

Minutes of the meeting of the Craigleith and Blackhall Community Council on 10 March 2014 in Stewart's Melville College Dining Hall

Present: Eddie Thorn (Chair), Ian Hewitt (Vice Chair), Maureen Kane, Alan Denham, Margaret Richardson, George Millar, Rupert Lezemore, Neil Watt, Adam Blair (Police Scotland), Neil MacFarlane (CEC), Colin Keir MSP, Cllr Barrie and 8 residents from Groathill Avenue/Road South.

Apologies : Mark Lazarowicz (MP), Jim Bishop

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes of the meeting of 10 February 2014 were approved.

Matters arising:

Groathill Avenue/Road South Parking Issues: Ian Hewitt introduced Neil MacFarlane from the CEC to discuss the possible Groathill traffic orders for double yellow lines on roads off Telford Road. There was discussion on the process (would take 12-18 months subject to consultation), the knock on effects (eg displaced parking elsewhere), and other related issues (such as the impact of the proposed housing development). Residents shared their thoughts and there was agreement for CEC to revise the plans and distribute to residents ahead of and for discussion at the next meeting of the CBCC.

Police Report: Adam Blair updated on the 6 weeks stats: 14 crimes across Craigleith and Blackhall, mainly minor but including house break ins, vandalism and thefts. Operation Rack was focussing on house break ins. Neil Watt mentioned bike tagging and Maureen Kane suggested a session should be held at Craigleith Retail Park.

Dunedin House Development: Stuart Peters, Andrew Peters and Grant Watson discussed the proposed development of Dunedin House. Stuart Peters explained that tight deadlines meant that they were unable to consult the CBCC on the original planning application and was apologetic for this. This was refused on 3 (guidelines) grounds which revised plans, he explained, would meet. The developers were keen to address the concerns from the CEC and listen to comments from the CBCC before this was submitted and (expected) approval was granted. THE CBCC asked questions about visual impact, sustainability of project, parking and any potential section 75 agreement and were generally content with the revised proposals and for the developers frankness in explaining their position.

Chair's Report: Eddie Thorn reported back a letter he had received from Stephen Saunders regarding Corstorphine Woods and a meeting he had with McTaggart and Mickel regarding the location of grit bins and hand rails.

Treasurer's Report: Alan Denham reported a slight increase in insurance cover for CBCC.

Planning: Alan Denham updated on the Edinburgh Local Development Plan with CEC stating that 4,000 new houses would need to be provided. The sites at Craigcrook Castle, Ravelston Quarry could potentially be developed and the CBCC discussed the implications for this, especially the impact on local amenities/schools. The traffic implications of the much larger developments planned for the west of the city would also have expected negative traffic and air pollution impacts on the community. CBCC agreed to oppose developments at these sites and try to publicise the issues to the community to help with a formal response from the CBCC to CEC in the summer. The CBCC agreed to host an emergency meeting at this time if required.

Alan also discussed the new First 43 bus service serving the community.

MSP and Councillors' Reports: Cllr Barrie advised that he had been in close contact with the Hope Park Residents group. Colin Keir discussed his involvement with Cammo/Maybury residents in opposing the housing development outlined for the west of the city as part of the Edinburgh Local Development Plan, supporting the CBCC's concerns around the expected negative impacts on air quality and traffic.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Craigleith and Blackhall Community Council will be held in the Dining Hall of Stewart's Melville College on Monday 14 April 2014 at 7.30pm.