

## **Craiglockhart Community Council (CCC)- Minutes of the Public Meeting**

Time: 7pm  
Date: 15th May 2023  
Venue: Online via Microso; Teams & In person at Craiglockhart Campus Room 2/05

Chair: Peter Mavor

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

#### ***Apologies***

Alex Thompson, Eleanor Young, Kevin McKay,

#### ***In attendance:***

Community Councillors - Peter Mavor,, John Corbett, Bryce Morrison\*(online), Nick Stewart, , Neena Agarwal, Anni McLeod \*\* (online) and Hilda Henderson

\* Water of Leith Conserva[on Trust representative and Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill representative

\*\* Friends of Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Greenbank Community Woodland representa[ve

City of Edinburgh Councillors - Val Walker (online)

Police Scotland - Community Policing Team. PC Calum MacLennan and PC Jack Denwood

Residents - circa 6 (Online and in person)

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

None

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

Approval of the minutes from the public mee[ng held on 20 March 2023 was proposed by John Corbett (JC) and seconded by Neena Agarwal (NA)

The action points from the previous meeting that were carried forward,

- Litter bin would be carried forward as Cllr Christopher Cowdy was not in attendance .
- Shandon Bridge would be reported in A.O.B at end of this meeting

### **3. Community Police Report**

Police Scotland - Community Policing Team. PC Calum MacLennan and PC Jack Denwood

were in attendance and gave a report that the Craiglockhart area was one of the quietest (crimewise) areas in South West Edinburgh. The report was for December 2022 - April 2023.

A resident from GreenBank Village was present and brought up a particular issue/ instance of a 'bad neighbour' and the Police said that they would help on the issue.

#### **4. Annual General Meeting.**

This was postponed as the Financial Reports were not available for this meeting. They will be brought forward when the auditor returns (holiday)

#### **5. Reports form Local Interest Groups**

##### **Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill report to Craiglockhart CC AGM 15 May 23 by Bryce Morrison**

I must start by noting that there has been a changing of the guard at the Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill. Ewan Davidson and Hilda Henderson have stood down as chairman and secretary respectively after many year's dedicated service to the Charity. Ewan applied for and obtained significant grants from the Lottery Commission Community Fund to enhance aspects of the Local Nature Reserve and to employ a Community Engagement Worker. He won a further grant for this year which has allowed the continuation of the worker role and a planned renovation of the old curling rink area at the Craiglockhart Terrace entrance to Happy Valley. He also did all the paperwork to allow us to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation or SCIO for short. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

In respect of the Curling rink there has been a community consultation carried out explaining the features we plan to install to make it a more welcoming entrance and a friendly place to sit and chat. Our plans for it are at an advanced stage. It will include multiple planters at different heights laid out in a wheelchair friendly way, two

benches and a picnic table with a wheelchair space. There will be a further lectern style interpretation board placed by the entrance. Clearing work will start very shortly and installation will be carried out over the summer as the equipment and the volunteer labour to install it becomes available.

Continuing with the curling rink area it was the location of our plant sale yesterday. As well as the seemingly infinite variety of plants on offer there were activities for children to sow seeds in various little planters and a colour coded elf door trail to follow through the valley. The event added an impressive £1,100 to our funds to help look after the Hill. Thanks are due to many people for setting up the event, for growing-on plants at home, for donating plants on the day and of course for making the purchases. We have had very positive feedback from those who attended.

Our community engagement worker is with us for two days a week. On a Sunday he runs a Hill Work Squad session which is our standard volunteering option designed to allow volunteers to help with practical tasks around the LNR. These might include things like planting wild flowers or trees, pruning and cutting back encroaching vegetation, maintenance of woodland features, play equipment and paths, wildlife surveys, litter picking, invasive species removal and anything else required! Many of the volunteers on these sessions are youngsters on the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme but everyone is welcome to sign up and join in or opt out as they like.

We also have a "Volunteer from Home" initiative based around our Seeds & Planting Programme where people can take seeds, wildflower plugs and tree saplings to plant or grow them on at home until they are ready to go out on the hill. So this is an all year round way of helping the Friends not just for plant sale time.

Covid limited events on the Hill but we restarted activities this April with a well-attended Easter Egg Hunt. Our next event is a Fungi Walk on 20th May but this may now be fully booked so please watch our Facebook page or website for new events.

## **Water of Leith Conservation Trust**

### **WOLCT Report to Craiglockhart CC AGM on 15 May 2023 by Bryce Morrison**

The Trust has a small team based in the Visitor Centre at Slateford. Through them an army of volunteers are mobilised to carry out conservation work from Balerno down to Leith. Much of the work depends on the season. The current focus is on controlling giant hogweed, an invasive non-native species which can cause severe skin burns if touched. In summer there is work on enhancing wild flower meadows while in autumn it is removing fallen leaves and clearing drainage ditches to minimise muddy winter paths. After very heavy rain it is focussing on removing wet wipes and other nasties that come from sewage overflows. But, right through the year there is sadly the removing of an infinite variety of litter in and beside the river. The Centre is also a teaching facility for Edinburgh's schools. The Visitor Centre has been gradually upgraded and its café is a very popular and friendly place to take a break from a walk along the river or the canal. We run events for both adults and children and these are posted on our website and can be booked from there. Our statistics for the last year have been 11,000 volunteer hours, 25,000 visitors to the Centre and 166 learning opportunities with schools. Our annual plant sale just past has been the best yet raising £2,300 pounds for the Trust's work so thank to those who nurtured seedlings for the sale, those who made donations of plants and of course all who made purchases on the day. We have always been a green organisation but with the help of a grant we have become even greener by replacing our ageing diesel van with a pure electric one. We currently have a major project down in Leith at Coalie Park. This is a narrow strip along the side of the river which was formerly a coal yard and railway sidings. It had become very run down but there is now an approved plan and the funding in

place to progress its rejuvenation. One small part of that happening this week is the installation of two innovative biodiversity planters anchored in the river by its bank. Although organised by the City Council there two current projects that I know interest residents. At long last the repair of the Redhall bridge is well underway. All the old rotten woodwork has been stripped from the bridge. This week their focus is doing remedial work on the concrete pier heads and to some of the steel beams. The wooden planking is going to be replaced with long life fibre glass reinforced polymer decking. FRP for short and it is expected to last roughly 75 years without repair. The laying of the new flexipave surface along the railway walkway has been progressing. Going up from the canal the stretch from the end of the tarmacked bit up to the Redhall bridge steps have been completed. There are then short stretches before and after the railway tunnel that have not yet been done because of construction traffic using these sections. From Colinton the new surface has been completed up to the city bypass and the work is now progressing on the stretch from there up to Juniper Green.

### **Report for Friends of Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Greenbank Community Woodland - Anni McLeod**

Our Friends Group constitution is very much about the conservation of the green space and a quiet and peaceful place for wildlife and people.

As always, thanks to the local residents who pick up litter when they walk around the hill and community woodland.

Similar to last year:

- The hill continues to benefit from the return of traffic to pre-COVID levels.
- The community woodland is still waiting for a few trees to be planted to replace those that had to be removed because of ash die-back.

- We are still waiting for LNR status to be confirmed, signposts at the entrance to the LNR, and an information board.

A new concern:

- Our Natural Heritage Officer has an increased and huge workload - the sites under his care have increased from 4 to 6 and recently 9.

## **6. Planning Updates**

John Corbett (JC) advised that there was nothing of note to report on Planning in the Community area . The Community Council ( CCC) have been advised of Works at George Watson's College as follows :

Dear Craiglockhart Community Council

“We write on behalf of George Watson’s College.

We wish to provide you with notification that George Watson’s College has today submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) relating to the proposed submission of an application for planning permission on land at George Watson’s Playing Fields, Myreside Road, Edinburgh.

A copy of the PAN and associated Location Plan are attached.

The proposed development relates to the *Installation of 3 artificial grass sports pitches, associated warm-up area, floodlighting, fencing, areas of hardstanding and infrastructure. Formation of pick up/drop off area, associated parking provision and access arrangements*

George Watson’s College intends to carry out two public consultation events:

Event No. 1 - Wednesday 31 May, 3.30-7.30pm, Myreside Pavilion, 79 Myreside Rd, Edinburgh EH10 5DB

Event No. 2 - Thursday 15th June, 3.30-7.30pm, Myreside Pavilion, 79 Myreside Rd, Edinburgh EH10 5DB

A Public Notice will be displayed in the Edinburgh Evening News at least 7 days in advance of each event.

We are in the process of preparing leaflets advertising the events which will be sent to neighbouring properties and George Watson’s College will email details of the events to their mailing list (2000+ recipients)

We would be grateful for any additional suggestions you might provide in terms of further advertising the events e.g. community council noticeboard, community council mailing list,

community council facebook page etc.”

The Community Council will publish any further information we receive on the CCC website.

## **7. Engagement Report and Craiglockhart Community Mela (Gala) 27th May 2023 -**

### **Nick Stewart**

An Annual Engagement Report for the 12 months ended 31/12/2023 has yet to be completed. The content of the report will focus on the Craiglockhart Community Mela (Gala) event planned for Saturday 27 May 2023, at Craiglockhart Parish Church, between 11am and 3pm.

Preparations for the event are progressing steadily. Promoting the event across Craiglockhart is the main activity currently in progress: the door to door distribution of an A5 leaflet by members of Craiglockhart Community Council (CCC); content uploaded onto the CCC website; copies of the A5 leaflet left with clubs & organisations and NKS; and public notice boards updated.

As well as the local clubs & organisations who have kindly volunteered their time to come along on the day, there will also be the opportunity to engage with our City of Edinburgh Ward Councillors (i.e. Val Walker, David Keys and Chris Cowdy).

In addition to CCC funding, sponsorship has been secured from The University of Edinburgh (Edinburgh Local Micro-grants) and The City of Edinburgh Council (Community Grants Fund) to help make the event a reality. A funding decision from the Edinburgh Airport Community Fund has still to be confirmed.

Out of necessity space restrictions will restrict local clubs and organisations to an exchange of information format. Despite this, attendees are keen to use the platform provided by the event to raise their profile and people's awareness of what they have to offer.

Anecdotal feedback suggests a positive response to the event by Craiglockhart residents. It is hoped that this goodwill will feed through to the day of the event itself.

## **8. Water of Leith area - Dell Bridge and Paths**

- Redhall Weir Bridge. Repairs well underway.

- Pipeline Bridge . The intended Contractor has pulled out of the contract City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) are seeking another contractor.
- Path repair up from Bogsmill Bridge are completed

## **AOCB**

- Travelling Safely. SW20 have been asked to meet with CCC and they hope to come back soon with potential dates
- Graffiti, Finance has been budgeted by CEC for Edinburgh. Councillor Val Walker would be obliged if residents would pass on any particular locations and she would pass that list to the Graffiti Squadin CEC.
- Litter Bin - Bogsmill Bridge. Carried forward, Action by Christopher Cowdy.
- Redhall House - no sale yet.
- Shandon Bridge. A way forward has now been agreed with Citi Fibre, CEC and Network Rail but Network Rail needs to 'sign off' on matters.
- Colinton Road . Removal of crash barriers. CEC asked on the matter.
- Dog fouling at Meggetland pitches. Action Councillor Val Walker will find out who to contact at CEC.
- Parking at Meggetland on matchdays. Councillor Val Walker will find out who to contact at CEC.

Date of next meeting is Monday 17th July 2023 at Napier University **Room 1.08** (please note change from 2..05)