



addressed.

The system for collection of annual assessment fees is working very well. Louise gave an insight into what the Committee's involvement is with regard to this. Each member carries out their role on a voluntary basis and receives no remuneration, also paying their annual assessment the same as every other resident on the estate! A considerable amount of time is spent visiting non payers to deliver reminders and making arrangements where appropriate to ensure payments are received. This has proved to be extremely productive and the committee will continue to do this.

### **Landscaping and Tree Work :**

At the last AGM it was agreed to continue with the services of Greenfingers as the landscapers and a number of additional projects have been completed on top of the contractual work which hopefully have improved the overall appearance of the estate. The Committee work closely with the contractors and thankfully the weather conditions over the last 12 months were much improved on the previous year enabling the maintenance schedule to be fulfilled. The contractors have worked well with us to maintain and enhance the amenity areas and will continue to carry out improvements.

### **Additional work undertaken:**

Removal of dense shrubbery at pathway at top of Howden Hall Park. Replaced with turf and low level planting.

Removal of an area of shrubbery at the parking bays at Howden Hall Court which was lethal to touch and damaging cars. Has been turfed with a small feature tree planted in the centre.

Drainage installed at bottom of large park area behind Howden Hall Crescent to alleviate flooding problems with water run off.

Areas where trees have been removed throughout the estate have been turfed over.

The tree surgeons have made 2 visits over the past 12 months to carry out regular inspections and also to assess what work was required in response to issues raised by residents. Extensive work was undertaken and this will be ongoing as tree issues arise.

Question from resident with regard to trees at 17/19 Howden Hall Drive which have protruding roots causing a hazard. As well as being a health and safety issue this is also a council issue as located on grass verge between roadway and pavement. Cllr Bill Cook agreed to investigate the matter.

### **Additional Work planned for this year:**

Treatment to grass areas (weather permitting).

Further improvements to dense shrub areas.....At this point there was feedback from residents on work already undertaken....all of it positive.

Landscaping of paved areas at Alnwickhill View and Alnwickhill Crescent both carried forward from 2013.

Further tree work should it be required.

### **Communication:**

Our website is [www.alnwickhillpa.org](http://www.alnwickhillpa.org)

Thanks to Cath Houlton and Des Reid for continuing to maintain and update it. Our email account [alnewickhillproprietors@gmail.com](mailto:alnewickhillproprietors@gmail.com) continues to be well used.

### **CURRENT ISSUES:**

**Parking:** The main issue is parking on both sides of the road at the bottom of Howden Hall Drive, blocking drivers view when entering the estate. This issue was still outstanding until an email was received today saying extension to yellow lines has been approved.

Also still issues with drivers parking on corners, over residents driveways and parking in such a way that pavements are obstructed.

**Dog Fouling:** Areas where there is a persistent problem should be reported on 0131 529 3030 or email [env.wardens@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:env.wardens@edinburgh.gov.uk). Worst on grassed area between Backlee and Alnewickhill Drive.

**Cold Calling:** Estate is designated as a "No Cold Calling Zone" with notices to this effect on lamp posts throughout the estate. There appears to be a drop in the number of cold callers. If people have concerns, they should contact Trading Standards.

Moved:	Dagmar Martin	27 Alnewickhill Grove
Seconded:	Elizabeth Baillie	25c Howden Hall Court

### **3. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Copy accounts were provided to everyone.

The Treasurer, Fiona Knight reported a healthy audited bank balance of £37,606.61 which is slightly higher than the balance at the same time last year. This is due to monies being needed for proposed extra works being carried forward.

#### **Setting of Assessment for 2014/2015**

The committee have considered this very carefully and propose setting the fee for 2014/2015 at £60 which is the same as last year. Once again a £10 discount for early payers will apply. Payment must be received by 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 to qualify. All 3 payment options will remain in place and full details will be provided with the assessment notice. Approval was asked for and all in agreement.

We are delighted to be able to maintain the same fee as last year. Due to the high level of payment response it will allow the funding of extra projects which are beneficial to all residents.

Treasurer's report and setting of assessment was approved and adopted.

Moved:	Bill Martin	27 Alnewickhill Grove
Seconded:	Amanda Sanderson	123 Howden Hall Drive

### **4. Election of Officials:**

We continue to seek new committee members. It is not an onerous task, involving approximately 6 meetings a year and is very rewarding.

Open to meeting for volunteers. None forthcoming.

One committee member, Claire Monk, has served her term of office but is willing

to stand for re-election. Another member, June Thorburn, is standing down. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work. Approval sought and granted for this nomination.

Moved: Christine Carson 23 Howden Hall Gardens  
Seconded: Jacqui Doig 38 Howden Hall Loan

## **5. Any Other Competent Business:**

Claire Monk gave a report on the current situation with regards to the housing development within the former Water Treatment plant on Howden Hall Road. The site has been purchased jointly by Cala and David Wilson (Barratt) who are the same developers as at the site at Buckstone and believed that the building would be similar. Permission to build now lodged and should be available for view on website. They hope to have planning permission by August 2014 and be onsite by January 2015. Access from Alnwickhill Road, near Stanedykehead, is for pedestrians and emergency vehicles only. A further update will be given in our next newsletter.

**Guest Speakers:** The chairperson gave Ian Murray's apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and copies of a feedback report from him were circulated. She then handed over to the guest speakers. Community policy officer P.C. Mike Smith assured residents that the Alnwickhill area was very safe with a very low incidence of crime. Break ins to sheds at night especially if unlocked or insecure. Some vandalism to cars in the vicinity but not actually within the estate. For residents wishing more information or advice, he recommended Neighbourhood Watch Scotland website.

Kenny MacAskill also contributed to this discussion stressing that much of the crime was opportunistic. Criminals testing house or car doors to see if unlocked. He advised not to leave valuables such as handbags or laptops visible in vehicles. Also advising not to advertise an empty house with unclosed curtains or mail behind the door.

### **Questions and matters raised by residents:**

Handrail at path leading from Howden Hall Park/ Loan to Alnwickhill Drive. One resident raised the issue that residents in the immediate vicinity had not been consulted about its erection. Louise pointed out that it had been installed for health and safety reasons but that the committee took on board the point raised and for all further works around the estate the residents in the immediate area would be approached and consulted.

The question of graffiti not just around the estate but within the city was directed to Cllr Bill Cook. The policy is to remove this as quickly and where possible to identify the "tagger" and try to steer them in a more positive direction.

The Chairperson closed the meeting with thanks to the guests and those who had attended. She also thanked those who assist with delivering the committee's communications.

Meeting closed at 8.05.