

Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting - Monday 21 November 2022

Held at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Grant Roger (Treasurer), Susie Ross, Martin Riddell, Duncan Osler, Jim McLennan, Michael Cockburn, Darlene Jeffrey; Ward Councillors - Hal Osler, Max Mitchell; 3 members of the community.

Apologies - Deidre Brock MP, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Councillor Vicky Hamilton, Betty Brown.

Minutes of 24 October 2022 meeting - approved

Police Report - Police Scotland were unable to attend the meeting but PC Colin Cursiter provided a written report which were summarised by the Chair. The main points were :-

- during the previous month there were 165 calls to the Police (176 calls for equivalent period in 2021)
- speed checks had been carried out on East Fettes Avenue and Queensferry Road. This had resulted in 10 warnings and one report for summons for speeding.
- there were no reported housebreakings or crimes of violence
- youth calls to Craigleith remain a frequent issue. There was large number of calls to the Police during the last month, normally relating to large groups of youths causing anti social behaviour in the evening. Inspector Flynn and PC Cursiter had a positive meeting with security and there has been an increase in patrols in the area.

During discussion the Chair was aware of recent attempted break-ins and would go back to Police Scotland. There was also surprise at the low numbers being booked for speeding and there should be a greater emphasis on fining offending drivers.

Community Council matters :-

Speed Limits - progress on the City Council's intention to reduce the speed limit on Queensferry Road from 40mph to 30mph was sought. It was acknowledged that the City Council is not acting speedily. Also noted that the City Council is now proposing to reduce the speed limit on Craigleith Road from 30mph to 20mph.

Queensferry Road right turn into Quality Street - not all drivers are aware of the wired pad in the road surface which activates the right turning signal. It was not sufficiently clear but Councillor Osler said the Council were reluctant to paint white lines on the pad.

During discussion it was also noted that the right turning light from Quality Street at this junction is confusing for some drivers and needs to be reassessed. Likewise the green pedestrian light should come on automatically as occurred during the covid-19 lockdown period.

Queensferry Road Defects - a recent report states that Queensferry Road has the 3rd highest number of defects fixed in the city. The discussion noted that there were a significant number of other defects not being addressed and Council Roads official acknowledged 5 years ago that Queensferry Road as an arterial road had been neglected by the City Council. There has been little change in the last 5years. There is a need for Queensferry Road to be included in the capital roads programme.

Buses - although there had been a recent increase in Lothian Busses passenger numbers post covid, the spread of roadworks was doubling or even trebling journey times, leading to discouragement to use bus services, despite City Council policy.

Also noted that Lothian Buses app is no longer accurate, showing time of arrival on boards but no bus appearing.

Waste Uplifts - garden waste - refunding for loss of uplifts on strike days is still to be considered by the City Council.

In discussion it was not clear why the booking system at the recycling centres had been retained when a 3rd party was being paid to administer the system.

Large items uplift has been reinstated.

Ward Councillors Reports

Lloyds Bank barriers - Councillor Max Mitchell reported that a not very helpful reply had come back from Lloyds Bank. The Chair agreed to follow the matter up.

Gully drains - the City Council had commenced a process of upgrading problematic gully drains, although it was acknowledged that it is likely to be a slow process.

Experimental Traffic Orders (EPOs) - the City Council has commenced consultation on EPOs which relate to the temporary changes introduced under the Spaces for People covid arrangements. The consultation is being carried out with a view to making the changes permanent. Absence of comments or objections during the consultation period until May 2023 will signal the community are content with the changes and they will become permanent.

During discussion concern was expressed about how unsafe part of Queensferry Road now was for drivers, including the Craighleith Road and Orchard Road South junctions. There had been no safety audit before the introduction of the changes or a systematic assessment how the changes were working. Agreed the Community Council will consider more fully at an early 2023 meeting, likely February.

AOCB - Maidencraig Crescent Steps - Martin Riddell reported back that following a meeting of the Inverleith Neighbourhood Network, their budgets were not

suitable for the upgrading of the steps to include a ramp. Agreed to keep the matter on the agenda for future meetings.

Date of next meeting - 19 December 2022 at 7.30pm to be held at Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall.

Alan Denham

Secretary, Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

27 November 2022