



May

NEWSLETTER

2013



AGM

Tuesday 28 May 2013 at 7.30 pm

Holy Cross Church Hall, Quality Street

Speakers

Beverley Richardson from Places for People

How to help older people make connections in their local area.

Clive Brown from Strategic Planning, City Development

Local traffic and transport issues

Pupils from the Royal High School will give a short presentation about their project

"Habitat for Humanity"

PC Steven Neil, our local community policeman will be in attendance

Refreshments provided courtesy of the Association. We acknowledge support of Tesco in supplying these.

EDINBURGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR AREA

The Association has been sent a copy of the Proposed Local Development Plan for the city which sets out policies and proposals to guide future land use and development. Documents of this type can make heavy reading but they are packed with details about plans which will have an impact on our lives over the next decade and beyond. Looking at the proposals there is little question that from a local perspective the major issue is the significant number of new houses which are planned to be built to the north and west of the city. To the north, we were already aware of the proposals for the Waterfront Area, with about 10,000 houses planned from Forthquarter eastwards to Granton Harbour, part of a total development of about 20,000 homes along the Forth to Newhaven and Leith. The plan now identifies and details up to 3,000 homes planned for the area to the west of Maybury Road, to be built at Cammo, on land either side of Turnhouse Road and on other sites just west of Gogarburn Roundabout.

We are fortunate in Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes in having easy and direct access to green open space, with, for example, the local Park, Lauriston Castle, a number of golf courses and the Forth Waterfront on our doorsteps with no likelihood whatsoever of any of it being lost to development. However, we have expressed concerns previously about the potential effect of increasing traffic on our area arising directly from new developments. This will always be a particular problem because of the topography and road patterns which makes it very difficult to envisage how the effects of increasing traffic can be mitigated or resolved. (It is suspected a future extension of the tram from Crewe Toll to Tesco's car park, as had been planned at one time, might now be controversial). With the exception of improvements at the Barnton Roundabout and the Maybury Junction, there is nothing in the Plan which would alleviate any concerns we would have about additional traffic on Queensferry Road or Ferry Road with the local impact on Cramond Road, Lauriston Farm Road, Quality Street and Main Street. The proposals are currently out for public consultation until Friday 14th June and the documents can be viewed on line at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan

DAVIDSON'S MAINS GALA DAY

The 80th Davidson Mains Gala in June was acclaimed as a social success and a great vehicle for local community groups using the gala as a showcase to promote their talents and activities. Unfortunately however, it was the latest in a series of three financially damaging years for the gala committee primarily because of the appalling weather on the day. This year the Gala is likely to post a loss of approximately £6000 despite fundraising throughout the year and a generous grant from the West Neighbourhood Partnership which contributed towards our purchase of new gazebos for additional groups to use on gala day. The committee would welcome help from anyone willing to join the gala team or just to contact us with new ideas either for fundraising throughout the year or suggestions for gala day/week. The Gala Day has been in existence for 80 years and the committee are very keen that it should continue for many years to come. To raise funds we have a Car Boot Sale at Holy Cross Church Hall and Car Park on Saturday 18th May (Contact Gail Wilson for a stall on gailwilson4@talktalk.net). We are also looking to host a Wine Tasting Quiz night on Friday 31st May at The Scout Hall, Quality Street Lane and a Ceilidh later on in the year. If you would like more information or are able to offer help, or even offer useful suggestions please can you contact us on dmainsgala@live.co.uk or call 08435230613 or via the DMains Gala website (www.dmainsgala.org.uk) . Susan Robertson can also be contacted directly on 01313362572

PROJECT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS .

Organisers and members of local Youth Groups will be interested to know that the Neighbourhood Partnership have approved a proposal to ring fence £2000 from the Community Grant Fund to support a competition for local groups in Almond. It is tentatively suggested there could be up to four separate awards to share the £2000. The idea is that bids will be invited from schools and youth organisations across Almond for themed projects relating to education, health and wellbeing, the environment or sport, with the competition framed to encourage bids from each of the communities in Almond from Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes across to Cramond, Queensferry, Kirkliston and Newbridge. It is proposed to establish a working group on which young people will be represented and who will help to develop the proposals, with two of the representatives being from the Royal High School. In addition to ring fenced funding from the Community Grants Fund, Edinburgh Airport have intimated they will consider matched funding of any award on a case by case basis for any projects which meet their own guidelines on community engagement so this means that effectively £4000 is available for the competition.

This project will be promoted through the secondary schools but it is not restricted to school based groups and will provide opportunities for all youth groups in the area. We will ensure that information about the process is displayed and kept up to date on our notice board and web site but if any local group is particularly interested in this competition and would like us to keep them informed directly please get in touch and we will be very pleased to help.

LOCAL 20 MPH ZONE

Local residents may recollect that a couple of months ago we publicised a Local Transport Questionnaire which was being promoted by the Council to ascertain public opinion on a range of transport and traffic issues. We know that there was a good response from our area and we now want to say a bit more about one of the questions which related to Localised 20mph Zones. There is a significant body of research which demonstrates that 20mph zones make streets much safer for all pedestrians, but particularly for children and the elderly, and it is Scottish Government and Edinburgh Council Policy to promote such zones. Even the critics of such zones accept that there is absolutely no down side to their introduction and the only legitimate debate is around their degree of effectiveness. As we have previously intimated, the Association is keen to promote a 20mph zone in Silverknowes as the first step towards introducing such zones in all local residential areas. We raised the matter at the February Meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership and as a consequence one of the speakers at the AGM will be giving a presentation on transport and traffic planning policy where there will be an opportunity to consider general policy in relation to 20mph Zones, as well as other issues. It remains the case that rat running and speeding vehicles is a problem in the side streets on the west side of Silverknowes, particularly at busy times when drivers are impatient to avoid the queues on Quality Street, Main Street and Lauriston Farm Road.

From communications we receive, the problem is at its worst in Silverknowes Drive and Terrace where there is the added problem of the designated cycle route. We could not be more supportive about the positive benefits of cycling, but ironically we now get complaints about speeding cyclists; not the typical recreational family out for a leisurely jaunt, but the more professional types on racing bikes, some of whom appear to be oblivious to the interests of others. In this context there is an increasingly serious problem on the lane which connects Silverknowes Terrace to Cramond Road South. We have previously been advised by the Council that the lane is not wide enough to have one side designated for cyclists and the other for pedestrians but it might be time to re-visit the matter. In Cramond a similar problem occurs with speeding cyclists on the section of the cycle route between Whitehouse Road and Queensferry Road, via Cramond Brig and speed bumps and chicanes have been considered.

THE ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL – ROMANIA PROJECT: *UPDATE*

June 2013 will see thirteen sixth year pupils from the school, along with two members of staff, travelling to Romania to build houses with the charity 'Habitat for Humanity' for those people who haven't had an easy start in life. To cover the costs of building materials and supplies a total of £26,250 has to be raised.

It has been a busy past few months for all of those involved in the Project. The group are getting very close to our fundraising target. Currently £21,000 has been raised. Recently a number of events have been held including two 'Quiz Nights' which together raised well over £1000. The other event held was a 'Sponsored Abseil' from our school building – if you have not seen it, it's rather tall! Pupils on the project, along with staff (even the school's Rector) and fellow sixth years made the descent – and thankfully it was a day with good weather! Thank you to all who participated and came along to give support. There has been an amazing fundraising push recently and the generosity of the public in making donations and turning out in numbers to support the events is greatly appreciated. In the next few months there are a couple more big fundraisers; staff and pupils from the school are running in the 'Edinburgh Marathon Festival' on the 25th and 26th of May – we hope that their training is going well! Also there is a 'Car Boot Sale' at the Cramond Kirk on Sunday 2nd June from 2 – 5pm. There's plenty of room if you want to bring your car down if you've just had a clear out – there will also be a 'Tea and Home baking Stall' along with some great bargains. So come on down, and fingers crossed that the weather will be good.

The fundraising couldn't have been done without the help of the many wonderful people that have helped to organise events and make donations to the project. There are far too many people to list here but here are a few: the staff and pupils of 'The Royal High School' who have supported numerous in school events (and continue to do so); joined together to take part in the 'Sponsored Abseil' and to those who will be running in the 'Edinburgh Marathon Festival' to help our fundraising. All the local communities and primary schools – we couldn't have done it without you – you've held 'Non-Uniform Days'; you've come along; you've supported and you've donated. As I've said there are far too many people to mention but we thank you all. We leave for Romania on Thursday 6th June, it would be great to see as many of you at our upcoming events. But until then ... Thank you for all your help so far *from all of those on the 'Romania Project'*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

RHS Romania Project—Car Boot Sale

Cramond Kirk Hall Car Park Sunday 2 June, 2—5 pm. Pitch fee £12 for pre booking or £14 on the day if there is space.

Sellers arrive at 1 pm; buyers at 2 pm. To book a space contact katie.gorrie@hotmail.co.uk mob: 07758784554

Concert with Edinburgh Harp Angels Thursday 23 May at 7. 30 in Davidson's Mains Parish Church. Entry by donation.

GALA DAY- Saturday 15th June 2012

Davidson's Mains Gala will be held in the grounds of Lauriston Castle.

The Procession leaves The Green at 11.30 and the Crowning Ceremony takes place at 12 noon.

In aid of Gala funds there is a Car Boot Sale at Holy Cross Church Hall and Car Park on Saturday 18th May and a Wine Tasting Quiz night on Friday 31st May at The Scout Hall, Quality Street Lane . See Gala article for details.

GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We welcome comments and suggestions from local residents about matters which concern you. Contact us either through the website www.dmain.co.uk or through Charlotte our Secretary.

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION

Subscriptions to Charlotte Cowe, Secretary, 151 Main Street, Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh, EH4 5AQ
Cheques payable to DMSA

NAME(S):.....

ADDRESS.....

POSTCODE..... EMAIL.....

PHONE.....

Would you be willing to deliver newsletters on an occasional basis? Yes/No

Membership for 2013-2014 (minimum £2 per household) £2 / £5 / £10

Your details will be held on a confidential and secure database solely for the purpose of maintaining records of the above Association.

Receipt required- Yes/No

FRIENDS OF DAVIDSON'S MAINS PARK

Regular visitors to the park will have seen that there have been changes in recent months. The woodland has been assessed and some trees felled. Early in the year gales caused major damage and unsafe branches had to be removed. Better news is that, thanks to "The Friends of DMains Park Group" and a grant from Almond Neighbourhood Partnership, several new standard trees have been planted. Young Spanish Chestnuts now fill the gaps left by the loss of Spanish Chestnuts which were planted about 200 years ago. Thankfully a few of the original majestic mature trees are still standing. Some very young tree "whips" (several different species) have also been planted throughout the woodland; they are protected by transparent "sleeves" as they are quite vulnerable to trampling or browsing by animals. Davidson's Mains Park was purchased and opened to the public in July 1923. It is hoped that during the course of this year some community events can be organised to celebrate the acquisition of this special local public space. Do watch the notice-boards in the park and Main Street for any news and feel free to get in touch if you could offer to organise such events.

PROBLEM OF DOG FOULING

We recently publicised on the Notice Board that this was an ongoing problem which appeared to be getting worse. According to the 2012 Annual Resident's Survey no less than 60% of those surveyed were unhappy with the situation or the way it was being tackled by the Council; this compared with an equivalent dissatisfaction rating of only 20% in the 2011 survey. Even allowing for any debate about some possible statistical uncertainty this is a truly remarkable change in just one year. We have discussed the problem with the local Environmental Wardens who confirm that there is a significant problem in the locality. The vast majority of dog owners behave responsibly but all we can do is repeat our message that if any resident has a concern about any particular incident it is most important that they report it to the wardens. The phone number for complaints is 0131 529 3030

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are a relatively small group on the Management Committee and we could do with the help of one or two new members. Many residents tell us that they really appreciate the work that we do for the local community but we find it difficult to attract residents to the committee who are willing to give a little of their own time. The duties are not onerous and it is an opportunity to get involved in decisions which can make a difference to the area. All that is required is an interest in the local area, the ability to get on with people, and a bit of common sense. If anyone is interested please get in touch through our secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson:	Mr. Rod Alexander	336 3856
Vice-Chairperson:	Mrs. Aileen Venables	476 2085
Treasurer:	Mr. Gordon McGregor	336 5875
Honorary Secretary:	Mrs. Charlotte Cowe	336 2494
151 Main Street, EH4 5AQ		email: charlotte@dmains.co.uk

Ms. M. R. Caden	Ms. J. Chapman	Mrs. E. Edgar	Mrs. P. Pattison	Mrs. E. Smith
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