

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION
Management Committee Meeting 9 October 2018 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School

1.Apologies: Laura Thomson, Seonaidh Edgar, Tim Mitchell, Councillor Louise Young.

2.Present: Rod Alexander (Chair), Charlotte Cowe (Secretary), Gordon McGregor, Jill Smith, Brian Flanagan, Ellen Searle, Carolyn Williams, Coll Gardner.

In attendance: Councillors Graham Hutchison, Kevin Lang, Norman Work

3.1 Minutes. The Minutes for September were approved.

3.2 On-going and Recurring Issues Logs – to note

It was noted that Tim had advised that there were no changes to the Recurring Issues Log.

Rod advised that there had been two updates to the Ongoing Issues Log. A clarification had been added to the description of the action for the crossing on Main Street at Silverknowes Road to explain that the original request had been for 20 mph flashing signs on the approach to the crossing. This action was on hold pending the review into the operation of 20 mph limits across the city which was expected in January 2019. The decision at the September meeting to undertake another survey of the problem of HGV's exceeding the weight restriction on Main Street in spring 2019 had been added to the Log.

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

3a. Street Lights on Ferry Road

Graham confirmed that he had taken this matter up directly with the Locality Manager to try to get some movement on the problem. Charlotte had taken the trouble to provide a detailed history of correspondence on the problem with various contacts on the Council which demonstrated that a full three years had passed since the council had first been aware of the problem of access to the lampposts due to the position and height of the conifer trees and the situation had become progressively worse since then with on going tree growth.

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

Rod confirmed that he had been advised by the Friends of the Park that the paint for the art work had now been purchased and the work would be undertaken at a time suitable to school timetables and when weather permitted, although with good weather being a requirement it was accepted that it may now be into the spring before the work could be carried out.

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

Rod provided the committee with feed back on the Licensing Sub Committee meeting which he had attended to represent the objection by the DMSA to the Codona License, and at which the committee had awarded a license for twelve months. It was now beyond dispute that the applicant had given false information to the committee and there was no evidence that the public notice had ever been displayed for any of the required statutory 21 days. Rod said he had taken legal advice on the prospects for an appeal to the Sheriff Court but had been advised an appeal would not be straightforward and be likely to be expensive.

He said that 22 days after the meeting he was still waiting for the reasons in writing from the Council which he needed before any appeal could be made, and there was a 28 day deadline to meet. A final decision would be made after consideration of the content of the written reasons. If the reasons were not forthcoming within the required time frame for an appeal that would be a separate legal issue for complaint.

Charlotte provided the committee with an update on the complaint to the Licensing Department about the clear breach of Data Protection Legislation with the release of her contact details to the applicant without obtaining her permission to do so. We had been advised that the complaint had been passed to the Head of Compliance within the Council due to its serious nature but ten weeks had elapsed since the initial representation to the Council. There was general agreement that the delay was now becoming completely unacceptable and Kevin undertook to take the matter in hand to try to expedite a reply.

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

The committee were disappointed that the Police were not in attendance to provide the regular monthly report, although it appeared that this had been at least in part due to a communication problem following a change to the allocated community constable for our area. It was hoped that the situation would be back to normal for the November meeting.

5b. Treasurer's Report

Gordon reported the balance in the account to be £10,067.90 of which £6274.22 was the current total for the Lights Group funds. It was noted that donations to the fund of £1000 from Edinburgh Airport Community Fund and £2250 from the Almond Neighbourhood Partnership had yet to be received.

6. Planning issues

6a. Former RBS building

Charlotte reported that the developers were working to a timetable to have the premises ready for opening during the second week of November. It was noted that the frame for the DMSA notice board had been removed from its position on the site but had not been handed over to the Association for safekeeping, as had previously been agreed. Charlotte undertook to find out about the situation from the agent for the developer.

6b. Proposed development at Mackenzies

It was noted that the application for the development was on the agenda for the Management Development Sub Committee on Wednesday 10th October with a recommendation from Officers that it should be approved. The plans showed a change from the initial application with the ground floor level now proposed to be an office instead of two small studio flats.

6c. Planning application for Cammo site

Kevin provided the committee with an update on the situation with Cala's proposals for the site at Cammo which had generated a high level of public comment and concern. Kevin advised that in response Cala had agreed to make some changes to their plans and he would circulate the details to the committee for information. The committee again noted the obvious point that whatever the changes to the layout plan or designs for the site, it would make no difference to the fundamental problem of the main road arteries already operating at well over capacity with nothing being planned to alleviate the problem.

Kevin advised that Cala were very keen to subsidise the provision of a bus link to connect Cramond to the interchange at Gogar and the Gyle, in effect a resurrection of the Horsburgh 64 which had been withdrawn over two years ago. Rod reminded the Councillors that the 64 had provided a very valuable connection between Silverknowes and the shops at Davidson's Mains village and then on to Cramond village and from correspondence was missed by elderly residents. He said any campaign for the much needed reinstatement of the service should be for it to cover the whole length of the previous route.

7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

The committee considered the question of a possible review of community council boundaries as had been intimated by the Locality Manager at a recent meeting of the North West Locality Committee. It was recognised this could have significant implications for the DMSA and possibly represented an opportunity for a correction to the Association's long standing complaints about the anomalies of the local community council boundaries. Rod advised he would be contacting the Locality Manager to discuss the details of the review and the committee agreed to defer further consideration of the issue until the next meeting. It was noted that a meeting had been arranged by the Association of Community Councils to discuss concerns about future community representation under the Locality Structure, including Neighbourhood Partnerships and Rod said he would make enquiries to see if he could attend to represent the DMSA.

8. Local Action List

The committee again discussed the importance of the need to have the permanent bollards on East Barnton Avenue replaced with the removable type prior to the Christmas Lights Switch on event on 1 December and Rod advised that in the event of the new bollards being late he had been assured by the Locality Transport and Environment Manager that the permanent bollards would be removed for the event. It remained the intention to discuss the other projects on the list with the Roads Manager.

9. Remembrance Day Service

Charlotte provided the committee with an update on planning for the event on 11 November and confirmed that everything was in hand. The licensing documentation had been submitted and approved and all the invitations had been sent. Fr. Peter Kelly had agreed to lead the service and a piper had been chosen by the local pipe band to lead the procession and play the lament. The problem with the limited angle of spread of the sound system for a large crowd was discussed and Rod and Gordon agreed to look at trying to get an additional speaker to widen the angle of effectiveness for the sound.

10. Christmas Lights 2018

Ellen provided the committee with an update on plans for fund raising and the switch on event. The Olde Inn had generously agreed to sell the community beer, Davidson's Mains Tap, at no cost to themselves which meant that a significant sum would now be raised for the Lights Fund. The new community beer would be launched at an event at The Olde Inn on Friday 2 November. The Lights Group have organised a bag pack at Tesco on 3 November. Ellen advised that tickets had gone on sale for the switch on event on 1 December with initial demand being high. The sale of tickets would guarantee some income to cover costs while assisting with crowd management and control. The Lights group had organised a best decorated shop window competition for Christmas and had plans for local decorations, including a Christmas Tree, to complement the Street Light decorations provided by the Council.

11. Newsletter

The committee discussed the timing of the Newsletter. As last year it would be issued on the lead up to the Christmas Lights event with delivery being completed by the week-end of 24/25 November.

12. Facebook page for DMSA

Rod advised that he was to discuss a linkage with the FutureDMS Facebook page for DMSA messages to the community.

13. Survey - Parking at The Green

The committee approved a flyer for the residents of The Green to provide them with feed back on the results of the recent survey on their views on a suggested resident's priority parking scheme. For the record it was again noted that over 50% of the residents had indicated support for such a scheme with that number rising to 68% of those who had given a response to the survey. Carolyn agreed to distribute the flyer over the next week or so. It was agreed in the light of these results that the DMSA would now write to the Council to again draw attention to the serious parking problem in The Green and to highlight the support for a resident's priority parking scheme. The expectation was that the Council should now instigate a full survey of the problem and undertake their own formal consultation with residents with a view to getting the scheme put in place.

14. FutureDMS

Rod advised that decisions still had to be made by Future DMS on which projects or activities should be given priority for quick action but that something would need to be decided before the DMSA Newsletter which would update residents on progress from the successful exercise at the AGM in June.

15. Shoreline Project

Following discussion it was agreed to remove this item from the regular agenda and to transfer it to the Ongoing Issues Log because progress was likely to be longer term and take time. There had been a recent decision within the Council to set up a steering group to discuss future development of the Foreshore from Granton to Cramond on which relevant local community groups should be represented and Rod advised he had already intimated to the secretary that we would wish to be involved, even though it had been established that priority was to be given to the development areas at Granton and there had not been any budget allocation at this stage for the section between Silverknowes and Cramond.

16. Upgrade of Roundabout at Main Street

It was noted that in response to comments from the DMSA, the Council had agreed to undertake a full survey of traffic patterns on the approaches to the roundabout so that an informed decision could be made on whether a project should be promoted to upgrade the existing junction or whether there was a justification for a traffic light controlled junction. Rod confirmed that he had been advised that the survey was being put in hand. Jill made the point that, pending any decision, the current markings at the roundabout and on the pedestrian crossings needed to be re-painted and Kevin agreed to pursue the matter with the Council.

17. Current Traffic and Parking Issues

The committee had a further discussion about local traffic problems and resolved to make a point of reporting all significant problems to the Police or the Council. The advice was that any parking issues should be reported to the Parking Operations Department of the Council while the situation with parked vehicles obstructing the footpath, and particularly preventing movement for buggies, prams, and wheelchairs should be reported to the Police.

18. Local Litter and Waste Collection Problems

It was noted that a date had still to be agreed for a meeting between relevant parties to discuss the ongoing litter problem at the west end of the village, with the expectation being that the Council Wardens, The RHS, the DMSA and local residents would attend. Tim had agreed to represent the Association.

Tim had indicated to the committee that the Council had not accepted the need to provide a replacement litter bin for the one that had been removed from the site at the former RBS building although he was still trying to obtain an explanation for the reasoning behind the decision. The committee decided it might be opportune to find out if the new Costa outlet would be providing their own litter bin on the site and Charlotte agreed to make enquiries about the possibility.

19. “Blast” running event application for the Promenade

The committee discussed a consultation from The Council on an application by an organisation named Blast for a weekly run each Sunday morning for up to 600 participants with the start at Cramond Foreshore. On querying the very high numbers Rod had been advised by the Council that the applicant considered the initial number would be about 50 but it was hoped to significantly increase participants over time. The committee were completely opposed to Cramond being a realistic start point for the run, whatever the numbers, given the inevitable congestion it would cause with traffic on Cramond Glebe Road, including a clash with church services at Cramond Kirk. The committee considered that an event for perhaps 50 with a start at Silverknowes was much more realistic, with suitable parking and the direct 29 bus service being available. The committee again expressed concern about the lack of toilet provision for events at Silverknowes Foreshore. It was agreed all these points would be fed back to the Council by the requested response date of Thursday 11 October.

20. AOCB

20a. It was noted that a public consultation has been set up by the Council into the use of public park space in the city. The review specification specifically mentions the Jurassic Kingdom event which had created many difficulties earlier in the year and on which it was suggested some committee members may wish to make personal comment. Rod said he would provide a response to the review based on feed back and comment to the DMSA on the whole range of parks and open space issues.

20b. Graham advised the committee that he was organising a meeting between the police, the Steward of Lauriston Castle and representatives of local residents with regard to the youth problem in the locality. Tim would represent the DMSA at this meeting.

20c. Graham reminded the committee that he was pursuing the problem of the restricted /blocked culverts which were leading to flooding of gardens in Barnton Gardens. It was noted that it may take time to resolve the problem and the matter was on the Ongoing Issues Log.

20d. The committee discussed the need for the frame for the Notice Board to be collected from the developers of the former RBS Site for storage for possible future use. Charlotte and Rod agreed to make contact with the developer.

20e. The committee recorded their appreciation of the colourful show of wild flowers following the planting on the roundabout at Silverknowes Road.

20f. Norman advised that Brian Mackie, of the Council's Active Travel Team, had raised the issue of cyclists coming off the cycle path at Silverknowes Road East and meeting cars and pedestrians at this junction. He had suggested the possibility of preventing vehicles from turning from Silverknowes Road East into Silverknowes Drive as a possible means of reducing interaction between cyclists and other vehicles. The committee decided much more information was needed about any perceived problem and the suggested solution and Rod agreed to contact Brian Mackie to discuss the issue.

20g. Kevin referred to the upsurge in anti-social behaviour which is taking place on the cycle path behind Silverknowes Dell and intimated he had discussed the possible use of the CCTV camera at the Silverknowes Road Bridge to counter the problem. He advised he was to discuss the issue with the local Chief Inspector and would report back to the committee.

20h. Kevin reminded the committee that the final stage of the Scottish Power works would commence on Friday 12 October and last for about ten days. It was noted there would be some activity at the sub station on Quality Street but the majority of the activity would be on Clermiston Road and Queensferry Road west of the junction with Clermiston Road.

21. Date of Next Meeting 13 November 2018 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School