

**Craigeith/Blackhall Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting Monday 9 October 2017**  
**Held in Blackhall Bowling Club**

**Present :** Emma Phillips (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary/Treasurer), Neil Watt, Peter May, George Millar, Claudia Romero, Councillors Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell, Hal Osler, Iain Whyte

Also in attendance David Coutts, PC Pete Sparrow, Robin Cathcart; plus 50 local residents

**Apologies :** Rupert Lezmore, James Maclennan, Martin Riddell, Deidre Brock MSP

**Police Report** - PC Pete Sparrow said that there had been an increase in crime in the last month. High value bicycles targeted. Plain clothes officers being used to counter the trend. Houses break-ins also up - main focus is car keys and subsequent theft of cars. Police Scotland have as part of Operation Myriad increased resources in north west Edinburgh and for a period there will be high visibility officers out in the area. Also addressing speeding vehicles in 20 mph zone.

During questions new Roseburn cycle path signs mentioned;

- thefts from Craigeith Retail Park had resulted in uninsured drivers being identified;
- increase in red light jumping by drivers on Queensferry Road was identified as a problem;
- yellow box junction at House o' Hill Ave being ignored by drivers;
- motor bikes racing along Hillhouse Road (Queensferry Road):
- March Road long term parking makes right turn into Strachan Road difficult ;

**Proposed Care Home Hillhouse Road Woods** - David Coutts was a consultant acting on behalf of Northcare based in North Lanarkshire which specialises in dementia care. He said there was a proven need for 540 bed spaces, a shortfall of 10 care homes. Part of the shortfall will be met by a current development at Meggetland and possibly at Telford Road, subject to the planning application being approved. Hillhouse Road proposal was a minor application, but he said that Northcare was prepared to listen to community views - hence the public exhibition at Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall in August.

A new planning application for the Care Home in Hillhouse Road Woods (Queensferry Road) will be submitted in November with changes following the exhibition - bed-spaces will be reduced from 60 to 54, parking spaces increased to 26, 28% of the site used for main building and tree clearance reduced by the retention of 3 more trees.

During questions from the audience the following issues were raised:-

- 3rd planning application in 2-years resulting in distress for local residents;
- changes will result in a higher building of up to 4 storeys in part;
- access will be unsafe for doctors and emergency vehicles; proposed turning restrictions cannot be enforced;
- Queensferry Road is one of Scotland's top polluted roads and trees on the site help to counter pollution; increased pollution is one of the links to the onset of dementia;
- medical care - GP services were under pressure and it was not clear how GP cover would be provided. Councillors said that medical care was not a planning consideration;
- consequent overspill parking into surrounding streets; long term parking already a problem following the introduction of new airport bus service;
- problem of possible flooding following the loss of trees and vegetation and the change to the water table; SEPA had not been consulted;

- traffic safety on Hillhouse Road of major concern due to poor access into the site where there are high traffic speeds and different types of traffic;
- consultation event in August was poorly timed and did not allow working members of the community to attend.

The audience view was that there was no support for the development in this location at Hillhouse Road Woods. David Coutts said that the Community Council would be kept informed about the submission of the forthcoming application.

**Former petrol filling station site at 139 Craigleith Road** - current detailed planning application had generated concerns about the differences from those approved in principle in 2015. The Community Council had submitted an objection reflecting those concerns.

During questions the following matters were raised :-

- possible increase on number of children attending Flora Stevenson's Primary School ; Councillors said that it is not a material planning consideration;
- whether different weight was given to different objections; Councillors said all comments were treated equally;

It was thought that Development Management Sub Committee should carry out site visit to both sites.

**Chair Report** - Emma Phillips commented on the recent participation by the Community council at the recent Blackhall Primary School event. There was also increased interest in the area through Facebook.

Paul Moran was appointed as a new community councillor - proposed by Neil Watt, seconded by Claudia Romero

**Secretary Report** - Alan Denham gave an update on the retendering of service 13 bus service by the City Council. Although the Community Council had lobbied for Lothian service 42 to be retained to Blackhall and beyond, it had not been successful. One audience view expressed was that it had a disproportionate impact on Flora and Broughton after-school activities, particularly Broughton School's role as a city wide music school.

**Councillors' Reports** - Councillor Gavin Barrie noted that there was concern from parents at Blackhall Primary School that there was no lollipop person to help children across Craigcrook Road when they stay on for after school activities. While this may not be practical, he said that Craigcrook Road should be assessed for a crossing. It was also suggested that foot of Strachan Road should be added. Other school crossing issues were raised in discussion at Flora Stevenson's and Royal High School .

Councillor Hal Osler noted the problems arising from the recent surface dressing of local roads in the area.

In response to Emma Phillips, it was said the new arrangements for larger partnership areas were at a draft stage and are likely to be consulted on. There was no consensus in the Council yet.

**Next meeting** : Monday 13 November Stewart Melville's College Dining Hall at 7.30pm

