

## **Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting - Monday 24 October 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; Ward Councillors - Hal Osler, Max Mitchell; 12 members of the community.

**Apologies** - Deidre Brock MP.

**Minutes of 15 August 2022 meeting** - approved

**Police Report** - no report - Police Scotland were unable to attend the meeting

**Community Council matters :-**

**PureGym, Craigleith Retail Park - request for 24 hour entertainment licence** - there was uncertainty why the operators required a 24 hour licence (their normal practice), particularly given the proximity to nearby housing, but it was explained that the licence would be issued for defined periods - probably 12 months initially and then up to 3 years. This would provide an opportunity to review the terms of the licence should problems occur. Agreed that no comments would be offered on the current application.

**Lothian Buses Service 42** - since the last meeting the Community Council with Stockbridge and Inverleith Community Council had written to Lothian Buses expressing concerns on behalf of the local communities about the withdrawal of service 42 depriving local residents of a direct link to both Stockbridge and the city centre. In response Lothian Buses justified their decision as follows - "When analysing the data for service 42, both as a full route and by individual section, it became apparent that not only have passenger numbers not recovered in line with other services but the actual volumes of passengers, and therefore revenue, are significantly below what is required to cover the costs of operating the service on the northern section of the route."

Significant disappointment was expressed at Lothian Buses decision and its impact on the local community, particularly the elderly who are more dependent on the 42 to gain access to local services in Stockbridge. It was noted that the suggestion to Lothian Buses of rerouting service 38 in the Comely Bank area to compensate in part for the loss of service 42 had so far generated little interest from Lothian Buses.

**Lothian Country Buses Service 43** - the discussion highlighted the increased unreliability of the bus services on the Queensferry Road corridor. Additionally there was concern that some buses shown on the tracker were missing resulting in

long waits of 30-45 minutes wait for buses. Agreed that Councillor Osler would contact Lothian Buses.

It was also noted that there is to be a city wide review of bus services and routes.

**Groathill Road South - flooding** - a local resident had highlighted the severe flooding under the bridge after recent heavy rainfall. The City Council is trying to address flooding issues in the city.

**Blinkbonny Gardens - flooding** - in discussion a member of the community expressed disappointment in the City Council's response compared to that from Scottish Water. Although the Council had agreed to carry out gully cleaning every 6 months in Blinkbonny Gardens, it was acknowledged that the Council do not have the resources or staff to maintain all gullies effectively. It was also noted that while Blinkbonny Gardens is in Blackhall, it falls within Murrayfield Ward.

**Groathill Road South - rock throwing** - there had been a recent case of large rocks being thrown from the bridge on Roseburn Cycle and Walkway on to the windscreen of a vehicle below, causing severe damage. It was noted that local residents had also been affected by rock throwing, causing trauma for some.

**Craigcrook Road** - Councillor Osler said that local residents had expressed concern about the condition of the footpath between Ravelston Park and the horse field. Some residents had fallen. It was to be inspected by officials although it was acknowledged that the budget for non priority footpaths is small.

**Strachan Road** - investigations into flooding had revealed the recent works by CityFibre had resulted in the water following the new cables from an unknown spring. The source of the water is being investigated.

**Christmas Tree in Blackhall Dip** - the Community Council agreed to pay for the tree at a cost of £370.

**Pre Application Notice for the redevelopment of the former Wood McKenzie office at 525 Ferry Road, Crewe Toll** - the developers are to hold an exhibition on Saturday 29 October.

**Bank of Scotland Comely Bank barriers** - a local resident questioned why the barriers to the car park were now in the closed position. Councillor Max Mitchell agreed to contact Bank of Scotland.

**City Councillors reports -**

**Gypsy Brae** - local residents had expressed disquiet about the vehicles gaining access, and the resultant animals roaming and rubbish accumulating. The City Council said that it was not possible to stop vehicles getting in, as access is required for emergency vehicles.

**McDonalds, Telford Road** - the noise levels from the intercom ordering system had generated concerns from nearby local residents.

**Craigleith Hill Crescent** - the use of a blue badge on a yellow line had resulted in the discovery of the blue badge being used inappropriately.

**Craigleith Retail Park** - non Sainsbury section to be resurfaced in 2023.

**Maidencraig Crescent Steps** - they are important for local residents avoiding Queensferry Road but require improvement and also supplemented with a ramp. There are problems with funding. Questioned whether funding from Inverleith Neighbourhood Network would be available.

**Ravelston Quarry** - following a dog falling into the Quarry water recently, Councillor Osler reminded the need to keep dogs on the leash and to keep young children away from the fence.

**Play Parks** - the Council has agreed to look at the criteria for funding to determine priorities.

**Fields in Trust** - proposed that the Orchard Park would be subject to Fields in Trust protection to offset the loss of protected public open space required for the nursery in Ravelston Park.

**AOCB** - the Chairman said that it was understood that a revised application is to be submitted for the redevelopment of the former care home at 10 Columba Road. It could be considered at the next meeting.

The catalytic converter on a car in Maidencraig Crescent had been removed.

**Date of next meeting** - 21 November 2022 at 7.30pm to be held at Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall.

Alan Denham

Secretary, Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

27 October 2022