

Craiglockhart Community Council

Minutes of the Public Meeting

Time: 7pm

Date: 17 February 2025

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

Chair: Nick Stewart

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

Apologies:

Community Councillor - Anni McLeod **

City of Edinburgh Councillor - Christopher Cowdy, David Key

Police Scotland - Community Police Team (CPT)

Chair of the Greenbank Village West Residents Association - tbc

In Attendance:

Community Councillors - Nick Stewart (chair), Kevin McKay, Eleanor Young, John Corbett, Hilda Henderson, Neena Agarwal, Bryce Morrison*

City of Edinburgh Councillor - Val Walker

Chair of the Greenbank Village East Residents Association - Paul Pia

Residents - circa 15 (in person & online)

* Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill representative

** Friends of Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Greenbank Community Woodland representative

Declarations of interest:

None

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Approval of the minutes from the public meeting held on 18 November 2024 was proposed by Kevin McKay (KMck) and seconded by Eleanor Young (EY) .

Nick Stewart (NS) advised that the action points from the last meeting would be covered by the agenda items for this meeting.

3. Community Council Elections

NS confirmed that nominations to join Craiglockhart Community Council (CCC) are open and close on Thursday 27 February 2025.

Individuals and groups are invited to apply to become members of the re-constituted CCC from 28 March 2025.

There is a separate nomination form if you are a resident of Craiglockhart or a nominated representative member of a Local Interest Group. Both nomination forms and instructions can be found on our website.

<https://www.craiglockhart.org/news/community-council-elections-2025-17-jan-2025>

The Governance Team within the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) are managing the full election process on behalf of the Returning Officers. The Governance team will assess all nomination forms submitted and communicate with candidates. Other than raising awareness and promoting the community council election your existing CCC, and its members, have no formal role to play.

With regret the meeting noted that our two existing Local Interest Group members will not be seeking nomination: Bryce Morrison (Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill representative) and Anni McLeod (Friends of Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Greenbank Community Woodland representative).

It was agreed that NS would communicate with the Chair of the above and other Local Interest Groups and extend an open invitation for them to join CCC in the future, as well as validating their contact details.

Feedback received by EY from other community councils confirmed a number of existing Local Interest Group members were not standing for nomination - the nomination form was one reason given.

4. Community Police

On behalf of the CPT, NS confirmed that there were no specific matters to note.

Housebreakings remain a background crime across Edinburgh. The “Darker Nights” campaign run by the Crime Prevention Unit (refer to CCC November 2024 minutes), identifying vulnerable properties and providing advice has been well received.

An instance of antisocial behaviour regarding dirt bikes, or equivalent, on Wester Craiglockhart Hill and the Merchants golf course was raised by NS.

Although this incident (Thursday, 30/01/2025) was not reported at the time, the CPT are aware of the ongoing issue with off road bikes causing problems at the golf club and have liaised with staff there. CPT will keep the issue under review and patrol there when they can.

5. Planning - Update

No planning applications were raised by John Corbett (JC).

6. Engagement - Update

Kevin McKay (KMck) confirmed that planning for a “Health & Wellbeing” event on Saturday 26 June 2025 continues, with possible contributors to be approached.

A further meeting between KMck, Neena Agarwal and NS will be held towards the end of this month.

7. Issues & Actions

7 a. Lockhartons Parking Issue - Update

Hilda Henderson (HH) confirmed that progress to resolve the Lockhartons Parking issue affecting residents in Lockharton Gardens, Lockharton Crescent and Lockharton Avenue has taken a back step since our November 2024 public meeting.

A new Council Officer has been appointed to progress the Strategic Review of Parking (SROP).

The Officer has advised that the January 2025 meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee (the Committee) delayed the PPA (Priority Parking Area) implementation in the Lockhartons to Spring 2026, after the implementation of Phase 3 & 4 of the SROP. This contradicts the August 2024 Committee meeting where it was agreed that the PPA implementation in the Lockhartons would be by the last quarter of 2025, simultaneously with Phase 3 & 4.

The delayed timeline, above, is wholly unacceptable to the residents of the Lockhartons. The meeting noted that the residents have yet to have sight of the January 2025 Committee minutes.

Worse still, resident expectations had hoped that the original last quarter 2025 deadline would actually be brought forward, facilitated by residents gathering information requested by the Council. This information included: the number of cars and permits required for the Lockhartons and adjacent Colinton Road along with a draft design for parking layout. Volunteers from the Lockhartons gathered, completed and submitted this information to the Council before Christmas 2024.

To complicate matters the August 2024 Committee meeting also decided to redefine the Lockharton Area to include Colinton Grove, part of Craiglockhart Road North and Craiglockhart View. The Council committed to

survey these streets before the end of 2024. Unfortunately this work only commenced in February this year, with a knock on delay to the design process.

An urgent meeting is needed between Council Officers and the Lockharton Parking Co-ordination Group to resolve the delayed PPA implementation timeline and the parking problems caused by the Council.

Post meeting: A meeting in March 2025 has been agreed. An update will follow in due course.

7 b. Rat Run - Craiglockhart Avenue to/from Colinton Road

Recent utility works impacting Craiglockhart Avenue, Lanark Road and Colinton Road have served to reinforce an existing issue affecting Craiglockhart residents living between Craiglockhart Avenue and Colinton Road - namely, 'rat runs'.

Increased traffic volumes are most evident on Craiglockhart Loan, Craiglockhart Drive South, Craiglockhart Park, Craiglockhart Road and Elliot Place. These roads serve as a very convenient and efficient shortcut between Craiglockhart Avenue and Colinton Road.

Although a 20mph speed limit and speed bumps were put in place a few years ago both measures have not deterred the use of the roads, named above, as 'rat runs'. An alternative approach is needed. For example, the deployment of a Modal filter at Craiglockhart Drive South and Craiglockhart Road.

The unacceptable safety risk to residents caused by minor, residential, streets being used by drivers as a shortcut to avoid traffic on larger, arterial, roads has been highlighted to the Council by NS. The assistance of David Key was acknowledged by NS.

Two teams within the Council have provided supportive replies to NS.

1. The Road Safety team - expect to undertake their next batch of traffic surveys in Spring 2025 - Craiglockhart Loan, Craiglockhart Drive South, Craiglockhart Park, Craiglockhart Road and Elliot Place have been added to their list.
2. The Local Traffic Improvement (LTI) team - created to progress local traffic improvement projects, focused on addressing mobility challenges and the impact of through traffic on our local communities - will review our issue and suggestion.

It should be noted that the meeting did raise an additional cause: on-street parking by commuters and Craiglockhart Campus students. This will be reinforced by NS to the Council.

7 c. Antisocial Behaviour and Firework Control Zone (FCZ) - Review of 2024

Val Walker (VW) confirmed that a review of what worked and didn't in 2024 has been conducted. Community Councils should expect contact from the Council regarding FCZ applications.

Paul Pia extended his gratitude for the speed of response and tact shown by Police Scotland officers to defuse a firework disturbance next to Greenbank Village last year.

7 d. Katesmill Walkway Bridge (known locally as the Pipe Bridge)

The route has been re-opened.

7 e. Paties Pavillion Car Park Lighting - Katesmill Road

The termination of the lease granted by City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) in relation to the neighbouring Paties Road Pavillion places certain requirements on Edinburgh Leisure.

Lighting in the car park is part of these negotiations. The conclusion of these negotiations remains unclear. CCC will continue to monitor the situation.

7 f. Blind Junction - Craiglockhart Gardens & Craiglockhart Avenue

Carry forward action for NS to contact City of Edinburgh Council, again, to install a replacement mirror.

8. AOCB

8 a. Storm Eowyn - Fallen Trees in Craiglockhart Dell

A request has been submitted to Caroline Paterson (Natural Heritage Officer, CEC) regarding a plan / timetable for the removal of the fallen trees that left Bogsmill Bridge and the bridge at the bottom of Katiemill Road blocked and damaged.

8 b. Overgrown Hedges - Pedestrian Obstruction

The meeting discussed approaches to tackle overgrown hedges. EY directed people to the CCC website.
<https://www.craiglockhart.org/useful-information>

In the first instance, the problem should be raised directly with the owner/occupier of the property. If this doesn't work then it should be reported to the CEC <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/overhangingfoliage>

8 c. Pot Holes - Persistent Problem

The CEC website contains information and forms residents should use.
<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/report-problem-road/report-road-pavement-problem>

Where adjoining homes are affected by pot holes, the meeting suggested that residents should co-ordinate the completion and submission of the required CEC form(s). This approach may lead to a more permanent fix, repair, by CEC rather than a temporary repair which is undone within weeks.

8 d. Acknowledgement - Bryce Morrison

Bryce will be unable to attend the next public meeting of CCC on 17 March 2025.

It was therefore timely, at a personal level and on behalf of CCC and all Craiglockhart residents, for NS to thank Bryce for his steadfast commitment to volunteering his personal time to make Craiglockhart a better place to live.

His integrity, persistence, selflessness, knowledge, experience and common-sense over the years wearing many different hats have been stand out attributes from which we have all benefited at one time or another.

Thank you.

Date of Next Public Meeting

Date: **17 March 2025**

Time: 7pm

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams & In person at Craiglockhart Campus.

NS thanked all attendees.

The meeting was closed.