

Craiglockhart Community Council

Minutes of the Public Meeting

Time: 7pm

Date: 18 March 2024

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 - Anni McLeod **

City of Edinburgh Councillor - David Key

Chair of the Greenbank Village West Residents Association - Ian Watson

The meeting noted with regret that Alex Schweitzer-Thompson has resigned as a Community Councillor.

In Attendance:

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

City of Edinburgh Councillors - Val Walker, Christopher Cowdy

Chair of the Greenbank Village East Residents Association - Paul Pia

Residents - circa 12 (Online and in person)

* Water of Leith Conservation Trust representative and 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 19 February 2024 was proposed by John Corbett (JC) and seconded by Hilda Henderson (HH).

3. Community Police Report

Two officers attended the meeting. There were no items of concern to draw to peoples attention.

The officers highlighted a small number of house break-ins and instances of graffiti (e.g. site of Edinburgh United, letter boxes and Greenbank Village). Investigations into repeated, similar, tags is in progress.

Peter Mavor (PM) reminded the meeting that our website has contact details residents could use to report instances of graffiti. <https://www.craiglockhart.org/useful-information>

The saturation parking problem in the Lockharton area (i.e. Lockharton Avenue, Gardens and Crescent) was highlighted to the officers. The officers confirmed that residents could assume the support of the police where options are presented to reduce existing parking pressures and improve road safety.

Sgt Kelly McGarvie, recently assigned to the Community Policing Team and based in Oxbgangs, agreed to inform an officer in the Traffic Department (Police Scotland) of the existing parking pressures and road safety concerns expressed by Lockharton residents.

Please refer to agenda item 7. for an update on the saturation parking issue in the Lockharton area.

Lastly, instances of 'boy racers' in Sainsbury's car park was mentioned. The officers were aware of the problem and a drive-by had been recently undertaken as a deterrent. As legal owners, It was noted that Sainsbury's had the option to implement additional safety measures.

4. South West 20 (SW 20) - Introduction

Rob from SW20 was welcomed to the meeting. Rob outlined how SW20 came about and two projects (Cargo Bike and Tool Library) people from across South West Edinburgh could access.

SW20 was founded by a group of local people during Covid. Its aim, to make our community better: help people live well locally, and build community resilience and create local facilities.

Two SW20 projects, run by volunteers, were introduced at the meeting. More detail on these and other projects can be found on the SW20 website: <https://hellosw20.wixsite.com/sw20ed>

Community eCargo Bikes: There are two bikes free to hire. SW20 is looking to extend the range of bikes it can offer and storage options. Interestingly, raising capital to purchase bikes has proven to be less of a challenge compared to securing funding to cover their running costs (e.g. insurance and servicing/repairs). Rather than trying to do away with cars, SW20 hopes that this offering will bring environmental and health benefits through reduced car usage as well as encouraging people to be more selective when they choose to drive.

Edinburgh Tool Library: As the name suggests it is a library for tools. There is a £30 up front membership fee but for this people can gain ongoing free access a range of tools on a short term basis (i.e. pick up Friday and drop off Monday). 'Pods' around Edinburgh enable people to readily access tools using the nearest 'pod' to them.

The meeting noted that latest growth estimates by the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) suggest an increase of around 40,000 homes. CEC have a draft Circulation and Mobility Plan. Both plans suggest that the primary traffic network will be bus, cycle and walking. For a fee, there are companies that can help communities visualise what this may look like at a street level.

Raising awareness of SW20 has been a gradual process and will be an ongoing task. Articles in the Dell Directory, Canalside and The Steeple were suggestions made at the meeting. Eleanor Young (EY) could facilitate access to The Steeple for Rob. Nick Stewart(NS) confirmed that SW20 had accepted an invitation to the "Healthy Living" event. Please refer to agenda item 5. below.

5. Engagement Update

NS confirmed that invitations have been sent to around 20 organisations to attend our planned "**Healthy Living**" community engagement event on Saturday 22 June 2024, between 12:00 - 14:00, at Boroughmuir Rugby and Community Sports Club (Bruce Hay Suite).

Responses have been received from 6 organisations, including SW20 as referred to above. The next two weeks will be used to follow up on responses.

Neena Agarwal (NA) had some thoughts regarding the event. NS to follow up with NA.

Post meeting:

Healthy living depends on a number of factors, some of which you can't control. But it makes sense to understand and take control of what you can. Nutrition, exercise and social 'connectedness' are all known to be factors which affect health and wellbeing – and these are all elements one can do something about. Therefore the event will aim 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.

A wide range of organisations have been invited e.g. Edinburgh Ramblers, Scottish Health Walk Network, Pentland Hills Regional Park, Edinburgh Leisure, Edinburgh Bike Co-op, Edinburgh Road Club, Spokes, SW20, Police Scotland, Edinburgh Community Yoga, Edinburgh Iyengar Yoga Centre, Thistle Foundation, British Heart Foundation, The Scottish Grocers Federation (SGF) Healthy Living Programme (HLP), etc.

6. Planning Update

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

7. Lockhartons Parking Issue - Update

A clear, unambiguous message was given by Lockharton residents, including Hilda Henderson (HH), that the parking situation has not improved, especially during the daytime where elderly residents and families with young children are most affected and effectively housebound.

Two council officers did meet with residents and conducted a physical inspection at the Lockhartons on 11 January 2024. On the day, their verbal acknowledgement and acceptance of the wholly unsatisfactory parking situation was encouraging.

Expectations were set that they would prepare a report for the CEC Transport and Environment Committee meeting on 20 June 2024 setting out their proposals and recommendations to address the issue.

At the very least, the residents had proposed the introduction of a Priority Parking Area (PPA) between 12:00 - 14:00 as one simple cost effective measure to mitigate the issue caused by day commuters and long stay vehicles using the Lockhartons.

It was with great frustration and dismay that the residents received an email from one of the council officers on Friday 15 March 2024 that completely failed to honour, address, the assurances and expectations set on 11 January 2024. The email indicated that the Lockhartons and its associated parking issue would form part of a City-wide Strategic Planning Review with phased parking measures extending out to 2026.

There was unanimous agreement at the meeting that this approach was wholly unsatisfactory.

Discussion concluded with the City of Edinburgh Councillors in attendance, Val Walker (VW) and Christopher Cowdy (CC), confirming that they had not seen this email and that they with David Key (DK) needed to work together to make another representation to the CEC Transport and Environment Committee.

ACTION: HH to forward the 15 March 2024 email to VW and CC.

ACTION: VW and CC to take action with DK only **after** the residents had responded to the council officer.

8. Water of Leith - Update

Katesmill Pipeline Bridge - 29 February 2024 was expected date for works to commence. PM confirmed that work to replace the pipeline bridge has yet to commence despite the appearance of a container and fencing. On the assumption that the works will commence at some time, people are reminded to contact Caroline Paterson, Natural Heritage Officer at CEC in the event of any concerns they may have.

9. Paties Pavillion Car Park Lighting

CC confirmed that responsibility rests with CEC. The lighting team within CEC have been approached.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Scottish Water Colinton Road Site

CEC permission ceases on 29 March 2024. Further permission(s) will not be granted to Scottish Water.

10.2 CEC Chief Executive Ward Visit - Note prepared by CC

On the 3 November 2023 CC, VW and DC met together with the City Council's Chief Executive (Andrew Kerr) for a Ward visit. We spent approximately 2 hours walking and talking about the make up of the Ward and highlighting issues affecting it. Among other things, we spoke about:

- The Canal – That it is a great asset but the tow-path suffers from conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists, Graffiti, access from street level. On going development around Fountainbridge.
- Parking

- Student Housing
- Dog fouling
- Litter
- Cycle lanes
- School catchments
- Road safety around Craiglockhart P S, starting with safety of children walking along the canal towpath and conflict of use with cyclists

We also stopped for coffee and handed over the list of priority issues provided by the Community Council * (see below).

The Chief executive listened intently and was very engaging about the issues we raised though he did say he would not intervene on any particular issue but it is essential he has a good idea of the issues facing all Wards so he can have a good overview of issues affecting the city.

Since this meeting however, Mr Kerr has handed his resignation and the Council has started a recruitment programme to find his replacement that is targeting June for completion.

* priority issues provided by the Community Council

1. Road and Pavement Condition: addressing potholes and re-surfacing; blocked gutters and drains.
2. Road Traffic Management: reduce motor vehicle volumes & congestion; improved safety & speed reductions; nullify established 'rat runs'; introduce parking controls (e.g. day commuters from outside the city centre & campus students); pavement/cycle lane planning and general pavement clutter.
3. Green Spaces: the lack of resources for basic maintenance and infrastructure for our green spaces (e.g. time taken to renovate the Dell Bridges, general deterioration of the Water of Leith Dells and walks, and Easter and Wester Craiglockhart Hill (both local nature reserves) are now left to volunteers to maintain, improve and care for these special spaces.
4. Craiglockhart Revenue and Capital Budget Allocation: how do we compare to other wards, confidence that community councils are being listened to, how CEC plan to address our recommendations.

10.3 Easter Egg Hunt - Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill

Bryce Morrison (BM) drew attention to the Easter Egg Hunt taking place on Easter Sunday, 31 March 2024. The event is for under 12s and accompanying adults only. It will be free and start at 11:00 from the Craiglockhart Terrace entrance to the Nature Reserve.

10.4 Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC)

JC and Kevin McKay (KMCK) will represent CCC at an EACC event being held at The Business Centre, City Chambers on Saturday 23 March 2024.

11. Date of Next Public Meeting

Date: 20 May 2024

Time: 7pm

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

PM thanked all attendees and the meeting was closed.