



## Newsletter – August 2020

### What's the Community Council (CC) been doing?

**The CC held on-line meetings of members and Ward Councillors in June and August.** Regular monthly meetings will recommence on 17th September – most likely in virtual format. We hope to open our meetings to the community as soon as feasible to do so. Andrew Mather, our Chair, is recovering from serious illness. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

### Improving Cramond's toilets – views invited

**The CC has prepared a paper for consultation with the community, prior to submission to the City Council, which recommends new, or refurbished, public toilets at Cramond.** This Council intends to have a strategy for City toilets. The CC's paper recognises that toilets should better meet users' needs and expectations, satisfy modern hygiene standards, provide all-ability access, and control costs through the use of low-maintenance modern materials and technology.

**View our consultation paper at [www.cramond-barnton.org](http://www.cramond-barnton.org). Email your comments to [cramton17@gmail.com](mailto:cramton17@gmail.com) by Monday 7th September.**

Examples in our paper are.....



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## Strong support for keeping Cammo Walk open and installing traffic lights at Cammo Gardens

**A community survey, run on social media sites and promoted by several local groups, demonstrated strong support (62% of 102 respondents) for keeping Cammo Walk permanently open to southbound vehicles, with separate walking/cycling paths, and for traffic lights at the Cammo Gardens/Maybury Road junction.**

Objections to closing Cammo Walk to vehicles were strongest amongst those living in Cammo and Strathalmond. Main reasons were that it provides the only safe route southwards, due to traffic hazards at the Cammo Gardens and Cammo Road junctions and increasing congestion on Maybury Road.

Almost three-quarters (73%) of all respondents want traffic lights at the Cammo Gardens/Maybury Road junction, if Cammo Walk is closed to vehicles, including over half (56%) who want lights whether it is closed or not. These results were echoed in a smaller Poll (21 'voters') on the CC's Facebook page, See a summary of the results at [www.cramond-barnton.org](http://www.cramond-barnton.org)

## Planning matters

### **Main Street, Davidsons Mains: Application in Principle for Housing Development (20/01410/PPP).**

Although outwith our boundaries, the site - behind the Norhet Pub and bounded by Tesco and Main Street, is used by our community and includes a popular walking and cycling route from Tesco's car park links to the NCN1 cycle route at Silverknowes Rd.

Following discussions with Davidsons Mains & Silverknowes Assoc. representatives, the CC submitted objections to the height and scale of the 4 proposed flats, the reduced capacity of Tesco's car park risking displacement into the centre of D'Mains and the design and routing of the foot-/cycle-path. Concerned about protecting the foot/cycle path, as the applicants' solicitors were challenging its status, the CC contacted Scotland's rights of way expert, Scotways, who advised the Council that the path meets rights of way criteria.

### **Brighouse: Extension of Timescale for Sports Complex (10/02916/FUL) - CC Seeks Action**

AMA has applied for a further extension to the timescale on the planning condition requiring it to provide sports fields and a pavilion at Brighouse and to undertake temporary grassing. The City Council has weakened the conditions over the last 16 years and not enforced compliance. The CC, in consultation with neighbouring households, has decided enough is enough and a new approach is required.

Consequently, the CC has urged the Council to –

- Withdraw the current conditions, which cover only part of the site, subject to confirmation of a legally-binding agreement with AMA to provide amenity and recreational public open space within 12 months. This should provide facilities for children's play, exercise and outdoor education; rather than previous proposals for high quality/high charge sports pitches, etc..
- Prepare a new planning brief for the whole site, in consultation with the community - identifying open space, landscaping and a sensitive scale and location for any residential development which may be required to contribute to costs of providing and maintaining open space in the longer term

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- Serve an Amenity Notice on AMA requiring the removal of debris, containers, etc. and grassing all land between the above site and site entrance on Cramond Road North.

If the Council fails to adopt these suggestions, the CC has asked for the timescale for development of a sports complex to be reduced from 5 to 3 years, and to serve an Amenity Notice requiring environmental improvements across all undeveloped land in AMA's control.



### **Silverknowes Foreshore - Boardwalk Cafe Lease.**

The CC were asked by the Council to comment on a proposed extension to land leased to the Boardwalk Café. We noted improvements the operator has made to the building and the café's value to visitors. We also, however, highlighted that the developments should be subject to planning permission to ensure local involvement, pointed to the need to restrict vehicle movements and parking on footpaths and at the site, and expressed concerns over the capacity of toilets to cope with major events and increases in footfall. We also expressed regret at the loss of public toilets at this part of the promenade, especially as the Council is developing a new strategy for public toilets against the Covid backdrop, and called for a comprehensive plan for this part of the Foreshore.

## **Other news**

**Council to create parking plan for approach to Cramond Village.** Responding to routine traffic congestion and parking issues on Cramond Glebe Road during the lockdown, the Council agreed to develop an action plan. Frequent, often daily, issues requiring visits by HM Coastguard have affirmed the need to avoid congestion and gridlock on this vital approach to the Waterfront.

**Resumption of Sunday 41 services.** The CC welcomed resumption of Lothian Buses' 41 Sunday service to Cramond. This followed complaints from the CC. We remain concerned that Lothian Buses are not required to report to the City Council on timetable performance and are likely to challenge this.

**Delays to yellow lining on Whitehouse Road.** Nearly 3 years ago, the Council promised double yellow lines on the north side of Whitehouse Road (Inveralmond Road to Cramond Vale). Furlough of the contractor's workforce caused delay and, regrettably, has not yet been completed.

**Reopening of Cramond Inn, but concerns over 'cash only' policy.** New managers, Wullie and Pam, are working tirelessly to provide a welcoming and safe environment. However, the owners' - Samuel Smith - 'cash only' policy, has caused customer concern due to Covid-19 risks. The CC has asked the Council to put pressure on Samuel Smith to allow cashless/contactless payments in compliance with Government guidelines.

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