

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 16 December 2024

At Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present – Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger, Duncan Osler, Jim McLennan, Martin Riddell, Darlene Jeffrey, Russell Murdoch, James Burr; Inverleith Ward Councillors Max Mitchell, Hal Osler.

In attendance - 12 members of the local community

Apologies – Councillors Vicky Nicolson, Alan Beal, Fiona Bennett.

Opening remarks by the Chair - following the standing down of Michael Cockburn, the Chair welcomed James Burr as the representative of Blackhall St Columba's Church

Minutes of 19 November 2024 meeting - approved.

Police Report – PC Cursiter provided the following written report:-

“There were 149 calls to Police this month(-22 less than last year). There was 1 reported housebreaking in the Maiden Craig area which is still under investigation and hopefully there will be a positive result from enquiries.

In terms of road traffic incidents, there was a reduction in reported accidents. Road Policing officers uplifted an uninsured vehicle in Craigleith and there was 1 reported break-in to a vehicle close to Telford Road. Over 20 vehicles were vandalised in the Craigleith/ Maiden Craig area this month which appeared to be caused by people running up on the windscreens. Officers attended as this was ongoing and traced the 2 suspects close by - 16yr and 18yr. They were both cautioned and charged with the offence. This appears to be an isolated incident and simply mindless vandalism.

We have seen a reduction in youth calls and ASB this month and we have been proactive in carrying out patrols (plain clothed and uniformed) in Craigleith Retail Park. This has been successful with 4 arrests made and just under £2000 of stolen property recovered. There have been a number of abstractions with officers having to work at the Christmas Markets in the city centre and a number of sporting events.”

The following matters were raised in the subsequent discussion:-

- a male adult had approached a child outside Stewart Melville's offering a lift. He was not known to the child who fortunately returned to the school. The adult drove off.
- broken windscreens also extended to Blinkbonnys
- an individual had been demonstrating in Blackhall Dip with anti muslim posters. The Chair would inform Police Scotland.

Community Council matters :-

Telford Road / Groathill Road South Junction - following recent road closures, a local resident was seeking support for banning right turning traffic from Telford Road into Groathill Road South, used by traffic as a rat run to Craigleith Retail Park. The discussion

noted that such a limitation would also affect residents in the area. Agreed - to continue the matter to the January meeting.

Farmer's Junction improvements for pedestrians - Councillor Max Mitchell agreed to let the Community Council see the proposals. The intention is to implement the changes by December 2025.

Craigleith Tunnel - local residents expressed their support for the proposals produced by the City Council which include a raised table under the Roseburn Cyclepath as well as the installation of Matrix signs providing different messages. Following discussion the Community Council agreed to support the proposed changes.

Blackhall Library - the Davidsons Mains Primary School Parent Council had e-mailed the Community Council bringing to our attention that the City Council were only interested in consulting with the school regarding the proposal to install a temporary Blackhall Library on the site of the former temporary Portakabin class rooms, now removed.

The Chair welcomed the information and the prospect of a replacement library facility, albeit in a temporary structure, while the RAAC concrete issue is resolved at the current site. He said that there should definitely be consultation with the Community Council on the permanent library, but the temporary, interim library was a matter between the school and the City Council. Access for those with mobility problems and car parking should be an important part of such a consultation. Should the permanent library be at Davidsons Mains School, child welfare will be of paramount importance.

Edinburgh City Council Budget - the City Council is seeking £30 million of savings in the year 2025/26, a significant part of which will fall on the social care budget, and are seeking the views of residents and community councils in the city.

The discussion highlighted the proposed high expenditure on schemes such as George Street pedestrianisation, Lothian Road boulevard, Edinburgh tram extension as well as the high cost for the use of consultants, all desirable rather than essential. Agreed - the Secretary would write to the Council with these views.

Ward Councillor Reports - Councillor Max Mitchell said that the planning application to change **Finance House** on Orchard Brae from housing to student accommodation had been refused.

He also said that there had been problems of **trade waste** being deposited in communal bins. Additionally the possibility of **double yellow lines at the Craigcrook Road/Jeffrey Avenue** junction could not be considered as part of the school travel plan for Blackhall Primary School. Councillor Hal Osler said that they would be considered by the Parking Review Group.

Councillor Hal Osler spoke to her written report - included in the annex.

Councillor Fiona Bennett had also provided a written report - included in the annex.

AOCB - the Secretary commented on the difficulties and challenges of driving on Hillhouse Road (Queensferry Road) in wet and dark conditions in the winter due to poor street lighting,

absence of white lines, central traffic islands with no illumination or reflective keep left signs and poor and deteriorating road surface. He agreed to write to Councillors Hal Osler and Max Mitchell.

Next meeting - Monday 20 January 2025

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigmileith/Blackhall Community Council

3 January 2025

Annex - Councillors' Written Reports

Councillor Hal Osler's report :-
Craigcrook Rd/Jeffery Ave

I have been liaising with the yellow lines team who have been out to inspect the area around the junction of Craigcrook Rd /Jeffery Ave and the issues with cars parking too close to the pedestrian island. What I have got back from the team is that they are *proposing to replace the existing APM markings (with DYLS) at the island and cover the junction with Jeffrey Avenue at the same time*. This has to be agreed by the "parking group" so I will be chasing it up again.



Keith Crescent/Craigcrook Road

The area of road at Keith Crescent has been in a poor state of repair for awhile, work was being done in 2023 to upgrade a property and then repairs were being done to footpaths etc. An inspection was carried out and agreement was reached that the road needed repair but a year down the line (with lots of chasing) nothing so far has come forward. Having chased again recently I have been informed that new roads programme is presently being produced and all requests are being assessed.

Road Markings, Craigcrook Park/Road

Chasing officers after meeting with residents and the school on improvements in the area right next door to the school to discuss improvements. There was agreement that DYLS needed to be extended along to at least past Strachan house and at the mouth of Craigcrook Park.

Strachan Road (Hillhouse end) Improvements

Been chasing officers for an update as there is a query in the design regarding a request for a guardrail from Sight Scotland and Ward Councillors which officers are reluctant to put in presently. I have also been chasing for a firmer commitment regarding delivery. At the time of writing I had not had a response.

Blackhall Mosque Parking

Majority outwith the CC area but top of Strachan Road has been included in the proposal for Double Yellow Lines. Again chased officers for progress and the drawings have been shared with the community (around the Mosque) and the Mosque, so far the Mosque has not responded. Hopeful that the Traffic Road Order will be submitted soon so that we can progress on this.

Craigleith Road 20mph

Thursday's TEC had a report detailing all the roads being considered for 20mph and agreeing to start the statutory process to promote the 20mph speed limit order. Craigleith Road is on the list but Crewe Road South has been left off due to "future tram programme" which was a bit of a surprise as every road it intersects with will be a 20mph. After much discussion though Committee agreed that all the roads not presently being progressed will be reconsidered in 6 months.

(Hillhouse Road (Queensferry Road) from Maiden Craig Crescent to Columba Road is also on the list)

Maiden Craigs Steps

After failing to receive funding for this project from the Local Traffic Improvement (LTI) Programme (the same fund that Strachan Road is being done from) I have been chasing officers in Road Operations to see what can be done instead. I do not have any positive progress to report at present but I will keep pursuing.

Maiden Craig Court Meeting

Attended a meeting with residents of Maiden Craig Court and officers officiated by Edinburgh Tenants to discuss a number of issues ranging from billing, to repairs to bins. The new Head of High-Rise Management and Investment, Graeme Reid has committed to attend regular meetings bringing officers to help answer resident issues.

Craigleith Retail Park

Concerns have been raised by a couple of residents about car parking in the Sainsbury's part of the Park. The issue seems to be with individuals parking right outside the doors of Sainsbury's blocking access to the pedestrian crossing and preventing the buses from reaching the bus stop. The Park as you all know is NOT adopted by the Council but is

private land so the Council has no authority here. I have written though to the manager of Sainsbury's and advised him of residents' concerns.

Foliage and the Royal Victoria Site

There are on going problems with overgrown foliage in the Royal Victoria site and the impact on residents living on Craigleith Hill. I am presently liaising with NHS Lothian and tree officers at the Council to try to resolve the issues.

Hillpark Ave – Sewer Repair

16th – 24th December, road closed to through traffic at number 30 (north east corner).

Councillor Fiona Bennett's Report :

White Lines

This issue was reported to the Council on November 21st and has been logged for inspection by Roads Operations under reference number 34009317.

Blinkbonny Grove

An update has been requested regarding resurfacing works and whether they are included in the Council's current schedule.

Holiday Inn Meeting Request

Councillors have not yet received a response from the Manager concerning the request for a meeting. A follow-up was made today.

Blinkbonny Bridge Traffic Calming

The proposed layout includes extended footway buildouts at the tunnel approach. Final alignment will depend on the location of public utility chambers and existing levels. The plan also includes a ramped raised table through the tunnel to encourage appropriate driver behavior and align the carriageway surface for level pedestrian access.

The Council is awaiting pricing details for the hardware options and has shared indicative locations for full matrix LED signs. These signs, triggered by remote sensors, will differentiate between pedestrians, cyclists, and approaching vehicles to provide tailored warnings.

Officers are consulting with emergency services, as well as structures, waste, and cleansing teams, regarding clear height requirements in the tunnel. Feedback at this stage is welcomed.

CCTV

Police Scotland has been contacted to follow up directly with Jo as promised several months ago. Disappointment was expressed that this commitment has not yet been fulfilled.