



April

NEWSLETTER

2014



AGM

Tuesday 20 May 2014 at 7.30 pm
Holy Cross Church Hall, Quality Street

This will be a
PANEL NIGHT

**Including Dave Sinclair, Local Environment Manager and John Cooper, Police
Inspector, South Queensferry**

One of our local community police officers will also be in attendance as will the Almond Councillors, Lindsay Paterson, Alastair Shields and Norman Work.

The panel members would welcome questions in advance so send them email to charlotte@dmsa.co.uk or deliver to either Charlotte Cowe, 151 Main Street or Rod Alexander 30 Silverknowes Drive

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FILM NIGHT

TUESDAY 6 MAY 2014 AT 7.30 PM IN ST MARGARET'S CHURCH HALL, MAIN STREET
FILMS SHOW—"EDINBURGH THEATRES" AND "DEEP IN MY HEART" (edited version)

Tickets £5.00 including refreshments available from

Change of 'A'Dress, Main Street; Mains Beauty, Main Street; Graingers Hair, Quality Street

This was a very popular event last year so act quickly to make sure of a ticket!

GALA DAY- SATURDAY 21ST JUNE 2014

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.

BEWARE BOGUS WORKMEN

The local Police have alerted us to a few recent reports and instances of local residents becoming victims of rogue workmen who are active the area and we would like to remind residents that there tends to be an increase in this type of activity with the arrival in the spring of longer daylight hours and the need to carry out external property maintenance work and jobs in the garden. There is always some degree of risk in accepting services from tradesmen who solicit their services on the door step without invitation. Dishonest tradesmen may carry out work which is not really necessary or do work to a poor standard at grossly inflated prices and with no guarantee or come back when things are wrong. The unscrupulous ones can be very insistent and pushy. They may offer what are suggested to be large discounts for a quick job and refuse to take "no " for an answer so it is best to have nothing to do with them. It is good advice to try to use tradesmen who are recommended by friends or neighbours as having done a good job , or to contact the relevant trade association to check if a tradesman is a member before using them. The Police want to hear about anyone touting for business on the doorstep about whom you may be suspicious. **The new police number for non-urgent calls is 101.**

LOCAL PROJECTS

The Association has had discussions with the West Team about some local projects which need to be considered in response to complaints made to us by local residents. In each case the projects are at the stage of being designed and costed although approval for each would be dependent on financial approval and funding being made available.

The first project is the construction of a pedestrian pathway to provide a link between the footsteps on the Ferry Road side of the former railway bridge and Silverknowes Road East, with connections to the bus stops on either side of the road. We get complaints about the absence of a designated footpath as the unmade route across the grass surface can become very wet and muddy in extreme weather conditions. This project was considered a number of years ago but was discounted because funds could not be made available at the time.

In the same locality consideration is also being given to possible improvements at the mini roundabout at the junction of Silverknowes Road East with Ferry Road. At present there is a propensity for motorists to run straight through the junction without being aware of the roundabout configuration and the protocols regarding right of way. The intention is to look at realigning the access to the junction from Main Street direction so that the approach to Silverknowes Road East is a more defined junction at closer to 90 degrees.

Another project at present under consideration is the possible re-alignment of the kerb on Barnton Avenue close to property number four. There have been complaints that the present kerb alignment, coupled with the positioning of adjacent speed bumps, unintentionally directs cyclist very close to the kerb line and creates the risk of collision between the cyclists and vehicles exiting from driveways at a position where the line of vision for drivers may be restricted.

The project for upgrading the roundabout at Silverknowes Road, which we have previously mentioned, is on hold while there are further discussions about how to best improve the access to the car park at Silverknowes Golf Club.

CONTINUING PARKING PROBLEMS

It is regrettable that we have to report that the problems of congestion on Vivian Terrace and Corbiehill Crescent persist, resulting in difficulties for moving vehicles due to limited road space and restricted access to driveways for local residents. Much of the parking is inconsiderate with little regard being given to the interests of the residents. In the past six months there have been some instances of the police being called to deal with disputes about blocked driveways on Vivian Terrace and the difficulty with access on the bend at Corbiehill Crescent has resulted in bumper to bumper confrontations leading to queues and disputes about who should reverse backwards to clear the obstruction. The situation has been on the agenda at our regular meetings with the Police and it has been recognised as a priority by the Police and Traffic Wardens for regular attendance and monitoring. In addition the Police undertook a joint initiative with the Primary School to engage with parents about the parking problems in the area. The exercise had a positive effect in reducing the risks to school children associated with the congestion around the school from the school drop-off and pick-up runs. However, there is a persistent problem from other factors which needs to be addressed and it is generally accepted by the Council and the Police that the only realistic solution would be to introduce statutory parking restrictions on sections of Vivian Terrace, Silverknowes Road South and Corbiehill Crescent. The first stage of the procedure is for the Council to undertake formal monitoring of the situation by taking photographic evidence over about fourteen days on at least three times each day. This helps them to build up a record of what is happening and also assists in decisions about the type and extent of restrictions which are considered appropriate, the length of each street to be covered, both sides or one side, if one side only, which side, single or double yellow lines and so on. The first stage of the survey actually started in March but had to be put on hold after a few days due to staff illness but the DMSA has been assured it will be taken through to completion shortly. The Council will then come forward with recommendations to put to the DMSA and local residents. Whatever ends up being proposed will have to be approved by a majority of the residents who will have the final say. It is clear that onstreet parking is creating difficulties for residents in many parts of our area. For example, we had a meeting with some residents from House O'Hill and Drylaw Crescent where the situation around the junction at Blackhall is very problematic, although for the present one of the Councillors for Inverleith has been helpful in trying to find possible solutions.

POTHoles

The Committee gets regular complaints about the condition of roads and footpaths and some are showing quite a lot of damage after the very wet winter. The worst thing is the appearance of deep cracks and pot holes on the roads which can result in damage to motor vehicles and can be dangerous for cyclists; uneven footpaths can prove difficult for the elderly and disabled. To be fair to the Council, in the past few years they have been repairing roads and footpaths to catch up on years of under investment but sometimes it appears they are running faster just to stand still. Increasing traffic and the frequency of severe weather conditions is accelerating the rate of wear on the roads and the fact is that we can all name local roads and footpaths which need to be resurfaced. With regard to pot holes, the Council are under an obligation to make a temporary repair as soon as practicable and it is in their interests to do so to avoid the risks of claims for damage to vehicles.

GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU! We are always pleased to hear from local residents. Please feel free to either phone, write, email either directly or via the website any comments you may have. We always try to reply promptly!

LOCAL SEAGULL PROBLEM

Residents will be aware that the nuisance caused by seagulls has returned again. Last year the Association had a number of complaints about the problem which is caused by gulls nesting in local properties. Some of the nuisance is caused by incessant noise but the birds create a mess from their droppings and can behave very aggressively. For house owners the gulls can be a serious health hazard in addition to causing damage to the property. Council advice is that the timing for removal of nests is very important and that the best time to do this is before any chicks are born during April because it is illegal to attempt to remove a nest containing nesting chicks. The Council does not have any statutory duty to remove nests nor does it have any powers to require home owners or occupiers to get rid of them. The advice is that it is in the best interests of a property owner to ensure this is done, not only as a simple matter of self interest but also in the interest of their neighbours and other local residents. Residents concerned about nesting gulls on their property can employ the services of a commercial pest control contractor, including the Council's own pest control service, to remove nest material provided that the contractor is licensed to provide that service under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and that all activities are carried out in a humane manner. For a list of specialist contractors or the council's own pest control service contact Pest.Control@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel: 0131 666 2895. One local licensed contractor is Graham Hislop 0131 554 0562 mob :07799510241. Charges are £25.00 per visit. Other local contractors may be available and the hire of any contractor is undertaken at a resident's own risk.

DAVIDSON'S MAINS PARK

For a long time the Association has been receiving complaints about the shortage of car parking places at Davidson's Mains Park, both from users of the facilities and from local residents who have to suffer some of the consequences. The parking situation is particularly difficult on occasions when football teams are using the park for training or on match days and the shortage of spaces can result in congestion at the roundabout at the park entrance and to local residents having access to their homes restricted by inconsiderate parking. It is now excellent news that the Roads Manager has agreed to provide about twelve additional car parking spaces on hard standing in an area on the east side of the park entrance, adjacent to the unmade access road to the Scottish Gas Networks Governor Installation. It is on ground which is covered by low growth and saplings and so no mature trees will be put at risk by the proposals. There is a minor issue to be resolved regarding the depth of protective cover to be provided over one of the gas mains but once this has been sorted the project is effectively ready to go. The extra parking spaces will about double the car parking provision and it is hoped the project will be completed over the next few weeks.

Many residents have commented that the roundabout at the park entrance is in a bit of a mess, with sunken kerb stones around the inner perimeter and the grass surface badly chewed up by vehicle over-runs in the recent very wet weather. In addition a section of the footpath around the outer perimeter has lifted and is uneven due to underlying tree root growth and movement. The situation has been discussed with the Council and it has been agreed that a project will be drawn up to make a number of improvements, both to enhance the appearance of the roundabout and to reduce the risk of future damage from vehicles. The proposal is to reduce the diameter of the roundabout to provide additional space to allow widening of the carriageway which will create space for some vehicles to be parked around the outer perimeter while providing room for moving vehicles to pass by without transgressing onto the grass surface of the roundabout. The work will include re-laying the kerb stones around the perimeter of the grassed area and re-constructing the pavement. It will allow for protection to be provided to the tree roots which are impinging onto the pavement. The timing of the project will depend on funding and approval but we would hope that it can be given some degree of priority.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION

Subscriptions to Charlotte Cowe, Hon. Secretary, 151 Main Street,
Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh, EH4 5AQ

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE.....Tel No.....

email.....

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

Membership for 2014-15 (minimum £2 per individual or household) £2 / £5 / £10 / £ (Cheques payable to DMSA)

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

Receipt required – Yes/No

FRIENDS OF DAVIDSON'S MAINS PARK

Three Interpretation Boards have been installed in the park. Two of the illustrated panels highlight the biodiversity with notes and illustrations of flowers, trees and wildlife. The third board gives details of the history of the area during the past 200 and more years. The fretted design of the supporting structures represent the leaves of some of the older trees. The majority of the planning for the panels and their supports has been done by local residents. It is hoped that later this year a public talk will be given about the history of the local area and will add extra detail to that available on the historical board.

The second major project has been an exhibition of work by pupils from Davidson's Mains Primary School and The Royal High School. The artwork on show included paintings and other photo-montage work as well as some ceramics. All work was based on the experience of the young artists and their perception of the park and its features. In addition there was a continuous video presentation of some of the Primary School groups in action in practical sessions in the park.

The next project will be to encourage users of the park and local people to help remove Himalayan Balsam - a vigorous non-native plant which by its growth inhibits native wildflowers. All that is required is to pull out the plant and remove it from the ground before the flowers set seed. Although removal is very easy it is advisable to wear gloves in case there are nettles nearby! The plants can be left in a pile to rot but the roots should not be in contact with the ground. Meetings of the 'Friends' group are open to interested local residents and are advertised on notice-boards in the park and on the Association notice-board in Main Street. Chair: Eunice Smith
Tel: 0131-336-2013

DAVIDSON'S MAINS GALA

Preparations for the 82nd Davidsons Mains Childrens Gala are now well underway. This year, illustrating the continuing popularity of the Gala, we received 31 applications from places in the Court. The Gala Queen is Miss Niamh Wright, the King is Master Joseph Brodie and the royal couple will be supported by Rachel Day, Jamie Campbell, Shona McQueen, Murray Brown, Abigail Donachie, Ramsay Newell, Ruby Cunningham, Jack Boner, Claire Nisbet, Lewis Thomas, Libby Ramsay and Dominic Lucey. Already the court have been helping to fundraise with a successful family Quiz Night raising a magnificent £607, a day bag packing in Sainsbury raising £648 and a Swish evening raised £600. The gala committee have organised another family Ceilidh (for all ages, babies to grandparents) on the 31st May. This is always a popular event so please get in touch to book tickets if you are interested. The committee are always delighted to see new helpers and receive any new ideas for attractions/events and can be contacted via facebook, the web site - www.dmainsgala.org.uk , by email at dmainsgala@live.co.uk or just contact any committee member.

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are a relatively small group on the Management Committee and we can always 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. We are particularly keen to have representation from the House O'Hill area.

CONTACT DETAILS: Secretary Charlotte Cowe, 151 Main Street, EH4 5AQ, Tel: 336 2494 email: charlotte@dmains.co.uk or Chair, Rod Alexander, 30 Silverknowes Drive, EH4 5LQ Tel: 336 3856 email rodalexander@blueyonder.co.uk..

If you have any comments to make or questions for the Panel Night please use this space