

Craiglockhart Community Council

Minutes of the Public Meeting

Time: 7pm

Date: 18 September 2023

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams & In person at Craiglockhart Campus Room 1/08

Chair: Peter Mavor

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

Apologies:

Community Councillors - Neena Agarwal, Hilda Henderson, Kevin McKay, Alex Schweitzer-Thompson.

City of Edinburgh Councillors - Christopher Cowdy, David Key.

Chair of the Greenbank Village East Residents Association - Paul Pia

In Attendance:

Community Councillors - Peter Mavor, John Corbett, Bryce Morrison*, Anni McLeod **, Eleanor Young, Nick Stewart.

City of Edinburgh Councillor - Val Walker

Chair of the Greenbank Village West Residents Association - Ian Watson

Police Scotland - Sgt. Christine Robertson

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 17 July 2023 was proposed by Nick Stewart (NS) and seconded by Eleanor Young (EY).

Peter Mavor (PM) advised that action points from the last minutes would be covered by the agenda items for this meeting.

3. Community Police Report

Sgt Christine Robertson (CR) confirmed that since July 2023 there had no significant concerns to draw to the attention of residents.

Following a recent restructuring, CR outlined the resource challenges facing the Community Policing Team currently comprised of nine officers split over three teams with the remit to cover the entire South West area of Edinburgh.

CR reinforced the importance of residents helping the police to identify hotspots by reporting every incident either live (i.e. non-emergency call 101 or if one is in fear/emergency call 999) or after the event (i.e. email the team on EdinburghCPTSouthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk or make contact using the Police Scotland website).

Ian Watson (Chair of the Greenbank Village West Residents Association) confirmed that recent antisocial behaviour had been reported to Police Scotland using the 101 phone line. His experience of 101 and the follow up by officers had been positive. Having said this the meeting did acknowledge that 101 resource limitations could result in a different experience.

Another resident highlighted the prevalence of drug and alcohol related health issues and the importance of awareness as a preventative measure. Related to this, CR reinforced the important role played by officers linked to schools in the area and the contribution made by a range of charities.

CR highlighted 'Ward Forums' as a new concept being put forward by Police Scotland to engage with communities and provide an overview of the entire ward. Intended to be quarterly they would be attended by Community Council members, City of Edinburgh (CEC) ward councillors, MSP and the relevant Police Scotland Sergeant, Inspector and/or Chief Inspector. Input would also be sought by Police Scotland in advance of the meetings.

Peter Mavor (PM) requested that he be the contact point for input from the Community Council. At present 'Ward Forum' meeting dates have still to be scheduled.

4. Engagement Update

Nick Stewart (NS) confirmed his desire to have another Community Engagement Event in May 2024. The theme would be different based on suggestions from residents. The meeting supported this initiative.

Action: NS to use the Community Council email distribution list to reach out and seek the input of residents.

Since Covid rules had been relaxed the attendance levels, on-line and in person combined, at recent public meetings has been below expectations. The suggestion was made that unless there were pressing issues affecting Craiglockhart, people might be indifferent about attending public meetings. Information on the Community Council website combined with regular email communications were hopefully helping to keep residents informed. It was recommended that our notice boards should be updated more frequently e.g. mirror topics in email communications circulated to residents.

The meeting reinforced the benefit of having a specific topic relevant to the community on the agenda for each public meeting. Coincidentally, further to the 17 July 2023 public meeting, item 8.4, 'Canal Issues Cyclists & Pedestrians', PM confirmed that Scottish Canals and CEC would be attending the next public meeting on Monday 20 November 2023.

Action: NS/EY to raise awareness of Scottish Canals and CEC attending the November public meeting using the Community Council email distribution list and public noticeboards.

PM also confirmed that a CEC Councillor/Chief Executive Ward visit is planned for 3 November 2023. This will be an opportunity for the Community Council to raise, say, two to three key issues that impact Craiglockhart. Public meetings and problems highlighted to the Community Council would inform the agenda for the Ward visit.

5. Planning Update

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

CEC has voted through its 'Plan 2030 for Edinburgh' and are in the process of pulling together 'Plan 2040 for Edinburgh'.

CEC engagement with the Community Council has been better in the past. This will be a matter raised at the Ward visit planned for 3 November 2023.

6. Water of Leith - Update

Bryce Morrison (BM) confirmed the following with additional input from PM and Chris Cowdy (CC).

6.1 Redhall Weir Bridge - The replacement bridge is open. No further update necessary.

6.2 Pipeline Bridge - The bridge remains closed to the public. A revised design is out for re-tender. Val Walker (VW) will provide an update when progress is made on this front.

6.3 Litter Bin at Bogsmill Bridge - The position of CEC remains entrenched: the status quo will not be changed. PM conceded that further time and effort pursuing this issue will be wasted. No further update necessary.

6.4 Railway Line Resurfacing work - This has been completed to a good standard, extending all the way out to Balerno. The longevity of this work is something that will be kept under review.

6.5 Scottish Water Talk - On Monday 13 November Scottish Water will be giving a talk at the Water of Leith Visitor Centre. entitled "Nature Calls" and will cover matters including Combined Sewer Overflows (i.e. outflows that open when there is heavy rainfall and the normal enclosed sewers cannot cope with the volume). This will be free to members, with a nominal charge for non-members.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Travelling Safely / SW20

No success in arranging a meeting with SW20 despite repeated approaches by JC. Action carried forward.

7.2 Dog Fouling at Meggetland - Update

Update from CC - Reply received from CEC. Item will be looked into. EY confirmed that there have been no recent complaints from residents

7.3 Parking at Meggetland - Update

Update from CC - The team are aware of ongoing issues at Meggetland during events and they have made arrangements for the Parking Attendants to make additional visits at these times. CEC will continue to monitor the situation. EY confirmed that parking tickets have been issued but for whatever reason this wasn't proving to be the deterrent one would expect.

7.4 Reintroduction of Picnic Benches in Dell - Update

Update from CC - At present there are no plans to return the picnic benches to Bogsmill Bridge. With the increase in camping within the Dells it has been deemed unwise to install picnic benches and risk the rise in anti-social behaviour.

7.5 Graffiti - Update on the details of £3m CEC Waste Cleaning budget

Update from CC - Response from Andy Williams of CEC : *"In the report to TEC on 20th April we set out how the additional funding would be allocated, broken down by specific initiatives and one of these was of course graffiti. Much of the initiatives are dependant on new vehicles and staffing which takes some time to secure and the report suggested October for 'go live'. That's what we're planning for and working towards.*

In terms of graffiti the initial focus will be public buildings so any reports that come in from the public, alongside anything identified by our graffiti officer will be tackled in the first instance.

We'll be looking to have 3 graffiti crews dealing with issues on a 7 day per week basis."

7.6 Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill

BM confirmed that after a lot of work the 'welcoming garden' at Craiglockhart Terrace North has been completed.

7.7 Democracy Matters - A webinar for Community Councils, Thursday 5 October 2023

PM highlighted the above webinar. Its purpose is to start the process where people across Scotland are being asked to suggest ways of increasing local control over decision-making. The free webinar with the Scottish Government Community Empowerment team will help Community Councils learn more and pose any questions.

7.8 Road Traffic Speeding

Observations suggest that speeding is becoming more of an issue in the Craiglockhart area. The reintroduction of speed camera was one option raised at the meeting. It was uncertain if this was a CEC or Police Scotland matter.

Action: PM to progress this.

7.9 Delayed Road Works

Val Walker (VW) introduced this item. Limited powers rest with CEC. The CEC plan to approach the Scottish Government to be given the authority to fine utility companies in instances where works are not completed on time.

7.10 Pedestrian Railings at 'Firhill Day Centre' Bus Stop

The risk to pedestrians posed by the railings at the top of Craiglockhart Road and Colinton Road has been compromised by the removal of railings adjacent to the bus stop. The base that remains, approximately 150mm wide x 60mm high, is not continuous and as such creates a major trip hazard.

Action: NS to report this to CEC via the CEC website and appropriate on-line form.

8. Date of Next Public Meeting

Date: 20 November 2023

Time: 7pm

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

Note: CEC Canal Officer (Rebecca Smith) and Scottish Canals (Tricia Hill) will be in attendance

PM thanked all attendees and the meeting was closed.