

Craiglockhart Community Council

Minutes of the Public Meeting

Time: 7pm

Date: 25 April 2022

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams & In person at Craiglockhart Campus Room 2/05

Chair: Peter Mavor

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

- Apology received from David Key

- No declarations of interest were made

In Attendance:

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

* Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill representative

** Friends of Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Greenbank Community Woodland representative

*** Water of Leith Conservation Trust representative

City of Edinburgh Councillors - Andrew Johnston

Lothian and Borders Police- Community Officer James May

Christopher Cowdy - Conservative candidate for the May 2022 Council Election

Residents - circa 10

2. Minutes from previous meeting

An update regarding previous meeting actions follows.

Lothian Buses- Andrew Johnston (AJ) still waiting for a response from Lothian Buses.

Action Point - Carry forward / follow up required.

Transport - Peter Mavor (PM) still waiting for a response from Heriot Watt and Merchiston Community Councils on this topic.

Action Point - Carry forward / follow up required.

Travelling Safely/ SW20 - Suggestion to invite various parties such as SW20, Edinburgh Nature Network, Council Officials to discuss how ideas and initiatives could be linked for the benefit of Craiglockhart.

Action Point - Carry forward / assess the outcome of the April 2022 Engagement Survey.

Million Tree initiative - Anni McLeod (AMcL) has provided the relevant website link for our website to Eleanor Young (EY), as well as providing a contact e-mail for the initiative to Nick Stewart (NS).

Action Point - Closed

PM advised that all the other action points from the last minutes would be covered in the agenda items for this meeting.

Post Meeting: Approval of the minutes from the public meeting held on 21 February 2022 was proposed by NS and seconded by Kevin McKay (KMCK).

3. Community Police Report

A January 2022 report was tabled in advance of the meeting.

Community Officer James May (JM) confirmed that there were no major crime items or trends affecting the Craiglockhart area. There had been a minimal incidence of house break-ins. Road traffic incidents in Craiglockhart had been a recent focus (e.g. ranging from downed traffic lights through to traffic bumps).

Action Point - JM, to assess the location(s) of these road traffic incidents.

Heads up was given regarding dirt bikes around the Sighthill area. Notoriously difficult issue to tackle but JM did reinforce the importance of residents phoning in any incidents of anti-social behaviour - 101 or 999 depending on the severity of the incident.

Missing Person investigation initiated in March 2022 has required Community Police resources to be diverted. Enquiries are ongoing.

PM raised the issue of spiked drinks. JM suggested that this is mainly a city centre phenomena and reinforced the importance of not socialising on one's own and not leaving drinks unattended.

PM requested a more up-to-date report be available for future public meetings (note: future public meeting dates for 2022 are 23 May, 18 July, 19 September, 21 November).

Action Point - JM, to feedback this request.

JM highlighted a Cold Calling Campaign about to commence at the end of April by the Force. Action Point - All, to inform JM of any incidents.

4. Planning Updates

Redhall House - PM confirmed Section 75 signed and formal planning permission granted. Expectation remains that the owners/developers are unlikely to move things forward over the short term.

General - John Corbett (JC) advised that there was nothing of note to report on Planning.

5. Engagement Update

April 2022 Engagement Survey: finalisation and distribution of an A5 Flyer requesting Email addresses from people has been the prime focus since the February 2022 public meeting.

Door to door distribution of the flyer across the Craiglockhart area (approx. 3000 addresses) commenced on Monday 11 April 2022. A straw poll of meeting attendees suggested that, other than one residence on Colinton Road, the flyer distribution had been effective.

Copies of the A5 Flyer have also been left at the following locations: Craiglockhart Leisure Centre, Craiglockhart Tennis Centre, Happy Valley Post Office, Craiglockhart Pharmacy, Tesco Metro, Meggetland, Craiglockhart Church, and Thistle Tennis Club.

Responses to date amounted to 120. This number excludes an additional 17 responses by people accessing us via our website Contact Form.

Overall conclusion from the meeting was that a response rate of around 4.5% to the flyer was not unreasonable.

Suggestions were made to improve the number of responses: an additional email to existing and 'new' email addresses received, approach the editors of The Dell and Canalside, leave copies at the Kilted Pig, hairdressers, dental practice and tailor.

Action Point - NS, to action the above suggestions.

It was agreed that it would be inappropriate to have a presence at the Craiglockhart Church polling station on 5 May 2022.

Copies of the Flyer should also be posted in Public Noticeboards.

Action Point - Neena Agarwal (NA), to leave keys with PM.

Post meeting: an analysis of responses to three ancillary questions people were asked to answer in the April 2022 Engagement Survey will be presented at the next public meeting and published on our website.

6. Landslip on Easter Craiglockhart Hill - Update

Jessica Morgado (Senior Natural Heritage Officer, Forestry and Natural Heritage) has provided a flowchart showing the different steps for all the remedial work.

The Council has appointed a contractor for slope clearance works. Further work cannot take place until Item 1. Qmile stabilisation work is complete. Qmile have made a recommendation about the contractor to their insurers and await confirmation from them.

Subsequent actions include:

Item 2: 3 weeks for the woodland clean-up of contaminated soil

Item 3: 1 week fence reinstatement and re-turfing grass areas

Item 4: The replanting of the embankment including planting along the fence-line (to be discussed with the Meadowspot Resident Association).

7. Water of Leith - Dell Bridges and Paths - Update

The following update has been received from the City of Edinburgh Council:

“Designs for the dell bridges (from Mott-MacDonald) have been received and an agreement in principle on the designs with our Bridges and Structure team has been progressed. The designers are now working on a full contract specification for tendering ... Once received a contract for the works will be raised ...”

The meeting was advised that feedback from Mott-MacDonald suggests that they will be able to provide a full specification for the works in 4-6 weeks and thereafter the tendering process can commence.

Autumn 2022 was the likely timing when the bridges may be open to the public.

PM raised the matter of adequate funds being allocated towards the works. £100k has been earmarked but it remains to be seen if this will be sufficient.

8. Litter Bin at Bogsmill Bridge, Craiglockhart Dell

A member of the City of Edinburgh Council has agreed to meet on-site.

Action Point - AJ, to liaise with Edinburgh Council and PM to get a date.

9. AOCB

Local Council Elections Thursday 5 May

AJ encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming Council election on 5 May 2022.

Since AJ is standing down as a Councillor and is not seeking re-election, PM took the opportunity to thank and formally acknowledge AJ for his contribution to and support of the Craiglockhart area and Craiglockhart Community Council throughout his time in office.

Redhall House Road - Road Adoption

Matter rests with Edinburgh Council. AJ has already chased up.

Action Point - AJ, to provide an update to PM.

Alan Gordon (resident) highlighted once again that a rainwater gulley remains an issue and flooding risk. The meeting suggested that the Council's on-line road and pavement issue form would be one approach to report and rectify this problem.

10. Other Items Raised

City Fibre Disruption

Restoring the pavements and roadways back to their original condition attracted a lot of comment. Different contractors appointed by the Council to dig up and replace these surfaces along with their remuneration basis seemed to be a root cause of problems people had encountered.

Grit and gravel being swept into drains is expected to be the cause of future problems when the Autumn weather returns.

Action Point - AJ, to provide EY with City Fibre contact details for posting onto our website.

Water of Leith - Path Repair

Bryce Morrison (BM) drew the meeting's attention to an exercise on Sunday 13th November (tbc), organised by a WOLCT Project Officer along with volunteers, to remove mud/leaves and open up drainage channels. On behalf of the Community Council, PM confirmed support for the exercise. Additional awareness of the exercise will be raised nearer the time, including on our website.

Hilda Henderson (HH) confirmed that a similar annual exercise would be conducted in November by the Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill. BM and HH agreed that their planned dates would not overlap.

Possible Additional Sources of Community Funding

The Scottish Government's 'Active Travel' initiative has been allocated £150m. AJ confirmed that it remains unclear how this fund would filter down to Edinburgh Council.

The UK Government has a 'Levelling Up Fund' to be allocated to Councils based on a Deprivation Index. The 'UK Shared Prosperity Fund' was considered a more likely source of funding for schemes that would benefit the Craiglockhart and adjoining areas. In this instance Edinburgh Council should be engaging with local community groups.

The opportunity for Craiglockhart Community Council to proactively put forward ideas to Edinburgh Council was reinforced.

Graffiti

The importance of reporting graffiti to Edinburgh Council or the appropriate utility was raised by BM on behalf of another resident. Our website provides the links residents can use.

Mela Community Event

NA reminded the meeting of the intention to hold a multicultural event. With changes in Covid legislation it was deemed appropriate time to start planning for this event.
Action Point - NA, to raise at the next internal meeting of Craiglockhart Community Council.

Oxgangs Primary School

The Chair of Oxgangs Primary School extended an invitation for a representative of the Community Council to attend parent council meetings.
Action Point - Ben, to send an email to craiglockhartcc@gmail.com with meeting dates.

PM thanked all attendees and the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting - Monday 23 May 2022.

Venue/ format to be confirmed.