

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 15 February 2021 **- held online using Teams**

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Duncan Osler, Grant Roger, Darlene Jeffrey, Susie Ross, Jim McLennan, Michael Cockburn, Paul Moran; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell; PC Tony Lawrence, Police Scotland; and one member of the public.

Apologies - Deidre Brock MP

Minutes of 18 January 2021 meeting - approved.

Police Report - PC Tony Lawrence reported on recent crime figures in Edinburgh north west and Inverleith Ward:-

Compared to last year serious and violent crime was down 18%.

House break-ins were also down 45% in Edinburgh north west and 57% in Inverleith, although break-ins to sheds and garages had increased, particularly involving the theft of bicycles. Through Operation Agora the recovery of stolen bikes being reunited with their owners was at a record level due to the bike register marking, although bike marking events had been put on hold because of the current Covid-19 restrictions.

Anti-social behaviour was increasing at home addresses. Although it had reduced elsewhere, there were increases in young people congregating in contravention of Covid-19 regulations.

Hate crime was down by 2%.

Road safety issues were down 42% and injuries in accidents by 63%. PC Lawrence noted that BMW cars had been broken into by cutting into the doors and stealing the steering wheels and control panels. A number of individuals had now been apprehended for the crimes. The discussion noted that during the recent snow cover, it was apparent that a number of cars in Hillpark Way had been tested for easy theft - fortunately no cars were taken.

Community Council matters -

Recent and proposed developments in the Western General Hospital and Craigleith Hill area - Susie Ross highlighted the concerns from local residents about the various surface water flooding problems and disturbance to residents from construction of developments at the Western General Hospital. Flooding problems had also developed as a result of the recent care home on Telford Road. Current planning applications at the Western General Hospital, while in themselves may not be significant, they represent a cumulative impact. During discussion the following points were made :-

With regard to flooding residents are caught between the City Council and Scottish Water. Noted that Scottish Water had been poor in dealing with local problems and so far had failed to develop a long term strategy to deal with surface water flooding in the Craigleith Hill and Queens Avenue areas.

The quality of life of residents is also affected by construction, including early on Sundays in contravention of approved construction times. With new developments coming forward frequently, it results in constant noise, vibration and dirt for residents.

Agreed - the forthcoming draft Cityplan 2030 provides an opportunity to highlight the issues.

The Community Council would in support of local residents object to the current planning applications.

A representative should be invited from the Western General Hospital to a future meeting of the Community Council.

Strategic Transport Projects Review consultation - although a Scotland-wide report, it was noted that it included proposals to extend Edinburgh Tram from Granton on a north-south route in the city, passing through the Community Council area.

The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility

Regulations 2018 - noted that belatedly community councils have been informed that these regulations apply to community councils. Agreed that the matter would be considered at a future meeting.

Councillors Reports - the 3 Councillors present commented on :-

recent snow and ice had resulted in a busy time for them;

the recent accidents on Orchard Road had resulted in the Council now looking at physical calming measures as traffic speeds were excessive at 29mph;

speeding on Strachan Road - the road had been added to Police Scotland matrix for regular speed checks;

the take away van in Blackhall Dip had not been present for a number of weeks;

proposal by the Council to remove the CCTV camera in Ravelston Park had been delayed after concerns by the councillors.

Michael Cockburn noted that recent local gritting had appeared to have taken place using an empty grit lorry. Councillor Osler said that the priorities for gritting would likely be reviewed by the City Council.

AOCB - The Chair noted the poor condition of Queensferry Road surface despite the reduced traffic volumes. The City Council had failed to use the opportunity when volumes were low to undertake lasting, permanent repairs rather than temporary patching of limited life.

Also noted the recent annual request from the Information Commissioner.

Next meeting - agreed that the date should be revised and will now be held online at 7.30 pm on Monday 15 March 2021 using Teams.

Alan Denham
Secretary
19 February 2021