

CRAIGLEITH /BLACKHALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

SUB-GROUP ON TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT AND SAFETY ISSUES IN CRAIGLEITH AND BLACKHALL

This paper draws on earlier survey results from February 2017, a paper on Safer Routes to School (March 2017), and traffic related issues brought to the attention of the Community Council after March 2017.

A : Introduction

Over 80 people responded to the survey on the Community Council Facebook page in February 2017. In terms of safer routes to school in Craigleith and Blackhall, more than half of those stated that a lack of safe paths and crossing prevented them walking in Craigleith and Blackhall. The most unsafe crossing identified were Queensferry Road/Quality Street, Craigleith Road/Crewe Road South, and all along Strachan Road. These are included in the list below.

While safer routes to school are important, there are also wider concerns about other traffic issues and problems. For example, the introduction of the 20mph speed limit in August 2017 has highlighted the traffic problems - speeding and dangerous overtaking, for example, on Ravelston Dykes Road. Traffic volumes and speed on Queensferry Road/Hillhouse Road and Telford Road is a major barrier for pedestrians crossing to bus stops. Poor condition of pavements and roads continues to cause concern.

B : Issues, concerns and problems raised :-

A number of pedestrian crossings were considered to be unsafe. They include

- Quality Street and Queensferry Road (recently **improved**),
- roundabout at Craigleith Road and Crewe Road South,
- Craigcrook Road at the front of Blackhall Primary School,
- Strachan Road and Craigcrook Road junction,
- east-west crossing of Strachan Road at Hillhouse Road (Queensferry Road),
- crossing Queensferry Road / Hillhouse Road to access bus stops for services 41 and 43,
- Telford Road at junction with Forthview Terrace,
- Craigleith Shopping Centre on Queensferry Road.

Excessive vehicle speeds

- Blackhall Dip -30 mph ignored through the Dip
- Queensferry Road - 3 lane section out of the Dip 30 mph ignored, not only by cars but also Stagecoach and Scottish Citylink buses,
- Queensferry Road /Hillhouse Road west of Strachan Road 40 mph ignored,
- Ravelston Dykes Road 20 mph ignored leading to dangerous overtaking,
- Orchard Road and Orchard Brae,
- A view that roads are too wide leading to traffic driving too fast,
- Queensferry Road is a barrier to pedestrian movements other than major junctions.

Heavy goods vehicles (HGVs)

- Use of unsuitable residential roads eg Strachan Road, Ravelston Dykes Road, Craigcrook Road

Need for Cycle Improvements

- Cycle access to Craigleith Retail Park is poor after crossing the toucan crossing - not joined up thinking on encouraging active travel,
- Cycle lanes on Craigcrook Road pointless as they are occupied by parked cars. Cycle experience along Craigcrook Road needs improving by removing parked cars from cycle lanes, and illegally and badly parked cars blocking views en route to school,

Poor Quality of Pavement Surfaces

Overgrown shrubs and trees

- Hillpark Way-Hillhouse Road pedestrian link - recently improved street lighting affected by Lleylandii trees - also Hillhouse Road
- Hillhouse Road/Strachan Road traffic lights.
- Poor site lines at junctions
- Restricted pavement widths.

Poor Quality of Road Surfaces

- Queensferry Road - including sinking gully drains,
- Craigmack Road including resurfacing in August 2017

Rat Runs

- Craigmack Road / Strachan Road
- Forthview Terrace and Seaforth Drive linking Telford Road and Queensferry Road
- Craigmack Road outside Ravelston Park
- Craigmack Hill Gardens.

Traffic Light Phasing on Queensferry Road

- Priority given to Queensferry Road results in large build up of traffic on junction roads at Craigmack Road, Strachan Road (and Quality Street and Clermiston Road outwith the Community Council area) - leads to vehicle pollution from stationary traffic, delays to bus services, driver frustration and excessive traffic speeds on Queensferry Road,
- Red light jumping by increasing number of drivers including pedestrian lights at Blackhall Dip and Blackhall Library.

Unsafe Road Junctions

- Craigmack Crescent at Queensferry Road
- Corbiehill Road (right turning traffic) at Queensferry Road (Hillhouse Road)
- Ravelston Dykes Road and Craigmack Road

Residential Parking and Permits

- Number of permits exceeds number of available parking spaces

C : Suggested Priorities for Early Action

- Pedestrian crossing on Craigmack Road outside Blackhall Primary School
- Improve pedestrian and cycle experience by providing improvements at Blackhall Dip, Strachan Road and Craigmack Road
- Improve traffic lights at Strachan Road / Hillhouse Road / Telford Road to provide for pedestrian phase across Strachan Road
- Provide additional and safe crossing points on Queensferry Road to link with bus stops
- Restrict HGVs on Ravelston Dykes Road and Strachan Road
- Review speed limits, road layout eg should number of lanes outside section at Blackhall St Columba's Church be reduced, and change traffic light phasing to discourage excessive traffic speeds and give higher priority to local community,
- Use of more cameras,
- Work with Police Scotland in identifying hot spots for patrols to report incidents and near misses and lack of enforcement in certain parts of the community eg speeding and parking.
- Improve signage at Ravelston Dykes Road / Craigmack Road junction.
- Identify improved crossing points needed for disabled, prams and the elderly.

AWD

15 January 2018

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