

Craigeith/Blackhall Community Council Minutes

Date of Meeting:	16 th January 2017
Chair:	Emma Phillips, CBCC Chair
Venue:	Blackhall St. Columba's Church
Prepared by:	Robin Cathcart, CBCC Secretary
Circulated by:	Email and website
In Attendance:	Emma Phillips, Cllr Nigel Bagshaw, Peter May, Neil Watt, Martin Riddell, Claudia Romero, Dave Halbert, Jim McLennan, Robin Cathcart, Cllr Gavin Barrie, George Millar, Cllr Iain Whyte PC Emily Grimwood, Neil McIntosh, Betty Watt, Aileen Pearson, Eric Fox, Derek Caiden

	Action With
1. Apologies: Alan Denham, Cllr Lesley Hinds, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Deidre Brock MP,	
2. Safety & Crime discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">PC Emily Grimwood reported that between 1 December and 6 Jan, there were no home break-ins in our area. There were two however, on the 12th and 14th. That's lower than this time last year and indeed they are down all across Edinburgh. Special teams in the Edinburgh Police that deal with house break-ins have been reinstated and this has had a positive impact on catching thieves that work across the city.Motorbike and quadbike calls have been made regarding youths being antisocial on bike paths and in the roads. Emily and Pete (our local officers) have been walking along the bike path but they've not encountered the people that are causing the disruption.Car theft can be prevented if keys are well-hidden. Once cars are stolen, recovery rates are low.If you see suspicious people about, the police can be called on their non-emergency line. Knowing about suspicious people's whereabouts and times they are out is useful to the police. Talking to neighbours is vital to keeping streets safe and we are encouraged not to ignore antisocial behavior.CCTV along the bike path is possible due to the installation of camera poles, however its cost prohibitive to install actual cameras on the pole at Maidencraig Cres. They are located further north along the bike path, where the cameras are deemed more useful. If the crime situation changes in the area, they may reconsider using the CCTV at the Maidencraig bike path junction.	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If anyone hears or sees ongoing crime, they should call 999. Physical descriptions of the people are useful, and in particular if you can note their shoes, that is sometimes the best identifier. • Derek runs the Forthview Neighbourhood Watch (http://forthviewneighbourhoodwatch.blogspot.co.uk/), which covers the triangular neighbourhood between Queensferry Road and Telford road and Maidencraig Cres and has about 200 members. They set up a no cold calling zone in the area. • Neighbourhood Watches can help police with 2-way communication to help get information out quickly to their members and for the community to feed back to the police about issues they are concerned about. • Some places have an allocated neighbor programme where there is a neighbor that takes an extra interest in older or at-risk neighbours. PC Greenwood is happy to go out and pay visits to anyone in the area that feels they are at-risk and in need of a conversation about their safety. 	
<p>3. Approval of minutes from last meeting (6th Dec 2016): Approved by members</p>	
<p>4. CEC Councilors' Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Whyte will circulate a list of roads to be worked on. Queensferry Road sunken drains have been highlighted as particularly dangerous to both cyclists and drivers. They have been worked on in the past, but large lorry traffic continues to push them down, so it's an ongoing problem. Predicted increases in traffic along Queensferry will further exacerbate the sunken drains. • Cllr Barrie has had a complaint about the calculation of council tax for vacant properties. 10% reductions to council tax apply to the first year a property is vacant, regardless of changes in ownership. Cllr Barrie is looking into how/if the reduction can be reset for new owners. • Cllr Bagshaw toured the Craigeleith Hill estate and is waiting to hear back regarding resurfacing. Cllr Bagshaw also has asked about the extent and areas of funding cuts for Blackhall Library. However, there has been no information given, and it may be that Cllrs won't know about changes to Library funding until February when they publish a plan. Residents with concern are encouraged to contact their Cllrs as elections are this Spring and Cllrs may be particularly responsive now. • Cumulative non-payment of Council Tax is high, but CEC is getting better, and is one of the better councils at recouping non-payment council tax in the year it is due. Old payments are more difficult to find/retrieve. <p>Four Council Tax bands are going up, and many properties in Craigeleith and Blackhall will see increases.</p>	
<p>5. AOCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banners that obscured views of traffic around Orchard Brae have been taken down, however the Sainsbury banner is still up. • Wheelie bin collections have been improving, but anyone with persistent problems is encouraged to contact one of their 4 councilors 	

to accelerate the process. Edinburgh waste collection is one of the more expensive in Scotland, and the CEC is looking at ways to reduce costs. Further reductions of the brown waste collection is one that they are looking at.

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