

Craiglockhart Community Council Public Meeting

Minutes of the Public Meeting held at Napier University on 25th March 2019 at 7pm

Welcome and Apologies

In attendance :

CCC: Peter Mavor (Chair), Jim Brydon, Paul Mowat, Ursula Adams, Norma Hogg, Anni McLeod, Neena Agarwal, John Corbett, Kevin McKay, Hilda Henderson, Bryce Morrison

ECC: Cllr Gavin Corbett

Apologies: Cllrs Andrew Johnston & David Keys

Approximately 15 members of the community (MoC)

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

There were no outstanding items on the agenda not included on the agenda.

Minutes were approved & seconded (KMcK & UA)

2. Police Report PC Gavin Mears

The local police dealt with 93 reports in latest period. Of these 17 crimes were recorded and 3 have been solved. There have been a number of housebreak ins from the rear of properties. Residents were reminded to ensure windows, doors, sheds etc to the rear of their properties are well secured.

In response to a question regarding security alarm systems, PC Mears suggested that whilst they will not necessarily stop a thief breaking into a property, they will certainly deter and can draw attention from neighbours to any activity. He also reminded residents that if an unknown vehicle is left for a period in the area, police should be notified as it is known that thieves park stolen cars in affluent areas.

3. Saughton Park Renovation

A presentation was given by Pete McDougal giving the history and the project over the last few years to restore the Park to its former state.

It was originally privately owned but in the early part of the 20th century was bought by the Council and opened as a public park in 1910. The Scottish National Exhibition had been held in the Park shortly before it was opened to the public. In the 70/80's the Park fell into disrepair with the Bandstand being removed in the mid 80's. The Parks Dept identified it in 2010 as being of special significance to the city. Lottery funding of £3.8 million was secured in 2016 and 76% of the total cost of renovation (£8 million +) has been through external funding sources (grants, trusts etc).

Mr McDougal talked enthusiastically about the renovation programme showing a series of 'before & after' photographs. The grand opening of the Park will take place on 22nd June although the café is likely to be open for business before then (probably from early May). Members of the community are encouraged to visit this newly restored historic venue.

4. Planning Update

- 27-35 Lanark Road (Westside Motors) – the architect has confirmed that the site with planning consent for 107 student flats has been sold

to another developer. It is likely to be several months before there is any further progress.

- 120-122 Colinton Road – Planning consent was granted on 12th February 2019.
- Blue Goose (Lanark Road) –as previously reported this planning application has been rejected by ECC Planning Committee principally due to impact on Water of Leith and the lack of attempt to include affordable housing. The developer is likely to appeal.
- 1 Lanark Road (Clark Motors) – The architect has requested more time therefore submission is likely to be in the next few weeks. CCC will be notified in advance of this as a statutory consultee.
- Redhall House – now progressing through planning with CCC and local resident support. A structure is being explored to bring the remaining common land into public ownership to ensure that no further development can take place on this open space.
- Alfa Romeo Garage, Colinton Road – a presentation was made to the Community on 18th February 2019. The architects/ developer declined to attend any further meetings. Paul Mowat talked residents through the differences between the current and the previous plan (rejected by the Reporter). It was noted that the building is higher than its predecessor but that it had been moved back a significant distance from the property boundary. It has been redesigned paying cognisance to the Reporter's decision. The plan also includes a green space and trees existing and new at the rear boundary.

Paul asked the residents to vote on the design through a show of hands.

Object – 5

Support – 8

Neutral – 10

CCC will submit a neutral response to Planning Department. The response will highlight the main areas of concern for those who object to the development in its current form namely the height of the building (4 storeys) and the flat roof.

5. AOCB

- Street Lighting – mixed views were expressed regarding the quality of the lights. However there was some consensus that the angle of the lights is affecting some residents within their homes. Post installation adjustment may be possible. Residents are advised to contact Council giving their address and

the number to be found on the offending street light using the following e mail address : eeslp@edin.gov.uk

- Colinton (wooden) Bridge – there is an ongoing concern about this structure. Contact has been made by the Water of Leith Trust with the Council Parks Department who have advised that the responsibility for the bridge rests with the Bridges & Structures Dept. The latter have apparently given a quote of £20K to demolish the bridge – this does not include rebuilding it.

Residents believe that there may exist an alternative solution falling within a more modest budget. Cllr Corbett will provide contact details for the appropriate Council engineers and Peter Mavor will write to this individual suggesting alternative solutions. This is however likely to take some time as the Council has limited funds to deal with such projects.

- Paties Rd – no further activity to date
- City Wide Graffiti Campaign – the Council Culture & Communities Committee are already considering this challenge and a Working Group has been set up to look at how the challenge can be met.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 20th May
 Boroughmuir Rugby Club