

**Public Meeting about Vandalism in Silverknowes.
Thursday 10th November at Davidson's Mains Primary School.**

Over two hundred residents attended the meeting to express their concerns about the persistent problems of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The meeting was chaired by the DMSA and the residents were represented by Larry Fraser who had organised a public protest which had resulted in the meeting being arranged. Natalie Hoy, the West Area Neighbourhood Manager and Chief Inspector Murray Dykes were there to listen to the residents about the problems along with Councillors , Politicians and other Council and Police representatives .

The following actions were agreed:

1. Street Lighting

Immediate improvements are to be made to the lighting in Silverknowes Eastway with replacement of the existing Sodium Lighting with white lights which are to a much higher specification . Also an undertaking was given to improve the lighting in other parts of Silverknowes, as the beginning of a sustained programme of improvements . High priority locations will be done first. The residents marked up a plan showing problem locations.

2. Residents request for CCTV

The existing street lighting columns are unsuited to carrying CCTV units but the following was agreed:

The Council made the offer to residents to fund two internal cameras to be sited within properties but looking out over the street. These cameras would be linked to the Council/Police monitoring System. Two volunteers are required to have the cameras installed in their property.

It was agreed that the Community Safety Manager would discuss the technicalities of installing up to ten low cost CCTV cameras in properties as additional monitors. (Costs of £400 per installation were quoted by the residents' representative).

3 . Police

The police had been giving a high priority to the area over the past weeks and this would continue for the immediate future. It was reported that the mobile CCTV van which had been sited in Silverknowes Eastway for the past two weeks had been a massive help . It was to remain there for another week. (Normally the van is sited at problem locations for only one week).

4. Closure of Access Points from Muirhouse

The vast majority of residents made it clear that they considered this to be the most important consideration in trying to solve the problems. Natalie Hoy agreed that the Council begin an immediate review of the implications of closing the three separate pedestrian access points from Muirhouse into Silverknowes Eastway. The review would involve the Council, Police, Councillors and local residents' groups . There was an assurance this would proceed as quickly as possible .

5 . There was an undertaking by the DMSA to circulate all residents in Silverknowes with details of what had been agreed at the meeting and that this would be done within about ten days.