

## **Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 20 May 2024**

**Held at Blackhall St Columba's Church**

**Present** - Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger (Treasurer), Darlene Jeffrey, Duncan Osler, Martin Riddell; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell and Murrayfield Ward Councillor Alan Beal

**In attendance** - 10 members of the local community

**Apologies** - Councillor Vicky Nicolson; and Deidre Brock MP

**Minutes of 15 April 2024 meeting** - approved

**Police Report** - This month PC Cursiter had provided a written report :

"There were 160 calls to Police over the month. This was a slight decrease from 164 calls last year.

There was 1 reported housebreaking in the area which is being investigated and we are awaiting any forensic results. There was also an attempted break in to a business premises.

The community Policing team have been working on a number of demonstrations and football details this month.

I am aware of a number of calls relating to dirt bikes on the footpaths in the South Groathill and Craigcrook areas. PC Gunderson and I have been out on pedal bikes during this month and we are looking to increase patrols in response to this as we get into the summer months.

A stolen vehicle was recovered in the Kimmerghame Place area. Also, there have been 2 minor vehicle accidents reported.

Youth calls have decreased slightly and we are looking at ways to maintain this over the next few months.

We have also been visiting the primary schools in the area speaking with P7's about internet safety, prior to them going to high school after the summer."

**Community Council matters :-**

**Speeding and Dangerous Driving - Craigcrook Road** - a resident had expressed concerns about both the speed of traffic adjacent to Ravelston Park and dangerous driving when a driver ignored the keep left road sign by driving on the right side of the keep left bollard at the junction with Jeffrey Avenue, endangering her family.

The discussion acknowledged that such driving occurs regularly and Councillor Hal Osler acknowledged that it was frustrating that there was not an immediate solution to such poor and dangerous driving.

As the speed sensors do not record exceptional speed for this section of Craigmack Road it was stated that as well as average speeds they do also record excessive speeds by individual vehicles.

**Potholes - part 2** - following discussion at the April meeting about the poor state of roads in Blackhall and Craigmack when Hillhouse Road/Queensferry Road, Craigmack Road and Strachan Road were specifically identified as being problematic due to potholes, the subsequent publication of the capital works by the Transport and Environment Committee in April resulted in surprising inclusions. Hillpark Way is to be included for Carriageway Surface Treatment despite having one of the best road surfaces in Blackhall - the surface was renewed 10 or so years ago with a life of 25 years minimum. At the meeting discussion noted the pressure on Council budgets and local residents wish for Hillpark Way not to be included in the capital programme at this time. Agreed that the Secretary would follow-up with Councillor Bandel.

**Local Improvement Network** - this new initiative by the City Council was welcomed, but given the overall budget available for the city, the funds for local improvements are likely to be limited. For example at the best it would only provide for an upgrading to the steps at Maidenraig Steps but not the inclusion of a ramp.

**Service 13 bus** - the Secretary reported on a discussion with consultants appointed by the City Council to consider service 13 and other financially supported bus services in the city. The Secretary had emphasised the importance of retaining a link from Craigmack and Blackhall to the heart of the city centre, given the retail core is now at the east end of the city centre. It also provided a key link for tourists in the city centre to the Galleries of Modern Art, at present perhaps underused. Additionally it provided an essential connection to the shopping facilities in Craigmack Retail Centre. The consultant undertook to keep the Community Council informed before a report goes to Transport and Environment Committee later in the year.

## **Ward Councillors Reports**

Councillor Alan Beal said that the recent community council consultation should lead to improved resources for online training for community councillors. Next community council elections are expected to be held in September.

He noted the forthcoming 3 Taylor Swift concerts - the largest stadium concert in Scotland - and their impact on Murrayfield. These impacts could also extend to parts of Craigmack and Blackhall. Councillors are meeting on 24 May and information on controls will be published week beginning 27 May

Councillor Max Mitchell - said that he is still receiving e-mails about the proposed tram extension.

Finance House planning application for student housing on Orchard Brae has been extended for comments.

He has informed road officials of the intention of Scottish Water to close Carrington Road from 27 May, at the same time as it is being used a diversion route for buses and other traffic while emergency gas works take place on Crewe Road South.

He noted the poor state of the road surface at Hillpark Road junction.

Councillor Hal Osler reported back on the following matters :-

Ravelston Park bins adjacent to the play park - a local resident had expressed concerns that the bin was being used by dog walkers to deposit dog poo and requested its relocation. Councillor Osler said that the response from the Waste Department is not to relocate it but to use the underused capacity in the bins at the gates to the Park.

Maidencraig Steps - the proposal to consider the Roseburn Path as a potential tram route has undermined its future use as an active travel corridor in the short term and the justification at present for a ramp to be installed. She said that officers were now considering an active travel list for programmed works beginning in 2029. It is important to keep links such as Maidencraig Steps.

Sainsbury's - there have been recent out of hour deliveries. There is little scope to change the hours as Sainsbury has permission.

**AOCB** - SPEN - Martin Riddell reported that following discussions Scottish Power had agreed funding for 5 replacement trees at Maidencraig Crescent and Queensferry Road. Council officials however wish to relocate the 5 trees to Craighall Road.

**Next meeting** - Monday 17 June 2024

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

22 May 2024