

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION
Management Committee Meeting 8 May 2018 at 6.45 pm at Davidson's Mains Primary School Library

1. Apologies: Ellen Searle, Councillors Kevin Lang, Norman Work.

2. Present: Rod Alexander (Chair), Charlotte Cowe (Secretary), Gordon McGregor, Tim Mitchell, Coll Gardner, Brian Flanagan, Seonaidh Edgar, Laura Thomson, Carolyn Williams.

In attendance: Councillors Graham Hutchison and Louise Young; PC Aidan Douds for the Police Report.

3. Minutes: The April minutes were approved.

3.1. Ongoing Issues Log

Rod reported that there were no changes to the log from the previous month but it was noted that the new grit bin at the steps on the path from Ferry Road to Silverknowes Road East had disappeared from its position and that the contents of the grit bin at the steps at the bridge on Silverknowes Road had been emptied over the steps. It was agreed these matters would be reported.

3.2. Recurring Issues Log

Tim reported that there had not been anything to add but advised that there was ongoing activity regarding the litter problem. The pupils from the ECO team had joined Margaret Laing of the North West Locality Environment team to take relevant materials from the "Our Edinburgh" campaign - anti-litter posters and stickers for putting on take-away food packaging - to the food vendors.

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

3a. Re-Cycling Bins at Tesco.

It was noted that at long last additional capacity for waste paper had been provided in the form of two large opening lid bins on the site and Brian reported that it would appear these are being emptied on a regular basis. The original fixed top container had still not been removed.

3b. Street Lights on Ferry Road

Graham reported that the Council had yet to inform the residents in Silverknowes Neuk of their responsibility to cut down the trees which were preventing access to the street lights. The committee again expressed concern at the extended delay in progressing the matter but it would be kept under review.

3c. Street Play Schemes

Norman advised that the report on the future of Street Play Schemes would be discussed at the Transport and Environment Committee on the 17 May. It was agreed to consider the recommendations at the June meeting.

3d. Clydesdale Bank Closure

Charlotte confirmed that the information provided by the bank on a range of measures which they would be taking to help customers with advice about the transfer of accounts had been placed on the notice board and website. The committee agreed that this matter could not be taken any further and that it should be closed.

3e. Proposal for Graffiti Art on container at Davidson's Mains Park

Rod reported that the RHS school had agreed to use the proposal to paint the container as an arts design and implementation project and an application had now been drawn up for submission to the Neighbourhood Partnership Community Grants Fund to cover the cost of the paint. The intention would be to try to complete the project before the school holidays in July.

3f. Community Payback Orders

Graham confirmed he would continue to try to question some aspects of the Council's policy around the use of community payback orders but it was recognised that this was a longer term objective and the matter would be closed for the present.

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 for April

PC Aidan Douds was welcomed to the meeting to provide a verbal police report for April. He advised that there had been a spate of break-ins during the month, with seven in total, mainly sheds and garages. A principal target appeared to be pedal cycles and some of the suspected perpetrators were known to the police. The clear advice was to not keep anything of value in a shed or garage unless it was secure with locks of a high standard. He reported two separate incidents of possession of offensive weapons which is highly unusual for the area.

Aidan confirmed that the ward priorities for the police remain the same, to target house breaking, anti-social behaviour and motor vehicle crime and extra police patrols are continuing to operate in the area. Tim raised a question regarding communities being able to use speed guns to monitor speeding traffic. Aidan advised that he was aware that this was currently being considered by a sergeant in Fife and he agreed to check the situation and report back on the query.

5b. Treasurer's Report

Gordon reported that the balance in the account was £7974.32 of which £4894.46 was the accumulated gross income for the Christmas Lights Fund.

The committee discussed and approved the audited 2017/18 accounts which would now be presented to the membership for formal approval at the AGM.

6. Planning Issues

6a. Coffee Shop at former RBS Building/DMSA Notice Board

It was noted that the application for internal structural changes to the building had been approved and so it was anticipated that building work would commence shortly. Rod reported that the DMSA notice board had been moved to the side wall of Black and Lizars although there had been comments from residents who were unaware of its new position. Rod said there would be an article in the Newsletter to publicise the new position. Rod advised that the back frame of the notice board appeared to be slightly distorted in its new position and Baillie's Signs were going to attend to straighten it out.

6b. Development at former Mackenzies Public House

Rod and Charlotte updated the committee on their meeting with the developers on 23 April and on their subsequent discussions and exchanges with them. At our request the developer had agreed to circulate a flyer to the sixteen properties most directly affected by the development and to offer a meeting with the residents to explain the proposals. The offer of a meeting had subsequently been taken up by three sets of residents who had raised some issues which the developer had undertaken to address, as far as was practicable and realistic.

It was agreed the final plans would be circulated to the committee as soon as they were available.

6c. Proposed Padel Court at Barnton Park Tennis Club.

Charlotte advised the committee that the Tennis Club had applied for permission to demolish a wall and the small court in order to construct a padel court with netting and floodlights. A padel court is a third of the size of a normal court. It was noted that there had not been any comment from residents about the development and the committee agreed that there was no case for taking any action on the application which it broadly supported.

6d. Cammo Development

It was noted that the planning application for the large housing development at Cammo had been submitted with a closing date for objections/comments of 8 June. It was agreed that the committee would express strong concerns about the increase in traffic which will be generated by the development in an area where the roads are already operating above the limit of their capacity.

7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

It was noted that the next meeting, which is open to the public, would be held on 7 June at Rosebery Hall, South Queensferry when there will be a report on the new Locality Committees. Graham and Louise explained that the Locality Committees were still at the early stages of resolving decision making powers and trying to sort out the issues around community involvement and representation, including the relationship between the members of the Neighbourhood Partnerships and the Locality Committee. It was acknowledged that progress was very slow. The next Locality meeting is also on 7 June. Rod again expressed concern that the DMSA would not be treated equally with the community councils and outlined again the difficulties with the Community Council and Electoral Ward boundaries which effectively split Davidson's Mains into three parts. Louise suggested that we contact our councillors to provide more information to see what action could be considered to resolve the problem.

8. Local Action List

Rod confirmed that the updated Action List had now been displayed on the Notice Board and Website together with the list of local streets which were planned to be re-surfaced in 2018/19. He had written to the Locality Transport and Environment Manager to highlight the importance of replacing the permanent bollards on East Barnton Avenue with the removable type and in reply he had received confirmation that the new bollards were on order and would be installed in plenty time for the Christmas Lights Event .

9. Christmas Lights 2018

Rod provided the committee with an update on the situation regarding the Christmas Lights for 2018 and mentioned there was an article in the Newsletter from the Christmas Lights Group. It had been agreed that the community would use the current lights supplied by the council for 2018 with the basic agreement covering the 13 columns which were provided in 2017 plus the decorated tree at the corner of Main Street and Cramond Road South. It was noted that the Council had approved a project to upgrade the switch gear and lighting heads on all the lampposts across the city and if those in Davidson's Mains were upgraded before Christmas it may be possible to provide three or four extra decorated lampposts. These are currently not used for Christmas Lights because of broken connections. It was noted that the Council had agreed to support a switch on date of Saturday 1 December at the request of the Lights Group. On fundraising it was noted that income for new lights had reached about £5000 which was half way towards the campaign target and this achievement would be heavily advertised with a message to continue to donate to the campaign.

10. Facebook Page for DMSA

The committee again discussed the practicalities and implications of setting up a Facebook page and Rod said he had discussed a linked set up with the Future DMS which appeared to offer advantages. He said if it was going to happen it should be a priority to try to get it done over the summer. Louise suggested trying to involve a couple of pupils from the RHS to work with the Association and it was agreed she would contact the Headmistress to ask if anyone would be interested.

11. AGM Planning

Rod and Charlotte provided feed back on a visit to the Parish Church Hall to assess the suitability of the facilities for the AGM and the Future DMS event. It had been established there were sufficient tables and chairs to handle an attendance of up to about 110, although about 40 of the chairs would have to be carried over from the smaller hall. There were kitchen facilities which would be suitable. It was agreed there would be an advantage in getting access to the hall in the afternoon to set things up and Charlotte agreed to contact the Church to see if a time could be arranged.

Each of the Committee Members and the Office Bearers confirmed they would be willing to stand again for the new session. Coll asked about possible new members of the committee and was advised they could self nominate at the AGM or contact Charlotte after the AGM if they were interested. It was agreed to remove the two co-opted members who had not attended any meetings this year. Tim agreed to handle the nominations process at the AGM, Brian and Seonaidh agreed to be in charge of the kitchen, and Gordon agreed to take the membership payments at the door helped by Jamie Edgar who had kindly offered his support. Gordon and Rod agreed to sort out the sound system.

Rod agreed to circulate an email round the committee with the detailed timetable, plans and responsibilities once everything was known.

12. Newsletter

Rod provided an update on progress with the Newsletter. It would be with the printer the following morning and he expected to have the copies by the Friday afternoon. He said he should have them out to deliverers by the end of the week-end and would ask deliverers to have them completed if possible by the Wednesday at the latest.

13. HGV's on Main Street

Charlotte provided a short update on the outcome of the survey by the committee on 19 April into commercial vehicles which were transgressing the 7.5 tonne weight limit on Main Street. There had been fifteen instances of vehicles which were clearly in breach of the regulations and in each case the management had been contacted with a request that the drivers should respect the regulation and use alternative routes. She reported that the initial responses were generally positive but that she would provide more details at the June meeting.

14. Tar and Chip Resurfacing

It was noted that the Council report on the investigation into problems with tar and chip projects had still not been completed and Louise undertook to check on the situation and report back.

15. Shoreline Project

Rod provided an update on the project. He had made an application for access to the fund which had been set up to support local projects and had discussed the situation with Eddie Tait (Boardwalk Café) who had ideas for projects on the promenade involving local schoolchildren or arts groups. It was recognised that any plan for Silverknowes would need to be timed for after the school holidays later in the summer.

16. Request for Bus Service to Silverknowes Foreshore

The committee again discussed the negative response from Lothian Buses to our request for any one of the four services which currently terminate at Silverknowes to be extended down to the foreshore. Lothian buses had disputed that there would be sufficient demand despite a regular stream of visitors and the location being very busy at week-ends and holidays. Since the April meeting of the committee the Council had given approval for several events to be held at the foreshore over the next few months in addition to also approving a children's bouncy castle play facility which would operate over the whole summer. The committee recognised that it was too late for a bus service to be included in this year's summer timetable but resolved to write again to Lothian Buses to draw attention to the weakness of their position.

17. AOCB

17a. Jurassic Kingdom Event. It was noted that as yet there had been no official feed back from the review into the event and it was agreed this matter would be pursued with the Council.

17b. Graham stated that he was continuing to support the occupiers of 20 Barnton Gardens with their complaint about the damage to the verge outside their property caused by the large lorries turning into Lauriston Castle for the Jurassic Kingdom event.

17c. It was noted that the re-surfacing work on the cycle track appeared to have been completed but that the large works compound and construction materials were still on site at Silverknowes Road East. It was agreed the Council would be asked to clear the site and re-instate the ground.

17d. It was noted that tar had been laid on the lane between Silverknowes Drive and Terrace on the section which had been made uneven by tree roots. It was agreed this action could be no more than an interim solution and the matter would be kept under review.

17e. It was noted that yellow lines had been painted on the road adjacent to the Blackhall Mosque in association with parking restrictions. It was understood this had been at the request of local residents who for some time had been concerned about congestion at the location.

17e. In response to a query, it was noted that the question of additional parking restrictions at the junction of Corbiehill Road/Main Street remained a priority, as is the requested restriction at the bend on Corbiehill Crescent, with both proposals being on the Action list for assessment by the end of this year.

18. Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 12 June 2018 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School