

## **Craiglockhart Community Council**

### **Minutes of the Public Meeting**

Time: 7p.m.

Date: 22 March 2021

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Peter Mavor

#### **1. Welcome, apologies for absence and any declarations of interest**

-Apologies were received from John Corbett and David Key

-No declarations of interest were made

#### ***In Attendance:***

Circa 5 residents

Community Councillors -Peter Mavor, Neena Agarwal, Jim Brydon, Hilda Henderson\*, Kevin McKay, Bryce Morrison \*\*, Nick Stewart, Eleanor Young,

\* Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill representative

\*\* Water of Leith Conservation Trust representative

City of Edinburgh Councillors- Andrew Johnston, Gavin Corbett

Graham Rennie, Quarter Mile

#### ***Formalities***

Peter Mavor (PM) welcomed everyone and in particular Graham Rennie, Project Management Director, from Quarter Mile. All were asked to use the “raise hand” option on Microsoft teams to indicate they wished to ask a question.

#### **2. Minutes from previous meeting of 23 November 2020**

Andrew Johnston (AJ) confirmed he would follow up again the action point in regard to the Kayak Club Temporary Shipping Containers **Action AJ**

PM to speak with GC again re the crossing point at the Hairdressers and safety of the corner/ end-on parking issue- **Action carry-forward for GC**

All other action points were completed or dealt with on the agenda.

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Neena Agarwal (NA) and seconded by Eleanor Young (EY)

#### **3. Landslip on Easter Craiglockhart Hill**

Hilda Henderson (HH) summarised the background to the landslip, which happened in August 2020, and the resulting closure of the Meadowspot Path.

Graham Rennie from Quarter Mile confirmed that the slope had been temporarily stabilised. by Quarter Mile and a report prepared as to the causes, what the material consists of and how to permanently stabilise the slope. The report was submitted to Edinburgh Council at the end of January 2021. The way forward has been under discussion with the Council since then.

Graham confirmed that Quarter Mile will pay for the slope stabilisation and the work would take circa 4/5 weeks from date of agreement with the Council as to the way forward. Graham also confirmed that a separate contractor would be appointed by the Council to clear the debris from the woodland/ Meadowspot.

Gavin Corbett (GC) confirmed a Council meeting was held last week at which this was discussed. Both he and Andrew Johnston (AJ) were of the view that establishing cause and resolving the slope issue should come first.

Jim Brydon (JB) asked if the Woodland work had to wait until the slope work was completed. Graham Rennie advised that, in his view, it could be prior to, parallel with or post the stabilisation. It should be noted, however, that in earlier discussion there seemed to be consensus that it would be sensible for the stabilisation work to be carried out first.

#### **4. Community Police Report**

No report was provided. It would appear we will only get a report on an exceptional basis in future.

JB observed that there had been a serious crime in the area within the past month and yet we had no report. It would seem likely therefore that we are simply not going to get any reports in the future, which is disappointing. AJ agreed.

**Action** Peter Mavor (PM) and John Corbett (JC) to probe this with Police and report back.

#### **5. New CCC Website**

Eleanor Young (EY) was congratulated by GC on the good work undertaken here. GC remarked that a search for the CCC still took you to the old link from where you are re-directed. EY advised that until individual's favourites lists are updated this could happen. The link to the new site is given below:

<http://www.craiglockhart.org/>

#### **6. Planning Updates**

PM advised there were no new updates as such.

Some work is on-going at the Happy Valley and Slateford road developments.

Redhall House- Section 75 agreement still not concluded. The developer's agent has requested an extension until June 2021 to conclude this. GC and PM agree it seems sensible to agree this. Recently there have been some break-ins at the property.

## **7. Any Other Business**

- **Water of Leith Bridge repairs**

**Pipeline Bridge** – GC advised there was a process underway to apply for some funds – up to £2,000- towards this.

**Weir Bridge**- GC advised the likely costs for this repair are much higher than for the pipeline bridge – probably in the tens of thousands.

PM advised his disappointment that these issues have been outstanding for some time and yet we seem to have no plan, no proper costing's and no funds. The result was the CCC had no idea how we could perhaps assist in resolving- perhaps by fund-raising outwith the Council.

This was echoed by a member of the public at the meeting. It was noted that the refurbished Colinton Tunnel was fantastic and had only been possible due to external funding.

JB also supported this view. Public outdoor spaces are being very well used and are important assets for the Community at this time. Having two bridges out of operation long-term restricts the use that can be made of this wonderful resource.

It was confirmed that there are no funds coming to the Council from Scottish Water, which could be utilised for the repair of the Bridges in the Dell.

AJ advised of the serious finance challenges at the Council.

**Action** AJ and GC to discuss within Council

- **Craighouse Update**

JB summarised the communication he had received from Quarter Mile, the developer of Craighouse. The project has at least 3-4 years before full completion. There are several new build blocks, which have not yet started, and the refurbishment of the old buildings continues.

GC asked if the developers were refurbishing the listed old buildings (as required by Planning) rather than simply building the easier new builds. JB advised it would appear that they are doing so. Several of the smaller old buildings are now occupied and the first tranche of apartments in New Craig (the largest listed building on the site) are now offered for sale.

- **Engagement status**

Neena Agarwal (NA) confirmed we are working in this. PM advised this work had been hampered by Covid but June/July would be a reasonable date to set for a more tangible plan on the way forward.

- **Railings**

EY enquired why railings were being removed on Colinton Road at the Napier crossing and at the top of Colinton Grove- **Action** GC to check

EY enquired what the purpose of the “yellow boxes” drawn on the pavement near the Water Board premises on Colinton Road was – **Action** AJ to investigate

- **Spaces for People**

Nick Stewart (NS) gave the following observations and questions

- *About 2-3 weeks ago I was invited to complete an on-line questionnaire from the Spaces For People team.*
- *Question posed to Andrew and Gavin if they had any indication of the following:*
  1. *Response rate to the questionnaire;*
  2. *Indicative messages from those questionnaires completed; and*
  3. *When and how the results of the survey will be made public.*
- *A significant amount of public funds (circa £5m) have been allocated to and spent by Edinburgh Council using powers granted to it under Covid Emergency Measures. One key question must be answered by the Council, "What difference(s) have the changes implemented under Spaces For People made?".*
- *All stakeholders across our community and Edinburgh as a whole are justified to expect an objective answer to this question.*

**Action-** Carry forward to next meeting for a response/ update from GC and AJ

**8. Date of Next Public Meeting -17 May 2021**