

Craiglockhart Community Council

Minutes of the Public Meeting

Time: 7p.m.

Date: 27 September 2021

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Peter Mavor

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

-Apologies were received from Gavin Corbett, David Key, Bryce Morrison and Hilda Henderson

-No declarations of interest were made

In Attendance:

Circa nine residents

Community Councillors -Peter Mavor, Neena Agarwal, Jim Brydon, John Corbett, Kevin McKay, Anni McLeod*, Nick Stewart, Eleanor Young.

* Friends of Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Greenbank Community Woodland representative

City of Edinburgh Councillors- Andrew Johnston

Police Scotland- Sergeant Watson and PC Emma Durie

Formalities

Peter Mavor (PM) welcomed everyone. All were asked to use the “raise hand” option on Microsoft teams to indicate they wished to ask a question.

2. Minutes from previous meetings

PM advised that all the action points from the last minutes would be covered in the agenda items for this meeting. Approval of the minutes from the public meeting held on 26 July 2021 was proposed by Eleanor Young (EY) and seconded by Neena Agarwal (NA)

3. Community Police Report

The latest Police Report can be viewed on the Craiglockhart Community Council website.

Sergeant Watson (SW) outlined that he had 15 Community Councils in the South West Edinburgh Area and only 6 Community Police Officers. There is simply not the resource now to provide the level of useful detail specific to our area that we used to get. Previously City of Edinburgh Council directly funded some of the Community Police Resource but this is no longer the case.

Discussion held and various views and disappointment expressed at what was now being provided but the foregoing is the situation.

PM asked if other Cities approached the matter in the same way. Andrew Johnston (AJ) advised he will ask at the next COSLA meeting

Action: AJ as above

SW highlighted that there is a link in the more generic Newsletter now produced to give feedback. Nick Stewart (NS) felt this was way to get views across on our disappointment with the lack of local information now available.

SW highlighted that there is a trend of increased car theft crime in the area. Sometimes “keyless” entry vehicles are stolen using electronics to amplify the signal from keys within properties without requiring to enter the property to steal the key fobs first. Using a “Faraday” pouch to store vehicle keys and which blocks the signal can prevent this.

4. Annual General meeting

Approval of Accounts

Kevin McKay (KM) presented the accounts, gave an outline explanation and confirmed the accounts had been audited and sent to City of Edinburgh Council. Approval of the Accounts was proposed by Jim Brydon (JB) and seconded by John Corbett (JC).

The Accounts can be viewed on the Craiglockhart Community Council Website.

Engagement Officer Report

The report prepared by NS is attached. NS advised that this could be considered an interim report – a final report for City of Edinburgh Council will be due at the end of March 2022. NS described the various strands of the report and possible engagement activities/strategy for the attendees. It was noted by KM that the Cultural event planned for November 2021 had been deferred now to Spring 2022

Local Interest Group Reports

Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill – no report at this time as Hilda Henderson was unable to attend the meeting.

Friends of Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Greenbank Community Woodland- Anni McLeod provided a report as shown below:

1. The process of designating the site as a Local Nature Reserve is being finalized. The Council is looking into providing signs at entry points and a noticeboard for interpretive material.

2. Our Friends Group website is being overhauled, with assistance from pupils of George Watson's College. We thank the CCC for the donation of £200, which has enabled us to move from a no-longer-supported free website provider to a .scot website.

3. Fire is always a concern. However carefully a fire is laid and put out, it damages the turf, sometimes for a long time. Over the summer we have seen fire damage in new places within the Site of Special Scientific Interest on the hill. On a positive note, one of our members has been repeatedly damping down the worst fire-damaged area. This appears to have discouraged new fires, and it has also encouraged new grass to grow for the first time in five years.

Water of Leith Conservation Trust – Bryce Morrison could not attend the meeting but provided the following update:

“The WOLCT new website is fully up and running and all the details of scheduled walks and talks are available at <https://www.waterofleith.org.uk/whats-on/> The big Autumn event this year is at Coalie Park which is down in Leith which is probably not of much interest to Craiglockhart residents unless perhaps for the kids fun part. Just click on the appropriate box for full information on an event.

If anyone is interested in Volunteering in various ways the website has that covered as well at <https://www.waterofleith.org.uk/volunteer/>

I hope that these two pointers will cover for my possible absence. In fact I encourage you to have a browse through other parts of the new site because there is a wealth of information on it.”

5. Planning Updates

Redhall House- PM confirmed the update from Gavin Corbett (GC) was as follows:

“Redhall House planning – the recommendation at DM Sub Committee in September was to extend again to 27 October to allow the applicant to finalise details of financing the development. While the prolonged nature of this is deeply frustrating, the alternative of refusal takes us back to square 1 with no plan B”

General- John Corbett (JC) advised other planning matters of note remained quiet.

Corn Exchange- Briefly discussed. It was noted that little information was currently available and the site is outside our area. AJ confirmed he had received a number of communications expressing concern about the possible loss of the football facility and more student flats being built.

6. Any Other Competent Business

Parking at end of Craiglockhart Drive

Gavin Corbett communicated prior to the meeting that he had nothing to add on this

Landslip on Easter Craiglockhart Hill

Jim Brydon (JB) updated the meeting. A meeting had been held at the Landslip site on 16 August with residents, Gavin Corbett, CEC Officers, Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill and other relevant parties. The date marked 12 months since the landslip occurred. An outline “agreement” has now apparently been reached to have the slope permanently stabilised and the ground cleared and repaired.

The various planned stages of this are shown below:

1. *preparation of slope stability analysis - Goodsons*

2. *checking slope stability analysis - SWECO*
3. *following approval, procuring stability works - QMile/Goodsons*
4. *Once stability work complete, procure clean up works – CEC*

However it should be noted that as at 27 September following an interim update it seem unclear exactly where we are at and the dates for the work remain to be finalised.

Water of Leith Dell Bridges

PM relayed update from GC as follows:

Water of Leith – Dell Bridges – The work is programmed for this year. I have the note below from the Head of the Team

“Procurement Requirement Form submitted and approved. However, currently there is no Bridges and Structures (B&S) or framework consultancy resource available to develop a design that would lead to B&S’s agreement in principle to progress. We have therefore contacted our bridge builder for Huntershall (MW Groundworks) and ELGT for design support. We have also asked Procurement about access to the new landscape framework contract to appoint a bridge design consultant. Once we have received responses I will provide a further update”.

PM expressed his disappointment and concern at the update. It seems a remote possibility now that the work will actually be done this year.

Spaces for People

Update from GC as follows:

“a report will go to committee in October, on changes to Lanark Road, following consultation with CCs and residents just now”.

PM advised that the Consensus from Craiglockhart Community Councillors was that SfP was poorly consulted on and implemented. In particular the Lanark Road Consultation appeared to restrict the ability of responders to comment on all areas of concern to them.

JC made the observation that SfP had actually bypassed our area completely and in general did not seem to give sufficient attention to pedestrians

AJ advised that SfP had now been re-branded by CEC as “ Travelling Safely”.

NS observed that as GC sits on the relevant Committee it was disappointing that he was not in attendance to answer questions and give comment. PM advised that GC normally did attend our meetings and hopefully he will be in attendance at our meeting on 22 November to give his views.

Allan Gordon, resident expressed his concern about the Canal Path becoming ever busier and no clear directions/signage to “ keep left, keep dogs on lead” or similar. PM observed that as GC is also a Canal Champion he could also answer this on 22 November.

Action: Carry forward both of above issues for GC on 22 November

Litter in Craiglockhart and Colinton Dells

Update from GC as follows:

“In my most recent newsletter I asked for any volunteers for a “Dell Watch” in relation to problems of ASB and vandalism. I got a couple of positive responses but maybe not quite enough to make a scheme and I’ll speak to WOLCT about the already-existing volunteer river patrols which include the Dells”.

Litter more generally

Following discussion AJ advised that he does get communications from residents about area clean-ups required and passes these on to the waste teams to action. Residents with particular concerns should report these to CEC or to him/other Councillors in their area.

Redhall house Estate Road Adoption

AJ advised that pressure is being exerted upon the developer to action what is required in order that the roads can be adopted by CEC.

Garden Waste Bin charges

NA raised concerns expressed to her about the steep rise in the annual charge.

AJ responded that, in his view, the charge should not have been separated out from local Council Tax. However it had been and the Council had a very significant financial deficit.

PM suggested that if any of those concerned had smaller gardens they could perhaps share one bin between households.

PM thanked all attendees and the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting- 22 November 2021

Attachment:**Craiglockhart Community Council Interim Engagement Report 2021/22 For the 6 months to 30 September 2021****Introduction**

A key role for Craiglockhart Community Council ('CCC') is to act as a voice for the Craiglockhart area ('the community'). To represent the views and needs of the community to Edinburgh Council and other organisations CCC has to engage openly with the community.

The purpose of this report is to outline existing and planned CCC engagement activities, as well as the key dependencies that enhance the effectiveness of these engagement activities.

Understanding the Community

Selecting the most appropriate engagement activities depends on an understanding of the population and socio-demographic statistics. This understanding helps CCC to define what segments it needs to target and what engagement activity would best match each segment(s). Census data from National Records of Scotland is the prime source for these statistics. Unfortunately the 2021 Census in Scotland has been postponed to 20 March 2022, and the statistics from the last census conducted in 2011 are out-of-date for our purposes.

The absence of up-to-date Census statistics compromises the effectiveness of CCC's current and future engagement activities (i.e. impacts CCC's confidence that it is targeting engagement where it should or using the most appropriate engagement method to elicit the views of people in the community). CCC has no option but to live with this limitation until Q2 2022.

Email List

Having a simple and effective tool for CCC to reach out and communicate with the community is another key dependency: an Email List would meet this requirement. Statistics indicate that around 96% of households have internet access via a range of devices (e.g. laptops, mobile phones, etc.). This statistic would suggest that a similar proportion of households will have an email address.

From a community perspective, people may want to contact us to raise a concern or issue, suggest an item for one of our meetings, tell us about a local event that you would like us to "advertise" on our website, etc. There is a form on our website that allows you to do this. Once again, email provides an essential feedback loop from CCC to you.

Currently CCC has 254 email contacts. This is an unsatisfactory position. Therefore, if you haven't done so already we would urge people to send their email address to craiglockhartcc@gmail.com . Your email will then be added to our Email List. Encouraging your neighbours and friends in the community to do the same would be a big help.

Professional input is also being sought from communication specialists to explore options for CCC to harvest email addresses from the wider community (e.g. possible flyer to all households).

Methods of Engagement

Engagement can take many forms ranging from a one off consultation (e.g. questionnaire surveys) through to regular outlets (e.g. website). The following summarises the main engagement methods open to CCC and planned developments.

- **Public Meetings** - the content and format of regular CCC Public Meetings (e.g. 17/05, 26/07, 27/09) is relatively stable, except for the move away from face-to-face meetings towards remote meetings (e.g. Microsoft Teams) due to the impact of Covid-19. To acknowledge different responses to Covid-19, the practicalities of having simultaneous face-to-face and remote meetings is being explored. As for one off public meetings, these will be held on an 'as needs' basis. It is hoped that one by-product of other engagement methods (below) will see an improvement in the number of residents attending public meetings.
- **Social Media** - a quick and cost effective way to engage with people less likely to use traditional communication methods. Currently CCC has 226 Twitter and 161 Facebook followers. CCC was represented at a "Community Councils - Introduction to Social Media" session in June 2021 hosted by Ross Murray (Edinburgh Council Governance Officer | Strategy & Communications Division) to outline the main features of social media platforms and good practice (i.e. Code of Conduct) when engaging with others using social media. Although functionality is similar it was noticeable how user profiles differ: Twitter users tend to be younger/ 20% adults whereas Facebook has a wider profile of users/ 65% adults. The use made of social media platforms by CCC is deliberately limited at present due to the resources needed to administer them and response time expectations. Professional input is being sought to look at how we use and administer Twitter & Facebook, increase our followers, as well as exploring other platforms such as Instagram and Next Door.
- **Website** - <https://www.craiglockhart.org> provides an excellent means of providing the community with access to information about CCC, meeting minutes, reports and other documents, as well as encouraging comments or suggestions. Of the 6 community councils that border Craiglockhart, we intend to benchmark ourselves against the websites for

Merchiston CC and Colinton CC. The current website structure & content is considered acceptable, providing a shop window for the community as well as acting as an effective two way communication channel between the community and CCC. To set expectations, improvements made to the structure and content of the website will be incremental.

- **Community open days/ galas / festivals** - no such activity has been undertaken over the period. Plans are in progress to hold a multicultural event led by residents showcasing their heritage and culture through dance, food, exhibitions, etc. in November 2021.
- **Newsletters** - other than posting the regular Police Scotland Community Councils newsletter on the CCC website no such activity has been undertaken over the period. Due to other priorities and the relative expense to produce and distribute newsletters no further action has been planned for the remainder of the year (i.e. 2021/22).
- **Local & Freesheet Newspapers** - other than the introduction made by a Craiglockhart resident (Alex Schweitzer-Thompson) at the CCC Public Meeting in July 2021 no activity has been undertaken over the period. The opportunity to contribute to a new Craiglockhart/ Colinton newsletter has been extended to CCC. Once the launch of the newsletter is firmed up CCC will willingly contribute

to articles for social media ahead of the newspaper launch.

- **Questionnaire Surveys** - no such activity has been undertaken over the period. This is an efficient method to gauge public opinion. Knowing what topics/issues are important to the community, that if addressed would make Craiglockhart a better place to live, is a gap that needs to be filled for CCC. Subject to progress being made on harvesting email addresses a survey would be a logical exercise to undertake. In turn, this exercise would also inform the timing and content of any further surveys.
- **Noticeboards** - two noticeboards are utilised by CCC. Options are being looked at to upgrade these noticeboards and identify locations where additional noticeboards could be displayed as well as public meeting notices (e.g. Greenbank, No. 23 bus terminus, Craiglockhart Tennis Centre, etc.).
Information Sources To better understand the whole topic of 'engagement' there are a variety of information sources available to CCC. A selection is listed below.
- Community Council Guidance Notes / Engaging with the Community and Role of the Engagement Officer - Edinburgh District Council
<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/23668/community-council-guidance-notes>
- Good Practice Guidance for Local Authorities and Community Councils - Scottish Government

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2009/10/local-authorities-and-community-councils-good-practice-guidance/documents/good-practice-guidance-local-authorities-community-councils-pdf/good-practice-guidance-local-authorities-community-councils-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/Good%2Bpractice%2Bguidance%2Bfor%2Blocal%2Bauthorities%2Band%2Bcommunity%2Bcouncils.pdf>

- The National Standards for Community Engagement - Scottish Government
<https://www.scdc.org.uk/what/national-standards>
- Scottish Community Councils - Scottish Government <https://www.communitycouncils.scot> **Prepared by:** Nick Stewart (CCC Engagement Officer) **Date:** 26 September 2021