

Craiglockhart Community Council

Minutes of the Public Meeting

Time: 7pm

Date: 15 September 2025

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 Councillors: Neena Agarwal

City of Edinburgh Councillor - Chris Cowdy and David Key

Police Scotland - Community Policing Team

In Attendance:

Community Councillors - Nick Stewart (chair), John Corbett, Hilda Henderson, Paul Pia and Eleanor Young

City of Edinburgh Councillor - Kevin McKay

MP - Scott Arthur represented by Hannah Cuthbertson (Constituency Engagement Officer)

Residents - circa 10 (in person & online)

Declarations of interest:

None

2. Minutes from previous meetings

Approval of the minutes from the public meeting held on 19 May 2025 was proposed by Eleanor Young (EY) and seconded by resident Derek Beatty.

3. New members and Insurance

New members

Currently Craiglockhart Community Council (CCC) has six members: the minimum stipulated by the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC). Subsequent to our last public meeting NS was pleased to report that three residents had expressed an interest in becoming a member of CCC. One resident is known to the existing members of CCC. Based on this the co-opting of Mr Robert Law onto the community council was proposed by NS. No objections were noted. NS will engage with the two other residents to progress the interest they have shown.

At present CCC has no representative from a Local Interest Group. Set against the fact that CCC can have a maximum of 12 members NS has approached three Local Interest Groups: the 107th Pentland Scout Group, Girlguiding Scotland and Boroughmuir Rugby and Community Sports Club. Dependent on the responses received a 'reserve' list of Local Interest Groups was suggested at the meeting. In no particular order they include: Merchants Golf Club, Thistle Tennis Club, Thistle Padel, Edinburgh United, St. Andrews and the University of Edinburgh Rowing Clubs, Little Monkeys Nursery and Craiglockhart Parish Church.

Due to resource constraints The Water of Leith Conservation Trust, Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill, and Friends of Wester Craiglockhart Hill respectfully declined a previous invitation to join CCC. An approach in May 2025 to 'u3a' (i.e. The Third Age Trust) did not illicit a response.

Insurance

All community councils should have their own insurance arrangements in place, in particular third party liability insurance and officers insurance. To meet this requirement NS has received an insurance quote for around £90 from Keegan & Pennykid (Insurance Brokers) Ltd. NS has also approached Zurich Municipal. When this quotation is received both quotes will be compared for cost, coverage and exclusions before a decision is taken.

Ensuring the insurance providers were UK based was highlighted at the meeting. The option of Aviva as a possible organisation to approach was also mentioned.

4. Community Police

NS confirmed that there were no matters highlighted to him by the Police Scotland Community Policing Team (CPT).

The last Ward Forum was held in March 2025. NS advised that no date has been set for a subsequent meeting. The momentum behind Ward Forums and CPT attendance at CCC public meetings appears to have waned. NS will raise this with the CPT.

5. Planning - Update

John Corbett (JC) highlighted two planning applications.

One related to the development at 191 Colinton Road, Edinburgh EH14 1BJ - previously the old house next to the tennis courts at Craiglockhart leisure Centre now demolished. The developer has submitted a modified plan to CEC. There is no material change to the original application granted in 2024 and as such no objection has been submitted by CCC. The involvement of a reputable architect linked to this application was also noted.

The other related to a new planning application at 10 Glenlockhart Bank. In the opinion of JC there is no material change to the previous planning application rejected by CEC and two social arguments to support the new application have little to no evidence behind them (i.e. safety & protection of children, and safety from break-ins). The meeting noted that CCC and Craiglockhart residents within the immediate vicinity of 10 Glenlockhart Bank have submitted letters of objection to this new planning application. Letters of support lodged for the new planning application appear to have been submitted by residents outwith Craiglockhart.

The meeting also noted that a formal planning application in relation to George Watson's College Playing Fields had been submitted to the Council (i.e. 25/03979/FUL - the installation of artificial grass sports pitches and floodlighting, etc.). This planning application does not technically sit within the boundary of Craiglockhart but falls within the scope of Morningside Community Council. JC was unaware of any objections from Craiglockhart residents.

6. Engagement - Update

The meeting agreed that the option of a similar "Health & Wellbeing" event in 2026 was appealing. Further discussion will need to take place before a theme is finalised and planning commences.

7. Governance Update

Annual Accounts up to 31 March 2025

NS confirmed that annual accounts for CCC had been submitted to the Council. NS highlighted a £22 surplus for the year after income of £662 and expenditure of £640 (e.g. printing & leaflets and IT equipment & internet expenses). The assets of £1,596 at 31 March 2025 were 'Cash at bank'.

Confirmation of Community Council banking details

Banking details and applicable contact details for CCC financial matters had been submitted using the Council's 'Banking Details Template'.

Community Council Directory Pages - Office Bearer contact email

The information requested by the Governance team has been provided.

Payment of administrative expenses allowance

NS confirmed that the Council had the required information from CCC to enable them to process our allowance for 2025/26. The base administrative allowance (£522) is supplemented by a 'population element' in our boundary. NS expected the CEC grant to be the same as the 2023/24 and 2024/25 (i.e. £636).

8. Local Place Plans and City Plan 2040

[Local Place Plans](#) (LPP) are community-led plans which outline a community's vision and proposals for their area. CEC has encouraged community councils across Edinburgh to register a LPP by June 2026. In turn CEC will take LPPs into account when they prepare their [City Plan 2040](#).

The lack of a centre, natural congregation area, meeting point within Craiglockhart was once again raised at the meeting - Happy Valley is the prime location, candidate, to serve this purpose. High level thoughts were exchanged at the meeting. Although the idea might sound simple at the highest level, developing this idea through to understanding the practicalities and implications of making Happy Valley a focal point will be resource hungry and complex.

Since there is no CEC specific funding for LPPs, enlisting the help of residents who have an architectural, engineering or planning background was seen as a first step to develop the Happy Valley idea into something tangible that could eventually be shared for consultation and debate within our community. EY will reach out, using our email mailing list, to see what relevant expertise exists and might be volunteered by residents.

9. Issues & Actions

9 a. Lockhartons Parking Issue - Update

HH confirmed that the statutory consultation process has closed. Resident public TRO consultation is scheduled for November/December 2025. Due to this timescale any objections would only be presented to the Transport & Environment Committee (T&E) in Spring 2026. This would delay PPA implementation until late 2026 at the earliest - this is too late and unacceptable to residents.

Chris Cowdy's input has resulted in an amendment agreed by the T&E that the Lockhartons be given greater priority, again, and included in Phase 3 & 4 of PPA implementation - not Phase 5. T&E's commitment to honour this revised timeline is also under the scrutiny of Scott Arthur (MP Edinburgh South West). The Lockartons Parking Coordinating Group are seeking a date for a meeting to discuss how the process for the Lockhartons can be accelerated.

9 b. Rat Run - Craiglockhart Avenue to/from Colinton Road

Despite another chaser there has been no update from the CEC Road Safety team or CEC Local Traffic Improvement (LTI) team. If no response is received by the end of September NS will enlist the help of Chris Cowdy (CC) and Kevin McKay (KMck).

9 c. Paties Pavillion Car Park Lighting - Katesmill Road

No progress to report.

9 d. Blind Junction - Craiglockhart Gardens & Craiglockhart Avenue

No progress to report.

9 e. Dog Fouling - Dell, pavements and grassed areas

CEC has been approached by NS.

9 f. Roads Department - Plan Implementation

The delayed implementation of various initiatives by the Roads Dept. (e.g. 20mph roads) seems to be a fact that shows no signs of reversal.

9g. Food Bins - Damage

CEC has been approached by NS.

9h. Cyclists - Dell & Old Railway

The recurring problem of cyclist speeds and behaviour failing to respect the presence and space needed by pedestrians and dog walkers using the dell and old railway drew much debate. How to tackle anti-social behaviour of the few? KMCK suggested a civic forum event could help to answer this question.

9 i. Mission Statement

The final version of the Mission Statement for CCC follows.

Make Craiglockhart the best possible place to live

- *Be a Voice of our Community:
Represent Craiglockhart by gathering, coordinating and articulating the opinions, concerns and needs of Craiglockhart residents.*
- *Act as a Bridge:
Serve as a link between our community and various agencies, including the City of Edinburgh Council, other public bodies, and private agencies.*
- *Advocate for our Community:
Support and progress the interests of Craiglockhart, making representations and taking action as appropriate.*
- *Promote Well-being and Community Spirit:
Enhance the overall well-being of our multicultural community and encourage everyone to join us in fostering a strong sense of community and social cohesion.*

10. AOCB

Post meeting: Road Signs - Entry to Craiglockhart

A proposal for pillared street signs to be erected at four locations visible to vehicles and cyclists coming into Craiglockhart should form part of our LPP. Please refer to agenda item 8.

Date of Next Public Meeting

Date: **Monday 17 November 2025**

Time: 7pm

Venue: Online & In person @ Craiglockhart Campus.

NS thanked all attendees. The meeting was closed