

Craiglockhart Community Council (CCC)

Annual Engagement Report for the 12 months ended 31/3/2024

Community Mela (Gala) : Saturday 27 May 2023

A community engagement event was held on Saturday 27th May 2023 at Craiglockhart Parish Church Hall in collaboration with Networking Key Services (NKS).

The purpose of the event was to showcase the culture and heritage of minority ethnic communities, and to provide a platform for local clubs and organisations to raise their profile and awareness of what they have to offer.

Residents were treated to traditional dancing, a saree demonstration, henna painting, food stalls with freshly cooked snacks, coffee, tea & cake, soft drinks, and jewellery and clothes stalls that combined to provide a window into Asian communities and culture

Local clubs & organisations who kindly volunteered their time included: Pentland Scout Group, Pentland Girlguiding, Boroughmuir Rugby and Community Sports Club, Thistle Tennis Club, St John Scotland, Craiglockhart Parish Church, Water of Leith Conservation Trust, Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill, St Andrew Boat Club, our Community Policing Team, and others.

The total cost of the event was £1,700 (rounded). Project costs included venue hire £560, flyer printing £170, flyer distribution by CCC members £0, transport for vulnerable people (NKS Health) £300, Mela performers (NKS Health) £500, event insurance £107, sound equipment hire £40.

Funding for the event was provided by CCC, and grant awards from the South West Partnership Community Grants Fund (£350) and The University of Edinburgh - Edinburgh Micro-grants (£500).

Positive feedback reinforced that the two aims of the Mela had been met: showcase the culture and heritage of minority ethnic communities; and provide a platform for local clubs and organisations to raise their profile and peoples awareness of what they have to offer.

Learning points from the community engagement event included:

- Reducing the elapsed time of the event from 4 hours (i.e. 11am - 3pm) to, say, 3 hours;
- Move from a one-off event to a regular event, possibly annual; and
- Different theme(s) for each future event (e.g. the themes of cycling and walking would dovetail neatly with CEC's "Active Travel" initiative, as well as local groups such as Edinburgh Living Streets, Spokes, local clubs and retailers).

Advertising was one challenge future events would have to take advantage of. Subject to timing, local newsletters/ magazines was one medium to draw upon.

Proposed Community Engagement Event : Saturday 22 June 2024

Building on the learning from 2023, a community engagement event themed around "Healthy Living" was proposed for Saturday 22 June 2024.

The aim of the event was to:

- (1) Raise awareness of the elements that contribute to leading a healthier lifestyle;
- (2) Share some basic tips on a range of activity choices that offer health benefits throughout life;
- (3) Prompt people to focus on health as an asset and make gradual changes in their lifestyle and daily routine.

Healthy living depends on a number of factors, some you can't control but some you can (e.g. nutrition, exercise and social 'connectedness'). Consistent with this organisations invited included: Edinburgh Ramblers, Scottish Health Walk Network, Pentland Hills Regional Park, Edinburgh Leisure, Edinburgh Bike Co-op, Spokes, SW20, Edinburgh University, Police Scotland, Boroughmuir Rugby and Community Sports Club, Edinburgh Community Yoga, Edinburgh Iyengar Yoga Centre, Thistle Foundation, British Heart Foundation, etc.

In May 2024 a stocktake of responses and firm commitments given by organisations to attend the event was completed. Without exception the organisations invited endorsed the 'Healthy Living' theme and the aim(s) of the event. However, either resource constraints or resource availability on the day was the recurring limitation preventing sufficient numbers committing to have a presence.

The decision was taken to, regrettably, postpone the event. A £50 deposit has been paid to secure the venue. No other outgoings have been paid in relation to the postponed event.

Community Attendance : CCC Public Meetings

Since Covid rules have been relaxed the attendance levels, on-line and in person, at public meetings has been below expectations. The suggestion was made that unless there were pressing issues affecting Craiglockhart people might be indifferent about attending public meetings.

Information on the Community Council website combined with regular CCC email communications should hopefully help to keep residents informed regarding topics or issues affecting Craiglockhart. However, it should be noted that CCC notice boards will need to be updated more frequently e.g. mirror topics in email communications circulated to residents.

The benefit of having a specific topic relevant to the community on the agenda for each public meeting was seen as an important development e.g. Rebecca Smith (CEC Canal Officer) and Tricia Hill (Scottish Canals) were invited to the CCC public meeting on Monday 20 November 2023 to expand upon the conflict between cyclists & pedestrians on the canal towpath.

2022 Census

Census data from National Records of Scotland should be available for public consumption.

CCC will obtain this data to better understand the Craiglockhart population and socio-demographic statistics. This understanding can then be used to define the segments where CCC needs to target it engagement activity and what engagement activity would best match each segment(s).