

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council
Minutes of Meeting Monday 16 April 2018
Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall

Present : Emma Phillips (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary/Treasurer), Martin Riddell, James Maclennan, Claudio Romero, Paul Moran, Michael Cockburn, Inverleith Ward Councillors Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell, Iain Whyte

In attendance Tina Woolnough, Peter Allan, PC Holly Matheson, PC Neville Richardson, David Thomson, Pat Denzler, Ann-Sylvie Todd, and two others

Apologies : Peter May, Fergus Henderson, Councillor Hal Osler, Deidre Brock MP, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP.

Meeting of 19 March 2018 - minutes agreed and approved. In terms of follow-up items the CCTV camera at Maiden Craig Crescent was raised. Martin Riddell agreed to e-mail again Peter Strong in the NW Locality Office

Police Report - PCs Neville Richardson and Holly Matheson summarised some of the current issues - parking problems in Drylaw and House o' Hill linked to Friday prayers at the Mosque - the Mosque is supportive of action by the Police; a 2nd attempted break-in at Blackhall Mosque.

Other issues raised:- there will be patrols in Ravelston Woods over the next 2 weeks. The theft of bikes on cycle /walkways is being progressed. There are now patrols in Craigleith shopping centre to address youth problems and shoplifting.

The continued parking on Telford Road footpath was noted and City Councillors reported on the progress of the draft Traffic Road Order (TRO) which will introduce double yellow lines from Crewe Road roundabout to beyond McDonalds. This is progressing and Councillor Whyte said that consultation on the TRO is expected in July. In the meantime the police have new powers and can now issue tickets for pavement parking. As part of a day of action the Police will issue warnings first and if the problem persists a tickets for parking offences.

It was suggested a presentation to the CC on no cold call zones should take place .

Blackhall Community Trust - Tina Woolnough, chair of Blackhall Community Trust, summarised the changes in Government policy which has resulted in the need to expand the nursery in Ravelston Park. With their architect they have considered 5 options - 1- extend existing building, 2- rebuild in existing footprint, 3- build in wild flower garden, 4- develop new building in front of existing building and 5- redevelop in play park. The overwhelming support to date is for option 4 which allows children to use existing facilities during construction. The Trust will look at details for option 4 ahead of a planning application being submitted. Stage 2 will be community asset transfer of City Council land to the Community Trust.

In response to questions Tina Woolnough said that most construction will be off-site and on-site activity will take place in summer holidays. The proposal will be for a single storey building providing accommodation for 40 children all day, compared to 28 currently in the morning and 28 in the afternoon. This will also reduce vehicular movements.

Chair Report - Emma Phillips reported on the follow-up to a recent joint meeting with other Community Councils in north-west Edinburgh. As agreed at the meeting a survey to identify traffic issues in NW Edinburgh is advancing in collaboration with Nigel Bagshaw of Stockbridge Community Council.

Secretary / Planning Report - on planning matters, Alan Denham reported on the meeting on the review of the Edinburgh Local Development Plan, and receipt of the decision letter approving the housing development in Ravelston Quarry despite the letter arguing for refusal of planning permission. He also reported back on a recent meeting with City Council Road officials regarding the CC paper on Traffic and Safety issues in Blackhall and Craigleith. The issue of safe crossings for pedestrians on Queensferry Road, resulted in a member of the audience expressing concern about traffic speeds outside the section in front of Blackhall St Columba's Church including Stagecoach and Megabus services and the need for an additional crossing. The subsequent discussion raised the problem of accommodating the parking restrictions linked to bus stop clearways, pedestrian lights and maintaining access to Blackhall St Columba's Church for funerals, weddings and services.

Other Matters raised - the problems with Sainsbury's recycling bins at Craigleith was noted. In response to a question about the proposed Care Home in Hillhouse Road Woods it was stated that there had been no progress since the CC meeting in the Blackhall Bowling Club in October 2017. The general view was that it was dormant rather than dead.

Next meeting - Monday 21 May at 7.30pm at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Alan Denham
Secretary
22 April 2018