

Craiglockhart Community Council - Minutes of Public Meeting

Date: 19th February 2024 at 7pm

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams & in person at Craiglockhart Campus Room 1/09

Chair: Peter Mavor

1. Welcome, apologies for absence and any declarations of interest

Apologies:

Community Councillors – Nick Stewart, Neena Agarwal

CEC – Cllr David Key

In Attendance:

Community Councillors – Peter Mavor, John Corbett, Hilda Henderson, Kevin McKay, Bryce Morrison, Eleanor Young

CEC Cllrs - Christopher Cowdy, Val Walker (on-line)

Residents - circa 25 (Online and in person)

Declarations of Interest : None

Abbreviations :

CEC – City of Edinburgh Council

Cllr – CEC Councillor

CCC – Craiglockhart Community Council

CPZ - Controlled Parking Zone

PPA - Priority Parking Area Edinburgh Ci

2. Minutes of previous meeting of 20 November 2023

These were approved by Hilda Henderson and seconded by Eleanor Young

3. Community Police Report

The latest report can be found on our website and has been circulated to residents on our email list.

4. Community Engagement

We propose to hold a community event on Saturday 22nd June at Meggetland. Full details will be circulated and added to our website once finalised.

5. Planning Updates

Nothing to report

6. Parking issues in Craiglockhart, particularly the Lockhartons

The Problem – described by Hilda Henderson on behalf of Lockharton residents

The Lockharton area is just off Colinton Road. It is a small confined enclave of 100 houses within three streets – Lockharton Gardens, Crescent and Avenue. During the day we have around 200 cars parked nose to tail on these streets and usually on the corners as well.

The result is that between 7.30am and 4.00 pm on weekdays, it is always hard and sometimes impossible for Lockharton residents to find a parking space anywhere near their homes.

This has been caused by the CEC extending the CPZ to Shandon, Craiglockhart Terrace, Meggetland Terrace and part of Colinton Road. In these streets residents parking is protected with resident permit parking or metered space. This has led to significant displacement of additional vehicles from these areas.

This has caused a particular problem in the Lockhartons for 3 reasons:

1. We are the first unrestricted streets coming out of town.
2. We are mainly traditional terraced houses with neither driveways or garages.

3. The geography of the area means we do not have close alternative options. We are bounded by Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve, the canal and railway line. There are no nearby streets except the ones that are now restricted.

This was a totally predictable problem that should have been foreseen. It was drawn to the attention of CEC at the consultation of the CPZ but was ignored by CEC. This situation is very much of CECs making and we want urgent action from CEC to find a solution to the problem.

Survey of Lockharton Crescent – by Ewan Davidson on behalf of Lockharton residents

I carried out a mini-survey to try to find out why the owners of all these vehicles have suddenly chosen to park on this street. Over six weeks, I recorded 155 different vehicles. Whenever possible, I talked to the drivers to find out the reasons for parking where they do.

Out of the 50 or so cars parked on the street at these times, only 20% belong to residents.

15% of the cars never or rarely move and their owners are never or rarely seen. Some, we think, have been dumped either by owners or garages due to mechanical problems, some may be second or third cars, some are left when owners go on holiday. One has been there since August last year.

About 25% of cars are owned by commuters. Some work at local businesses like Tesco or Little Monkeys Nursery, some at local schools like Steiner or Watsons, some are students at Napier's Merchiston Campus. Many used to park closer to town in the areas into which the CPZ was extended in November last year.

About 20% of cars are owned by people who live in nearby CPZ areas but are either unable or unwilling to pay the permit charges. Many are brought round late at night or early in the morning.

80% or more of the cars are there for all or most of the day. The remaining 20% are shorter term users who are accessing local businesses – shops, hairdressers, Dine restaurant. Some are tradespeople who often struggle to get parked close to where they are working. Family or paid carers for elderly residents have the same problem. Some are walkers, dog walkers and nature lovers wishing to visit the Local Nature Reserve but now do this less often because of the parking difficulties. Some are locals displaced from surrounding streets also affected by saturation parking. Shorter-term users quickly fill any space vacated by local residents or commuters returning home.

There is a similar mix on the other Lockharton streets though the proportions vary. In Lockharton Avenue, for example, there is an overflow of gym users who cannot get parked at Craiglockhart Leisure Centre. Across the Lockhartons, there are parking spaces for 200+ cars. A rough estimate is that residents take up 40% of these spaces and long stay users - the commuters, the CPZ refugees and the dumpers - take up 50%

I have talked to a good few of the non-residents who park on my street. Many are apologetic and realise that saturation parking impacts on the quality of life of local residents. They feel they have no other alternative. I have sympathy for some of them though not all.

I hope my crude monitoring efforts will help CEC officials to come up with possible solutions to the parking problems in the Lockhartons.

Other comments

Jamie Malcolm reported on the recent questionnaire that was circulated to all Lockharton residents. He said there was a high rate of return and a high level of agreement that some form of parking restriction is required.

Stephanie Anne Harris reported back on her unsuccessful attempts to engage with CEC officers

despite the clear instruction from the Transport and Environment Committee on 11 January that they should meet with the Lockharton residents as a matter of urgency to identify a solution.

Action & Discussion

1. Numerous residents have written to CEC about the parking issues. A meeting date with CEC officials is being sought to discuss what can be done to resolve the problem.
2. Questions were asked about how CEC is rolling out the CPZ and what monitoring is done to identify any problems that can arise as a result of the roll-out. Apart from the Lockharton area, the Meggetland area and streets further up Colinton Road are also seeing an increase in non-residents parking which could soon escalate.
3. A question was raised as to whether a PPA or a CPZ would be better for the Lockhartons. A PPA would prevent non-residents parking between 10am and 1pm. Cllr Cowdy has suggested a PPA to CEC but was told it was not appropriate. He has requested a meeting with Gavin Brown (from CEC) to explain why.
4. An underlying, regular and recurring problem is that CEC do not communicate and engage with residents or the CCC. This was also raised and agreed at a recent meeting of all the Edinburgh Community Councils.
5. Cllr Cowdy suggested that as many residents as possible should write to himself, Cllr Walker and Cllr Key to try and get CEC to engage in the issue. It was agreed unanimously at the CCC meeting that Council officers should meet with community representatives as a matter of urgency to resolve the problem and the Chair undertook to write to this effect.

7. Water of Leith - Dell Bridges and Paths

Cllr Val Walker reported that there has been no further progress.

8. Paties Pavilion Car Park, Paties Mill Road

Safety concerns about poor lighting in the car park have been raised by Thistle Tennis Club. Edinburgh Leisure have said that CEC is responsible for these lights. Cllr Cowdy has raised the issue with CEC. Response is awaited.

9. AOCB

- Edinburgh Union Canal Strategy 2024-2029 – the updated strategy is available via our website
- Travelling Safely/SW20 – this is ongoing and it is hoped to arrange a presentation for a later meeting – perhaps May.
- Dog Fouling at Meggetland
Cllr Val Walker urged people to report any instances of dog fouling to CEC via their website. A bin was also suggested but there could be difficulties in emptying it.
- Graffiti
CEC has spent around £500,000 so far cleaning graffiti much of which has been in the town centre. There are difficulties hiring resources to do the work. Both Cllrs urged residents to keep reporting graffiti to CEC via their website.
- Community walkabout by CEC CEO and Cllrs Cowdy and Walker. Our Cllrs will send us information on topics discussed.
- EUCS Canal Social Tuesday 12 March 7pm
More information about the above can be found on their website and has also been

circulated to residents and added to our website. The Canal Society hope that many people will go along and support the event.

- **The Great Snowdrop Split**

The Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill are holding this event on Sunday 10th March from 11am. Meet at Craiglockhart Terrace entrance. Bring along a trowel and plant them on the Hill wherever you think that they would look nice.

- **George Hunter OBE**

We feel that it is appropriate to mark the passing of George Hunter OBE at the age of 97. In his long life he gave much to public service and to many organisations. He was instrumental in bringing the Commonwealth Games to Edinburgh twice over and was locally involved in rowing clubs and badminton groups. He was awarded his OBE in respect of services to sport. Of direct relevance to us he was a City Councillor for the Craiglockhart Ward for 15 years and was the Chairman of The Water of Leith Conservation Trust for over 20 years. As City Councillor he was a faithful attendee at our Community Council meetings and was active in resolving matters raised there. For individual issues he was always happy to visit residents in their homes to listen to their issues over a cup of tea. His smart attire, complete with bowler hat, marked him as a gentleman of the old school.

Date of Next meeting : Monday 18th March 2024 at 7pm in the same venue