

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION
Management Committee Meeting 13 November 2018 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School

1. **Apologies:** Laura Thomson, Tim Mitchell, Jill Smith, Ellen Searle, Coll Gardner, Carolyn Williams, Councillors Louise Young and Norman Work.
2. **Present:** : Rod Alexander (Chair), Charlotte Cowe (Secretary), Brian Flanagan, Seonaidh Edgar, Gordon McGregor

In attendance: Councillors Graham Hutchison and Kevin Lang; PC Karen McKenzie for the Police Report.

3.1 Minutes. The minutes for October were approved.

3.2 On-going and Recurring Issues Logs – to note

Rod and Tim had each confirmed prior to the meeting that there were no changes to either of the Logs and the position was noted.

3.3 Matters arising (excluding items scheduled for later discussion)

3a. Street Lights on Ferry Road

It was noted that a 28 day Statutory Notice had been served on all the relevant owners/occupiers in Silverknowes Neuk in October and that the time for response had just expired. Graham reported that some of those who had received the notice had not responded positively and so the Locality team would now take direct action to cut back the trees to allow access to the street lights, with costs being recovered later.

3b. Proposal for Grafitti Art on container at Davidson's Mains Park

Rod confirmed that the paint had been purchased using the Almond Partnership grant and preparation work had been undertaken. The deteriorating weather would now dictate that the painting work would take place in the spring at a time suitable to the RHS arts pupils. In view of the delay it was agreed that the item should be transferred to the Ongoing Issues Log for the present.

3c. Application by Codona for Public Entertainment Licence at Silverknowes Foreshore.

Charlotte and Rod provided the committee with an update on the unsatisfactory circumstances around the application and the objection by the DMSA. On the complaint by the DMSA into a clear breach of the data protection legislation, the Council had been ambivalent in their response, but had simultaneously conceded that their guidelines around the publishing of personal details were inconsistent with the new legislation and would need to be changed, which provides a verdict in itself. Charlotte advised that she would now be taking care to ensure the Council only had information from the DMSA which she was content to be supplied to third parties. Rod reported that it was now beyond question that the applicant (Codona) had lied to the Licensing Committee on matters of substance relating to the application. He had legal opinion that the DMSA had a strong case for appeal to the Sheriff Court to have the decision of the committee overturned but he did not consider it could be justifiable to risk a significant proportion of the DMSA funds on a legal challenge. The committee agreed with this position and a line was drawn under the issue for the present.

3d. Running event Silverknowes Promenade.

It was noted that a response was still awaited from the Council to the application for weekly running events on Sunday's at the foreshore for up to 600 participants. Both Cramond and Barnton CC and the DMSA had made strong objections to the scale of the event and the unacceptable impact on other users of the foreshore and facilities at Cramond village.

3e. Public Consultation on the Use of Public Park Open Space.

The committee discussed the Council public consultation into the future use of public parks and certain other open spaces under the control of Parks and Greenspace, including the grounds of Lauriston Castle where the Jurassic Kingdom event had generated a lot of complaint from visitors and local residents. Rod reported that he had been assured that the feed back to the Council on the Jurassic Kingdom event would be taken into account as part of the review and so it was agreed that no further submission was required by the DMSA and that individual committee members should make their own submissions if they wished .

3f. Problems with anti-social behaviour in grounds of Lauriston Castle

Graham provided feedback on the recent meeting which had taken place to discuss the problem, with representation from the Police, Lauriston Castle, Parks and Greenspace and some local residents including Tim who had also represented the DMSA. The meeting had reviewed the recent history of events and had considered a whole range of possible initiatives to improve the situation. The overall objective would be to make the grounds less accessible and attractive to youths to enter the grounds and cause trouble in the evenings and to improve the response in the unfortunate event of such trouble occurring. The use of the Council CCTV equipment which had previously been of benefit is one immediate action and it is anticipated that there will be a follow up meeting to discuss progress on others.

3g. Cycling Lobby proposals for Silverknowes Road East/Silverknowes Drive junction.

Rod advised that he had not yet arranged a meeting with Bryan Mackie to discuss the suggestion from the cycling lobby that access to Silverknowes Drive from Silverknowes Road East should be prevented for road vehicles to avoid conflict with cyclists exiting from the cycle path on to Silverknowes Drive. The committee were completely opposed to the suggestion, considering it to be completely unrealistic, even if it was only an idea at this stage.

3h. Anti-social behaviour on cycle path

Kevin reported that the portable CCTV unit is to be returned to the area and it is intended that it will be used at Silverknowes Road Bridge over the cycle path, at the junction of Main Street and Cramond Road South, and in the grounds of Lauriston Castle as and when the Police advise. The equipment has to be used at a location where a lamppost has previously been modified to provide the necessary electrical connection.

4. Correspondence

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

5. Reports

5a Police Report

PC Karen Mackenzie was welcomed to the meeting to provide the monthly police report. The report showed an increase in the level of crime from the previous month, with a total of 36 crimes being reported of which 12 had been solved. The crimes were across several categories but house breaking, vandalism and anti social behaviour accounted for most of them. The Police are providing extra patrols in response to the anti social behaviour.

5b. Treasurer's Report

Gordon reported that the total in the account was £13351.56 of which the accumulated total for the Lights Group was £9028.45. The Lights group money included grant money for the Christmas Lights but a number of items of expenditure were pending which would reduce the net money in the account to about £8000.

6. Planning issues

6a. Development at Mackenzies

Rod reported that an email had been received stating that site investigations and assessment would be commencing soon. The committee decided this matter was now closed.

6b. Planning application for the Cammo Site

Kevin advised that Cala had revised the original proposals and were claiming to have addressed as many as possible of the concerns which had been raised previously. The new plans were to go on public display shortly.

7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

Rod provided the committee with an update on the main issues around the Neighbourhood Partnership and future local community representation. A North West Locality Meeting was to take place on the 11th November followed by a Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 3rd December and the future governance structure for the city was likely to feature on the agenda for both meetings. Rod said he hoped the position around future plans would be clearer after these meetings. The DMSA had a special interest in the review given that there appeared to be an opportunity to address the vexed issue of the local Community Council boundaries at a time when our continued representative status on community bodies in a pseudo Community Council role appeared to be uncertain.

The issue of the increasing pressure on the roads and transport infrastructure on the north and west of the city is expected to be on the agenda for the NP meeting on the 3rd December. The main community groups in Almond are becoming increasingly concerned about the problem.

8. Local Action List

The committee discussed the project which had the highest priority on the action list; the replacement of the permanent fixed bollards on East Barnton Avenue with the removable type which is required in advance of the Christmas Lights Switch – On event on 1st December to allow access to East Barnton Gardens when the junction at Main Street is closed for the event. It was concerning that the work had not been completed despite over 9 months notice being given to the Council and agreement that the work would be done. Rod said that he had an agreement with the Transport and Environment manager that if necessary the existing bollards would just be removed for the event and replaced later and he would now be pressing for that to happen. It was agreed that discussion on other projects would be carried over into the new year.

9. Problems at Costa Café Opening

The committee discussed the problems for local residents created by the use by Costa of a mobile commercial scale generator to provide a temporary power supply while their electrical supply had been disconnected by Scottish Power. The noise from the generator was particularly disturbing at night with many nearby residents being unable to sleep. The management of the holding company for Costa had put their own commercial interests first despite the impact on their neighbours but had assured the DMSA that the transfer to the main power network had been set up for the end of the week.

10. Christmas Lights 2018

Ellen reported that the Lights Group had been successful in obtaining grant awards of £2250 from Almond Neighbourhood Partnership and £1000 from the Edinburgh Airport Community Fund. The money from the Almond NP was specifically for the purchase of equipment to support the Christmas Lights Switch on event and included items which would benefit other community groups such as the Gala Committee and local youth groups. Ticket sales for the switch on event were going well. It was clear that the initiative to produce and sell a locally branded beer, D'Mains Tap, in Ye Olde Inn was going to be a great success and it had been decided that the beer would be on sale in draft or in bottle packaged for presents at the switch on event. A significant profit for the Lights Fund seemed assured to be raised by the initiative.

11. Newsletter

Rod reported on progress with the Newsletter which had been timed to go out in advance of the Christmas Lights Event and would carry articles from the Lights Group and Future DMS. The plan was for all households to receive the Newsletter by Monday 26th November if possible.

12. Facebook page for DMSA

Rod reported that he had still to meet Paul Steen to discuss sharing the FutureDMS Facebook page although with the Newsletter to produce and distribute and the need to support the Christmas Lights Group it was likely any such meeting would be into the new year.

13. Survey - Parking at The Green

Rod provided an update on the current situation. The feed back to the residents had been delivered and given the confirmation of support for a resident's parking scheme the next step would be for the DMSA to write to the Council to request that formal consideration should be given to the proposal.

14. FutureDMS

The committee discussed the situation with Future DMS and were pleased that an article in the Newsletter linked to the full report from the public consultation exercise in May (at the DMSA AGM and elsewhere) would provide feed back on the range of ideas which had been suggested to improve the environment and local services would now be set out for residents to consider . The full report would be available on the DMSA website. It remained the intention to have a meeting with Paul Steen after the new year to discuss how the DMSA and Future DMS can work together to promote some of the ideas.

15. Upgrade of Roundabout at Main Street

It was noted that the outcome was still awaited on the results of the survey by the Council into the pattern of vehicle movements at the roundabout. The results would determine whether or not a traffic light controlled junction merited consideration as a possible alternative to upgrading of the existing crossings.

16. Current Traffic and Parking Issues

The committee discussed the main problems in the area and agreed that local parking problems would be highlighted in the Newsletter, particularly at Corbiehill Crescent.

17. Local Litter and Waste Collection Problems

Tim had provided the committee with an update for the meeting on the situation with the initiative to engage with the Environmental Wardens and the RHS on the litter problem at the west end of the village. He had advised that a planned meeting had been delayed by a change of teacher at the school but it was hoped that a meeting could take place soon. The removal of the bin at Costa was again discussed as being a factor in the amount of litter and the committee resolved to ask the Council to look at the matter again. The committee discussed the range of problems around the implementation of the new bin collection regime which had resulted in complaints from all areas of the city, although it was clear our area had suffered at least as badly as any other. Graham provided a helpful overview of the technology behind the operation of the system which looked impressive in a conceptual sense. The problems appeared to relate to the basic information which had been loaded on to the database (e.g. missing streets) and the capability of the bin men to interpret the on board information in the vehicle against the pressures of time available for completion of their rota, often on a new route in a locality with which they were unfamiliar.

18. AOCB.

18a. It was noted that the Chair of Friends of the Park had contacted the DMSA to ask for support in making complaints about the felling of 50 trees in Princes Street Gardens in advance of new building work to be undertaken at the National Gallery. This had support from members of the committee but it was left to individuals to respond to the online petition if they wished.

18b. The committee again noted the support provided by the RHS Pipe Band for the Annual Service of Remembrance and the excellent performance of the piper. It was agreed to recognise their contribution to the success of the event with the usual £100 donation.

18c. Charlotte reported that she had received a request from a local resident to reinstate the open playground availability at Davidson's Mains Primary School. The committee had a discussion around Council Policy, the interests of the Head Teacher, and the position of the Parent Council and it was clear that further discussion was needed particularly regarding the position of the Parent Council. Rod agreed to pursue the matter with the Chair of the Parent Council and to report back.

18d. Jill raised a concern about the safety of bouncy castles following a recently reported fatality in England and wondered if it was possible to object again to the approved application for a bouncy castle facility at Silverknowes Foreshore. Since the safety of bouncy castles had been addressed in full by the Council in the original application at the time it was approved, it was recognised such action was not realistic, although the committee determined to keep the full operation of the site under review.

18e. Jill raised the issue of the traffic sign outside Costa on Cramond Road South being positioned in the middle of the footpath and queried whether it should be moved. During discussion it was recognised that the sign had always been in its present position, although with the changes to the boundary wall, it might now appear to be more prominent and perhaps be more of an obstruction. Rod agreed to look into the issue and to contact the Council.

18f. The committee discussed the success of hiring a sound system to cater for the requirements of a large crowd for which our own otherwise satisfactory equipment had been shown to have limitations. The cost had been less than £100 at which level it was cost effective to continue to hire in future years. A decision to hire the equipment was approved for 2019, although it was recognised from the experience this time that early booking would be prudent.

18g. Kevin raised a very pertinent concern relating to the procession for the Armistice Sunday event being exposed to a degree of risk from traffic moving in the opposite westerly direction and suggested consideration should perhaps be given to closing Main Street for the procession. It was agreed that such a proposal would be considered for inclusion in the application for 2019. It was noted that only three police officers had been in attendance, which was a factor in considering the control of moving vehicles.

19. Date of Next Meeting 11 December 2018 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School