



# Dean Village Association

47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.30pm.  
At Lynedoch House, Edinburgh

1). **Apologies:-** Apologies were received from Charlie Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Murray, Brian and Lissa Smith, Cllr Max Mitchell

2). **Minutes of the AGM held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017:** - The minutes of the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting were accepted by those present.

3). **Matters arising:** - There were no matters arising.

#### 4). **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported on the planning applications that were continuing: -

- a) Belford House and Douglas House: (14/04512/FUL): - No action.
- b) Conversion of RMJM offices into residential dwellings (14/05243/FUL). Conversion is almost completed by Sundial Properties. A question was raised as to where the parking entrance for the dwellings would be. The Chairman replied that it would still be off Bell's Brae as it was before.
- c) 3 / 4 Belford Road: - (14/04445/CLP) - No further development has occurred.

#### 5). **Secretary's report**

**Dorothy Forrester Memorial Bench:** - The committee has arranged the placing of a memorial bench to the late Dorothy Forrester, our secretary for 25 years. The preferred placing in Belford Road was not possible due to privacy concerns. Agreement was agreed with the Trustees to place the bench in the grounds of Dean Cemetery.

**Dean Valley Regeneration:** - The Dean Valley Regeneration Ltd. is a public limited company with charitable status. interested in restoring the valley of the Water of Leith between Stockbridge and the footbridge over the river in Dean village. The first part was completed last year and concentrated solely on the state of Miller Row. A draft report is available, and may be seen on the DVRL website. The contract for the second phase has now been awarded which will consider the valley of the Water of Leith as a whole. When this study has been completed, and accepted by interested parties, the process of applying for a lottery grant may proceed.

They are presently carrying out a survey of cyclists using Miller Row. Members who would like to contribute should consult their website - [deanvalley.org.uk](http://deanvalley.org.uk).

**Environment:** - with the approval of the residents of the new Hawthornbank flats Don Jardine has renewed the fence on the south side of the river, in some areas replaced slabs with gardens and vice versa. He will show the work he has done in the discussion about the environment after the main business of the meeting.

**DV News:** - During an opening of St. Bernard's Well in August Tom Flockhart, Managing Director of Capital Document Solutions offered to do all of the printing of the Association free of charge. This will save us £500 per annum.

**Tours:** - Three cemetery tours and three village tours are conducted every year in the summer. In addition themed tours were conducted for several groups, and have proved very popular. Tours based on the historic architecture were conducted for students from the University of Edinburgh and also for the University of Plymouth.

#### **6). Treasurer's report**

The income for this year was £2365.32, made up mainly of membership subscriptions (£746.00), walks (£1099.00), donations (£210.62.) and advertising in Dean Village News (£86). an increase of £411 in the income for our walks was due partly to extra walks for Friends of the Galleries coupled with very fine weather. Expenditure for the year was £2889.40, made up of printing Dean Village News (£433.95), fees and membership of other bodies (£363.00). The end of year balance in the bank accounts was £10126.78. The extra expenditure was on the Dorothy Forrester Memorial bench of £1710.00. Next year the expenditure on the News will be removed completely, as it is being printed for no cost courtesy of Capital Document Solutions located in Macdonald Road. The accounts would be presented to OSCR shortly.

#### **7). Election of Committee Members for the year 2018 - 2019**

The following were elected: -

Chairperson;-	Barry Mackay
Vice-Chairperson:-	Javier Albert
Secretary:	Vacancy
Treasurer:-	Bob Morley

Committee members: - Caroline Gerard, Conrad Hughes, Charlie Hughes, Don Jardine, David Perry, Pat Sinclair, Evelyn Whitfield

#### **8). Membership fees**

Membership fees would remain the same, which are

Annual membership:	£7 single,	£10 couple
Concession:	£3 single,	£5 couple
Life membership:	£50 single,	£75 couple
Company membership:	£75	

These will become due from April 2019.

#### **9) Charity Concerns**

**Personal safety:** - OSCR had circulated charities requesting that they raised safety concerns with staff and with the public at their meetings. The committee duly took note of the concerns listed. The policy of the Dean Village Association (DVA) is that any

children or vulnerable adults attending any events arranged by DVA must be in charge of a responsible adult.

**Data Protection:** - A membership renewal form had been sent to every resident which informed them not to give their email address if they wanted to protect their privacy. Members who had already given their address should inform the membership secretary if they wished to have this information removed from records.

#### **10). Dean Village Environmental matters**

**Upper weir landslip:** - There was concern over the lack of progress in repairing the river path, closed due to the landslip caused by work on the private house above. Cllr. Whyte said that the matter was subject to ongoing legal procedures and progress would be made as quickly as possible. He had received the following *statement*: - *"The City of Edinburgh Council is aware of public concern over the continued closure of a part of the Dean Path following a second land slip in January 2016. The Council is committed to ensuring that the path is re-opened as soon as possible. Various avenues are being pursued by the Council including court action, to try and ensure that work is undertaken to make the path safe. The Council cannot comment further at this stage due to ongoing legal proceedings."* In answer to a question about planning permission, the councillor said that such permission does not allow unsafe actions to be carried out on the site. One member pointed out that the footpath was the responsibility of the Council, and should be repaired, and the costs argued about later. Members agreed that the signage regarding the closure was totally inadequate. Detailed and understandable signage, in keeping with the character of Dean Village, should replace the yellow direction signs that were unclear. Signs should be erected at various entry points to the riverside path, so that walkers could make appropriate detours. During the course of the year many thousands of visitors came to the village, and then wanted to travel on to the Art Galleries and it would be helpful to them to have clear directions.

**Rubbish bins:** - Complaints had been made about the accumulation of rubbish in the village. In particular the accumulation of bottles around the recycling bins and overflowing of the smaller bins. Cllr. Mitchell came for a walk-through to view the problems. A suitable place for a bottle bank cannot be found due to noise pollution problems. A request was made to empty the small bins more frequently, and to remove the bin on the footbridge completely.

**Riverside Bench:** - Evelyn Whitfield said that a resident, originally from Poland, wished to show his appreciation of the welcome he had received in Edinburgh by donating a black metal park bench, perhaps to be situated in the area of St. Bernard's Well. The Acting Secretary would contact the Parks Department.

#### **11). Events**

**Water of Leith Clean-up:** - will take place on Sunday 27th May. Volunteers to meet at 2pm by the old bridge.

**St. Bernard's Well:** - The DVA will be opening the Well on the first Sundays of the summer months, and Doors Open Sunday.

**Tours:** - Three cemetery tours and three village tours will be conducted in the summer. In addition themed tours will be conducted on request.

**Belgrave Crescent Gardens:** - These gardens will be opened to the public on the afternoon of Sunday, 2nd September under the Scotland Gardens Scheme.

## **12). Any other business**

A Ph.D. student from Glasgow University wishes to consult residents for his project. The research aims to find out how urban residents develop emotional attachments to the built environment and local neighbourhood they experience in their daily lives. Members wishing to participate should provide the chairman with contact details. A link will then be sent to them in order to undertake the on-line survey. There is also an option to participate further by agreeing to a follow-on, but entirely optional, interview.

The main business of the meeting concluded at 20.20. There followed a short break.

There was now a discussion on the preservation of the environment of Dean Village. Don Jardine showed photos of the work he had done within the Hawthornbank estate and around Well Court. With the help of the gardener he had, with the approval of the householder, removed most of the tree that had fallen into the river near the Road Bridge. They had cleared the riverside area of brambles which was owned by the Hawthornbank residents development, and planted one thousand snowdrops. Additional planting would be carried out in association with volunteers from the Water of Leith Conservation Trust on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

A riverside property owner was concerned about the privacy and security of private properties if riverside areas were opened up by removal of some of the existing planting. It was also noted that some owners had not been consulted. DJ replied that no work had been done or was planned to be done on these privately owned properties. A consultation with representatives of Link housing will be arranged.