

Craiglockhart Community Council

Minutes of the Public Meeting

Time: 7pm

Date: 18 July 2022

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

Chair: Peter Mavor

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

Apologies:

Community Councillors: John Corbett and Kevin McKay.

City of Edinburgh Councillor: David Key.

In Attendance:

Community Councillors: Peter Mavor, Neena Agarwal, Hilda Henderson*, Anni McLeod** and Bryce Morrison***, Nick Stewart and 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: Christopher Cowdy and Val Walker.

Police Community Officer: James May.

Representative Greenback Village East Owners Association: Kay Robertson (Treasurer).

Residents - circa 10.

Declarations of Interest:

None

Note: technology issues sixty minutes into the meeting unfortunately led to some 'online' attendees being unable to rejoin the meeting. Options will be explored to mitigate this issue before the next public meeting on 19 September 2022.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Approval of the minutes from the public meeting held on 23 May 2022 was proposed by Neena Agarwal (NA) and seconded by Nick Stewart (NS).

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

PM highlighted that no police report has been made available to CCC since the April 2022 report. Covid and personnel absences were offered as an explanation by PC James May (JM).

Officers trained in the use of speed guns has been a recent activity. Where speeding is a concern, members of the community were encouraged to email the Police Scotland Community Team, EdinburghCPTSouthWest@Scotland.pnn.police.uk, capturing the location and time to enable the effective deployment of police resources.

The meeting noted an option for residents to receive appropriate speed gun training.

Following an observation from a resident it was apparent that 20 mph zones are not routinely enforced due to resource limitations.

It was also noted that the speed camera on Colinton Road remains covered up. Further discussion revealed that an increase in incidents, accidents, would be the trigger for these covers to be removed.

In terms of other criminal activity there was nothing of note to report for the Craiglockhart area. PC JM did highlight that any anti-social behaviour had moved to Georgie and The Pentlands.

Related to the above, two police operations were mentioned:

- Operation Pillar - based at Drylaw and Wester Hailes to tackle off-road bikes.
- Operation Boxy - to tackle Pentlands wildlife crime (e.g. camping, fires, fishing without licences) as well as offering advice to members of the public (e.g. wearing life vests when swimming)

A resident highlighted issues regarding cars crossing the road junction at Morningside Station on amber or red. As well as driver behaviour, the traffic light setting between Balcarres Street and Cluny Gardens appeared to be one cause of driver frustration.

Action Point - PC JM, to pass on this observation to the relevant people.

4. Annual General Meeting

4.1 Presentation of Financial Report by the Chair

4.1.1 Treasurer's Report

Due to the pandemic there was little activity on the account.

The CCC received a grant from the City of Edinburgh council for incidentals and running costs, and to support local initiatives.

CCC remains a supporter of the Water of Leith

CCC supported the work of Friends of Wester Craiglockhart Hill, carried over from 2020/21.

The CCC are grateful to Ursula Adams and Bryce Morrison for the continuing upkeep of the flower planter outside the local shops, and expenditure for the flowers are shown in the accounts.

There were also some internet expenses.

Kevin McKay May 2022

4.1.2 Financial Report

The Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 were approved by CCC.

They will be posted onto the CCC website, and a copy forwarded to The City of Edinburgh Council.

4.2 Craiglockhart Parish Church

The following update at June 2022 was tabled at the meeting by Ursula Adams (resident) on behalf of the minister for Craiglockhart Church.

4.2.1 After lockdown

Following the lifting of lockdown restrictions in April 2022 at Craiglockhart Church we have no restricted access to the buildings or participation in our services. We do not require anyone attending services to wear face coverings but recognise that some who attend will continue to wear face coverings and we are encouraging one another to be welcoming and respectful of one another.

Our halls are open and many hall users have resumed their use of the halls.

4.2.2 Presbytery Planning

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2021 agreed a 40% reduction in ministry numbers across the whole of the Church of Scotland to be achieved by the end of 2025. This can only be achieved by uniting congregations of the Church. This will inevitably result in the difficult decision to discontinue the use of some church buildings for worship services.

In December 2021 the Presbytery of Edinburgh published a Consultation Document which included proposals for all the congregations in Edinburgh. The proposals in this document have not yet been agreed by the Presbytery and are at present under discussion. The Presbytery hopes to have a set of proposals for the whole Presbytery agreed by the end of 2022.

The proposal in the document for Craiglockhart Church is that our congregation would enter into a union of four congregations: Barclay Viewforth, Craiglockhart, Polwarth, and St Michael's. This new united congregation would be served by two full-time ministers of Word and Sacrament.

The Kirk Session at Craiglockhart have had a number of meetings to discuss this proposal. Meetings between the four ministers and members of Kirk Sessions have also been held but no decisions have yet been made on this proposal.

4.2.3 Church Services and Community Engagement

Eleanor Young (EY) provided an additional update, below, after the meeting was closed.

As well as the church running their regular Sunday Morning Service, the service continues to be live streamed on You Tube as this has proved popular with many people.

The church gardens have had a makeover and can be used for a seat and chat by all.

Monthly Messy Church afternoons restarted and are proving popular with their you attendees. Planning is underway for the annual Summer Club which is run in partnership with St John's Colinton Mains Parish Church.

A very successful Jubilee lunch was held and a Jazz Concert was held recently which was 'a full house' and raised £1,745 for the Red Cross Ukraine appeal. With the focus being very much on community engagement, more events are being planned.

4.3 Friends of Easter Craglockhart Hill

Hilda Henderson (HH) provided the following update. HH outlined 3 challenges, 3 achievements and 3 plans for the next year.

4.3.1 Challenges

- Covid. Cancellation and curtailment of planned events, walks and talks, children's play-schemes and activities and volunteer work squad sessions. From increased footfall paths also suffered erosion. But on positive side more people discovered the area and are enjoying all that it has to offer.
- Landslip on 11 August 2020 and subsequent discovery of asbestos led to the closure of the core path between Craiglockhart and Morningside. Hopefully it will re-open in the not too distant future.
- Ash die back has affected several trees that have had to come down. It is expected more will be infected.

4.3.2 Highlights

- The standout achievement was the installation of the 2 panorama boards and stone seat at the hill top. These were constructed by local dry stone wallers in memory of local resident David Rennie who loved the hills.
- Metals to Petals. We collected scrap metal from the hill, hired a van, took it to a scrap merchant and raised several hundred pounds. This money was used to buy primrose and violets. These are now being looked after and planted out by volunteers.
- We have improved and extended our natural play areas for preschool children and this is being well used and appreciated by parents and grandparents.

4.3.3 Priorities for next year

- Explore funding opportunities and ways by which the Community Engagement Worker post can be continued when the current Lottery funding runs out at the end of this year.
- Improve the curling rink area at Craiglockhart Terrace entrance to the LNR.
- Improve the paths.

If anyone wants to know more about what has been done over the last year and more detail about all our plans look at our Annual Report and Accounts or the minute of our June AGM. Both of these will be on our website www.eastercraiglockharthill.org within the next few weeks.

Further discussion on the landslip at Easter Craiglockhart Hill confirmed that the hill and paths cannot open until two items are closed down: (1) the results of soil tests for asbestos; and (2) tree damage and associated tree testing results. The safety risk posed by the trees may lead to some trees being felled.

Action Point - HH, to pass a recent email update from EDC officers to Christopher Cowdy (CC) and Val Walker (VW) to enable them to understand what officers are saying.

Action Point - CC, to send a recent EDC report to PM, who in turn will forward it to HH.

4.4 Friends of Wester Craglockhart Hill and Greenbank Community Woodland

Anni McLeod (AMcL) submitted the following update.

"It could have been worse"

The special features of this LNR: calm, quiet, peace, space for wildlife, biodiversity.

Not much “action” is needed to take care of this space. Cutting vegetation on part of the SSSI (done annually by CEC and the Conversation Volunteers). Felling/replanting dead trees if a hazard to the public (CEC Forestry).

The Friends Group leaps into action when people do things that cause damage, such as lighting fires, leaving piles of rubbish, cutting vegetation, disturbing protected wildlife. For us, a good year is a quiet year!

What’s been happening?

Negative

- People have been lighting fires again. They stopped for a while, and we watered the ash patches, which started recovering, but now we’re back to damaged turf and the possibility of gorse fires
- Some of the “lockdown paths” have become permanent. They’re not essential to get round the LNR, they don’t shorten the route round, but people got used to using them.
- Foragers are beating through the raspberries, damaging the bushes.

Work in progress

- We are still hoping for LNR signs at the entranceway and a noticeboard. CEC Natural Heritage has faced its own pressures with restructuring so things are moving slowly.

Positive

- Some of the “lockdown paths” have almost grown over and have not been re-used.
- The maiden pink that was re-introduced to the hill is surviving and flowered again this year
- We often see a kestrel.

Applause for the local residents who contribute to taking care of this space.

- FOWG members who walk in the green space every day and let the committee know if there is a problem, or send a message when something is flowering.
- People who don’t want to sign up to a Friends Group, but occasionally get in touch to ask a question or send a photo.
- The residents who were concerned about a dead ash tree dropping branches in their garden, did not rush out with a saw but got in touch to ask us about the correct process for dealing with it. As requested here is a summary of what I reported last night.
- The cyclist who got off and wheeled his bike when it was muddy, so as not to damage the path.
- People who carry a litter bag with them on walks and pick up litter whenever they see it.
- All the people who enjoy the quiet space and leave no trace that they have been there.

4.5 Water of Leith Conservation Trust

Bryce Morrison provided the following update regarding progress in the year.

The Water of Leith Conservation Trust (The Trust) have had a successful year meeting their mission statements. There are multiple strands to the Trusts activities:

Clean-ups in, around and even on the river

This is carried out with a very significant level of volunteering. I don’t want to bore with numbers but over the year completing over 300 tasks involving 8,000 volunteer hour is really impressive. I have little video of volunteers to share later.

Addressing invasive species along the length of the river

The Trust has previously looked after the upper half of the river and the City Council the lower half but this year the Council advised us that they were unable to do the work so we

have stepped in to do the whole river. Again specially trained volunteers have helped and we have carried out year on year mapping to ensure that our controls are working. [Giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed]

Providing information and refreshment at the Visitor Centre

The refurbishment of the café means that it is now accessible compliant and we have a wider variety of real coffees to tempt thirsty walkers. Again, the friendly folks behind the counter are usually volunteers accounting for another 2,000 hrs service.

Running public events raising awareness of the river environment

We have now been able to start some talks and have a full programme of walks for adults as well as school holiday events for children. Birthday parties are popular too.

Educational activities with junior and senior schools

Our Education Officer is kept extremely busy both on the river and visiting schools and even during Covid full lockdown was able to carry on by providing on-line resource packs for teachers. Overall there have been 150 outdoor learning sessions.

Fundraising to ensure that the Trust can continue its activities

We usually have a couple of main fund-raising events in the year which Covid restricted so it was great to have the Plant Sale back this year which raised £1,500. The Trust Manager is diligent in seeking grants and approaching Trusts to help fund particular projects. She also liaises with many other bodies up and down the river.

If you are not already a member do consider joining to support our activities. It is very easy to do by visiting our completely updated website and clicking on the Join button on the top right of the screen. <https://www.waterofleith.org.uk/join/> As a member you will get Seasonal Newsletters sent directly to your inbox.

I would like to end on a reminder that there is a date set aside on Sunday 13th November for Craiglockhart residents to help in preparing local walkways for Winter. We can firm up on involvement at the next CCC meeting on 19th September 2022.

PM closed the AGM section of the meeting and directed people to the next agenda item.

5. Planning Update

On behalf John Corbett, PM advised the meeting of one planning matter: CCC has yet to be formally consulted regarding a planning amendment submitted in relation to the development at the former Pentland Garage site on Lanark Road (i.e. 2202/424/OBL).

The meeting noted that the height of the development is in line with planning approval already given. It was also noted that the provision of twelve affordable homes will result in funds (around £500k) being provided by the developer to EDC.

6. Engagement Update

Nick Stewart (NS) referred the meeting to the Annual Engagement Report for the 12 months ended 31 March 2022 which will be posted onto the CCC website.

The key engagement activity has been the gathering of email addresses. The minutes of the CCC public meeting on 23 May 2022 provide an insight as to the results of the exercise, excluding the response to one question, "What key change would make Craiglockhart a better place to live or work?"

NS summarised the 'key change' responses by category (below). The relative and absolute value of the % frequencies shown should help CCC and others to focus improvements.

<u>Category for Change</u>	<u>Fz %</u>	<u>Fz Cum %</u>
Road & Pavement Condition	23	23
- potholes		
- re-surfacing		
- gutters & drains cleared		
Traffic Management	19	42
- road volumes & congestion		
- road safety (e.g. Glenlockhart Rd)		
- speeding (e.g. Colinton Rd)		
- 'rat runs' (e.g. Craiglockhart Rd)		
- commuter parking (e.g. Craiglockhart Ave)		
- zebra crossing (e.g. Colinton Rd)		
Cyclist & Pedestrian Routes	10	52
- improve infrastructure / cycle routes & paths		
- canal users / overcrowding / speed enforcement		
Dell Bridges	9	61
- repairs completed & access opened		
Local Amenities	9	70
- cafe, eatery ...		
Litter & Graffiti	9	79
- number public bins / emptied more frequently		
- allowance for dog waste		
Green Spaces	5	84
- retention, maintenance		
New Developments	5	89
- no further new builds		
Children's Play area	4	93
Hedge Cutting	3	96
Community Events	2	98
Other (e.g. visible police presence /wheel-chair access at Post Office)	2	<u>100</u>

Within the context of an overall 7% response rate, the **'tier 1'** change categories appear to be: Road & Pavement Condition and Traffic Management with a quarter and a fifth of responses, respectively.

The **'tier 2'** change categories, each mentioned by around a tenth of respondents, appear to be Cyclist & Pedestrian Routes, Dell Bridges, Local Amenities, Litter & Graffiti. The remaining change categories, **'tier 3'**, were each mentioned by about a twentieth, or less, of respondents.

Post meeting: It should be noted that improvement activity is underway for some of the change categories listed in the above summary (e.g. Dell Bridges, Graffiti, Community Event, etc.). Please refer to these minutes for an update and further information.

7. Landslip on Easter Craiglockhart Hill - Update

Please refer to agenda item 4.3 Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill.

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

Although the engineers specification has been completed, as per the minutes of the last public meeting 23 May 2022, the tender process cannot commence until all health & safety aspects have been considered and specified (i.e. non-slip surface).

In light of this it is expected that the tender process will now take place this Autumn, and the necessary works completed by the end of the 2022/23 fiscal year (i.e. 31/3/2023).

Action Point - CC & Val Walker (VW) to continue to apply pressure on EDC officers.

EY made the meeting aware of similar bridge works required in Balerno. However in this instance the community stepped in and oversaw the project rather than EDC. Discussion concluded that it would be counter productive for the Craiglockhart community to perform a similar role.

Having said this it was agreed that CCC should approach Balerno Community Council (BCC) to understand how they approached the project and their engagement with EDC.

Action Point - EY & PM to approach BCC.

9. Litter Bin at Bogsmill Bridge, Craiglockhart Dell

PM established that Council Officer Andy Hunter will not change his bin removal decision.

Action Point - PM to approach the line manager of Andy Hunter, Andy Williamson.

10. AOCB

Engagement/ Community Event

Action Point - Neena Agarwal, Kevin McKay and NS to prepare a proposal.

Travelling Safely/ SW20

Action point to be carried forward.

Redhall House Estate - Road Adoption

Miller Homes has confirmed that the works to lower the gully have been completed.

If correct, there are no issues preventing acceptance from the Council Roads Department.

Action Point - PM, to verify that the gully works have been completed.

Graffiti

Action point to be carried forward.

It was noted that EDC are aware of the issue and council officers have been tasked to provide a city wide report on dog fouling, weeds and graffiti.

Lothian Buses

CC shared an update obtained from Lothian Buses. From 24th July Lothian Buses are implementing a short notice change to some of their Lothian services due to recruitment and major resourcing issues.

The change will see some minor timetable changes and alterations to frequencies on some of services. Changes applicable to Craiglockhart follow.

Lothian Buses: Short notice change from 24th July 2022

Service 4	- now every 20 minutes	- previously every 15 minutes
Service 10	- now every 20 minutes (15 minutes at peak times)	- previously every 12 minutes (10 minutes at peak times)
Service 27	- now every 20 minutes (15 minutes at peak times)	- previously every 12 minutes (10 minutes at peak times)
Service 36	- now every 30 minutes	- previously every 20 minutes
Service 45	- now every 30 minutes	- previously every 30 minutes

Note: above examples are for weekdays.

While frequencies have been altered to reflect current demand, the number and spread of services across the day/week remains similar to pre-pandemic levels.

City Fibre

Complaints and feedback from residents seem to have dried up. Concerns regarding the quality and longevity of the works/fixes remain. Although EDC is ultimately responsible, they are relying on people complaining in order to get problems/issues rectified by City Fibre.

Happy Valley - Roadworks

No update. Item to be carried forward.

EDC - Customer Care Service

Based on the experience of one resident being unable to find the correct contact form on the EDC website, CC encouraged people to email customer.care@edinburgh.gov.uk

PM thanked all attendees and the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting - Monday 19 September 2022.

Venue/ format to be confirmed.