

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 15 June 2026 at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Community Council - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Russell Murdoch, Duncan Osler, Jim McLennan, Darlene Jeffrey, James Burr;

Inverleith Ward Councillors - Vicky Nicolson, Hal Osler, Max Mitchell; Murrayfield Ward Councillor - Alan Beal

In attendance - 8 members of the local community

Apologies - Grant Roger, Martin Riddell.

Minutes of 18 May - Minutes approved.

Police Report - A new community Police Officer PC Karen Maguire provided a written report :

"Introduction -

Hi everyone, my name is Karen Maguire and I have taken over from PC Colin Cursiter as the new 'beat' officer. I worked alongside PC Cursiter for a number of years within the community department. I am also the liaison officer for a local high school so will be splitting my time accordingly. I am looking forward to meeting you all.

Call volume:

Call volume for this month's report remains steady.

Trends:

Youth antisocial behaviour has been a consistent issue since the Easter holidays across the area. This has been the main focus of our time over the last few weeks. We have identified a large number of youths involved through our partnerships with education and Lothian Buses and efforts are ongoing to charge those responsible to report accordingly.

Notable incidents/pieces of work:

Nothing of note.

What your Community Team have been involved in:

Unfortunately, our staffing levels continue to be lower than normal, and we have had various abstractions to events in Edinburgh & elsewhere, along with assisting colleagues in other areas of Drylaw.

What is planned for the coming month:

Introductions and getting to know the area

Targeted patrols on the walkways and Craigleith Retail Park.

Bike marking events in the diary for over the summer months. The dates planned are as follows:

- Sunday 12th July, 1400-1700hrs at Inverleith Park
- Friday 28th August, 1100-1400hrs at Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre

Other matters:

I am operationally restricted with what I can provide however where possible I am happy to take suggestions on points you would like police involvement with or a more focused approach.”

The subsequent discussion raised reports of issues relating to doors and cars in the Hillparks being tried by non locals to assess whether any were vulnerable. PC Maguire has been informed. Additionally break-ins had been experienced at Maidencraig Crescent.

Community Council Matters

Engagement Plan - the community council thanked Aileen Clark for the work undertaken. The discussion highlighted the need to share information more widely where possible, to contact neighbourhood groups willing to accept receiving information from the community council, and to look to reaching a wider age group. Councillor Hal Osler suggested making contact with businesses. There was an acknowledgement that we should be careful in not bombarding people with too much information.

Looking forward, possible means of widening the reach of the community council could include a local email group, a local whats app group, Blackhall Bulletin and a Facebook Group. Agreed that Russell Murdoch and Aileen Clark will consider further.

Blackhall Playgroup - Seona Halbert on behalf of the Playgroup set out the difficulties facing the Playgroup. While the playgroup had a significant role when established in the 1980s, societal changes has resulted in childcare being required for longer periods in the day. Additionally standards have been raised and playgroups have to meet the same standards as day nurseries. Staff have to have a degree and therefore it is not so rewarding to manage a playgroup. Playgroups are facing financial challenges and 25 playgroups have closed in 2026 - funding has become more onerous over the years. The City Council offered funding of £5k up to 2024, but it is no longer available. Closure would affect 20 families.

In terms of the way forward , the discussion questioned whether there was a possibility for a shared manager, the need for advertising the presence of the Playgroup, look to additional funding, look to additional people to support the committee, and mentions in WhatsApp Groups and Facebook pages.

Pedestrian Crossings - the City Council has introduced a new system for crossings which allows residents to make suggestions via the Council’s web site. There will be no closing date and suggestions will be assessed quarterly.

The meeting suggested Strachan Road, Craigcrook Road (outside Blackhall Primary School) and Comely Bank Roundabout at Craigleith Road and Crewe Road South.

Edinburgh Trams - the results of the 2025 consultation were now available to be considered by the Transport and Environment Committee. (TEC). This showed higher levels of opposition to the Roseburn Path section although market research

commissioned by the City Council indicated higher levels of support. TEC will consider a business case for the tram extension at its September meeting.

Other Matters :-

Strachan Road TRO/26/11 - to facilitate the introduction of a green man phase on the Hillhouse Road/Telford Road/Strachan Road junction traffic lights, a TRO was currently open to consultation until 3 July. This will increase the double yellow lines on Strachan Road and March Road, relocate the disabled parking space to the other side of the bus stop on Strachan Road.

Fly tipping - lorries parked on the footpath outside Hillhouse Road Woods suggested fly tipping. Unfortunately any disposals were not directly observed so no action is possible.

Service 13 - the Secretary had spoken to Council officials and consultants who are reviewing the operation of service 13 supported financially by the Council. The main concern relates to the recent change in the timetable where the buses no longer arrive at the same time each hour.

Craigleith Tunnel - there has been a delay as the matrix signs each side of the tunnel do not speak to each other. This is being resolved.

Davidson's Mains Roundabout - the road will reopen 19 June although will be subject to 3 way traffic lights while works continue including road resurfacing. Bus services 21 and 47 will return to their normal routes. Works on Corbiehill Road outside new temporary Blackhall Library will commence in July.

Ward Councillor Reports -

Matters raised by the Councillors :

Access to Ravelston Woods via West Court gate has been agreed publicly;

Ravelston Dykes - footpath build out at cycle track to take place ;

Temporary Blackhall Library is now open - although it will need to close for a short period;

March Road pavements - preventative slurring has taken place on one side but the other side requires more substantive action;

Blackhall Primary School Playground - there has been good progress and good involvement of teachers, parents and pupils. A report is to go to Committee;

Controlled parking zones at Blinkbonny and Orchard Brae have been delayed and now will go to TEC in September.

Other matters - Following a number of issues reported on Roseburn Path, Councillor Hal Osler is to put a motion to Council on 25 June seeking a more systematic look at which parts of the cycle/walkway network is vulnerable to inappropriate behaviour.

Davidson's Mains Roundabout closure - the Secretary commented on the delays in local traffic due to the lack of temporary changes to traffic light phasing. He hoped the same experience will not occur at Strachan Road when the changes are implemented.

Next meeting - to be held on 17 August 2026.

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

18 June 2026