

Craiglockhart Community Council

Minutes of the Public Meeting & AGM

Time: 7pm

Date: 16 September 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 - Hilda Henderson, John Corbett, Anni McLeod **

City of Edinburgh Councillor - David Key, Val Walker

Police Scotland - Community Police Team

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), Kevin McKay, Neena Agarwal, Eleanor Young, Bryce Morrison*

City of Edinburgh Councillor - Christopher Cowdy

Residents - circa 10 (in person)

* 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 22 July 2024 was proposed by Eleanor Young (EY) and seconded by Neena Agarwal (NA).

Nick Stewart (NS) advised that the action points from the last meeting would be covered by the agenda items for this meeting.

The absence of any on-line attendees for the meeting was unusual. In light of technical issues from the July meeting NS and Kevin McKay (KMCK) agreed that the existing obsolete laptop should be replaced.

3. Community Police Report

Prior to the meeting, Mark Coull (South West Community Policing Team) had no specific issues or items of concern to raise.

In relation to issues raised at recent meetings he did advise that:

- Complaint of loud cars in Rattray Drive - CPT officers have attended on several occasions but no cars seen. Layout of road does not allow for racing but it will be kept under review.
- Male camping at Allan Park Footbridge - regular foot patrols in the area but nobody seen. Please report any future sightings. Attendees at the meeting confirmed that a blue tent had been seen.
- Motorbikes in Sassoon Grove - Patrols carried out but nothing seen. Only recently reported so the team will continue to patrol.

Nick Stewart (NS) confirmed that he will attend the next Ward Forum meeting with Police Scotland on Wednesday 2 October.

Action: All - please remember, if there any issues or concerns you have contact the Community Team. Email EdinburghCPTSouthWest@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

NS noted that Bryce Morrison (BM) would like the antisocial use of illegal e-bikes being driven at speed to be raised at the Ward Forum meeting.

4. Planning - Update

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

5. Engagement - Update

The meeting noted that Neena Argwal (NA) has assumed the role of Engagement Officer, supported by Kevin Mckay (KMckK).

Action: NA & KMckK to prepare an outline, proposal, for a community engagement event (i.e. theme, purpose, costs, format).

6. Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill (FECH)

Bryce Morrison (BM) summarised some of the recent activity by FECH. This included daffodil planting, a collaboration with the local canoe club to clean up rubbish from the pond and a bat walk. FECH also have plans to place a floating island in the centre of the pond to serve as a sanctuary for wildlife.

The Council are arranging for the complete replacement of the boardwalk at the South end of the pond. That is expected to take place in about 4 week's time and take 4 weeks to complete. In the meantime FECH are removing some existing plants to areas of safety. The Council are getting quotations for the repair of the collapsing ramp leading up to Meadowspot path but as yet there is no timescale for the work.

The next FECH work party has been scheduled for Sunday 6 October from 2pm to 4pm.

7. Issues & Actions

7.1 Glenlockhart Bank

Little to no change to the update provided at the last public meeting in July 2024. JC and other Glenlockhart Bank residents will continue to monitor the works, especially the increased flood risk they pose.

7.2 Lockhartons Parking Issue

On behalf of Hilda Henderson (HH) NS shared the following update.

Overall message: there is some progress towards a possible improvement for residents' parking in the Lockhartons but timescale remains the key, fundamental, issue.

A report on the parking problems in the Lockhartons was tabled before the Transport and Environment Committee (the Committee) meeting in August 2024, as well as a deputation from the Lockhartons to set out the problems for residents.

The Committee recognised and acknowledged the significant problems that had been created for the local residents by the roll out of the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) into neighbouring areas without taking account of the obvious displacement problems that would affect Lockharton residents.

At the meeting the Committee also agreed:

- Priority Parking would be introduced in the Lockhartons (e.g. residents permit parking only for 90 minutes each week day between probably 12.00-1.30);
- Design would begin on the Priority Parking Area (PPA);
- Access to the Local Nature Reserve on Lockharton Crescent available for no charge controlled parking limiting any stay to 3 hours with no return;
- Engagement and consultation to take place with the wider Craiglockhart North area concerning displacement impact; and

- Officers are instructed to meet with Lockharton residents to seek to identify ways to accelerate the process.

Unfortunately the Lockhartons and the wider Craiglockhart North area are now subsumed within the city wide Strategic Review of Parking as part of Phase 5. Phase 1 has just completed after almost a decade in planning. Implementation of the PPA in the Lockhartons is scheduled for the end of 2025 at the soonest.

Residents have already suffered for almost 11 months and are not prepared to wait at least another 15 months for the implementation of a solution. In light of this a meeting of representatives of the Lockhartons with senior officers in early October will be used to clarify the situation and seek to find ways to accelerate the process further.

Action: EY to ask HH to also mention the likely, additional, displacement impact on Meggetland residents at this October meeting.

The meeting acknowledged the lobbying and considerable work put in on this issue by HH and Lockarton residents, as well as Chris Cowdy (CC) and Val Walker (VW).

7.3 Katesmill Walkway Bridge (known locally as the Pipe Bridge)

NS shared an update provided by Caroline Paterson (Natural Heritage Officer, City of Edinburgh Council) in August 2024. Unfortunately, the installation of the Katesmill Walkway Bridge has been delayed due to issues with the fabrication of the structure. Completion is anticipated to be September 2024.

An additional update was provided concerning Redhall Footbridge. Works undertaken in 2023 were only essential repairs required to stabilise the parapets. Since the bridge is approaching its end-of-design-life a replacement will be sought rather than progress further repairs. Delivery on this is dependent on establishing a replacement cost for the bridge, securing appropriate priority and budget availability.

Due to recent vandalism to the closure barriers, a steel framed barrier on each side of the bridge has been fitted. Based on peoples experience the meeting agreed that residents expectations regarding timescales for a replacement bridge should be set in years not months.

7.4 Paties Pavillion Car Park Lighting - Katesmill Road

Dialogue between CC and Council Officers has established that the Estates team of City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) are currently in negotiations to lease the neighbouring Paties Road Pavilion to another organisation. Part of these negotiations will propose that the car park becomes the responsibility of the tenants on the site in totality.

It was noted that the electrics at Paties Road Pavilion have been condemned and may not be able to support flood lighting. NS confirmed that visibility of this issue by Craiglockhart Community Council will continue until a satisfactory outcome is achieved.

7.5 Dells Road Landslip

No further CEC update has been available since May 2024 - namely that a platform solution is not possible due to the pressure it would place on the path. Designs have been requested from consultant engineers to then allow works which would enable the path to be re-opened temporarily. Meanwhile CEC is considering a lower cost (permanent) solution to aid the stabilisation of the bank.

In light of this and the other agenda items concerning Craiglockhart & Colinton Dells, CC confirmed that he had tabled a formal questions for the Full Council meeting on 26 September 2024: "What work has been carried out on a proper management plan for footpaths and bridges in Craiglockhart and Colinton Dells so repairs can be made proactively to limit closure times and danger to public" ?

The meeting unanimously expressed its frustration and exasperation with the slow decline in the fabric and condition of the Craiglockhart & Colinton Dells. It is a tragedy that an area of woodland and open space promoted for its scenery, history and physical & mental benefits to Edinburgh residents and visitors from outside of Edinburgh has been allowed, by CEC, to deteriorate over the years.

NS confirmed that the response to the above question will be keenly awaited by residents.

7.6 Signage & Bins in Dell

Boggs Bridge - Bin Requirement

NS raised the need for a bin with Andy Hunter - Neighbourhood Environmental Services, Street Care Operations Area Manager (West). This request was rejected for private and confidential reasons and on Health & Safety grounds, the basis given to our previous Chair when this requirement was raised in 2022/23.

Duty Supervisor and/or Street Inspector monitor this location on a regular basis. No issues of dumping or fly-tipping has been reported, with bins being used, and no complaints received regarding dog fouling bags or litter being dumped for the past year.

NS encouraged residents to report any incidents. Doing so will better inform operational decisions taken by the CEC team.

Dell - Camping & Litter Signage Requirement

NS raised the need for signage with Caroline Paterson (Natural Heritage Officer, City of Edinburgh Council).

Unfortunately signs put up at entrances to the Dells (2018) encouraging responsible behaviour and informing of no camping and no fires were forcibly removed and/or vandalised. CEC could not justify the resource in continually replace these signs and engaged with people through increased patrols of the area.

CEC was not aware of any campsites in the Dells this year, nor any issues relating to litter/fire/damage/anti-social behaviour. If people do come across litter/dumping this should be reported on the [Council's website](#).

7.7 Pavement & Street Frontage - Safety & Presentation

Keeping roads, verges and footpaths weed-free or at least weed-capped across Craiglockhart was raised at the last public meeting in July.

The need to take on more personal and community responsibility for keeping pavement and street frontages safe and presentable is a reality. NS confirmed that a communication was sent to our email distribution list and posted on our website encouraging people to step in where CEC was failing to act. Namely to attend to weeds on pavements and street frontages bordering our residences.

NS stressed that this request should not jeopardise the integrity of wild meadows in our community.

The Council's Waste team manages weed maintenance in the city. The meeting noted that the Council will respond to complaints about weeds, and maintain a reactive capacity to deal with specific issues.

Email waste@edinburgh.gov.uk

Removal of established weeds can all too easily compromise the structural integrity of public pavements and streets. Accordingly, in this scenario residents should call upon the services of the Waste team.

7.8 Blind Junction - Craiglockhart Gardens & Craiglockhart Avenue

20 August 2024 - "Your enquiry has been resolved". Unfortunately NA advised that a new mirror has not installed and the safety risk facing drivers exiting Craiglockhart Gardens onto Craiglockhart Ave. still exists.

Action: NS to follow up.

8. AOCB

8.1 Meggetland Wynd - A boat club has applied for a formal 25 year lease at the site where cargo storage is currently in place. If secured, this will allow funding to be sought for a permanent structure using the same footprint. The meeting welcomed this development for the boat club.

8.2 Clearance of Leaves - With Autumn imminent CC confirmed that CEC has a policy of not picking up leaves. CC is attending a public meeting of Merchiston Community Council. They have co-ordinated leaf clearing events in the past. CC will ask them to make contact with NS.

Similar to agenda item 7.7 this is another scenario where the council is, without any engagement, covertly passing responsibility for services it previously provided to communities and by inference to community councils.

CC has also tabled another formal question for the Full Council meeting on 26 September 2024: "What proactive actions are being taken to encourage Community Councils help clear fallen leaves from roads and pavements" ?

In light of its dire financial position for the foreseeable future, residents can expect to see more of the same from CEC. The question was posed, 'on what and where are the council tax charges paid by Craiglockhart residents spent' ?

Date of Next Public Meeting

Date: 18 November 2024

Time: 7pm

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

NS thanked all attendees.

The meeting was closed.