

## **Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting Monday 21 March 2022 Held at Blackhall St Columba's Church**

**Present** - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Susie Ross, Duncan Osler, Michael Cockburn; Inverleith Ward Councillor Max Mitchell; 6 members of the local community

**Apologies** - Grant Roger, Jim McLennan, Councillors Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie, Deidre Brock MP

**Minutes of 21 February 2022 meeting** - approved.

**Chairman's comments** - Stuart Pinkerton welcomed the return to live, in-person meetings for the first time since the Covid pandemic began in February 2020. Although a hybrid meeting had been discussed at the last February meeting, subsequent information suggested it could be difficult and challenging to achieve without more sophisticated technology. Rather than both a combined live and online meeting, it had therefore been decided to simplify the meeting arrangement and have an in-person meeting.

**Police Report** - there was no police report at the meeting, but details were provided by Police Scotland subsequent to the meeting and these are attached in annex 1

**10 Columba Road - planning application to demolish 2 storey house and replace with 4 storey block of flats** - it was noted that through social media that there had been considerable disquiet expressed in the community about the proposed redevelopment of the site at 10 Columba Road. At the time of the meeting there were 50+ objections. The discussion at the meeting highlighted a number of concerns - 4 storey height of the building additional to which there was a plant room on the 4th floor, the scale and style of the proposed flats were out of keeping with the surrounding buildings, shadowing and loss of sunlight, loss of privacy for existing householders in the rear of the properties, very limited parking onsite next to a road already used intensively for parking, the increase in hardstanding on the site could aggravate flooding problems in nearby streets in intensive rainfalls.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that the Community Council would submit an objection in support of the local community.

**Proposed 20 metre telecoms mast near 2 Strachan Road** - local residents who would be severely affected by the proposal expressed concerns about the proximity to their dwelling; they also were of the view that the range of alternative sites considered was inadequate. They were not opposed to masts but were of the opinion that the wrong site had been selected and an alternative site sought.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Community Council would submit an objection to the application.

**McDonalds Telford Road** - McDonalds had appealed to the Scottish Government against refusal of planning permission. It was noted that the Scottish Government Reporter had dismissed the objections of the community and the Community Council and had approved the extended hours of operation of the drive-thru.

**City Councillors' Reports** - local matters which the Ward Councillor Max Mitchell had dealt with were :-

CityFibre works in various parts of the area, the upheaval in terms of digging up footpaths and the problems of footpath reinstatement;

Road traffic incident at Craikleith Road junction on Queensferry Road city-bound - it is being reviewed by the Road Safety Team although it was acknowledged that the Team is short staffed and under pressure;

the Council had agreed to look at an island at the Queensferry Road/Orchard Road junction to improve pedestrian safety and which will be subject to a safety appraisal.

Michael Cockburn expressed disquiet at the large quantities of debris left by CityFibre which could silt up the gully drains.

**AOCB - Gully drains** - members of the local community expressed concern about the inaction by the City Council in tackling blocked gully drains on Queensferry Road, some of which had been blocked for a considerable period of time. The blocked drains had been reported and it was agreed that the reference numbers would be forwarded to Councillor Mitchell to follow-up. He said that the cleansing department is short staffed because of Covid absences and a number of cleansing vehicles are off the road because of break downs.

**Next meeting** - to be held at Blackhall St Columba's Church small hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 25 April 2022.

Alan Denham  
Secretary  
29 March 2022

## Annex 1 - Police Report



*OFFICER COMMENTS; Hi, here are the relevant statistics for the month.*

*I have completed 10 shifts this month following a period of annual leave*

*I have been dealing with a number of ASBO related incidents this month and Operation Pax is still ongoing and yields good results. I have recently charged a number of youths in relation to ASBO behaviour at Craighleith Retail Park*

*Hopefully with the COVID restrictions loosening more, we will be able to carry out more speed checks and more local issues etc*

*I am also hopeful that we will be able to attend meetings in the very near future.*

*Any questions or queries, please feel free to contact us at:  
[EdinburghCPTnorthwest@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:EdinburghCPTnorthwest@scotland.pnn.police.uk)*

*Kind Regards  
PC Colin Cursiter*

*PC 11614 Colin Cursiter*

CRIME TYPE	TYTD (2021)	5 YEAR AVERAGE	CHANGE (%)
SERIOUS CRIMES OF VIOLENCE (Inverleith)	12	8.8	UP 36.4
HATE CRIME (North West Edinburgh)	168	186.8	DOWN 10.1
ASB (North West Edinburgh)	7139	7895.4	DOWN 9.6
HB DWELLING (Inverleith)	38	82.4	DOWN 53.9
HB NON-DWELLING (Inverleith)	23	55	DOWN 58.2
ROAD SAFETY	TBC	TBC	N/A

### CONTACT US;

**Email (for all ward areas):** [EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Email address is not monitored 24/7 or for reporting crime or ongoing incidents. These should be reported by calling 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency).

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