

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting - Monday 21 August 2023

Held at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger (Treasurer), Martin Riddell, Darlene Jeffrey; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Vicky Nicolson (part meeting); 8 members of the local community

Apologies - Duncan Osler, Jim McLennan, Michael Cockburn, Councillors Jule Bandel, Max Mitchell, Deidre Brock MP, Angus Robertson MSP, PC Colin Cursiter.

Minutes of 19 June 2023 meeting - approved.

Matters arising - following community concerns about the removal of bins from the rear of Ravelston Park, Council officials had reported to Councillors -

"The bins in Ravelston Park were removed approximately a year and a half ago from the back wall. We took this decision based on the damage our vehicles were causing to the grass as the vehicle drove round the park to service the bins from the back wall. We introduced two 240l housing units at the entrance of the park on Craigcrook Road and we have retained a 80l bin in the play area.

"The new litter bin siting policy, has the ultimate objective of locating the correct size and type of bin in the right place to reflect demand and changing usage patterns. This may include where practical, removing smaller bins from within Parks and replacing them with fewer larger housing units at entrance gates. We will continue to assess bins city wide, however the time scale for rolling this out will depend on staff and resource availability.

"The bin at the play areas should really be removed for the park, however, as it's only a 40 metre walk for the operative to service the unit it has been left in situ. The bin at the entrance to the park on the opposite side has been placed at the gate to serve all park uses entering or leaving by that exit point this includes people using the Nursery.

"I do not think it's an unreasonable request to ask all park users to walk to the nearest bin or in fact take their rubbish home."

Police Report - PC Cursiter was unable to attend but had provided a short written update :-

There were 166 calls to Police for the month. This was an increase of 14 calls over the same period last year. The vast majority of calls this month relate to youth ASB. Craigleith Retail park again has been targeted and there are a number of crime reports submitted and investigations continue to ID/charge suspects.

In relation to road traffic matters, there have been a handful of minor vehicle bumps, but no major incidents reported

During the last month, there was 2 housebreakings to the Craigleith Hill area. CID are investigating and I will keep you updated on the result.

There was no reported violent crime for this month.

The subsequent discussion highlighted a number of problems including youths riding motor cycles wearing balaclavas and no helmet on the cycle path, young children hassling older people, suspicious activity in Orchard Park South. It was acknowledged that it was not on the same scale as previous years but nevertheless is still unpleasant.

Community Council matters -

CCTV and Lighting on cycle path at Maidencraig Crescent -

Councillors Nicolson and Osler provided an update from Police Scotland -

'Following consultation with City of Edinburgh Council, City in View I understand that the Maidencraig camera was removed as part of the upgrade of their CCTV system. This was one of the old 3G cameras and was no longer compatible with the new system.'

'The local Community police officer is due to meet with CCTV staff with a view to discussing potential locations along the footpath for re-deployable cameras. At this meeting, I have requested that an update be sought as to whether or not the camera which has been removed will be permanently replaced.'

Martin Riddell reported that as part of the forthcoming SPEN cable laying - now to take place in 2024 - which will affect Queensferry Road and Maidencraig Crescent, Scottish Power will hopefully provide 2 new CCTV cameras under a 5-year contract. A meeting later in the week will provide updated information on this matter.

Community Council scheme and boundary review - ahead of the formal consultation beginning on 2 October, it was agreed that the Community Council would provide comments on the boundaries with Murrayfield in the Craigleith Crescent area.

Councillors' Reports

Flooding - On a positive note Councillor Hal Osler said that a report on addressing the flooding issues in the Ward was progressing. The report on the Craigleith Green Blue network is attached in annex 1.

Strachan Road/Queensferry Road/Telford Road junction - On a negative note, she was disappointed to learn that the junction, recently resurfaced to assist the international cycling race, did not provide for additional and missing pedestrian lights at the Strachan Road part of the junction. Council officials had responded to Councillor Osler stating that the decision had been taken in 2019 without informing

Councillors or Community Council. They did not think it warranted an upgrade. Additionally the junction was not included in the recent list of top 40 junctions in the city, implying improvement works were unnecessary. Councillor Osler is to arrange a site meeting with Council officials.

Craigleith Road Junction - the recent closure of part of the junction to address a leak in a Scottish Power cable had highlighted the need for more Council powers to enforce utility companies to carry out emergency works more quickly.

Financially Supported Bus Services - it was noted that the Transport and Environment Committee is to commission an external contractor report. The importance of retaining service 13 is an important priority for Councillor Osler.

Planters in Blackhall Dip - they were provided by the City Council as part of the modest capital improvements to Blackhall Dip in 2010. The Council however does not have funds to maintain them. A discussion considered a number of alternatives.

AOCB

Maidencraig Crescent Steps - a local resident from Queens Court again expressed concerns about the lack of an alternative ramp route to the steps for the elderly and parents with young children. She said that residents had waited 30 years with no obvious progress. She was concerned that it would end with a tragic death on the steps. Councillor Hal Osler said that it was important that the problem is brought to the attention of Councillor Arthur, chair of Transport and Environment Committee, who will attend the October meeting of the community council.

Maidencraig Crescent parking - concern was expressed about large commercial vehicles parking on the double yellow lines while delivering to Baillie Signs. It was recommended that the problem be reported to the Council using the reporting function on their web page.

Next meeting - Monday 18 September.

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

22 August 2023

Annex 1 - Craigeith Green Blue Network

Project Update 16/08/2023

Craigeith has been identified as a priority catchment area for flood management, and the Council is working collaboratively with Scottish Water, SEPA and other partners to progress interventions to mitigate flooding. To align with funding arrangements, this programme of work is being progressed through the RIBA Stages of Work 0-7. Across the catchment, 21 interventions were identified during Stage 0 and Stage 1. Five interventions were prioritised based on what would provide the best blue/green impact, best fit currently available sources of funding, and will be progressed under the banner of the Edinburgh & Lothians Strategic Drainage Partnership (E&LSDP) working group. The shortlist is a mixture of quick wins and longer-term flagship projects. To help focus on delivery, it excludes projects such as major Active Travel schemes which would be progressed out with the working group, albeit with our input to ensure sustainable drainage measures are incorporated. Funding is now being sought to progress these five interventions to Stage 2.

In conjunction with the projects identified above for Stage 2 concept design, two projects are being accelerated, as proposed as part of the programmes of work utilising the additional £2m of Capital budget allocated for flood mitigation. These are:

- A mini flood study at Easter Drylaw to identify what measures might be available to mitigate against the flooding experienced at that location. Should suitable, and cost-effective measures be identified, this project would also be accelerated to construction.
- Orchard Park Swale – a linear SuDS feature around the northern edge of the park to intercept road surface water, for which funding has been allocated to progress the project to construction.

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1 & 2. Easter Drylaw Avenue and Easter Drylaw Park

Easter Drylaw Avenue is prone to solum and external flooding. Opportunities will likely be to reduce hardstanding at the triangular junction illustrated, or to divert some surface water to the park to the rear of the properties. SuDS features installed here would be typical of those which could be utilised across the catchment, and city. Easter Drylaw Park, including Rowanfield special education school, is a multi-benefit opportunity and the design will include improvements to the school to enhance play. Improvements will be made to paths linking the area to the North Edinburgh path network.

A mini flood study, due for completion in Spring 2024, is being accelerated to ascertain what local interventions may be suitable at this location. This mini flood study will go into more detail than would be ordinarily done within Stage 2

3. Carrington Road and Inverleith Park

This builds on the existing Inverleith Park masterplan and also links to the City Plan 2030 place brief requirement to deculvert the watercourse through Fettes Police Station grounds, should that site be developed. This is a flagship project that will likely be progressed in a phased manner. Due to the private land ownership to the west of the site, it is unlikely that this project will all be progressed by the Council through the latter RIBA Stages, but a Stage 2 design will be used to help inform future development by others. 3

4. Arboretum Place

Arboretum Place was selected as a location which is less about demonstrating a significant reduction in flood risk, but an excellent visible demonstrator of SuDS measures which can be replicated across the catchment. Its location between the Royal Botanic Gardens and Inverleith Park is an exceptional stimulus for additional stakeholder interest.

5. Orchard Park

The overall Orchard Park site has the most catchment-wide potential to attenuate a significant volume of water to remove and delay surface water from entering the sewer network (7,500 – 15,000 m³ storage estimate from strategic modelling). This could provide a significant reduction to flood risk within the catchment.

One aspect of this already being accelerated is a swale which runs along the northern edge of the park. Funding for taking this project to construction was included within the Council's additional £2m capital budget proposals in May. The swale will provide an interim, small mitigation benefit to properties within the Orchards affected by flooding. 4

Next Steps

In addition to an allocation made within the 'Craigleith Catchment Enhancements' programme funded by the additional £2m Capital funding (25% of project costs), two other sources of funding are being progressed to progress the above projects to RIBA Stage 2. Confirmation of one of these sources (25%) is expected at the end of August. There is no timescale for confirmation of the final source (50%) however it is hoped this will be in the Autumn, and in the meantime concept design work can commence in September.

In parallel with these funding applications and Stage 2 concept designs, the Easter Drylaw flood study and Orchard Park swale will progress.

With the exception of the two accelerated projects, there is no indication what funding might be available to progress the remaining projects beyond Stage 2. A very early and indicative total to progress all five projects to construction is £10m, but gives an appreciation of the magnitude of intervention required across Edinburgh. This figure is based on incomplete designs and without much certainty on the scope or complexity of each. It is likely that throughout the programme of work, the prioritised projects will change to respond to funding availability and other factors, and the Craigleith Catchment Enhancements programme will be a continually evolving scope.

Consultation

Regular updates will be provided when there has been progress in relation to the projects within. Each project will also involve local consultation, commensurate with the scale and complexity. Consultation has already been undertaken for Inverleith Park and Orchard Park, and this will be rolled out to other projects at the appropriate time.

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