

Craiglockhart Community Council

Minutes of the Public Meeting

Time: 7pm

Date: 19 May 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 Councillor - John Corbett

City of Edinburgh Councillor - David Key

In Attendance:

Community Councillors - Nick Stewart (chair), Neena Agarwal, Hilda Henderson, Paul Pia, Eleanor Young

City of Edinburgh Councillor - Chris Cowdy

Residents - circa 10 (in person & online)

Declarations of interest:

Kevin McKay - attended the meeting as a Craiglockhart resident in light of his standing in the by-election on 26 June 2025 to elect a new councillor for Craiglockhart, Kingsknowe and Polwarth.

2. Tribute - Councillor Val Walker

A one minute silence was observed to respect and honour the memory of Val.

3. Minutes from previous meetings

Approval of the minutes from the public meeting held on 17 March 2025 and the inaugural meeting held on 7 April 2025 was proposed by Eleanor Young (EY) and seconded by Hilda Henderson (HH).

4. Community Police

On behalf of the Community Policing Team (CPT), Nick Stewart (NS) confirmed that the only matter to note were the fireraisings in Greenbank, targeted on a specific address and linked to Organised Crime. Police Scotland have a dedicated operation linked to this incident as well as increased patrols in the area.

The meeting raised the ongoing, background, issue of theft from garden sheds.

5. Planning - Update

One planning application was subject to 'objection' by CCC: a proposal to erect entrance gates and a wall to the garden at 10 Glenlockhart Bank. The objection was submitted by CCC on the basis that the proposal will:

- I. Undermine the appearance and character of the area in removing the terraced gardens
- II. Present a 5m barrier from the road level
- III. Destroy the siting of the house and surrounding area by building a compound

The meeting also noted that a formal planning application in relation to George Watson's College Playing Fields may be submitted to the Council (e.g. the installation of artificial grass sports pitches and floodlighting, etc.). Some local residents have expressed their objection to this development.

Although any planning application would technically sit beyond the boundary of Craiglockhart it is one where CCC would seek to provide feedback.

6. Engagement - Update

Kevin McKay provided an overview of the ***“Health & Wellbeing” event on Saturday 5 July 2025, timed to run from 10:00am - 1:30pm***, with refreshments available to buy from NKS in Craiglockhart Church Hall.

Confirmed contributors who will provide a complimentary “Health & Wellbeing” offering and insight include: Nuffield Health, Polwarth Tai Chi, Yoga & Meditation practitioners from the Dhammapadipa Temple, University of Third Age (u3a), Balanced Physiotherapy, Craiglockhart Pharmacy, etc.

Full information will be posted on the CCC website. To further publicise and market the event an A5 flyer has been designed and will be distributed around Craiglockhart.

Local circulations (e.g. The Steeple, Canalside and the Dell Directory) will also be approached to include content about the Saturday 5 July event.

7. ‘Pride in our City’ Project

NS introduced the ‘Pride in our City’ project, sponsored by the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) Waste & Cleansing service, which ***aims to provide an enhanced cleansing service*** on a ward by ward basis starting in Ward 13 (Leith).

Dedicated teams, supported by core cleansing services, will carry out various tasks including:

- I. Removal of dog fouling
- II. Removal of dumped items
- III. Removal of graffiti
- IV. Removal chewing gum
- V. Litter picking and sweeping
- VI. Clearing gullies of all litter and debris, and scraping any weed growth from them
- VII. Scraping the topside of the kerb and in between individual kerbs to remove weed growth
- VIII. Removing all weeds from the backline (outside perimeter walls of houses which run along with the pavement)
- IX. Bagging and removing all weeds and debris once scraped away
- X. Clearing around any communal bin areas
- XI. Graffiti/sticker removal and street washing being coordinated through the process

These teams will target hotspot areas. Once finished in a ward, a report will be circulated covering what was done and where, and other Environmental Improvements identified and scheduled.

The project has the full support of CCC. CCC will ask residents to suggest what cleansing services (see I. -> XI. above) and the locations the project should target. For example Paul Pia raised Greenbank Village as a hotspot for dog fouling because of its extensive grassed areas and its location between South Morningside and Greenbank Woods for dog walkers.

Post meeting: Its uncertain whether private open/grassed areas are within the scope of the project.

8. Issues & Actions

8 a. Lockhartons Parking Issue - Update

Recent communications to Hilda Henderson (HH) from the newly appointed Council Officer have been extremely disappointing and frustrating:

- I. The **timescale** for any Priority Parking Area (PPA) implementation has been pushed out to Summer 2026 (i.e. Phase 5) at the earliest; and
- II. The **shortfall** (i.e. 38) in the number of permits proposed by the Council compared to the number put forward by residents after the comprehensive data gather performed by them before Christmas 2024.

Despite pressure being applied there seems to be little to no room for manoeuvre by the Council before their formal consultation process starts in Summer 2025. Residents are simply not being listened to.

The meeting agreed that trying to enlist the help of our MSP (Daniel Johnson) and MP (Scott Arthur), as well as escalating resident concerns to two senior members of the Council (i.e. Gareth Barwell - Interim Executive Director of Place and Paul Lawrence - Chief Executive) could do no harm. HH will draft a communication for NS to use.

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

No update received from the Council's Road Safety team or Local Traffic Improvement (LTI) team.

Since the official end of Spring 2025 is 31 May 2025 a chaser has been sent by NS to both teams requesting an update.

8 c. Paties Pavillion Car Park Lighting - Katesmill Road

No progress to report.

8 d. Blind Junction - Craiglockhart Gardens & Craiglockhart Avenue

NS has completed and submitted a second online 'Report a road and pavement issue form' (reference 101003108199).

8 e. Mission Statement

A draft has been prepared by NS and circulated to CCC members. NS will work with EY to modify this draft.

9. AOCB

9 a. Cyclists - The Dell & Old Railway

The meeting raised instances of cyclist speeds and behaviour failing to respect the presence and space needed by pedestrians and dog walkers using the dell and old railway.

Chris Cowdy (CC) did confirm that the old railway was a national cycle route. Signage was one option that may mitigate potential conflicts between users of the dell and old railway. CC to raise the issue with Caroline Patterson (CEC - National Heritage Officer).

9 b. Community Council Insurance

Induction events held by CEC (on-line and in person) for newly nominated community council representatives confirmed that insurance is required for a community council to be operational, and all community councils should have their own insurance arrangements in place.

CCC has no insurance: this gap needs to be addressed, in particular third party liability insurance and officers insurance. NS to action.

9 c. Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust (ELGT)

CCC has offered its support for play equipment to be installed at the Paties Road Recreation Ground subject to (1) the results of a survey of immediate neighbours of the recreation ground by ELGT and (2) safeguards defined to combat potential antisocial behaviour by youths or adults who could congregate at the site.

Post meeting: The Greenspace Project Officer has confirmed that the above would be included in the ELGT report back to CEC.

Date of Next Public Meeting

Date: **Monday 21 July 2025**

Time: 7pm

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

NS thanked all attendees.

The meeting was closed