

## DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION

Management Committee Meeting 7 February 2017 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library

Chairman Rod Alexander

1. **Apologies:** Councillor Norman Paterson

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

In Attendance: Cllrs. Lindsay Paterson, Alastair Shields; PC Aidan Douds for the Police Report.

3.1 **Minutes.** Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

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

3a. Parking round the Corbie Café

A request has been made for a similar survey to be undertaken similar to that for the Corbiehill Road/Avenue junction.

3b. Rock falls onto roadways, footpaths and cycle paths

Lindsay had received a reply from Dave Sinclair regarding this matter. Technically the rock face is in the park boundary. The rock cutting is only there to facilitate the road and pavemen so the local Roads team are leading with the stabilisation works. In general rock cuttings and slopes are not formally inspected unless there is a known issue. Driven safety inspections are carried out on principal routes on at least a fortnightly basis. During this driven inspection the Roads Inspector would observe the general area around any rock slope and look out for any loose material lying on the road or pavement. There is still outstanding work to revisit the rock cutting which was stabilised to consider the introduction of netting and complete wall repairs.

3c. Recycling Bins Tesco

Despite a reminder email being sent there still has been no reply from Councillor Lesley Hinds or her assistant, Dougie Dolan. Rod will phone the relevant department to try to elicit a response.

3d. Closure of RBS

Two letters have been sent to RBS on behalf of the DMSA. The first letter was expressing concern regarding the proposed closure particularly with regard to elderly customers who may not be able to travel to other branches and to request that assistance be given to them to change accounts to another bank if this would be required. We also expressed our concern as to the situation regarding the notice board which is situated in the grounds of RBS and whether the purchaser of the property would still permit the notice board to be situated there.

3e. Hot food van

Charlotte had found it impossible to elicit any response from Environmental Health regarding the van and as it was no longer operating it was decided to close the matter.

3f. Lane Silverknowes Terr/Cramond Rd South

A new grit bin has been requested.

3g. Lights on Ferry Road

These have all been repaired apart from two. These will be reported once again. The other matter is the high trees obscuring the lights making the area very dark. Dave Sinclair had forwarded this complaint to the relevant department.

3i. Leaflets giving dates of bin lifts not yet ready

These are now ready and Charlotte had received one in the post. The only difference to uplift was the garden rubbish collection which had been reduced to once every three weeks in the growing season from every fortnight in the past.

4. **Correspondence**

No correspondence had been received other than the usual email circulation.

## **5. Reports**

### **5a Police Report**

PC Aidan Douds reported that there had been a reduction most crimes apart from housebreaking which was on the increase again for the month of January. The reason given is that those who were convicted in the past have now been released and have restarted their criminal activities. This still comes under Operation RAC which is a city wide initiative to combat housebreaking. Tim raised the matter of youth anti-social behaviour in East Barnton Avenue with regard to the stealing of recycling of bins and setting them on fire. He expressed concern that residents seemed to be resigned to this kind of behaviour but Aidan urged Tim to encourage them to contact the police. The matter of the written monthly report was raised again. The committee agreed that a monthly report would be acceptable. There was discussion about separating our area from CBCC but if this was not possible a report for the whole ward would still be acceptable.

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

Balance brought forward including refund for the Public Liability Insurance is £4676.39.

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

Tim reported that future of the forum was once again in doubt due to council changes. However Sgt. Richard Homewood stated three priorities for the West which are Drugs misuse (particularly in South Queensferry) - Antisocial behaviour involving motor vehicles - Antisocial behaviour involving youths. The Almond Community Safety Panel which is the North West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Watch panel met recently. This is well supported and the meeting had the largest attendance so far. There was a lot of discussion regarding the local priorities suggested by Sgt Homewood particularly with regard to youth anti-social behaviour.

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

Charlotte reported that the meeting on the 1 February had been postponed to 8 February which she will attend.

## **6. Planning issues**

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

There has been a subsequent application for the demolition of the house. Many residents have objected and the DMSA will also make objections to both applications.

### **6c. Broadband Box**

BT sent an email stating that they were making another application to site the box and have offered a site visit to discuss the positioning of the box. Rod and Charlotte will attend this visit.

## **7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership**

The main item on the agenda on the 25 January was a presentation by Andrew Mather of CBCC who had asked for neighbourhood partnership meetings to be more meaningful and purposeful for those attending. He had planning procedures put on the agenda which included forward planning for schools in regard to the growth areas for new developments. Andrew made a very detailed presentation of the developments at either end of the Maybury Road which looked at the integration of four areas of housing in relation to schools and services. The school has been selected at a site at the Craigs Road end meaning pupils at Cammo have to travel there. The site for the new secondary school has been selected with no consultation on the new International Business Park on the way out to the airport. This was followed by a heated discussion about the fact that all this development will feed on to the two main arteries which are already heavily congested. There is a public meeting on the 19 April in our area and it is suggested that these developments will be the main item on the agenda. This should be of interest to us as we are on a corridor which is already operating above capacity.

## **8. Local Action List**

Rod and Tim hope to have a meeting with engineers soon to discuss outstanding issues. The problem seems to be labour shortages as the available labour is being used for urgent work such as white lining at junctions. The bollards at the junction of Lauriston Farm Road are to be reinstated in the first quarter of the next financial year. The white lining at the junction of Quality Street/Craigcrook Road and Queensferry Road is still outstanding and we have been informed that this junction is in a long queue of urgent work requiring to be done.

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

Rod compiled a list of roads and pavements which he considers to be prioritised for repair. He asked the committee to provide examples of others. We are waiting for Dave Sinclair to publish his list of urgent street repairs and we can compare them. The cycle path from East Barnton Avenue to the Queensferry Road through the park badly needs upgrading.

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

There is nothing to add to this.

## **11. Christmas Lights Review**

The refund had been received for the Public Liability Insurance. The blue lights in Holy Cross Church grounds have been removed. We are still waiting for a reply from the Director of PLACE regarding the refund for administrations costs and recognition that our insurance policy was for the lights. The council budget will be discussed soon and once we know the situation regarding lighting funding decisions will have to be taken with regard to setting up a Lights committee to be responsible for fund raising.

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

Laura has created this and is waiting for Rod to create his own Facebook page.

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

The outstanding snagging has not been done. There seems to be a Traffic Management Issue which is hoped to be resolved this month.

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

An email has been sent to Councillor Lesley Hinds and her assistant Dougie Dolan regarding the replies to the three questions we asked. This will be followed up again after this meeting.

## **15. AGM**

Holy Cross Church Hall is booked for 30<sup>th</sup> May. It was suggested that we ask the new Councillors to form a panel for a question and answer session together with a representative from the police and Dave Sinclair from the Council.

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

The DMSA is still waiting for a reply regarding the lights being obstructed by the tall trees at Silverknowes Neuk.

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

Rod and Charlotte met with Park representatives together with Dan Smith from Friends of the Park and Denis Smith. After walking round the park discussing problems particularly with regard to the cutting of the grass in the summer the officials agreed to cut the grass round the play area so that children can play together with the boundary of the park with East Barnton Avenue which was covered with weeds last year making the area an eyesore. Charlotte also mentioned about the uncut grass on the slopes Silverknowes Promenade beside the new café meaning that children can no longer play there due these areas being used by dog walkers. He agreed to consider grass cutting there if we formally requested it.

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

A formal survey will be done when resources permit.

## **19. Local Tree Project**

This was discussed when we met with park officials but the cost is prohibitive. It was noted that trees have been planted on Silverknowes Parkway.

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

An agreement was reached to circulate the dates of local events such as the Gala, AGM, Armistice and Christmas Lights event (if it takes place). Charlotte will compile these.

**21. AOCB.**

21a. A complaint had been received from a resident regarding an escalation of noise from Mackenzie's pub on a Saturday night. It was agreed to monitor it. Laura stated that rumour inferred that the current tenants were not making any money and may reconsider their position.

21b. Carolyn raised the problems of parking in The Green again and stated that residents did not understand they had to reply to the flyer sent out in November last year. She was asked to talk to residents and urge them to contact Charlotte with their concerns. The committee agreed to consider the matter again some time this year.

**22. Date of Next Meeting 14 March 2017 6.45 pm at Davidson's Mains Primary School**