotte and Rod reported on the outcome of agreements with the Council that the areas of close grass cutting would be extended at both Davidson's Mains Park and Silverknowes Foreshore to include areas used by children for playing and by adults for recreation. The committee were pleased that there had been a constructive response to our complaints but the situation would need to be checked after the revised maintenance plan had been introduced.

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

Charlotte reported that a formal letter of complaint had been sent to Lothian Regional Transport about the recent decisions to withdraw the 32 service and to terminate the 42 service at Craighleith Retail Park. This had been significantly to the detriment of available bus services to Davidson's Mains and it was a matter of considerable concern that the decision had been taken without any prior notice or consultation with our Councillors or local residents through the Association. A response from LRT was awaited. Also a meeting had been arranged with our MSP to discuss the service changes which LRT had linked to the new 200 service to Edinburgh Airport, the subject of a strong personal campaign by the MSP. The meeting would be a joint one with Cramond and Barnton CC with whom we share many concerns about what has happened.

## **15. Facebook page for DMSA**

The committee discussed the concept of the Facebook Page which is considered to be important for wider communication. It has been set up on a restricted basis for testing and review and it is hoped to make it public shortly.

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

Tim provided a final update on the project which the committee now accept is closed, despite a concern that one of the safety audit recommendations will not be carried out by the Council as being low priority. The situation was noted for future reference in the event of any future incident or injury. Tim was thanked by the committee for his perseverance over many months to ensure all the other remedial work had been completed. Tim also advised that the blue and white roundels which had been vandalised had now been replaced by what appeared to be a more robust and superior design.

**17. Litter problem in the area**

Charlotte reported on email exchanges she had had with a local resident who works for Zero Waste Scotland and who was concerned about the general litter problem in the area. She had said she would be keen to support local initiatives to reduce the problem. The resident hoped to be able to raise the issue at the Q&A session at the AGM. The committee discussed the problem which is to a large extent a consequence of the number of take-away food outlets in the village. Also while we make regular complaints it had been a few years since we had promoted a formal campaign to encourage action to reduce the problem. Accordingly the committee agreed to carry an item in the newsletter to again highlight the problem and to undertake a campaign afterwards.

**18. AOCB.**

18a. An issue was raised regarding the pavement width being restricted by an overgrowing hawthorn hedge between the pedestrian crossing and the bridge at the east on Main Street. It was agreed it was early in the season and that the situation was not yet as bad as in previous years so the issue would be carried forward for review next month. The committee hoped the owners would comply with their responsibility but the Council would be contacted to take action if necessary on what is a pedestrian safety issue on a busy road.

18b. The committee discussed the recurring problem of speeding cyclists on Barnton Avenue on the approach to the crossing on Cramond Road South, particularly in relation to the designated line of approach to the crossing where there appeared to be an attendant risk of collision with other vehicles and pedestrians. The position was noted for future reference in relation to any possible review of the traffic management on Barnton Avenue (road lining and speed bumps) or the design of the approach to the crossing for cyclists. The Locality Transport and Environment Manager was aware of our concerns.

**19. Date of Next Meeting 13 June 2017 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School**