

## **Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 15 December 2025**

**at Blackhall St Columba's Church**

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

**In attendance** - 12 members of the local community

**Apologies** - Darlene Jeffrey; Councillors Vicky Nicolson and Alan Beal.

**Minutes of 15 December** - a member of the community asked why names of the community were not included in the minutes. Discussion highlighted the fact that not all members of the community present at a meeting might want their name listed in public document online as well as the implications of the Data Protection Act.

Agreed - members of the community could provide their name for inclusion in the minutes on a voluntary basis.

There was also discussion about the availability of documents. Secretary circulated papers for community council meetings online and is happy to add email contact addresses from individuals. Additionally the main papers are also available on the community council's web page - <https://craigleithblackhall.org>

Minutes of 15 December approved.

**Police Report** - PC Colin Cursiter provided a written report :-

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There were 177 calls to Police over this month (up 3 from last year)

There were 3 reported housebreakings to domestic properties and a further 3 to garages. This all occurred during a recent crime wave and it could be linked. CIU dept are investigating.

Two minor vehicle accidents were recorded. There was also a pedestrian injured following a road traffic collision at Hogmanay. The driver of the vehicle was tested and failed the drug roadside test. This resulted in their arrest and they were reported. A vehicle was also seized this month after it was established the driver had no license or insurance.

Youth calls have been slightly lower this month, and this will probably be in line with schools returning.

Finally, there was a disturbance within a licensed premises. This resulted in 2 arrested and reported for Summons.

I am currently covering a further 2 beat areas at present, so if anything has been missed. please contact me at :- [EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.police.uk](mailto:EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.police.uk)

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The discussion noted cars using Sainsbury car park for spins after midnight. As this is on private land, it was not clear whether this would be a police matter.

## **Community Council Matters**

**Ravelston Park Play Facilities** - a member of the community highlighted the deterioration in the play facilities and the lack of recent investment. While damaged equipment has been repaired, much of the facilities look tired. The last major upgrading had been in about 2005.

The discussion noted the Scottish Government 5 year programme and regular budget allocations to Parks team. With 100s of play parks in the city, Councillor Hal Osler said that the level of investment is not sufficient to upgrade all equipment. The choice is to upgrade a limited number intensively used by children or spread the funding thinly. Elected representatives are working with officials - backlogs include fences and footpaths. Unfortunately Ravelston Park is a low priority in city wide terms.

Agreed - the community council will email ward councillors about the concerns regarding play equipment in Ravelston Park.

## **Local Improvement Programme 2026/27**

At the December meeting was agreed that the following would be put forward for consideration :-

Maidencraig Steps - addition of a ramp to aid the elderly walking;  
Area around Ravelston Park, particularly the need for traffic to be slowed down to aid pedestrian access;  
Queensferry Road/Hillhouse Road - provision of safer crossings to bus stops where there are no current pedestrian lights.

The discussion about Maidencraig Steps highlighted the need for a more accessible route to Craighleith Retail Centre, particularly for the elderly and disabled. While a ramp at a gradient for self propelled wheel chairs was highly desirable, even modest changes to the steps including the installation of a central handrail would be helpful.

Agreed - the community council would submit bids to the city council for the above schemes.

## **Substandard Road Surfaces**

At the December meeting it was agreed to email Ward Councillors about the need to upgrade substandard roads, mainly in Blackhall (see appendix). Additionally James Burr highlighted the lack of white line road markings in Hillhouse Road/Hillview and the poor street lighting. He questioned whether the city council have the right balance between capital expenditure and revenue expenditure for maintenance.

Agreed - community council will e-mail Ward Councillors

## **Blackhall Library**

The city council has indicated its intention to consult in spring 2026 about the options for replacing Blackhall Library. The consultation will include the types of services people across Blackhall and Davidsons Mains would like to access , what they need from a future library facility and where it should be located. Councillor Hal Osler said that it was important to retain facilities, as once they are gone it is difficult to reinstate. At an estimated cost of up to £15m, it will be important that the right facilities are available. The funding has all party support in the council. Blackhall Library was well used before its closure due to RAAC concrete and the provision of community facilities at a replacement library has the potential to provide alternatives to screen time for young people.

Councillor Osler said that after a 3 month consultation period , there will be a need to assess responses and then prepare a report for consideration by the Committee.

In the meantime a temporary Blackhall Library is expected to open in spring 2026 at Davidson's Mains Primary School.

## **Ward Councillor Reports -**

### **Councillor Max Mitchell reported on :-**

Bin lorry getting stuck in Ravelston Park because of faulty route software;  
Scottish Gas Network (SGN) commencing works on Telford Road at Groathill Road North junction to replace metal gas pipes with plastic pipes. There will be lane closure and temporary traffic lights on Telford Road;  
Education Committee is to consider 1) banning mobile phones in schools, and 2) improving the playground at Blackhall Primary School;  
Blackhall Mosque - a TRO setting out parking restrictions including single yellow lines and double yellow lines is currently being consulted on.

### **Councillor Hal Osler reported on :-**

Controlled Parking Zone proposals in Craigleith/Blinkbonny have been published in a TRO.

### **Councillor Vicky Nicolson provided a written report :-**

The sale of Ravelston Pavilion and surrounding land to Blackhall Community Trust was completed last week. The sale is a successful Community Asset Transfer under the Community Empowerment legislation.

A question was raised whether the funds could be used for upgrading play facilities in Ravelston Park. Councillor Hal Osler said that it would not be possible.

### **Councillor Alan Beal provided a written report :-**

The Craigleith tunnel improvements are progressing. The plans have been set, but are currently awaiting the completion of a safety audit, due within a week or so. Then the timings should be able to be set.

With Lorna Hudson, I have been chasing the speed monitoring data on Craigleith Crescent, and have some concerns about it. We have fed our responses back and hope to hear back.

Next meeting - to be held on 16 February 2026

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

20 January 2026

Appendix

## **Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council Unsafe Roads and Substandard Road Surfaces**

At the meeting of the Community Council on 15 December 2025, it was agreed that concerns about deteriorating road surfaces should be highlighted for early action. They are mostly in Blackhall but not exclusively so.

### **Unsafe Roads**

The absence of white lines and poor standard of street lighting, means that it is difficult to read the road in wet winter conditions during periods of darkness. This is noticeable on Hillhouse Road (Strachan Road to Blackhall Dip section).

There is an urgent need to reinstate the white lines on Hillhouse Road where the centre line is off-centre - 3 lanes west bound and one lane east bound. An improvement to poor street lighting is highly desirable to improve safe driving.

### **Substandard Road Surfaces Queensferry Road/Hillhouse Road**

Although it is the main arterial route to the west and north, road officials 10 years ago acknowledged that there had been underinvestment in Queensferry Road in comparison to other arterial routes. Other than the section between Clermiston Road and Craigcrook Road reconstructed in 2022, there has been no significant maintenance. The recent patching at Blackhall Dip, commenced in autumn 2025, remains incomplete with outstanding repairs to be completed.

Section of the road overdue for attention and action include from west to east :-  
Blackhall Library Bus stop at Corbiehill Road city bound - sunken road leads to rain water not draining and high sprays at the bus stop from passing vehicles;

Strachan Road to Columba Road - sunken utility troughs and manhole covers, crumbling asphalt in bus lane and at pedestrian crossing;  
Blackhall Dip to Craigleith Crescent - patching incomplete;  
Craigleith Road to Queensferry Terrace - progressive deterioration of parts of the road surface;  
Orchard Brae junction west bound - unfit

### **Craigcrook Road**

3 sections requiring treatment :-

Telephone exchange north of junction with Hillpark Drive

March Grove - March Road

Jeffrey Avenue - Keith Terrace

### **South Groathill Avenue**

South Groathill Avenue provides the main access into Craigleith Retail Centre. But resulting from the deteriorating road surface, local residents have long complained about the vibrations experienced due to the substandard road surface. The use of the road by service 38 bus highlights the poor quality of the road. Should the road not be a priority for treatment, rerouting of service 38 to reduce vibrations for householders. could be achieved by buses not serving Craigleith Retail Centre. Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council requests that the forthcoming 2026/27 Roads Programme addresses the defects identified above.

AWD

13 January 2026