

## **Craigleith / Blackhall Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting - Monday 20 March 2023**

**Held at Blackhall St Columba's Church**

**Present** - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell, Michael Cockburn, Susie Ross, Grant Roger, Duncan Osler, Darlene Jeffrey, Jim McLennan; Police Scotland - PCs Colin Cursiter and Holly Matheson; Councillor Hal Osler; Murrayfield Councillors - Euan Davidson, Fiona Bennett; 5 members of the local community

**Apologies** - Deidre Brock MP, Councillors Max Mitchell and Vicky Nicolson

**Minutes of 20 February 2023 meeting** - approved

**Police Report** - PC Cursiter reported that there had been 197 phone calls from the CBCC area compared with 29 calls last year. A large number related to anti-social behaviour by youths in shops in Craigleith Retail Park, particularly during the dark evenings. Additionally speed checks had taken place and parking in Telford Drive was problematic because of the proximity to Western General Hospital. There had been only one report of house break-in, although this did not take account of the problems in the Blinkbonnys on the boundary with Murrayfield CC. While Blinkbonny is not technically within our ward, it is geographically and Police Scotland was happy to share the CBCC stats with Ward 6 Murrayfield CC.

Discussion about anti-social behaviour with youths suggested some of the problems including lack of respect for adults stemmed from the isolation during the Covid lock down period and the lack socialising. PC Matheson said that it was a world wide problem. PC Cursiter said that Police Scotland was working with local schools on the matter.

Speeding through the Craigleith Drive tunnel was raised as an issue and the danger to pedestrians using the shared space. PC Cursiter agreed to carry out speed checks.

The legality of electric scooters was also raised.

**Community Council matters :-**

**Traffic Road Order (TRO) Consultation on Queensferry Road and Crewe Road South** - the purpose of the consultation is a further step to making permanent the road layout changes introduced as part of Spaces for People during Covid lockdown. Spaces for People has subsequently been rebranded by the City Council as Travelling Safely.

The following points were raised during discussion :-

there was general support for the City Council's overall transport policy, but it was noted that the reasons and justifications in support of the TROs were city wide.

the Council had therefore failed to provide community justifications for the changes on specific roads such as Queensferry Road. As a consequence the Council appeared to give priority to individuals living outside the city over local residents.

bus lanes - the proposed change to bus lane operation to 24/7, 365 days a year was not justified. With reduced frequencies of Lothian Bus services, residents using buses from outside the City would be the main beneficiaries, not the local community. It would lead to more frequent traffic build-up on Hillhouse Road and Queensferry Road and increased pollution. Agreed - there was no objection to the retention of the current hours of bus lane operation.

Queensferry Road - danger to road users - the changes to the road layout as part of the Travelling Safely initiative had made the roads less safe. The Craigleith Road junction and the Orchard Roads junction were highlighted, particularly the removal of an exit traffic lane eastwards on Queensferry Road at Craigleith Road junction. Agreed that the pre-Travelling Safely layout should be reinstated, even if it requires the removal of a short section of west bound bus lane.

Agreed - the Secretary would draft comments.

**Defibrillator** - local residents had suggested the need for a defibrillator near Corstorphine Hill woods but the lack of electricity supply was an issue. Existing defibrillators were located in the shopping areas at Craigleith and Davidson's Mains and also Blackhall St Columba's Church. Councillor Hal Osler said that she would look into the provision of an additional defibrillator.

**Blackhall Post Office** - following the closure of the local post office in the Dip in 2022, a replacement post office had now opened at the newsagent Corner Shop, at the junction of Craigcrook Road /Strachan Road/ Ravelston Dykes Road.

### **Ward Councillors Reports**

Councillor Vicky Nicolson was not able to attend but provided a written report - see annex.

Councillor Hal Osler reported on the forthcoming onsite meeting regarding traffic light phasing at Quality Street, and a tree in Ravelston Woods - officials have inspected and it will be trimmed rather than removed to make it safe.

Wider aspects - the recent approval of the LibDem budget will lead to greater investment in parks including lighting. Flooding remained a problem that needed to be addressed.

Belford Road - pedestrian crossing and speeding were issues of concern. The width of the footpath was also of concern.

Murrayfield Ward Councillors - Euan Davidson and Fiona Bennett - acknowledged that part of the Murrayfield Ward area was effectively part of the Blackhall geographical area and the need to maintain close contacts.

**Date of next meeting - 17 April 2023 at 7.30pm to be held at Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall.**

Alan Denham

Secretary, Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

26 March 2023

Annex - Report from Councillor Vicky Nicolson :-

Recently I have been helping residents in Blackhall and Craigleith with

- Poorly surfaced pavements
- Gullies not cleared of debris and weeds
- Pavement Parking
- Dangerous dogs

I have also been speaking with the council regarding the upkeep of North Edinburgh Path Network as

- paths were swept too early to clear the leaves resulting in leaves decaying over winter and causing a hazard. Some further cleaning has recently been done in response.
- there is often a lot of leaf litter and mud under some of the bridges
- edges (while some work has been done recently) require to be cleared as the verges are encroaching on paths reducing the breadth - one constituent said it would be nice to have paths cleared to the margins so that cyclists are not left guessing where the tarmac ends and the soft verge begins
- Trees and foliage on the sides of paths can cause issues due to being overgrown
- I have had an interested party contact me about improving the path network in the Blackhall area
- Trollies dumped on the cycle path

The flooding issues at Craigleith Hill Avenue are still ongoing and Mr Robertson MSP and I are supporting local residents to liaise with the parties involved.