

## **Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting Monday 25 October 2021 - held online using Teams**

**Present** - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger, Darlene Jeffrey, Susie Ross, Duncan Osler, Jim McLennan, Paul Moran, Michael Cockburn; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell; PC Colin Cursiter; one member of the local community

**Apologies** - Angus Robertson MSP, Councillor Iain Whyte

**Minutes of 20 September 2021 meeting** - approved. The Secretary noted that the item on the proposed nursery in Ravelston Park had generated comments from local residents regarding a number of aspects - concerns about a flawed consultation by the City Council, a less than objective presentation to the Court of Session by the Council, concerns about Community Asset Transfer setting a precedent for the transfer of further land, concerns about the Fields in Trust protection being undermined and also noted that a formal complaints procedure had now commenced in the Council. Additionally should the nursery proceed, there was a question how the Trust can manage £1 million of public investment to implement the project.

**Police Report** - PC Colin Cursiter said that because of COP 26 there had been a delay in the statistics for north west Edinburgh. He commented that a 32 year old male had been apprehended for the recent fire raising. A report was awaited for the recent episode of drawing pins being placed in the cycle lane near Blackhall Dip. He agreed to follow up the issue of missiles being thrown on the cycleway.

Susie Ross expressed concern that Craigleith Hill Avenue was being used as a rat run following the recent closure of Craigleith Road.

**Community Council matters : - speeding on Queensferry Road / Hillhouse Road in off peak periods** - PC Cursiter said that he would take up the matter with the Traffic Section in Police Scotland.

**Craigleith Road closure** - noted that the road is to be closed for 15 months until end 2022 to enable Scottish Water replace a sewage main drain and install a sustainable brand drainage pond. Due to the closure, traffic was being diverted and some local roads were being used to maintain bus services eg Orchard Terrace. There was concern about rat running and inappropriate speeds on Orchard Terrace, Orchard Place and Craigleith Hill Avenue.

In discussion there was concern about other road works aggravating the problems. The Councillors said that the City Council have little control over the closures and when and where other works take place as the Utilities Companies have legislative rights to carry out such works.

**Planning Application at Ward 1 Western General Hospital** - there was concern about the lack of neighbour notification although the noise assessment report which forms part of the application had identified a number of houses on Craigleith Hill Avenue. During discussion it was noted that the legislative requirement is to only notify properties within 20 metres. Councillor Gavin Barrie agreed to follow up with the Planning Department.

**City Plan 2030** - the Secretary said that the formal period for comment and / or objection will be from 7 November to 20 December. It was agreed that provisionally the Community Council will consider the matter at the November meeting.

**Tree Planting** - a local resident had commented favourably on the replacement tree planting on a number of streets including Ravelston Dykes. Councillor Hal Osler explained that through Tree Time some trees were privately sponsored by residents and in other cases additional planting provided by the Council. After the initial planting there was a period of high maintenance required to establish the tree.

**Idling Vehicles on Ravelston Dykes Road** - a local resident had expressed concern about the health issues arising from idling vehicles at the nearby sandwich shop. Councillor Hal Osler said that there was a motion going to the City Council's next meeting reflecting the wider problem in the city.

**Christmas Tree in the Dip** - as in previous years it was agreed to pay for the tree provided there was a clearer acknowledgement of the role of the Community Council.

**Councillors Reports - Councillors present raised the following additional matters**  
**- Craigleith Shopping Centre service delivery hours of operation** - Councillor Barrie noted that the initial times had been the subject of a decision by members but there is uncertainty whether officials had amended the times, effectively over-ruling the elected members. He was awaiting documents to clarify the matter. It was also not certain which retailer was receiving early deliveries.

**Queensferry Road/Orchard Road request for pedestrian crossing** - the closure of Craigleith Road had exacerbated the problems for pedestrians crossing Queensferry Road including school children. Councillor Max Mitchell said that even if the crossing was acceptable he was concerned about the possible delay in implementing it.

**Craigleith Shopping Centre** - the trees which provided a shield between the service area and adjacent houses had had been chopped down leading to lighting and noise problems for residents. The management of the centre said that the works had been carried out because residents were concerned about the lack of sunlight in the residents' gardens.

**Craigcrook Road /Strachan Road area** - Councillor Hal Osler said that the Council were looking at measures to address speeding on the Strachan Road to Queensferry Road section of Craigcrook Road. Will also follow-up on the need for repainting of the pedestrian crossing at the foot of Ravelston Dykes Road. Councillor Osler was meeting residents because of flooding at the foot of Strachan Road where the problem was falling leaves rather than a gully problem which is the responsibility of street cleansing.

**AOCB** - there had been a problem of no crossing guards on the Ravelston Dykes Road crossing for a period. This had been due to the guard being ill and the lack of replacement temporary guards. Fortunately the guard had now returned.

Susie Ross thanked the Councillors for their helpful support in local matters.

**Next meeting** - to be held online at 7.30 pm on Monday 15 November 2021 using Teams.

Alan Denham  
Secretary  
3 November 2021

