

## **Craigeith/Blackhall Community Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting Monday 19 September 2019**

#### **Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall**

**Present:** Alan Denham (Chair / Secretary), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Emma Phillips, James McLennan, PC Holly Matheson, PC Greig Stephens (Police Scotland), Councillor Gavin Barrie

**Apologies:** Rupert Lezmore (Vice Chair), Peter May, Claudia Romero, Fergus Henderson; Councillors Hal Osler Barrie. Max Mitchell;

#### **Minutes of meeting on 19 August approved**

Matters arising from 19 August meeting:-

Emma Phillips mentioned the coming Community Council Elections - we require at least 6 Community Councillors. If there were more than 12 candidates, then election is required

The hours of operation of the Recycling Centre at Sighthill had been reduced, leading to less convenient hours with a potential to reduce the amount recycled. Councillor Iain Whyte had followed this up and a review will be available in October.

**Police Scotland Report** - PC Holly Matheson reported: - There is a current scam involving the renewal of TV Licences, Window cleaners are Council licensed, Hawkers require to have a Pedlar's Licence to sell door to door, there had been two shed break-and and bikes were stolen, we should advise the Police if you see and Drones flying about - Drone licensing Rules are to be issued in November, we should advise Police if motorised scooters are seen on the roads or pavements. Speed checks have been carried out throughout the area and Asbos had been issued. A letter drop on house security had been carried out in the Davidson Road area

A complaint was made to the Police of the parking of dumper trucks on Craigeith Road - Holly will follow this up

A complaint was made of the use of the Rat Runs between Queensferry Road and Telford Roads. Holly said that, on her own, she can issue warnings.

A suggestion was made that we make more use of speed cameras. Holly said that these cost a lot to install and monitor and so their use has to be justified by comparing the use of rat runs, accidents speed of cars between each area in Edinburgh

It was reported that there were frequent incidents of cars going through the red lights at the Blackhall Library. This had previously been raised by the Community Council and the Council looked at the timings of the lights. It was suggested that the light were not very visible to oncoming cars. The Community Council will email the City Council to suggest the height of the light be raised

It was reported that this was a regular occurrence or four for five cars to be seen going through the red lights at Quality Street/Davidson Mains

It was reported that the speeds of cars were being monitored in the area via the use of speeding cables pinned on the roads. All the recorded speeds will be analysed by the Council Committee

Councillor Gavin Barrie said that there should be a 30mph speed limit on Queensferry Road

PC Holly Matheson will be leaving for 5 months on a temporary transfer to Fettes

PC Greig Stevens said that he was at the meeting to advise on how to make your home more secure and to raise awareness and how to be cost effective in any security actions. He reported that burglars and gangs were now younger, more organised and more mobile.

He suggested that we regard home security like an 'Onion' where there would be several layers of security that we could use to protect our property.

1. Ask yourself if anything is lying about that could be used to break in - such as bricks, scaffolding and garden tools
2. Who has a burglar alarm? - the house without a burglar alarm could be a target
3. Think about boundaries and boundary walls. In the front of the house, if you have hedge, it is suggested that it be no more than one metre in height as any taller could 'hide' people
4. Street lighting has greatly improved with the replacement of yellow sodium lights with brighter LED
5. Consider the shell of your house - requires a good solid door and good locks
6. If you have sash windows, these require sash fasteners and bolts
7. For any new security measures - use reputable companies or trusted traders or people - and always get three quotes
8. Alarms - a lot of people have them but not many are monitored by a receiving centre who would call the key holder and may call the police
9. CCTV - this is a very good detection tool and should be of HD quality and be capable of recording times, people and if any vehicles were involved - but care must be taken if the CCTV covers a public place - you have to put up a notice
10. Consider setting up a 'No Cold Calling Zone' - this process can be started by contacting Holly, who would arrange for a survey of your neighbours and if 51% of residents approve then a Zone can be introduced
11. Security lighting is a must - particularly for large properties. Small LED floodlights are good for rears gardens
12. Lock away any garden tools
13. For conservatories - use toughened double glazed laminated glass
14. Inertia or vibration sensors can be used - but birds can set these off
15. Mark your property with a UV pen
16. If you have a safe - then it needs to be ground anchored into joists or solid walls
17. Neighbourhood Watch is advisable - sign up for the online Neighbourhood Alert
18. Do not keep car keys in obvious places - he suggested that you hide these in 'strange places'

### **139 Craigleith Road**

Local Residents reported their concerns as to

1. The landscape strip on Craigleith Hill which includes trees. (Alan Denham asked that if there was a tree conservation order).
2. The original proposed access of wheelie bins and how they are to be collected in Craigleith Road - but now in Craigleith Hill. There had been a recent site visit by the Council Refuse Department and the builders. Councillor Max Mitchell wants a meeting with the residents on Monday 26 August - to agree that the new residents move their wheelie bins to the front
3. The current problems with parking and access during construction  
Councillors Hal Osler and Mitchell have been involved in earlier meetings and actions with the residents

### **City Council Consultation of sale of land in Ravelston Park**

The proposed sale of Common Good land to Blackhall Community Trust to develop the Nursery was, at the time of the meeting, the subject of a formal public consultation by the City Council. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the Community Council's comments.

On behalf of the Blackhall Community Trust, there was a presentation by Tina Woolnough who said that the Trust was set up in 2016 and had communicated by lots of different methods - e-mail, Twitter, meetings etc. in Blackhall

She said that people were concerned with the shape of the land in the proposed sale. The shape is because the Trust took professional advice from the Architect, as to the requirement to have a larger area to store building materials. She said that there was no intention to encroach on the Park and their intention was to create a Community space.

A public consultation was started in 2016 as Blackall Nursery parents decided that they would ask the community what they wanted for the community and that they also needed a bigger nursery. They received 120 responses.

There is a restriction on this Common Good Land which was gifted to the City in 1921 always to keep as a public park.

The Nursery building had been developed without realising it was on Common Good Land. The Nursery has to extend their hours.

There followed a very vigorous debate with some saying that the football pitch will be lost and Tina saying that only a corner of the football pitch would be effected for a summer

No-one knew who put up the posters 'Save Our Park'

It was stated that once the Land was transferred - we would lose the use of the Common Good Land for ever

Some asked why we do we need 'The Red Line' area.

A suggestion was made that the Trust develop a multi-storey building on the existing site. It was also suggested that alternative sites should be explored.

Alan Denham said that we had to provide support or not for the proposal and asked for various points of view around the room - these were

1. There was great affection for the Park
2. There were many who spoke against the proposal
3. Who was driving this proposal - it was The Nursery
4. The Nursery was too small ( 30 children in the morning and 30 in the afternoon will contract to be 40 children for all day of 30 hours )
5. If a precedent is established by building in the Park, then someone in the future could do the same again - 'planning is something to get round'
6. There will be a loss of valuable open space - who will maintain this transferred land?
7. If this did not proceed - the Nursery would have to close
8. The Church is expanding as a Community Hub
9. Many parents spoke very highly of the Nursery

Alan asked for a show of hands - those against the proposed sale of the land exceeded those in support

**Next Community Council meeting** - Monday 21 October 2019 in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall at 7.30pm (Note please note change of date - previously notified as 28 October)

Jim McLennan 2019 Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council