

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION
Management Committee Meeting on 11 December 2018 at 6.45 pm Davidson's Mains Primary School Library

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

In attendance: Councillor Louise Young, PC Donald MacLeod.

3. **Minutes:** The minutes for November were approved.

3.1. Ongoing Issues Log

It was noted that the Log had been updated to include the painting of the storage container at Davidson's Mains Park, given that the work had been deferred until better weather in the Spring.

3.2 Recurring Issues Log

It was noted that there had not been any changes to the Log.

3.3 Matters arising.

3a. Street Lights on Ferry Road

The committee again expressed concern regarding the situation with the inoperable street lights and it was agreed the Locality Team would be contacted to establish the timetable for cutting the trees back to gain access for repairs to be carried out.

3b. Running Events at Silverknowes Prom

The committee welcomed that the merit of the DMSA objection (and that of Cramond and Barnton CC) had been recognised and that the application for regular running events for up to 600 participants had been refused. For the record the complaint had been around the unacceptable impact of such events on local amenities in Cramond and on other users of the promenade.

3c. Anti Social Behaviour in the Grounds of Lauriston Castle

It was noted that a further meeting was planned between interested parties to consider how best to implement suggested actions to counter the problems in the grounds.

3d. Cycling lobby proposals for Junction of Silverknowes Road East with Silverknowes Drive

Rod advised that a meeting was planned with the Council's cycling team to discuss their proposals to change the configuration of the junction of Silverknowes Drive with Silverknowes Road East to reduce inter-action between vehicles and cyclists. Clarity was needed on the details and a full discussion was deferred until the January meeting.

3e. Anti-social behaviour on the cycle path

It was noted that there had not been any further recent reports regarding problems around the former railway bridge on Silverknowes Road. Louise advised that there had been suggestions that the bench on the path should be removed to discourage youths from gathering at the location but the Council were reluctant to do this unless it became absolutely necessary because such benches had been provided to help elderly and infirm residents. It was noted that the CCTV camera might now be available for the location if required.

3f. Problems at Costa Opening

After a difficult period for residents caused by the insistence by Costa in using a noisy commercial generator while their electricity supply had been disconnected, the committee were pleased to note that the problem had been resolved and that the issue was now closed. Louise reported that Costa had asked for the recycling bins beside Tesco to be moved to the car park behind the store but that the request had been declined. The committee agreed with this decision taking the view that the present

location at the side of the store made it convenient, visible and accessible and that would not be the case if it was to be moved to the rear.

Louise said she understood Costa would be making a request to have the site tidied up. The committee were not averse to that but recognised that Tesco had endeavoured to keep it tidy.

3g Use of School Playground at Davidson's Mains Primary School.

Rod reported that he had still to contact the chair of the Parent Council to discuss their views on using the play ground for out of hours play. It was recognised that in principle the matter was the responsibility of the school but clarification on their stance might be helpful in responding to local residents.

3h. Road Traffic sign on footpath on Cramond Road South at Costa

Rod confirmed this matter had been discussed with the Council and while it was acknowledged the post was in a central position on the footpath, there was ample space to get by for wheel chairs and buggies so the positioning was not considered to represent an obstruction or hazard. The committee accepted this position and no further action was proposed.

4. Correspondence

Charlotte reported that all relevant correspondence had been shared with the committee or would be covered by agenda items, apart from an enquiry related to possible re-opening of Silverknowes Avenue for left hand turns on to Cramond Road South. It was agreed a full reply would be provided to the resident to explain the Council's policy on restricting through traffic in residential areas and why such a proposal was not desirable.

5. Reports

5a. Police Report

PC.Donald MacLeod introduced himself as the new community policeman for Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes (also Cramond and Barnton). He was welcomed by the committee and a productive discussion took place on the way he would keep in touch and try to keep the committee informed on local issues.

He then went on to give a full outline of criminal activity in the area during September. In overall terms it was about the same level as the previous month.

He specifically mentioned that the mobile CCTV camera was now available for use in our area and had been installed for the present at Costa corner. He also advised that due to the number of bike thefts there was to be a campaign to encourage people to mark their bikes and that there would be a number of locations where this will be set up in the New Year. Other information included the fact that shopkeepers were to be advised to be aware of young people asking adults to purchase alcohol on their behalf and that the bench at the former bus stop at Tesco has been removed because it was being used as a location for youths to congregate.

The committee welcomed the fact that trouble in the grounds of Lauriston Castle had reduced and that the police operation on fireworks night had been very successful in minimising anti-social behaviour compared with previous years. A copy of the Police Report would be posted on the website.

5b. Treasurer's report

Gordon reported that the balance in the account at the end of November was £13024.13 of which £10565.70 was Lights Group money. As in the previous month, the Lights Group had a number of payments to make for costs related to the Christmas Lights event and the balance would reduce by the end of December.

6. Planning issues

6a. Planning application for Cammo site

Charlotte raised the recent application for a further site on Maybury Road adjacent to the two current sites, and it was noted that the new application included green belt land at Braehead Quarry. After some discussion around the details and status of the current situation with each of the development sites at Cammo, Louise undertook to help the committee by checking the whole situation and to report back. Louise made it clear that she had no interest or involvement in any of the sites; she had a potential conflict of interest with the new site being owned by her employer and that she would be providing factual information only without any advice. This was fully understood by the committee.

6b Planning application for a new property at 54 Silverknowes Road

Rod reported that after considering the application it had been concluded that there had not been any substantive criteria on which to object. The Association had received only two representations regarding the proposals and the situation had been fully explained to each.

7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

Rod provided the committee with feed back from the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting of 3 December at which there had been two main items on the agenda. The first had been a discussion of a Locality Fund of £20000 to support artistic and cultural community initiatives and events but since it was targeted at deprived areas it was not really of relevance too our area. The second item was a paper on a suggested future model for community engagement. It contained the news that the Neighbourhood Partnerships are to be ended in May 2019 to be replaced by so called Neighbourhood Networks. The proposals were considered by all the community representatives to be very complex and far from clear and there will be much discussion about how the structure is intended to operate, including the question of administrative support fro the Council. A public question and answering session on the proposals was planned for 9th January at Davidson's Mains Parish Church Hall.

8. Local Action List

It was noted that the high priority item to remove the bollards on East Barnton Avenue to permit temporary access for residents of East Barnton Gardens during the Christmas Lights Event had been carried out with two days to spare. It was now anticipated the bollards would be replaced with the removable type as had always been planned. Rod said it had proved very difficult to set up a meeting to discuss the status of other projects on the list but anticipated it would take place early in the New Year.

9. Feedback on issues raised by Newsletter

Rod and Charlotte confirmed that the only item which had generated a significant response had been the proposals on the upgrading of the roundabout at the west end of Main Street.

(See item 14). The low key response had again demonstrated that unless feedback is specifically requested, residents tend not to comment.

10.Christmas Lights Review 2018

The committee had a general discussion around the exercise and the switch on event and the consensus was that in overall terms it had been an outstanding success on just about every level but particularly as a great community event. The Lights Group had asked for feed back both from those who had participated as helpers and from local residents who had attended. It was fair to say they were aware of one or two areas where improvements could be made but a full analysis and review would be undertaken later.

Rod said that on the finances it was too early to give a definitive picture but first indications were that a good profit would accrue for the Lights Fund. Full details would be available for the January meeting.

11. Facebook page for DMSA

Rod confirmed that it was hoped to have a meeting with Paul Steen of FutureDMS early in the New Year to discuss the relationship between the DMSA and FutureDMS including a possible link with their Facebook page.

12.Parking survey at The Green

It was noted that the next step in the process of responding to the clear outcome of of the residents survey would be to write formally to the Council to request that consideration should be given to a residents parking scheme. This action was in hand but Rod reminded the committee that given the backlog within the Council it would not be a quick fix and would take some time.

13. Future DMS

It was noted that the report from the May meeting had been publicised in the recent Newsletter and that the full detail had been made available on the DMSA website and FutureDMS's own media links. The committee welcomed this and looked forward to the next stage of identifying some projects and initiatives to promote in the New Year.

14.Upgrade of roundabout at Main Street

Rod confirmed he had discussed the status of the project with the Council Road Safety Manager. The traffic survey had been completed and the data was currently being evaluated to establish if a case could be justified for consideration of a traffic light controlled junction rather than a straight upgrade of the roundabout. It remained the intention to go out to public consultation on the chosen option within the next couple of months.

15.Current Traffic and Parking issues

The committee discussed the current situation which is getting worse with a long backlog across the city for implementation of traffic regulation orders for parking restrictions , with it being noted again that in Davidson's Mains the DMSA had priority requests which had been outstanding for over two years . It was agreed a meeting should be arranged early in the New Year to establish the current status of the local requests.

16.Local Litter Problems

Seonaidh, who had attended as a local resident as well as a member of the DMSA committee, provided feed back on the meeting which had taken place to discuss actions on the current litter problems. The meeting had been attended by the Head Teacher from RHS, pupils from the school's Eco Committee, Stuart Smith of Neighbourhood Watch in East Barnton Avenue, the local Environmental Warden and some local residents. The meeting had proved constructive with the RHS pupils being very willing to engage on promoting a message about controlling litter. They had agreed to present this in their own school but also to make presentations to the primary school and other local youth organisations. The committee discussed the effects of the continuing absence of a litter bin at the Costa corner following its removal and it was agreed to contact Costa again to seek their approval for one at the boundary of their premises.

17.AOCB

17a. It was noted that the puddle outside the Chest, Heart and Stroke charity shop has re-appeared. It would be reported to the Council.

17b. It was noted that some of the lights on the refuge islands at the approaches to the roundabout on Main Street were still not working despite having been reported a number of weeks ago, and again subsequently. Louise agreed to follow this up.

17c. It was reported the telephone exchange on Craigcrook Road is covered in offensive graffiti. It was agreed that while this is not within the DMSA area we would write to Blackhall Community Council to draw their attention to the problem.

17d. Jill asked for it to be noted that someone had provided a tree in a container outside the former Clydesdale Bank Building. The committee agreed that it was a worthy contribution to adding greenery to the village.

17e. It was noted that biodegradable bags for the food waste bins are no longer available to purchase at Blackhall Library. It was agreed the Council would be asked about the current policy of making them available for purchase at Council libraries and Community Centres and whether it was still in place.

17f. The resident who had provided a tree in a tub outside the former Clydesdale bank premises had indicated she would be prepared to provide plants and maintain them in flower tubs if such containers could be purchased and sited in the village. It was agreed this would be discussed at the next meeting.

17g. Charlotte raised the fact that the primary school may not be available for hire for a period of time from June 2019 onwards due to planned refurbishment works at the school. In view of the extended period of potential disruption for hiring rooms for meetings, Louise agreed to find out about the detail of what works are planned.

18. Date of next meeting 15 January 2019 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School