

Minutes of the Meeting of the Craigleith and Blackhall Community Council on 12 November 2012 in Stewart's Melville College Dining Hall

Present: Eddie Thorn (Chair), Ian Hewitt (Vice Chair), Alan Denham (Treasurer) Maureen Kane (Sec), Alasdair Watson, Margaret Richardson, Liam Keegan, Andrew Niven, Claire Lynch, Jack Burton, John Young, John Adams, Cllr Hinds, Cllr Barrie PC Emma Cowan

Apologies: Dave Halbert, Cllr Whyte, Nigel Bagshaw, Mark Lazarowicz, Elaine Lennon

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved by Ian Hewitt and seconded by Neil Watt

Police Report: PC Cowan reported crime stats similar to last month. Jack Burton asked for date when double yellow lines will be drawn on corners around Queens Ave. PC Cowan could not give definite date. Cllr Barrie will make enquires. Ian Hewitt requested a three monthly update on speeding violations on Telford Rd.

Chair's Report: Eddie Thorn attended the launch of Blackhall Athletic Club and on behalf of the CC, extended best wishes to John Adams.

Secretary Report: All relevant communications emailed to Committee.

Treasurer and Planning Report: Alan Denham wrote comprehensive explanations of various planning issues (see appendix). He submitted noise mitigation comments to planning regarding Marks and Spencer temporary refrigeration unit in the retail park. Ian Hewitt reported no noise disturbance to neighbours at present but was concerned about the route taken by goods vehicles entering the retail park. Alan attended the September exhibition of the Crewe Toll

Hotel; the planning department want to reduce the number of allocated parking spaces to encourage public transport usage but this may have potential implications for residents living in the area. CEC is to prepare a planning brief for RVH. John Young reported broken pavements approaching the dip.

Councillors Report: Cllr Hinds said that a traffic report on priority parking would be produced before the end of the month. The proposed crossing outside Blackhall St Columba's Church was dropped and proposals to place the crossing further west will be processed. Cllr Barrie explained the changes in the budget process so that an all-party agreement will be reached before publication. Budget proposal changes can be found online.

Matters Arising

Notice Boards: Ian Hewitt approached Sainsburys but they will not move the CC notice board. Lights on the walkway have been fixed but there is still inadequate lighting at the Queensferry Rd entrance which, according to Sainsbury's, is to be altered in the near future.

Policy on Planning Matters: Maureen Kane will produce a draft report which should clarify procedures when a potential issue with a planning application has a closing date which precedes the community Council meeting.

Orchard Park North: Maureen Kane met with Ritchie Fraser (Parks department) in Oct. The exact positions of paths, garden and steps was confirmed. The Committee agreed that residents who overlook the park in Orchard Dr, Orchard Cresc and Queensferry Rd should be leafleted about the choice of either play equipment or fitness equipment. Alan will circulate a draft letter to the Committee and a leaflet drop will be made this weekend as the allocated money must be spent before the end of the financial year.

Climate Challenge Fund: The Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund provides funding for community groups who wish to reduce their carbon emissions. Dave Halbert (via the sec) suggested that Blackhall St Columba's Church might be able to apply for the church hall. He also suggested a path through Ravelston Woods. Ian Hewitt plans to attend a 'Meet the Funders' meeting and will make further enquiries.

Business

Blackhall Dip Christmas Tree: The committee voted 7 to 3 in favour of donating £100 to the traders in the dip as a contribution to the Christmas tree. Maureen will inform Imogen Douglas. Inverleith Community Conference: Eddie Thorn reminded members that the Inverleith Community Conference will be held on Thurs 15 November in Broughton High School from 6pm to 9pm.

The next meeting is 10 December 2012 in Stewart's Melville College dining hall at 7.30pm.

Appendix

CRAIGLEITH/BLACKHALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

12 November 2012

PLANNING AND ROADS MATTERS

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Planning Applications

Unlike some other Community Council areas, the majority of planning applications in the Craigleith/Blackhall area continue to be householder applications for small extensions, dormer conversions etc. Major applications or business related applications that might impact on adjoining residential properties are therefore the exception. In recent months the latter have included the Jet Wash facility at the Craigleith Road fuel service area (subsequently refused planning permission by the Development Management Sub-committee) and temporary refrigerated storage for M&S at Craigleith. (There is also a current application for locating a container to the rear of 2 Strachan Road).

Additionally the Community Council was notified of a proposed hotel at Crewe Toll roundabout in Stockbridge CC area at a pre-application stage, adjoining the Craigleith/Blackhall boundary. I attended the exhibition on site in September. Given the parking issues associated in part with the nearby Western General Hospital, CBCC may need to consider parking issues when the application is submitted. It is understood the City Council may wish to reduce car parking provision.

Other planning issues in the Community Council area

The recently closed Royal Victoria Hospital site is now surplus to NHS requirements. With support from the Inverleith Ward Councillors, CC has been seeking the preparation of a planning brief to guide the redevelopment of the site. The Planning Committee at its meeting on 4 October 2012 approved an amended motion submitted by Councillor Nigel Bagshaw which agreed to the preparation of a planning brief for the site and that amongst other matters, the Community Council should be consulted and involved in the preparation of the brief.

Training

I attended a short training session for Community Councillors at the City Council's Waverley Court offices on 23 October into the revised and updated planning online services (previously the planning portal).

PLANNING POLICY AND GUIDANCE

Scottish Government

The Scottish Government commenced the review of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and Scottish Planning Policy in September. Its implications for Craigleith/Blackhall are likely to be very limited as the NPF focuses on a higher scale of planning eg acknowledging that West Edinburgh - the Gyle / airport area - could be a national development. A draft of the revised Scottish Planning Policy will be available in Spring 2013.

City Council

Edinburgh City Council has commenced the preparation of the Edinburgh Local Development Plan, which will contain policies and proposals to guide development and land use across the city. An Issues Report has been completed. The proposed Local Development Plan is expected to be published by the Council in January 2013 with a minimum 6-week representation period.

The Local Development Plan timetable is closely linked to the timetable for the first Strategic Development Plan for the SESplan area, (the Edinburgh city region) which will replace the current Edinburgh and the Lothians Structure Plan. Submission to Scottish Ministers is expected during late 2012 and approval by Ministers during 2013.

The Council is currently consolidating aspects of planning guidance. The aim is to make it easier for applicants and their agents to identify what is required from them before they submit a planning application. The guidance also provides a basis on which to make decisions. The first three documents that have been prepared for consultation are Guidance for Businesses, Guidance for Householders and Guidance for the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. .

There is currently consultation on the Draft Edinburgh Design Guidance running from Thursday 4 October to Thursday 20 December 2012. This guidance is well prepared and comprehensive.

ROADS AND PARKING MATTERS

The City Council has advertised Traffic Regulation Orders which will introduce prioritised parking for residents in the Craigleith and Blinkbonny/Ravelston Area.

The effect will be to reduce the scope for all day parking by creating parking bays within which only vehicles displaying residents' permits, trades' permits or visitors' permits will be able to park between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm on Mondays to Fridays. Permits will be available to residents of the affected roads at charges ranging from £9.35 to £75.00 a year, depending on the vehicle sizes and emissions. Visitors' permits will be available for purchase by residents at £6.00 for ten. The period for representations to the Orders ended on 6 November.

Other Orders have proposed the introduction of short sections of double yellow lines eg Craigcrook Road and changes to parking bays in the Orchards area.

The Community Council area has been the subject of recent works by utility operators including Scottish Power in South Groathill Ave/Queensferry Road and gas upgrading in Hillhouse Road

Minutes - 12th November 2012

Wednesday, 05 December 2012 19:00

/Telford Road / Hillpark Wood
CBCC
8 November 2012