

Minutes of the Craigleith and Blackhall Community Council Meeting on 10 December 2012 in Stewart's Melville College Dining Hall.

Present: Eddie Thorn (Chair), Ian Hewitt (Vice-chair), Maureen Kane (Sec), Alan Denham (Treasurer), Margaret Richardson, Alasdair Watson, Andrew Niven, Claire Lynch, John Adams, John Young, Jack Burton, Sally McKenzie, PC Sarah Hall, Cllr Barrie, Cllr Bagshaw. Guests: Joyce Livingston, John Darling, Graham Morrison, Judith Morrison.

Apologises: Neil Watt, Dave Halbert, Alastair Nairn, Cllr Whyte, Cllr Hinds

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved by Alan Denham and seconded by Jack Burton

Police Report: PC Hall reported that there was a 30% reduction in crime in the Inverleith area with the exception of bicycle crime which was on the increase. There was an ongoing parking programme for Blackhall Primary School and the police would patrol Craigleith Retail Park in the run-up to Christmas to deter potential criminal activity. John Adams felt there should be a visible police presence around Maidencraig Court and Crescent as well as on the walkway.

Treasurer and Planning Report: An application to build De Vere Village complex at Crewe Toll has been submitted to planning but the committee had concerns that the limited parking facilities would have a direct impact on the CC's area. Joyce Livingston commented on the existing problems caused by parking. John Adams felt that the public transport in the area was poor and Ian Hewitt thought the hotel should address the problem, possibly through pricing. Alan Denham will submit comments to the Planning Department supporting the existing proposal but raise concerns about parking. An application to erect an advertisement at 2 Strachan Rd was yet again submitted to planning and again the CC did not approve as it was felt that it was not in keeping with a residential area. Alan Denham will submit an objection. There is a training day for LDP on 23 January.

Chair's Report: Eddie Thorn reported that the Community Conference at Broughton was well attended and the Committee was well-represented. There was a police conference at Craigroyston High School which was interesting but not well-attended. Eddie Thorn also gave

positive feedback on INP Library Customer Service meeting.

Councillor's Report: Cllr Bagshaw enquired about the withdrawal of a puffin crossing on Queensferry Rd. Maureen Kane explained that the CC lodged an objection to the location as it would interfere with car parking for funerals and weddings. Approval for the puffin crossing was mixed and the matter would be raised again at another meeting. Cllr Barrie reported that new street lighting would be introduced in phases around the city. John Young was concerned about the poor quality of lighting; Cllr Barrie explained why the lighting would be an improvement. Eddie Thorn recommended that the committee members should read the Council's Draft Budget Report but felt it was too long and unwieldy.

Orchard Park North: There was a lengthy discussion about the work carried out in Orchard Park North and some concerns expressed in the emails were read to the committee including the actual location of paths and equipment, maintenance and consultation process. Maureen Kane pointed out that for every point of objection raised by residents in emails, there was another in favour. Joyce Livingston, John Darling, Graham Morrison and Judith Morrison were disappointed and concerned about the lack of consultation on the project and felt that the park should have remained a green, open space as it was used by dog-walkers, families with young children, and children playing ball games. Judith Morrison felt the path was out of place. All the aforementioned guests believed that the process of consultation should have been better. Eddie Thorn felt that the committee would learn from this experience. After leafleting around 70-80 residents about their choice of equipment, 7 emails, 1 phone call and one further response at the meeting were noted; 6 households wanted children's play equipment and 3 wanted nothing at all. A motion to install play equipment was proposed by Ian Hewitt and seconded by Eddie Thorn. Maureen Kane will contact Ritchie Fraser (Parks Dept) and notify him of the decision to install play equipment.

Policy on Planning Matters: Maureen Kane drafted a policy. The item will go back on the agenda for the February meeting.

Notice Boards: Ian Hewitt reported that the management of Sainsbury's will not shift the notice board despite repeated requests. He suggested that it might be better placed on an outside wall. John Adams complained to Sainsburys management about lighting and Ian Hewitt is still also pursuing the issue.

Blackhall Signage: Alasdair Watson enquired about signage for Blackhall given that Colinton

Village now had a sign. Eddie Thorn and Ian Hewitt felt the CC could do no more.

New Member: Sally McKenzie was welcomed on to the Committee as a representative of CHNWS.

Speed Restrictions: Jack Burton enquired about the progress of a 'slow down' sign on Queensferry Rd, similar to the one further west, but the committee was unaware of any developments.

Pavement Trees: Alasdair Watson reported that young trees were missing from Strachan Rd. Cllr Barrie will investigate.

RVH: Alan Denham heard that RVH on Craigeleith Rd had reopened two wards, presumably to cope with a temporary increase in patient numbers.

New residents: Ian Hewitt suggested that the CC give flowers to welcome new residents to the area. Committee thought it was a good idea.