

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER - SILVERKNOWES

Report and Feed Back on the Public Meeting held on 17 November to Discuss Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Over 200 residents from Silverknowes attended a public meeting at Davidson's Mains Primary School on the 14th November to express their concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime in the area

The meeting was chaired by the DMSA and the residents were represented by Larry Fraser who had earlier organised a protest when 54 people had attended Cllr. Kate McKenzie's surgery to complain about vandalism to cars and property.

Natalie Hoy ,the West Area Neighbourhood Manager and Chief Inspector Murray Dykes attended the meeting to listen to the residents about the problems . Also in attendance were local Councillors Kate McKenzie and Norman Work, Colin Keir MSP, Mike Crockart MP, other Council staff with specialist knowledge and local police. Cllr.Jackson who represents Muirhouse was present to observe.

The Agenda covered for main issues; improved street lighting , use of CCTV , Police cover in the area , and closing the three pedestrian access links to Muirhouse.

On each topic a short introductory statement by Natalie Hoy or CI Murray Dykes and their teams was followed by a very lively question and answer session with many interesting points being raised by the audience .

On some questions and suggestions answers and assurances were given on the night but on others there was general recognition that more time was needed to provide a considered response . Assurances were given that all actions from the meeting would be considered as quickly as possible .

At the meeting the DMSA gave an undertaking that all residents in Silverknowes would receive a full report on the meeting with a summary on what actions were agreed on each of the agenda items .

In meeting this promise we are delighted to be able to include in this newsletter a "YOU SAID - WE ARE DOING " which is feedback from Natalie Hoy and CI Murray Dykes .

It is printed in full on the reverse and provides comprehensive information on each topic .

We will be working closely with the Council and Police as things progress and to keep you in touch with what is going on we will be posting updates on our website **dmsa.org.uk**.

The local residents who were involved in the initial protest have set up a website which carries news items and comment from residents. It is

<http://silverknowessite.webs.com>

YOU SAID -- WE ARE DOING
From Natalie Hoy and Chief Inspector Murray Dykes

This information is to let you know what actions have been put in place and what will now be taken forward on your behalf from the meeting.

Public Information and Feedback

The problems in the Silverknowes area have been nominated as a priority at the Almond Ward Community Safety Forum, a sub group of your Neighbourhood Partnership. We have delivered leaflets to over 200 homes to let you know who to contact if you have concerns and asked that you keep a diary of incidents to let us know when you experience problems. Please do keep in touch and let us know if you have experienced problems (call the Police on 0131 311 3131 or West Team on 0131 529 7440). We will keep in touch and let you know what is happening, so do make contact.

You Said - Block off access routes on Silverknowes Eastway

We are currently looking at your request and the purposes that the accesses provide for the communities in the West and North area. The public vote demonstrated overwhelming support from those who attended and this view was reinforced by your elected members. The Police and Council have commissioned a Safer by Design Survey, which is an accredited survey and will let us know if this action will help resolve your issues. A joint Neighbourhood Summit is being set up with elected members, community representatives and senior officials from the Police and Council which will consider the feedback from the community and the results from the survey.

You Said - Install CCTV

The Council have installed two new portable CCTV cameras in your area. The Council's mobile CCTV unit was present in your area on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 November 2011. Further use of the mobile unit was requested for Friday 18 and Saturday 19 November 2011. Identification images are being gathered to inform policing in West and North. The Council monitoring facility is gathering these. Residents have been offered internal CCTV in their homes by the Council. Residents who attended the meeting are now in discussions with the council to host these cameras and work is ongoing as to whether there are other low cost CCTV solutions which are possible.

We have spoken with residents who have their own CCTV to improve the usefulness of their systems. Council Environmental Wardens have patrolled in your area last weekend and will do so next weekend.

You Said - Improve Street Lighting

We have installed lighting to the CCTV column in Muirhouse Millennium Park. Also a commitment has been given to replace the existing street lighting bulbs with white light bulbs in the areas of concern across Silverknowes. Residents were asked to mark these areas on a map so we know where to target these improvements.

You Said – Increase Police Presence

Operation Cerecloth 2 is ongoing, this means you will see high visibility Police and Council patrols in your area at times of expected or reported problems. Individuals identified and reported for offences in the local area.

Additional patrols from the Specialist Operations Branch.

The introduction of the youth tracking system and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.

Liaising with the local High Schools and youths at the Parent Support Groups.

As noted at the public meeting, the Council and Police are committed to continued communication on these issues, and we acknowledge the support from Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes Residents' Association in achieving this. The survey responses demonstrated your desire to close off these access routes and showed that you did feel heard on the night (87% of those who responded), but you did say that you want to see action to address your concerns. **We appreciate that many of these actions are short term measures, and we are looking forward to working in partnership with you to develop a longer term approach to resolving the issues you are experiencing.**