

**DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION**  
**Management Committee Meeting 13 March at 6.45 pm at Davidson's Mains Primary School Library**

**1. Apologies:** Laura Thomson, Carolyn Williams, Councillors Graham Hutchison, Norman Work and Louise Young.

**2. Present:** Rod Alexander, Chair; Charlotte Cowe, Secretary; Gordon McGregor, Brian Flanagan, Tim Mitchell, Ellen Searle, Seonaidh Edgar, Coll Gardner.

**In attendance:** Councillor Kevin Lang, PC Aidan Douds for the Police Report.

**3. Minutes:** The February minutes were approved.

**3.1. Ongoing Issues Log**

Rod confirmed that there had been no changes made to the log over the previous month. Regarding one item on the log, it was agreed that the committee would undertake a survey of HGV usage on Main Street during April so that the results would be available for reporting in the Spring Newsletter and Charlotte agreed to organise a suitable date for the survey.

**3.2. Recurring Issues Log**

Tim tabled the updated log. It included a number of changes to reflect decisions taken at the February meeting of the committee and new updates regarding actions being taken to counteract the litter problems from RHS pupils on East Barnton Avenue. It was noted that the CEC had accepted the case for white line kerb side marking on the corner on East Barnton Avenue to discourage parking and that the intention was to try to get the work done by the end of May.

**3.3. Matters Arising** (excluding items scheduled for later discussion)

**3a. Recycling Bins at Tesco.**

Kevin reported that the situation regarding failures by the contractor to comply with service level agreements under the Re-Cycling contract remained under review and for the present remained commercially sensitive. However he agreed to follow up on complaints that the bin had not been emptied for at least four weeks.

**3b. Street Lights on Ferry Road**

This matter was carried forward to the April meeting to allow Graham to provide an update.

**3c. Vivian Terrace Play Event**

It was noted that the review by the Council into the 2017 events with recommendations for 2018 was still awaited. The committee would consider the Council response and proposals in due course.

**3d. Grit Bin at path from Main Street to Silverknowes Road East**

It was noted that a grit bin was now in place and the matter would be closed.

**3e. Gritting Policy on Cycle Paths**

Rod reported that the CEC had agreed to review the case for including Silverknowes Drive and Terrace in the priority gritting programme prior to next winter. This was being done in the context of an overall review into priorities for the main cycle routes.

**3f. Lauriston Castle Review**

It was noted that the Council had circulated a response to the consultation on the use of the facilities at the Castle and the grounds although it amounted to little more than a listing of comments made to the consultation process. It was decided that discussion on the content and whether any response was required should be carried forward to the April meeting.

**3g. Proposed Yellow Box Junction on Cramond Road South at Lauriston Farm Road.**

It was noted that a request had been made to the Locality Transport and Environment Manager for consideration to be given to provision of a yellow box junction at this location.

**3h. Grit bin at Silverknowes Terrace**

It was noted that this issue had been resolved and the matter was closed.

### 3i. Proposed Bus Service to Silverknowes Promenade

It was noted that a request had been made to Lothian Buses for provision of a bus service to Silverknowes Foreshore during the Spring to Autumn period in recognition of the increasing popularity of the location.

## 4. Correspondence

Charlotte confirmed that all relevant correspondence had previously been circulated and/or would be discussed as appropriate under the agenda.

## 5. Reports

### 5a Police Report

PC Aidan Douds was welcomed to the meeting to present the monthly Police Report for February. The committee were delighted that the report had been provided in a written format with assurances this would now become the regular practice. It was disappointing to note that there had been an upturn in the level of criminal activity during the month with three house breakings and three thefts as well as three separate road traffic offences. On a positive note the Police had raised the issue of the fruit throwing incidents in Vivian Terrace with the manager at Tesco who had agreed to stop the provision of free fruit after 5pm and this appeared to have had the desired result with no further occurrences of the problem.

### 5b. Treasurer's Report

Gordon reported that the balance in the account was £8030.31 of which £4427.56 was the accumulated income for the Christmas Lights Fund.

## 6. Planning Issues

6a. It was noted that the planning application for the new building at Davidson's Mains Primary School had been approved and the building work had commenced.

6b. It was noted that the owners of the former RBS had submitted an application for internal alterations for the proposed café. It was anticipated that approval would be a formality.

6c. Rod provided an update on the situation regarding removal of the DMSA notice board from the former RBS site. Agreement had now been reached with Black and Lizars to put the notice board onto their gable end wall. The terms of the agreement had been recorded in a formal letter to the Company but in essence the only stipulations were that Black and Lizars should have no liabilities or costs and that they reserved the right to have the notice board removed at two months notice. A quote of £84 plus vat from Baillie Signs for moving and fixing the notice board was approved for acceptance, with it being agreed that at that modest level of cost there would be no need to get an alternative quote. The agent for the new owners of the former RBS site has offered to ask the contractors who will be working on the site if they would assist the Association by removing the support frame for the notice board from the site and to then deliver it to Rod's address for storage in his garage in case circumstances arise where it may have a future use. The committee were very appreciative of this offer.

6d. Rod reported that the License application for the Chicken Run Event organised by the Lights Group had been sent to us for comment and that we had been pleased to support it. Ellen asked that the notification should be circulated to the members of the Association.

6e. Charlotte reported that the Association had been asked to comment on a License application from a company called Cameron Codona for a series of events to be run Silverknowes foreshore each weekend from March to September, including for a complete month during the school summer holidays. The proposal was for a number of chargeable attractions including a bouncy castle. The proposed site was to be immediately adjacent to the Boardwalk Beach Café in an area to be fenced off with ugly chain link fencing on concrete bases.

The Association took the view that these proposals were completely inappropriate for a location adjacent to the Café and were wholly at odds with the planned vision for development of the foreshore at Silverknowes. There were practical concerns about toilet provision and potential damage to the environment from intensive activity on the site.

The committee unanimously approved that objections should be made against the proposals and also agreed that the point should also be made that traditionally fairground type events had been held on an annual basis at a site adjacent to Lower Granton Road and that location would be more appropriate.

## **7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership**

Kevin provided the committee with an update on the situation around the future role of the Neighbourhood Partnerships under the new Locality Committee structure. He said that the matter would be on the agenda for the next North West Locality Committee meeting, although it remained the situation that for the present the Neighbourhood Partnerships would continue in their present format. Under the new Locality Committee awards under the Community Grants Fund would have to be approved by the Committee but Kevin said he and other Councillors were keen to devolve recommendations on awards to local community groups and to ensure it was done on a fair and equitable basis. The committee welcomed a decision to resurrect a Community Safety Forum for West Edinburgh and Tim agreed to continue his role of representing the DMSA on the Forum.

## **8. Local Action List**

Rod reported that he and Tim had arranged to meet with Patrick Coogan from the Locality Transport and Environment Team to discuss the outstanding project work for our area and projects on the capital list for the coming financial year, including the road and footpath re-surfacing programme. The Committee welcomed the fact that a number of streets in Silverknowes would be on the programme. Rod said he would provide a full update after the meeting and it would be the intention to include an article on the main details on local project work in the forth coming Newsletter.

## **9. Christmas Lights 2018**

Ellen informed the committee of two fund raising events which were planned for the next few weeks . The first would be the "Chicken Run" in Davidson's Mains Park on 25<sup>th</sup> March . It would be a repeat of the format used for the Fun Run in December and it was again to be sponsored by Barnton Boot Camp. The cost would be £5 per person.

The second event would be a Vintage Tea and Coffee social event which had been re-scheduled for 12 May and would cost £10 per person with bookings in tables of four.

Rod advised he would be meeting with the Lights Group on 21 March to discuss the options for Christmas Lights in 2018. He confirmed again that it was basically a choice between accepting the Council's offer to fund 13 columns using the same lights as last year or switching to using an independent contractor with new lights to be purchased by the Lights Group. The problem with the latter was that a commitment would have to be made by the DMSA to cover the shortfall in funds pending ongoing fund raising and this was difficult to justify when a free option was available. The Committee supported a decision to continue with the council lights while fundraising continued to allow the possible purchase of new lights in future years. It was noted that while the Council had committed to funding lights for three years the condition of the lights was known to be poor and their life was limited.

## **10. AGM Planning**

The committee discussed a recent meeting with Paul Steen and Helen Smith (linked to the Scouts) which Rod, Tim, Charlotte and Brian had attended to discuss Paul and Helen's ideas for improving community engagement and identifying projects in which local groups could become involved. Paul and Helen wanted to run a session at the AGM to start the process and the committee were very supportive of the idea. It was agreed that once the formal proceedings are completed at the AGM the meeting would be handed over to Paul and Helen for a presentation and exercise to obtain ideas.

## **11. Facebook Page for DMSA**

Rod reported he had this in hand.

## **12. Parking at The Green**

Following discussion it was agreed to defer the planned residents' survey until the summer. It was recognised that the negative press comment on a recently announced increase in resident's charges across the city would make it more difficult to obtain balanced opinions around the proposal to consider such charges for The Green.

## **13. Jurassic Park Event Lauriston Castle**

It was noted that this event had now been approved to take place from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March and that assurances had been given which met the main substance of the committee's concerns. Norman provided details of the parking restrictions which would apply which the committee accepted as broadly appropriate.

## **14. Clydesdale Bank Closure**

The committee discussed the difficulties for local residents and businesses arising from the decision by the Clydesdale Bank to close the local branch with effect from 19 June. This had come soon after the closure of the RBS branch and had left the area without access to conventional banking facilities. It was decided to make a formal complaint about the closure, although it was recognised that given the recent history of bank closures there would be little prospect of any success in reversing the decision.

### **15. Data Protection Act**

Rod advised the committee that a draft statement on the DMSA policy regarding the new Data Protection Act would be tabled for approval at the April Meeting. It would be necessary to have a clear statement of policy before membership renewals which would be issued around the end of that month.

### **16. Community Payback Orders**

At the February meeting Graham had agreed to find out about the Council Policy in relation to Community Payback Orders and in his absence the matter was carried forward to the April meeting to allow him to report directly to the committee.

### **17. Tar and Chip Resurfacing**

Kevin confirmed that a report on the problems with the recent failure of "Tar and Chip " re-surfacing projects, such as on Cramond Road South, would be presented shortly to the Transport And Environment Committee. He again confirmed that the contractor involved had accepted liability and had agreed to carry out remedial works at his cost.

### **18. AOCB**

18a. The committee were advised that a meeting had been set up for 29 March to discuss the Shoreline project, at which community groups with an interest in promoting the foreshore from Cramond to Joppa had been invited to attend. It was presumed this was a follow up to a research project Rod, Charlotte, Gordon and Tim had taken part in last year and this time Rod, Gordon and Tim would be attending (Charlotte will be away on holiday). Rod invited other members of the committee to let him know if they wished to attend and it was agreed Eddie Tait would be invited to join the DMSA Group if there were spaces available, given his close interest in the project.

18b. Rod provided feed back on a recent meeting of the Friends of the Park which he had attended to catch up on matters of interest and concern to the group. The Friends were very supportive of the idea to use graffiti art as a means of camouflaging the container owned by the Cramond Boy's Football Club and of a proposal that RHS pupils should be approached to do the task under an arts project. It appeared that funding may be an issue and Rod had volunteered that the DMSA would assist with an application to the NP Community Grants Fund if necessary.

On another matter, the Friends had complained about the lack of grass cutting during 2017 and were intending to ask for increased activity this year. These concerns were shared by the committee who quite separately had decided to try to ensure that the area of close cut grass was maintained at agreed levels at a reasonable frequency of cut.

18c. Tim reported that he had made a formal complaint to the Council about the size of the potholes at the junction of Main Street and Quality Street and at the top of Lauriston Farm Road.

18d. Kevin reminded the committee that the controversial Garden Waste Tax had been voted through at the last full meeting of the Council. The committee's position was that the charge would be counter productive and lead to increased fly tipping and a reduction in re-cycling. It was noted that the charge was being introduced in the face of clear majority opposition from the public as indicated in the pre –budget consultation process.

### **19. Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 17 April 2018 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School**