

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 17 August 2026 at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Community Council - Grant Roger (Acting Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Duncan Osler, Darlene Jeffrey,

Inverleith Ward Councillors - Hal Osler, Max Mitchell

In attendance - 7 members of the local community

Apologies - Stuart Pinkerton, Martin Riddell, Peter May, Jim McLennan, Russell Murdoch, James Burr, Councillor Alan Beal

Minutes of 15 June - Minutes approved.

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

"Good evening, Please accept my apologies. I am not on duty this evening therefore I am unable to attend.

Call volume:

Call volume for this month's report remains steady.

Trends:

- Youth antisocial behaviour has been a consistent issue both on the walkways and within residential areas.
- There has been a number of calls relating to thefts from within vehicles. A reminder to ensure vehicles are locked and items are not left on display. Please see annex for further advice. A temporary Vehicle Crime Team was created in June covering Edinburgh and over 150 charges were made with appropriate reports submitted.
- I have noted reports of cannabis use from within residential properties. We acknowledge the impact on other residents and efforts will be made to assist.

Notable incidents/pieces of work:

I have had meetings with Councillor Nicholson re ASB in the community and concerns around E-bikes on the walkways and Craigleith Retail Park.

Recidivist shoplifter arrested with enquiries into multiple other thefts ongoing. Co-suspect cautioned and charged with Road Traffic offences and vehicle seized.

What your Community Team have been involved in:

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

We continue to conduct uniformed patrols on the walkways. We have also linked in members of the community around specific incidents and have added these to our patrol matrix. We have cautioned and charged a number of youths where they have been identified in criminality.

What is planned for the coming month:

Continued patrols on the walkways and Craigleith Retail Park

Speed checks - locations tbc

Bike marking - 28/8/26 @ 1030-1430hrs Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre

Other matters:

I am happy to take suggestions on points you would like police involvement with or a more focused approach. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me with any suggestions, or report information anonymously via

[Independent UK charity taking crime information anonymously | Crimestoppers](#) “

Community Council Matters

City Plan 2040 - as part of the review of the development plan, Edinburgh Council has called for ideas to inform the Plan. These include sites to be protected from development, sites for development. The consultation ends 30 September. Following discussion it was agreed :-

Blackhall Library site, Hillhouse Road - there should be a presumption that the Hillhouse Road site should be the first choice for a replacement library. Some alternatives such as Davidson's Mains Park are too distant for much of the local Blackhall community to walk in;

Ravelston Park - to be retained as a public park and safeguarded through open space designation and policy;

Orchard Parks - to be retained as a public park and safeguarded through open space designation and policy;

Hillhouse Road Woods - to be retained as open space with trees safeguarded through both open space policies and a tree preservation order;

Craigcrook Road 'horse field' adjacent to Craigcrook Castle - to retain the open vista to Corstorphine Hill and to maintain the safeguarding of the site through the existing green belt and local nature conservation site designation and ;

Ravelston Golf Course - to retain the current green belt allocation and safeguarding policy as it is an integral part of Corstorphine Hill;

Craigcrook Road / Queensferry Road junction site - to retain the current open space allocation and associated policies as the site is not ideal for housing given the poor access and standing, polluting traffic at traffic lights;

Roseburn Path - tram safeguarding should be removed in City Plan 2040;

Royal Victoria Hospital - should continue to be allocated for residential development if surplus to NHS Lothian requirements;

Shopping - Craigleith Retail Park : given the impact of retail trends on other shopping areas, Craigleith Retail Park has been relatively successful in maintaining healthy shopping frontages. To maintain a vibrant local centre into the future, City Plan 2040 should consider how it can be diversified without losing a strong retail focus. The Plan should also continue to recognise the role of secondary retail centres at Hillhouse Road/Telford Road junction and Blackhall Dip.

Maidencraig Crescent Roseburn Path entrance - Martin Riddell expressed concern that wildflowers planted by residents after the completion of the SPEN works had now been cut down by the Council contractor.

Agreed - that Martin should meet with the appropriate Council official to seek a solution to the problem.

Craigleith Drive 'Tunnel' - Lorna Hudson, a local resident, who had been involved in seeking safety improvements, particularly for pedestrians, gave an update:-

- the tunnel straddles the boundaries of Craigleith/Blackhall and Murrayfield Community Councils;
- the space is shared by both vehicles and pedestrians;
- the objective was to make it safer for pedestrians while keeping it open;
- she praised the Council officials' approach to the details and the implementation, as well as keeping residents well informed;
- main changes - a speed bump at the standard height, red surfacing, light in the tunnel for pedestrians, and new advanced warning signs aimed at drivers.

While there are snagging problems with the operation of the new signs, it represents a significant improvement for local pedestrians.

Speed Signs - the introduction of a new speed sign near Craigcrook Castle on Craigcrook Road had prompted a local resident concerned about excessive speeds near the nursery and Ravelston Park to question whether a sign could be placed there. Councillor Hal Osler said that the signs were not permanent and would be only in place for a few weeks. The signs store vehicle speed information. The statistics for the eastern end of Craigcrook Road do not however justify the presence of speed signs.

Overgrown vegetation - it was noted that vegetation, both private and City Council owned, was in places obscuring road and destination signs. It was recommended that the City Council's 'Report it' function could be used.

Dogs - it was noted that not all dog owners are picking up dog poo in Ravelston Park.

Ward Councillor Reports -

Matters raised by Ward Councillors :

Western General Hospital - some buildings are showing their age and in need of upgrade;

Royal Victoria Hospital - elevated gatehouse in poor condition;

Princes Street fire - a phased reopening is expected;

Crewe Toll - road resurfacing works have commenced;
Weeds in the pavements and street - noted that since the cessation of chemical treatment, that the weed problem is becoming challenging and hand removal provides only a short term solution. Residents were encouraged to deal with problem weeds close to their property;

Orchard Drive - to address road safety issues, bollards are to be installed to improve pedestrian safety;

Orchard Park Swale - a local resident had questioned whether the overgrown vegetation could impede its purpose. Following inspection, Council officials confirmed that the vegetation would not restrict its intended purpose.

Road works priorities - informed by road scanning which results in a long list from which priorities are decided. Noted that individual pot holes are treated without regard to the poor condition of the surrounding poor condition of the road.

Next meeting - to be held on 21 September 2026.

Alan Denham

Secretary

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

19 August 2026

Annex - Police Scotland Advice -**Theft from vehicles**



When parking and leaving your vehicle unattended please take note of the following points to help deter and prevent thieves helping themselves to any valuables in your car or van.

- Do not leave any valuable items in the vehicle- if left on show they will encourage thieves to break in. Please note areas such as glove boxes and under seats are not secure and not suitable for the storage of valuables.
- Consider using a steering locks a visible deterrent to thieves – someone who is so obviously conscious of security is less likely to leave valuable in a vehicle.
- Avoid parking in dark, secluded areas, choose locations that are well lit and over looked by houses, passers-by and covered by CCTV if possible.

- Park your vehicle in a garage / private space if available but make sure it is secure:
 - Windows covered over / boarded up.
 - Pedestrian door should be solid core and secured by British Standard 5 lever mortice lock into solid frame.
 - Main doors secured by additional locks to prevent up and over action of traditional garage doors.
 - Consider linking garage doors into main house alarm system or use of an independent shed style alarm may be appropriate in some cases.
 - For private parking spaces / driveways consider installing parking bollards or even wheel clamps, again these will slow thieves down.
 - Simple WIFI CCTV systems can be used to monitor vehicles in private spaces and in some cases on the public road – please refer to the Information Commissioners Office – www.ico.org.uk – search CCTV.
- Always remove keys from the ignition and lock the vehicle when left unattended. Even if leaving the vehicle for a short time.
- Consider an alarm, if not fitted as standard.
- If parking in an underground car park make sure no one is following you in (tail gating) down the vehicle access ramp, such thieves will usually be on foot. If they do contact the concierge or Police Scotland.
- Check all windows and doors are closed and locked.
- Make sure vehicles cannot be opened (and possibly stolen) by theft of the true key –
 - Keep key cards in a Faraday pouch, which prevent it transmitting or receiving radio signals
 - Do not leave keys by doors or on tables where they are easily accessible to thieves
 - Make sure any spare keys are stored safely and securely
- Vans can be fitted with slam locks, dead locks, loom guards and door keepers to help prevent doors being forced open.

By following these simple tips you can do much to reduce the opportunities for a potential thief.

Remember most thefts are opportunistic and a few simple measures can make your vehicle far less appealing to break into.

Keep a look out in your area and report any suspicious or criminal activity to the police, in an emergency call **999** or 101 for all other calls.

Remember you can give any information regarding crime or criminal activity anonymously by phoning Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**

Please visit our website for additional information: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/>