

Craiglockhart Community Council

Minutes of the Public Meeting

Time: 7pm Date: 21 November 2022

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

Chair: Peter Mavor Minutes : Kevin McKay

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

Apologies:

Community Councilors: Anni McLeod **, CEC councilor David Key

In Attendance:

Community Councilors: Peter Mavor (PM), John Corbett (JC), Neena Agarwal (NA), Hilda Henderson* (HH), Bryce Morrison (BM on Teams)***, Nick Stewart (NS), Eleanor Young (EY on Teams), City of Edinburgh Councilors: Christopher Cowdy (CCo) and Val Walker (VW). Police Community Officer: James May (JM). Kevin McKay(KM)

** Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill representative ** Friends of Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Greenbank Community Woodland representative *** Water of Leith Conservation Trust representative*

Residents - circa 12 (2 on Teams).

Declarations of Interest:

None

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Approval of the minutes from the public meeting held on 18 July 2022 was proposed by HH and seconded by KM.

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

3. Community Police Report (PC James May)

PM noted that no police report has been made available to CCC since the April 2022 report.

A wider police report was promised by JM but meantime some local information:

- Around 30 youths were spoken to following bonfire/Halloween.
- Continue to target speeding in the area
- 'DNA' Tagging of bike or similar offenders is being employed by Police to identify culprits at a later date. Specifically this is a spray with a 'DNA fingerprint' which sticks to cloths and is difficult to wash out. If unable to apprehend culprits Officers use the spray which then allows the culprit to be identified at a later date.

HH noted that there are acts of vandalism and graffiti on the newly erected viewpoint finder/landmark on top of Craiglockhart Easter hill.

Action: JM advised that residents should report vandalism/graffiti via the Police website or call 101. Officers will visit the area to see if any thing can be done to discourage/stop this. Officers will also ask around schools to try and identify perpetrators.

A resident asked a question about the report of a break-in by masked men in the local area.

JM advised that no further break-ins were reported

Action: Police report to be circulated when available.

4. Planning Updates

- **Lanark Road Development**

JC reported that purely by chance he noticed that the intent to provide social housing has been removed from the application at Lanark Road. When contacted CEC commented that it was not obliged to inform CCC.

- **Roads**

JC noted that consultation on traffic 20mph was available.

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/slowspeeds/>

JC welcomed the consultation document but stated that has never had a meeting with the roads department except once when attempting to get a pedestrian crossing on Craiglockhart avenue.

The general feeling from Community councilors was there was a lack of engagement by CEC with the communities in general.

The meeting also noted the poor state of the roads. CCo commented that the shortfall in

CEC funding has risen from £70million when he was elected to £85million now. VW commented that she also had the general feeling the quality of road material had declined.

Action: CCo to raise this with Roads Dept.

5. Engagement Update

- **Engagement/Community Event**

NS apologized that nothing has yet had been actioned but that he intended to organize a meeting to kick-start the engagement with a meeting of KM and NA

Action: NS to progress.

- **Articles in Steeple**

NS propose article for distribution in the steeple

Action: NS to progress

- **Notice boards**

NS noted that the current boards (outside Orbit Smoke & Happy Valley) are somewhat old. In addition the one at Happy Valley is unavailable due to the building work. He suggests upgrading the notice boards and an additional one at, for example, the tennis courts.

PM commented that we have agreement to include notices on the tennis notice boards.

Action: NS to progress

Meadowspot Landslip on Easter Craiglockhart Hill - *Update from David Key*

Following on some of the enquiries I received, I wanted to clarify some details with regards to the re-opening of the footpath.

Our consultant from Sweco confirmed that we are expecting the topsoiling, the tree work, replacement of the damaged boundary fencing and path resurfacing in the woodland to be completed by the 02nd subject to no issues, adverse weather etc.

VHE plan to dig out the extra hotspot noted for presence of Asbestos on day one, and take the extra step-out validation samples shortly afterwards as this will be a time critical element to prove the hotspot has been removed.

The path will be expected to be re-opened for public access once the work has been completed, which is set to be 2nd December at present.

The replanting aspect will be carried out this winter and will not have an impact on the path access and my team will be completing this part of the project in agreement with the homeowners and Meadowspot Resident Association.

In the meeting HH asked that residents respect the closure of the footpaths so that the contractors can get on with the work without fear of accidents to pedestrians/dog walkers.

7. Water of Leith - Dell Bridges and Paths - *Update from Val Walker:*

Redhall Garden Bridge – this bridge has now been repaired and is open again.

Redhall Weir Bridge – a final design has now been completed and CEC are looking to get the contract for replacement out to tender this side of Christmas. They have been informed that a replacement bridge requires a lead-in time of around 8 weeks, so they are hoping that a scheme to remove the old bridge and replace it could be in place by March/April 2023.

Pipe bridge – an updated design for a boardwalk structure has been submitted and is being considered by the team. CEC will update on this as soon as they have clarity on the next steps. Needless to say, however, they appreciate the importance of this project to the local community and are working hard on it.

8. Litter Bin at Bogsmill Bridge, Craiglockhart Dell – Update

PM reported that he has been disappointed in the lack of response or engagement from CEC.

Action: PM to escalate to senior management level within CEC

AOCB

- **Travelling Safely/SW20 – potential meeting?**

It was brought to the meetings attention that SW20 is offering a ‘cargobike’ for hire.

A question on what the ‘SW20’ was about was raised. JC replied that it stood for South West 20, an interest group dedicated to looking at the transportation and facilities’ within the 20min Neighbourhood. This ‘20 minute neighbourhood’ is where residents can access what they need with a short, under 20 minute, journey, by walking, wheeling or scooting.

They also want to encourage investment in local businesses and by making small changes to improve the environment.

For more information and to hire a 'cargo bike' visit.

<https://hellosw20.wixsite.com/sw20ed>

It was noted however that CCC is not aligned at this stage with SW20 and therefore does not endorse its activities over any other local interest group nor is the CCC anti-car but rather seeks to balance and reflect the views of the local community.

- **Redhall House Estate Road Adoption**

A resident of Redhall brought to the meetings attention that the rain gully installed in the access drive was inadequate as it was flush with the road surface. Without an adequate rain gully, his garage would be flooded with water. A suggestion of an 'Aqua Channel' would not be acceptable to CEC as would required too much maintenance. The resident wanted assurance from CEC that the road would not be adopted until the issue was resolved. The resident subsequently contacted contractor who upgraded the gully.

Action: Resident to monitor effectiveness of rain gully and report back.

- **Parking at Tesco Metro Colinton Road**

A resident wrote to PM regarding the bad parking at Tesco Metro along Colinton road. This has been raised a number of times and unfortunately there seems little that can be done.

- **Craiglockhart View plane crash 80th anniversary**

A resident recently wrote to the CCC asking if the Community Council have any plans to mark the 80th anniversary of the death of the 5 airmen (4 RAF and 1 USASC) in the crash of the Vickers Wellington X3707 at Craiglockhart View on 14th December 1942.

Following discussions it was ascertained that the wreaths were laid at the memorial at the last Remembrance Sunday (as has been the case in previous years). In view of this recent commemoration and the intention that this will be repeated next year, the meeting concluded that the CCC would not look to this anniversary.

Action: PM has written to resident.

- **Graffiti – CEC response or lack of it**

A resident noted the general increase in Graffiti and poor state of city. She noted that some

graffiti had been around for some time, and was a source of shame for the city. She wondered why utility companies could respond quickly to graffiti but that the CEC seemed incapable of doing likewise. It was further noted that in the past there had been a 'Graffiti chief' to address this issue.

EY (on Teams) noted that many times she has been asked for opinion on where to employ offenders on 'community payback' orders. She notes there are many jobs that can be done but so far no evidence that these offenders have been used to clean/clear up the City within our area.

CCo confirmed that funding for the Graffiti Chief has been withdrawn. However Val Walker advised that there is a Grattiti Squad and that a report has been produced.

Action: CCo to look into this. VW to email report to PM

- **EACC AGM 24 November at 7pm**

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils. This is a Teams/Zoom call.

Action: PM to send invite to JC

- **Defibrillator at Happy Valley**

A representative of the Perdricknowe Residents Association wrote to PM suggesting that whilst a defibrillator would not be appropriate on their site, it might be of use if installed at Happy Valley, perhaps by the Pharmacy.

The matter was discussed at the CCC public meeting last night. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to site one at Happy Valley. Unfortunately, the cost of the equipment is a stumbling block ('several thousand pounds') but with a Co-operative store to be situated in the new block maybe we can persuade the Co-operative to assist with the cost.

Action: PM has written to association.

- **Happy Valley Planter**

Bryce Morrison expressed his thanks to Ursula Adams behalf of the whole community for the continuing planting of flowers in the Happy Valley community planter.

As there was no more AOCB, PM thanked all attendees and the meeting was closed at 9pm

Date of next meeting -TBA.

Venue/ format to be confirmed.