

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 17 September 2018

Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall

Present : Emma Phillips (Chair), Alan Denham(Secretary), James MacLennan, Michael Cockburn, Inverleith Ward Councillor Gavin Barrie. In attendance PC Holly Matheson and 10 residents from the local community.

Apologies : Rupert Lezemore, Peter May, Paul Moran, Martin Riddell, Claudia Romero, Councillor Hal Osler and Deidre Brock MP.

Minutes of 20 August 2018 meeting - approved.

Matter arising both from June and 20 August meeting :

Speeding on Craigcrook Road - the Secretary and Peter May had attended an onsite meeting on 22 August with City Council road official Dave Sinclair and Councillors Gavin Barrie and Iain Whyte to discuss the petition raised by a local resident at the western end of Craigcrook Road regarding speeding and volume of traffic on Craigcrook Road and Strachan Road. The petitioner's concerns mirrored the concerns of residents living close to Ravelston Park. Additionally the Secretary reported on the subsequent e-mails on the matter.

At the meeting Dave Sinclair was aware of the problems of speeding on Craigcrook Road but reported that after the roll-out of the 20mph policy, a one year review was being undertaken which will conclude in February 2019, at which time it may be appropriate to consider further measures to address compliance issues. A subsequent e-mail from the 20mph team confirmed that Craigcrook Road had had temporary mobile Vehicle Activated Speed Signs(VASS) in place and there is an intention to install them for a further two week period later this year. Additionally the e-mail had said that with regard to physical traffic calming, this is only now undertaken at locations where there is a significant history of speed related collisions, which is not applicable to Craigcrook Road.

The issue of traffic congestion was more difficult to consider as any immediate intervention would have an impact on other routes. It was clear however that the future of the Queensferry Road A90 corridor is the most significant element in any traffic control measures. A public transport study is currently underway. A number of short term measures to manage traffic flow are being proposed :-

1. introduce improved traffic signals at Barnton and Drumbrae North junctions
2. repair existing SCOUTS ITS signal system
3. introducing Gating for SCOOT at Blackhall Junction to potentially store queues during evening peak periods
4. upgrade of traffic signals Blackhall (including bus lane extension)

The subsequent discussion at the meeting reiterated concerns about traffic driving too fast near to Blackhall Primary School and Ravelston Park, both well used by young children; major problems of parking around the school and Strachan House Care Home; too many parents driving to school; and Craigcrook Road was difficult to navigate as a cyclist.

There were concerns that some of the short term measures listed could also encourage more traffic to divert from Queensferry Road on to Craigcrook road.

The issue of a pedestrian crossing at the school was raised by residents with children at the school and the possibility of crowd funding it. Councillor Barrie agreed to explore the matter.

Councillor Barrie noted the limited resources for local works in the suburbs. The current policy review of the city centre could add to the imbalance and he encouraged all residents to participate in the consultation.

Agreed : the position on speeding on Craiggrook Road should be reviewed further by the Community Council after the City Council had completed the review of the 20mph policy, possibly in March or April 2019. Dave Sinclair should also be invited to the meeting.

Agreed also to e-mail Dave Sinclair and 20mph policy voicing again the concerns of residents.

Police Scotland Report - PC Holly Matheson gave an update on recent activity - cycle training; a forthcoming bike event at the Maidencraig Crescent cycle junction; uniform patrols; a surgery held at Blackhall Library and a further surgery to be arranged; badgers crossing Craiggrook Road; anti-social behaviour albeit much reduced; use of pop-up Bob and speed checks. Following discussion it was agreed that the the use of a pop-up Bob at Blackhall Primary School would be explored.

Chair Report - Emma Phillips noted that Neil Watt, a community councillor had had relocated to Jersey for a period and would no longer be serving on the Community Council. She thanked him for his helpful contributions and support.

She also raised the issue of changes in the janitorial services at Blackhall Primary School. The uncertainty whether janitorial services would be available as well as the new costs meant that providing events by the PSA Parent School Association could lead to a loss of income for the school - in the last year £40k was generated for use by the school. An early decision is required because of events organised by the PSA on 21 and 29 September. Councillor Barrie undertook to look into the matter further.

Community Council matters

Alan Denham reported on the planning application for an 8-storey block of flats adjacent to Orchard Brae House on Queensferry Road which had been submitted between meetings. It had generated 47 objections.

He had also attended a meeting earlier on 17 September to consider the review of the Edinburgh Local Development Plan - Cityplan 2030 - at Queensferry to consider what was important to be retained and how to accommodate housing and other emerging development pressures. The Cityplan will set the framework for considering planning applications.

The changes to the boundaries of two NHS Medical Practice, located at Eyre Place and East Trinity Road, well outside the Community Council area was noted. No objection to be raised provided alternative GP practices in the area have sufficient spaces.

City Councillor Reports - Councillor Barrie reported that planning applications for some individual house extensions in the Craigeleth Hill area were becoming large to the point that they were having an unacceptable impact on neighbours. At the Council meeting on 20 September, there is to be a motion to mark the centenary of expansion of the city in 1920-2020. Councillor Barrie noted that the benefit cap changes were no longer sufficient

to meet rent payments for householders just outwith the Community Council boundary, resulting in housing problems for the first time.

AOCB - progress on the Blackhall Community Trust proposals was sought. It was agreed to invite Tina Woolnough to a future meeting (she had been expected to attend this evening).

Pedestrian traffic lights at Blackhall Library and Blackhall Dip - a resident noted that the change in the commencement of the 40mph speed limit on Hillhouse Road had resulted in increasing speed of traffic as it approached the pedestrian lights at Blackhall Library, a potential for an accident. The time for the pedestrian phase to change to green was also unacceptable. A similar change had taken place at the pedestrian lights in Blackhall Dip. Agreed that the matter would be raised with Road officials.

Garden wheelie bin collections - permits are to be issued from 24 September and the system will be open from 1-16 October for additional permit requests.

Next meeting - Monday 22 October 2018 in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall at 7.30pm

Alan Denham
Secretary
18 September 2018