

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 15 November 2021 - held online using Teams

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger, Darlene Jeffrey, Susie Ross, Duncan Osler, Jim McLennan, Michael Cockburn; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell; 5 members of the local community

Apologies - Martin Riddell (also 25 October meeting)

Minutes of 25 October 2021 meeting - approved.

Community Council matters : Craigleith Road closure - there continued to be disquiet from local residents about the speed of some traffic diverting from the closed Craigleith Road on to local roads including Orchard Place.

City Plan 2030 - the item was considered for the Craigleith and Blackhall interest against the background of a paper prepared by the Secretary. The paper had highlighted the Royal Victoria Hospital, Crewe Road South, Hillhouse Road Woods, Craigcrook Road horse field as being sites of local community concern.

It was acknowledged City Plan 2030 was a long document with 11 supporting reports.

The meeting discussion focussed on the larger of the potential development sites at the former Royal Victoria Hospital site and Crewe Road South (Police Scotland Fettes site) covered by Place policies 5 and 6. Cautious support was expressed for what is now being proposed; the proposal for Crewe Road South area is a huge improvement - provided there is infrastructure to address the flooding problem at Craigleith Hill Avenue/Crewe Road South junction. Noted that part of the site is to be safeguarded for a Flora Stevenson Primary School annex - the requirement for which Councillor Hal Osler said was in a detailed supplementary report on school requirements.

Other proposals include the redevelopment of the former Finance House on Orchard Brae for housing and the planning application could be submitted in early 2022 before the approval of the Plan.

Also noted that the Plan protects routes for the extension of the tram including Roseburn Path - but its development could lead to tensions between pedestrians, cycles and trams.

The weight in the Plan given to green and environmental policies was welcomed.

The place policies and other proposals could result in pressures on existing drainage systems. It was agreed that comments on this aspect should additionally be used to inform MPs and MSPs to press the Scottish Government for increased funding to local authorities on flooding issues.

Agreed - that the draft responses to the City Council consultation on City Plan 2030 would be considered at the next meeting on 13 December .

City Councillors' Reports

20 mph speed enforcement - Councillor Hal Osler said that following supplementary questions at the City Council, officials had identified 57 streets to be the subject of action to address excessive speeds, most of which will be before end March 2022. The list includes roads in Blackhall - Strachan Road, Craigmook Road. The measures to be taken still have to be finalised.

Queens Avenue Steps - the previous repair was undertaken quickly, but further treatment is now required.

Problems of fallen leaves and flooding at foot of **Strachan Road** - discussion suggested that there should be an action day with the community council working with the Blackhall Primary School and / or the scouts.

Queensferry Road - noted that early morning and late afternoon traffic levels have returned to normal pre-Covid volumes leading to major traffic jams, the effect of which is to make it difficult for pedestrians to cross the road. Additionally Councillor Max Mitchell said that the speed limit for the entire length of Queensferry Road to Cramond Brig had been agreed in 2017 to be reduced to 30 mph but the procedures were only now being put in place.

Craigeith Shopping Centre Vehicular Delivery times - Councillor Gavin Barrie expressed disappointment that delivery times for Sainsburys was the subject of a different planning application to other parts of Craigeith and it permitted earlier delivery times from 7am. It is understood that Sainsburys has taken legal advice on the matter. It does not prevent lorries arriving before 7 am but not offloading until after 7am. Additionally refrigerated vehicles need to be plugged in while waiting.

Craigeith Shopping Centre tree felling - following the removal of trees providing a screen between the service area and adjacent houses, the centre owner has agreed to some planting to offset the severe pruning.

Craigeith Road closure - a local Craigeith Road resident welcomed the closure as it had got busier over the last 15 years. He suggested on reopening it should be the subject of a 20 mph speed limit and the introduction of bicycle lanes. Councillors said that to get the speed limit changed would require a new TRO and would take a minimum of 18 months to achieve change. In the original proposals Craigeith Road had been identified as an arterial route and for the speed limit to remain unaltered at 30 mph.

Water Course - following a meeting between residents and Scottish Water, a study is to be undertaken of the water course from Corstorphine Hill, Ravelston to Comely Bank.

Next meeting - to be held online at 7.30 pm on Monday 13 December 2021 using Teams.

Alan Denham
Secretary
19 November 2021