

## **Craiglockhart Community Council**

### **Minutes of the Public Meeting & AGM**

Time: 7pm

Date: 22 July 2024

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 - Kevin McKay

City of Edinburgh Councillor - Christopher Cowdy, David Key,

Chair of the Greenbank Village West Residents Association - tbc

Chair of the Greenbank Village East Residents Association - Paul Pia

##### ***In Attendance:***

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

\* Water of Leith Conservation Trust representative and Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill representative

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

City of Edinburgh Councillor - Val Walker

Police Scotland - Community Police Team

Residents - circa 20 (Online and in person)

##### ***Declarations of interest:***

None

#### **2. Minutes from previous meeting**

Approval of the minutes from the public meeting held on 20 May 2024 was proposed by Hilda Henderson (HH) 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 Police Report**

No items of concern were raised by Paul from our Community Policing Team (CPT).

A resident, Ursula Adams, shared her observation(s) of antisocial behaviour in the Dell. Paul confirmed that the CPT do have a presence in the Dell. The bicycle accreditation that the team will go through in August will enable the CPT to provide a more visible and effective deterrent in the Dell and elsewhere.

For information: The CPT Community Newsletter April - June 2024 is on the CCC website:

<https://web-cdn.org/s/1216/file/news/Police-Newsletter-April-June-2024.pdf>

#### **4. AGM Papers**

##### **4.1 Treasures Report**

On behalf of Kevin McKay, Nick Stewart (NS) confirmed that signed accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 have been received. There were no items of significance or of a nature to bring to the attention of the meeting.

NS informed the meeting that the year end Cash at Bank balance was £1,574. Consistent with last year, it was noted that CCC will donate £600 between three organisations serving the community: the allocation of each £200 donation is under consideration.

The meeting also noted that funds would be required for CCC to host the postponed Community Engagement event. Please refer to the following agent item, Engagement Report.

The Balance Sheet as at 31/3/204 and Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2024 can be found on the CCC website.

#### **4.2 Engagement Report**

NS summarised four items from the Annual Engagement Report for the 12 months ended 31/3/2024.

- Community Mela (Gala): Community engagement event held on Saturday 27th May 2023 at Craiglockhart Parish Church Hall in collaboration with Networking Key Services (NKS);
- Proposed Community Engagement Event: A stocktake of responses and firm commitments to attend the 'Healthy living' event concluded with the decision to, regrettably, postpone the June 2024 event;
- Community Attendance at CCC Public Meetings: Other than unresolved issues the report reinforced the benefit of having a specific topic relevant to the community on the agenda for each public meeting; and
- 2022 Census Data: CCC will obtain this data from National Records of Scotland to better understand the Craiglockhart population and socio-demographic statistics.

The Annual Engagement Report for the 12 months ended 31/3/2024 can be found on the CCC website.

#### **4.3 Water of Leith Conservation Trust**

Bryce Morrison (BM) introduced this agenda item by confirming that he is no longer serving as a trustee of Water of Leith Conservation Trust (WOLCT). BM encouraged people to keep to date with WOLCT by signing up for e-newsletters or becoming a full member of WOLCT.

BM also acknowledged the tremendous contribution made by the late George Hunter (former Craiglockhart Ward Councillor) to WOLCT since its inception.

BM reinforced the range and volume of activities undertaken by WOLCT over the financial year 2023/24. The full WOLCT report can also be found on the CCC website.

#### **4.4 Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill**

BM introduced the highlights for Friend of Easter Craiglockhart Hill (FOECH). The full FOECH report can be found on the CCC website.

#### **4.5 Friends of Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Greenbank Community Woodland**

Unfortunately people attending the meeting online via Microsoft Teams were subject to a technical problem that prevented the functioning of two way audio for the meeting. NS extended his apology to Anni McLeod (AMcL) and others attending the meeting online.

AMcL subsequently submitted her report for Friends of Wester Craiglockhart Hill (FOWCH) and Greenbank Community Woodland - the full report can be found on the CCC website.

### **5. Planning Update**

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

## **6. Glenlockhart Bank - Update**

### **6.2 Glenlockhart Bank Development**

JC introduced this agenda item, and shared the context and serious concerns expressed by Glenlockhart Bank residents towards the extensive excavation and construction work underway at No. 10 Glenlockhart Bank. Please refer to the minutes of the last CCC public meeting on 20 May 2024.

JC reported two visits by City of Edinburgh (CEC) Planning Officers and one visit by Building Control. They indicated that the works underway at No. 10 Glenlockhart Bank do not contravene building regulations.

Residents continue to be frustrated by the absence of information forthcoming, including the outcome of a retrospective Building Warrant application in April 2024 to cover £9k of work where this monetary value bears little relationship to the nature and extent of works carried out.

The meeting noted that any relationship that may initially have been there has completely broken down. e.g. new boundary fences erected and the placing of electrical junctions.

JC and other Glenlockhart Bank residents will continue to monitor the works, especially the increased flood risk posed to lower lying residences. Should this risk materialise JC made it clear that recourse and/or compensation options open to residents are unclear.

Our Ward Councillors are up to date with the position of all stakeholders.

### **6.2 Glenlockhart Bank Parking**

JC made the meeting aware that, coincidentally, parking wardens have recently booked cars parked on the pavement of Glenlockhart Bank: a private road, not adopted by the Council.

Exemptions (i.e. Clause 51) to recently introduced legislation aimed at prohibiting pavement parking is at the discretion of CEC. Exchanges with CEC have confirmed that they are not willing to make an exemption for Craiglockhart Bank.

Due to the restricted width of Glenlockhart Bank the dilemma of cars parked in a manner that impedes Emergency & Refuse vehicles/any other traffic versus pavement parking impeding wheelchair/child buggy access couldn't be reconciled at the meeting.

Notwithstanding the legislation, the meeting concluded that it seemed unnecessary for the enforcement team to police parking on Glenlockhart Bank when there are other areas more heavily used by pedestrians that could better benefit from parking enforcement.

## **7. Lockhartons Parking Issue - Update**

Further to the update at our May 2024 public meeting, Hilda Henderson (HH) confirmed that no progress has been made to resolve the wholly unsatisfactory parking disruption Lockharton residents continue to find themselves confronted by on a daily basis. If anything the issue has worsened over the summer due to vehicles being left for extended periods of time rather than day commuters.

HH was disappointed to report that the paper planned for the CEC Transport and Environment Committee meeting on 20 June 2024, had been delayed to the 15 August 2024 meeting. HH hoped that Lockharton residents would get sight of the options and recommended solution in the report before this Committee meeting.

Once again, HH shared residents serious concerns that CEC's phased approach for Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) expansion could mean it will be years (e.g. Phase 4 - 2029) before the Lockhartons and its associated parking issue is even considered. This outcome would be wholly unacceptable.

Reflecting the non-political nature of this issue Val Walker (VW) reinforced the importance of collective representations by her and her fellow Ward Councillors (Christopher Cowdy and David Key) to achieve a sensible and satisfactory outcome from the CEC Transport and Environment Committee.

The meeting noted that the parking situation Lockharton residents find themselves confronted by is not isolated to their area.

## 8. Katesmill Pipeline Bridge

Work in progress to replace the Pipeline Bridge in Colinton and Craiglockhart Dell (near Katesmill) is expected to be complete mid August 2024.

## 9. Dells Road Landslip

**Action:** NS to contact Caroline Paterson (Natural Heritage Officer) about the Dells Road Landslip and related path closure to better understand the timing of the path being re-opened temporarily, as well as a permanent solution to stabilise the bank.

## 10. Paties Pavillion Car Park Lighting - Katesmill Road

**Action:** VW to contact Edinburgh Leisure to establish what action may be taken to improve the safety of car park users after dark.

## 11. Any Other Business

### 11.1 Signage & Bins in Dell

Ursula Adams (UA) highlighted the increased occurrence of litter in the Dell. The absence of 'no camping' signs and bins which had previously been present in the Dell has not helped the situation.

Safe access for emergency vehicles had been one reason put forward by CEC to withdraw the litter bins.

**Action:** UA to send a note to NS, who in turn will contact a CEC official to establish if the signage and bins could be reinstated.

### 11.2 Pavement Weeds

A resident at the meeting raised the unacceptable incidence of weeds growing on pavements and streets across Craiglockhart. The image and message this conveys is not a positive one.

The meeting agreed that the Council was very unlikely to address the issue due to their current budgetary constraints and their banning of certain pesticides. It was suggested that homeowners should consider stepping in where the Council is failing to act. NS agreed that homeowners, collectively, could make a big difference if they attended to the weeds on the public pavements bordering their residences.

**Action:** Post meeting - CCC will organise small weeding pavement events to help address this issue and at the same time stimulate awareness of CCC. NS will obtain CEC guidance for such events and establish if public indemnity insurance cover exists.

### 11.3 Junction of Craiglockhart Gardens & Craiglockhart Avenue

The challenges facing drivers exiting Craiglockhart Gardens onto Craiglockhart Avenue safely was raised by Neena Agarwal (NA).

**Action:** NA to send a note to NS, who in turn will contact a CEC official to raise awareness of the issue and establish if there are any mitigants that can be deployed to address the safety risk drivers face.

## 12. Date of Next Public Meeting

Date: 16 September 2024

Time: 7pm

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

NS thanked all attendees and apologised once again for the audio issue affecting online attendees.

The meeting was closed.