

## **Craiglockhart Community Council**

### **Minutes of the Public Meeting**

Time: 7pm

Date: 20 May 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:***

City of Edinburgh Councillor - David Key, Val Walker

Chair of the Greenbank Village West Residents Association - Ian Watson (tbc)

Chair of the Greenbank Village East Residents Association - Paul Pia

Police Scotland - Community Police Team

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

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

City of Edinburgh Councillors - Christopher Cowdy

Residents - circa 20 (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 18 March 2024 was proposed by John Corbett (JC) and seconded by Hilda Henderson (HH).

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

Police Scotland have established a 'Ward Forum' for Community Councils and Elected Officials to engage with them. Nick Stewart (NS) and Chris Cowdy (CC) attended the Ward 8 & 9 Forum on Tuesday 7 May 2024 hosted by Police Scotland Edinburgh Division South West.

NS confirmed that there were no matters of concern raised, with the top 5 priorities for Edinburgh SW Division unchanged from November '23, and trends in offences neither worsening nor improving.

CC highlighted the increasing occurrence of antisocial behaviour due to unregistered quad bikes. Police policy is to avoid any pursuit. The presence of Education Welfare officers is proving to be a positive intervention in schools. Monitoring the volume of Firrhill High School students crossing Oxfords Road North and Colinton Road at the end of the school day was an additional area of attention.

For information: A meeting note compiled by NS is repeated in the Appendix to these minutes.

#### **4. Engagement Update**

NS confirmed that a stocktake of responses and firm commitments given by organisations to attend our 'Healthy Living' event planned for 22 June has been completed.

Without exception the organisations invited have endorsed the 'Healthy Living' theme and the aim(s) of the event. However, either resource constraints or resource availability on the day had been the recurring limitation preventing sufficient numbers committing to have a presence.

The proposal to regrettably postpone the event was accepted at the meeting. Costs associated with the postponement will total £50, the deposit paid to secure the venue. An internal meeting of community councillors will be arranged to decide an alternative event date and other aspects of the event.

## 5. Planning Update

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

## 6. Glenlockhart Bank - Update

In April 2024 issues regarding extensive excavation and construction work underway at No. 10 Glenlockhart Bank were brought to the attention of Craiglockhart Community Council (CCC) and our Ward Councillors (David Key, Val Walker and Chris Cowdy).

By way of context the meeting was made aware that two previous planning applications (2019 and 2021) for the erection of a private dwelling house at No. 10 Glenlockhart Bank had been refused, and despite best efforts no constructive or open dialogue is forthcoming from the residents of No. 10 Glenlockhart Bank.

Glenlockhart Bank residents at the meeting reinforced their **serious** concerns that:

- the appropriate consents have not been obtained for the works in progress at No. 10 Glenlockhart Bank (e.g. planning permission, building warrant or change of use);
- the extensive works in progress present an unacceptable safety risk (e.g. absence of safety fencing and signage, possible subsidence affecting neighbouring residences, possible asbestos removal, compliance with building standards, modifications to electricity, gas and water supplies, etc); and
- the capacity of the current drainage system and existing flood risk posed to lower lying residences in Glenlockhart Bank will be exacerbated by the works.

For clarity the meeting was made aware that the works at No. 10 include: (1) substantial excavation works and structural changes to an ancillary building previously used as a swimming pool; and (2) redevelopment of the former garage into what appears to be a public-facing retail business trading as a hair salon.

It should be noted that the exact purpose of the works is unclear since no appropriate consents or architect drawings appear to be present on any of the City of Edinburgh (CEC) portals. Having said this, residents did confirm that the owners at No.10 had submitted, retrospectively, a Building Warrant application in April 2024 to cover £9k of work to, "Demolish rotten and dangerous unstable conservatory building attached to disused swimming pool building. Seal of building envelope to leave safe." It is a challenge to see how this monetary value and description bears any relationship to the nature and extent of works carried out.

The above concerns have been raised by Glenlockhart Bank residents and our Ward Councillors with the relevant CEC Planning and Building Control Officer(s). An up to date position from these officers is yet to be provided. CC agreed to follow this up with his fellow Ward Councillors.

The residents from Glenlockhart Bank in attendance at the meeting also conveyed their shared and collective frustration that their voices, serious concerns, have been and remain unheard by CEC as evidenced by the service from CEC's Planning, Licensing and Enforcements departments.

## 7. Lockhartons Parking Issue - Update

Further to the update at our March 2024 public meeting, Hilda Henderson (HH) confirmed that no progress has been made by the relevant City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) officers to resolve the wholly unsatisfactory parking disruption Lockharton residents find themselves confronted by on a daily basis.

Communications since March 2024 from Lockharton residents and Craiglockhart Community Council (CCC) to CEC officers Gavin Brown (Head of Network Management and Enforcement) and Andrew MacKay (Senior Transport Team Leader) have not shed any light on how the issue will be tackled. Instead, both have referred to the Strategic Review of Parking (SRP) and offered no timeous solution for the Lockharton parking situation created by CEC.

Expectations remain that CEC officers will prepare a report for the CEC Transport and Environment Committee meeting on 20 June 2024. The report will set out the options that are available and have been considered, concluding with a recommended solution to the committee. Representatives of Lockharton residents and a community councillor will meet with Gavin Brown and Andrew MacKay on Monday 27 May to discuss the committee report. The situation should become clearer after this meeting.

Collective representations by our Ward Councillors (Val Walker, Christopher Cowdy and David Key) remain a crucial lever to achieve a sensible and satisfactory outcome from the CEC Transport and Environment Committee.

Worryingly, the 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 totally unacceptable to the residents in the Lockhartons and a solution or adjustment, temporary or permanent, **must** be identified and taken forward as a matter of urgency.

Similar to the previous agenda item there is a real frustration that CEC engagement with the community and residents is insufficient, and in the instances when it does occur feedback provided is either not listened to or ignored (e.g. the potential disruption from displacement parking in the Lockhartons was raised on 3 occasions as part of the consultation on the CPZ expansion).

PM confirmed that ward councillors and the community council should better understand why CEC engagement continues to fall well below reasonable expectations.

The Community Policing Team, based in Oxfangs, agreed to inform an officer in the Traffic Department (Police Scotland) of the existing parking pressures and road safety concerns expressed by Lockharton residents. NS to follow up.

## **8. Water of Leith - Update**

**Katesmill Pipeline Bridge** - An email from Caroline Paterson, Natural Heritage Officer, confirmed that the works to replace the Pipeline Bridge in Colinton and Craiglockhart Dell (near Katesmill) have commenced. Replacement piers have been installed and levels agreed. CEC is now awaiting delivery of the FRP bridge based on a revised survey. This is expected around the end of June 2024.

**Dells Road Landslip** - Another email update was provided by Caroline Paterson, Natural Heritage Officer, regarding the Dells Road Landslip and related path closure. Designs have been requested from consultant engineers which would enable the path to be re-opened temporarily. Meanwhile CEC is considering a permanent solution to aid the stabilisation of the bank.

**Plant Sale** - Bryce Morrison (BM) was pleased to report that a recent plant sale raised £2,600 for the Water of Leith Conservation Trust.

**Coalie Park Project, Leith** - BM confirmed the completion of Phase 1 and its official opening.

Please refer to: <https://www.waterofleith.org.uk/coalie-park-project/>

## **9. Paties Pavillion Car Park Lighting - Katesmill Road**

CC confirmed that his approach to CEC resulted in a further approach needed to the Parks Department. It is only after lighting has been installed does CEC assume responsibility for its maintenance.

## **10. Any Other Business**

### **10.1 Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill - Update**

BM drew attention to the community plant sale taking place on Sunday 9 June starting @ 2pm, at the Craiglockhart Terrace entrance to the woods. Any plant donations would be welcomed in the morning before the sale commences.

In light of recent developments to Easter Craiglockhart Hill, a new trail map is available in leaflet boxes and online. Please refer to: <https://www.eastercraiglockharthill.org/trails-on-easter-craiglockhart-hill/>

## **10.2 Greenbank Village East - Antisocial behaviour**

Kay Roberston (KR), a resident and Secretary of the Greenbank Village East Residents Association, made people aware of an instance of antisocial behaviour in Greenbank.

It concerned young men driving powerful cars at speed and making excessive noise late at night/ early morning. It is unknown if these men were owners or tenants of a property in Greenbank. When challenged by residents in a neighbouring house (mother, father and son) their behaviour was both abusive and confrontational.

The incident was reported to Police Scotland. KR queried whether this behaviour was being witnessed elsewhere. NS to refer the Community Policing Team (Sergeant Mark Coull) to KR.

## **10.3 Chair of CCC**

PM confirmed that he was stepping down as chairperson and community councillor.

On behalf of his fellow community councillors and residents across Craiglockhart, JC acknowledged and thanked Peter for the dedication, integrity and fairness he has brought to the role of Chair and as a community councillor over the years. Behind the scenes his persistence and contribution across a range of issues has been valued and helped to make Craiglockhart a better place to live.

NS will assume the role of Chair going forward.

## **11. Date of Next Public Meeting (note: includes AGM)**

Date: 22 July 2024

Time: 7pm

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

PM thanked all attendees and the meeting was closed.

## Meeting Note

### **Police Scotland : Ward 8 & 9 Forum on Tuesday 7 May 2024**

#### Attendees

- Police Scotland - Sergeant Mark Coull (Community Policing Team)  
Apology: Chief Inspector Paul Gillespie (Local Area Commander for South West Edinburgh)
- Elected Officials - Chris Cowdy (Ward 9), Scott Arthur (Ward 8)  
Apology: Val Walker (Ward 9)
- Community Councils - Colin Anderson (Fairmilehead), Bridget Stevens (Merchiston), Nick Stewart (Craiglockhart)

#### Topics Raised

##### *Top 5 Priorities*

The priorities for Edinburgh SW Division division are unchanged from the November '23 meeting.

- Antisocial Behaviour
- Road Safety
- Drugs
- Violence
- Housebreaking and crimes of theft & dishonesty

##### *Resource Limitations*

Ongoing challenge for Edinburgh SW division. Additionally, the shape of policing (e.g. dedicated cyber crime and child abuse units) is also squeezing the resources needed to fund Community Police Teams.

##### *Antisocial Behaviour*

Tends to occur in small pockets. The prevalence of antisocial behaviour is neither worse nor better compared to the November '23 meeting.

##### *Shoplifting*

Local convenience stores (e.g. Tesco Metro) as well as larger outlets (e.g. Aldi & Lidl) are being targeted, some by youths who almost hunt in packs. CCTV coverage is / has been vital in identifying specific individuals.

##### *Unregistered Quad Bikes*

Increasing occurrence and likely to worsen as Summer approaches. Police policy is to avoid being drawn into any pursuit. Again, CCTV coverage is / has been vital in identifying specific individuals.

People are asked to remain alert around wooded spaces where quad bikes may be left unattended.

##### *Drink Driving Campaigns*

Summer and winter campaigns are planned. There still seems to be a core of motorists who continue to contravene blood alcohol limits.

##### *Mobile Speed Units*

The role of 'Community Speed Watch' performed by the community (e.g. community councillors or volunteers) is still being looked at by the Road Policing department.

The personal safety of volunteers is the key risk impacting any roll out of this option.

##### *Speed Cameras*

Activation of speed cameras is driven by evidence of speeding, accidents or injuries.

De-activation is based on the opposite argument. Unfortunately, de-activation also results in speed cameras being covered which removes any possible deterrent the presence of a speed camera may offer. Frustratingly, legal considerations seem to require this action.

### *School Parking Patrols*

This tactic continues to be deployed around schools, with good evidence of improved driver behaviour.

### *Canal Towpath*

Hotspots of antisocial behaviour on the canal towpath are evident (e.g. Wester Hailes and Harrison Park area). For example, cyclists being pushed into the canal. Instances tend to be sporadic. Thankfully no serious injuries have been reported.

A Canal Festival is planned for 15 June 2024 stretching between Harrison Park and Lochrin Basin. An invitation was extended to Police Scotland at the meeting.

### *Drugs*

Drugs usage tends to be witnessed around Gorgie and Dalry. Residents are alert to this and will report incidents to the police.

### *Home Breakins*

No mention at the meeting.

### Reminder

Call 101 if you need advice or to report a crime.

Call 999 if it is an emergency.

Alternatively email [EdinburghCPTSouthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:EdinburghCPTSouthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk)