**Corstorphine Community Council Monthly Meeting Minutes - Online**

**Date/time:** Tuesday 20 October 2020, 7.00 pm

**Apologies:** PC David Campbell, John Kerr, Cllr Claire Bridgman, Deborah McCall, Nathan Readie, Keith Walker, Susan Murray, Vikki Brown

**Attendees:** Steve Kerr, Phyllis Stephen, Ian Kirkpatrick (Corstorphine Churches Together), Damian Mullan, Kenny Wright (Drumbrae CC), Fiona Moug, Angela Benzies, Cllr Mark Brown, Jonathan Melville, Steve Pickavance, Daran Golby, Robert Stokes (Forrester Park RA), Claire Connachan, David Hunter (Get Edinburgh Moving), Marie Stephenson, Chris Young, Pam Sked, Cllr Gillian Gloyer, Donald Spiers, John Wood, Cllr Scott Douglas, Karen Smith, Jane Kerr

**Matters Arising**

* Request received to make changes the September minutes: two covering terminology - TROs should have been recorded as traffic orders; post meeting note regarding northern boundary to be added; under Environment, change of paragraph order.
* Claire Connachan has taken on the Planning Officer role. Thank you Claire!
* Tommy McLean has offered to take on the CCC’s representative role with the Youth Engagement Partnership.

**Police Report – received via email from PC David Campbell**

* Monitoring closed public houses for on premises consumption and other COVID restrictions.
* Community POs can be contacted at EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk. Please use this address remembering to put officer details in the subject header.
* House breakings are down. Increase in break ins to sheds and garages. Bikes are being targeted. Team created to target these. Sizeable number recovered. Upcoming 'Autumn Awareness' campaign will focus on crime prevention during darker nights – see internet/social media pages for advice. Please check the security of sheds and garages ensuring cycles are locked away and security lights and alarms are in working order. Further bike marking initiatives are planned and will be advertised on the Edinburgh Police Twitter feed.
* Serious and minor assaults have both seen a reduction over the past month on last year.
* Domestic Abuse crime is up slightly (1.6%). Concerns were this may have shown greater increase during Covid restrictions. There has been continued enforcement of domestic bail conditions during this period to protect vulnerable victims.
* Local community officers along with Road traffic officers have conducted a number of initiatives in and around our area. School parking initiatives and road safety events will also continue.
	+ 5th: Road Safety Speed Enforcement: Drum Brae Drive: 10 warnings, 1 ticket; Saughtonhall Drive: 8 warnings, 2 tickets; Roseburn Street 2 warnings.
	+ 6th: Operation Close pass: Saughton Road North: 8 drivers stopped and educated for close pass; Concurrent speed enforcement: 2 tickets, 1 report, 4 warnings.
	+ 7th: Road Safety Speed Enforcement: Clermiston Primary School: 3 tickets for safer Streets, 3 parking warnings; Roseburn Street 4 warnings; Ellersly Road 6 warnings; Craigs Road 2 tickets.
* Hate crime awareness initiatives conducted with our colleagues in preventions interventions and partnerships across the city and the Gyle Centre. Police Scotland will continue to take a firm line on all types of hate crime.
* COVID related ASB calls such as house parties continue. We will continue to engage with the public and explain the regulations. Where non-compliance continues, we will enforce the regulations.

**Councillor’s Reports and Questions**

Cllr Brown

East Craigs LTN – Live litigation threat towards CEC iro of this. Members to discuss and make a decision at the TEC in November.

CityFibre – CF have been receptive to issues raised by local residents. Work done to resolve. Tommy McLean: In certain areas, no footpath was created – particular example of this was outside the police station. It wasn’t clear to people crossing that they would have to walk on the road, at a very busy junction, to get to the pavement. Cllr Brown confirms that CityFibre have been contacted regarding this. Claire Connachan: Could the lack of dropped kerbs also be fed back to CityFibre? No contact details available for members of the public to speak to CityFibre about issues like this.

Fireworks – some activity already. Police are actively pursuing those committing ASB. Tommy McLean: Can shops be monitored to ensure they are selling fireworks responsibly? Cllr Gloyer confirmed that as it’s legal to sell to over 18s there isn’t much that can be done.

Junction at Forrester Park Avenue/Ladywell Avenue - Robert Stokes: Contacted CEC and PC Davison re junction a month ago but no response. Issue is with rat running at rush hour and high hedge which makes it a blind junction. Cllr Brown – please email him the details.

Graffiti Kits: Robert Stokes: Is there any update on this? Cllr Brown will chase.

Cllr Gloyer

In light of current situation with East Craigs LTN, Cllr Gloyer has urged CEC Full Council to ensure proper consultation carried out with Featherhall iro LTN measures/changes.

Cllr Scott Douglas

Recently dealing with localised flooding and drainage issues at Murrayfield. Please let Cllr Douglas know if you are aware of any problems in Corstorphine.

Daran Golby: as a cyclist I’m being forced into the middle of the road to avoid potholes. To report them raise a ticket at <https://www.fillthathole.org.uk/> , at CEC’s website or contact one of the local ward councillors.

Planning – Claire Connachan

Steve noted thanks for Claire taking on the Planning Officer Role. Planning Report circulated prior to meeting.

Due to time constraints, after last meeting, Steve put in an objection to the planning application for 24 flats on Meadowplace Road (Tesco car park) citing lack of parking provision, potential for more traffic issues. Seven objections required to get the matter passed in front of committee - 11 objections received. Cllr Gloyer asked for it to go to committee regardless of how many objections were received and assurance given. Also asked if the committee would hold a hearing on it given the planning constraint on the site. Developers can have that overturned. There is a constraint on this site. It must be kept closed until 10.00 am.

The Gyle Shopping Centre – planning application has been refused. See report for more information.

Angela Benzies: comment only - sale of the land at Turnhouse. Several villages planned for the site. Why does CEC feel that the building needs to be carried out in West Edinburgh as opposed to other areas?

Business – Angela Benzies

Corstorphine Business Group - More work done on constitution. Now ready to be passed back to group for consideration. Next step is formation meeting (pencilled in for 4 November at 7.00 pm) with the idea to formally bring businesses who want to participate and commit to this together. Met with member of CEC’s Business Growth and Inclusion Department and discussed possibility of voucher scheme and a few other ideas – supplier training for bidding for CEC contracts; benefits that CEC is offering for business grants applicable to the current shutdown period (and passing these on via FB). FB numbers are growing which is encouraging. Need to try and get more businesses to come back with responses. May require a bit of legwork. Please pass out this information to anyone in the area who you think may be interested.

Vikki Brown to stage a local Window Wonderland in Corstorphine event towards the end of January 2021. Hopeful that CCC will support. Angela will contact Vikki to discuss further.

Environment

**East Craigs Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN)**

Steve Kerr, Chairperson, Corstorphine Community Council spoke to David Hunter, Chair, ‘Get Edinburgh Moving’ group on 27 September and suggested that the group become Associate Member of Corstorphine CC.

Corstorphine CC submitted a written deputation to the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) that was held on 1 October in respect of Spaces for People/LTNs.  Steve spoke with Kenny Wright, Chair, Drumbrae Community Council (DBCC) about the possibility of a joint written deputation being submitted by both Community Councils.  However, members of DBCC were clear that they wished to submit a stand-alone response.  Steve and Kenny agreed to work together to facilitate a resolution to the dispute.  The deputation was factual, measured, balanced, and advanced the concerns of residents.

In his capacity as Co-Chair of the **North West Locality Community Planning Partnership**, Steve attended the Partnership’s meeting on 9 October.  Spaces for People/LTN measures were discussed and he asked what forum was appropriate for Community Councils to discuss these measures with City Councillors and officers?  Steve suggested in the context of the Locality Improvement Plan or City Plan.  He was told that neither was appropriate and that these matters should be discussed directly with the Officers concerned.

Subsequently Corstorphine CC submitted a further written deputation to the meeting of the Full Council on 15 October.

All correspondence received in respect of the Spaces for People/LTN or from residents has been distributed or forwarded as appropriate in a timely fashion.  It was noted that to date Corstorphine CC had directly received two representations from residents.  One opposed to the implementation of the LTN and one in favour.

In his capacity as Deputy Chair of the **Edinburgh Association of Community Councils** (EACC) Steve will be introducing a discussion on Spaces for People/LTN measures at the EACC meeting on 22 October.

The desired outcome from the deliberations is:

● Guidance that all Edinburgh’s Community Councils can utilise when engaging with residents

● A deputation to the City Council that reflects where possible EACC members unified position

Dave Sinclair, Local Transport and Environment Manager, Spaces for People Team, City of Edinburgh Council has intimated a paper will go to the TEC meeting on 12 November to discuss options for East Craigs LTN.  No details on these options were available.  The Corstorphine South LTN will now be considered in January 2021.

Steve expressed his disappointment that there had been no attempt by CEC to engage with Corstorphine CC around plans for East Craigs.  This contrasted with the manner they had approached similar proposals for Featherhall/Corstorphine South.  It left Corstorphine CC ill prepared to engage on behalf of residents.  Steve noted that DBCC had felt compelled to submit a Participation Request under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to ensure their involvement in deliberations.  He said that Corstorphine CC may resort to a similar submission.

During the discussion participants at the meeting expressed the following views:

CEC has not been open, honest, or transparent about areas that have been earmarked for change.  The East Craigs project was first looked at by CEC in November 2019 but there had been no communication from CEC to Corstorphine CC or DBCC, as to what was planned.  This even though Community Councils are as statutory consultees on planning matters.  Community Councils are apolitical bodies that represent the views and concerns of all the residents in their area.  There has been a lack of local democracy on this issue and that cannot go unchallenged.  Because of CEC’s actions, both Corstorphine CC and DBCC have been put into an exceedingly difficult situation.

The tone and content of traffic on social media resulting from this matter has been poor and contributes to the negativity.  CEC must take steps to repair the damage done to trust and repair the polarisation that now exists.  CEC needs to start again by engaging in meaningful consultation that results in outcomes that all residents can recognise as beneficial.

One of the purposes of the Neighbourhood Networks and Locality Partnerships is to provide a forum for discussion at the local and strategic level ensuring community buy in.  However, it appears that CEC have chosen not to use Community Councils as the conduit for consultation.  It is not practicable to expect voluntary organisation with limited resources to conduct robust consultation with a significant number of residents over five days.  This during the Covid 19 pandemic when contact between individuals and groups is severely restricted.

Automated traffic data for East Craigs LTN has proved that there is a 50% reduction in normal levels.  This can largely be attributed to ‘work from home’ policy.  Pollution levels in the area are likely to be low in comparison to the arterial routes such as St John’s Road and Queensferry Road.  Any reduction in traffic must be viewed positively.

Not everyone can walk or cycle when moving about the area.  It is not reasonable to put barriers in the way of people going about their day-to-day lives.  Provision for all forms of transport is required.

If the ambition is to have more residents walking or cycling, then CEC needs to recognise that potholes and the state of the pavements need urgent attention.  During the winter there needs to be a programme of gritting to avoid possible injury.

Suggestions from the ‘Get Edinburgh Moving’ group have been provided to CEC to help alleviate many of the congestion and pollution issues around West Edinburgh. These suggestions offer an alternative to the proposed measures which many residents regard as extreme.  The group feels that CEC is trying to solve the wrong problem by introducing the East Craigs LTN.

A lot of the data for the LTN has come from the West Edinburgh Link project where ‘rat running’ was highlighted as an issue. The East Craigs LTN is in part designed to address this.  Considerable work is required on the Active Links network around the area which would allow people to move around more easily without the need of a car.  If a full consultation was implemented, then it is likely that in several years’ time the project would be no further forward.  Examples of projects which have stalled include the Roseburn cycle path and actions in Featherhall.

Steve noted that the discussion had been respectful and constructive.  He hoped that this would be reflected in future social media communications.  This was an area that had suffered over the last few months.

**Social Media**

Tonight’s meeting showed that it is possible to have respectful conversations around divisive subjects. This should be kept in mind when having future engagement on social media.  Corstorphine CC Members are volunteers.  Members' integrity had been called into question and this had caused offence.  We all want the best outcomes for the area and residents.  Perhaps a better use of social media would be to encourage residents to contact CEC and their ward Councillors and provide ways that they can do that.

Until recently, Corstorphine CC have received no complaints about bias on our social media platforms. Much of the content on our social media reflects discussions held during our monthly meetings and feedback received from residents.  Corstorphine CC communication strategy will be discussed by Members and published.

Finally, Steve re-extended the offer for Get Edinburgh Moving to become Associate Member of CCC.  Residents groups from Pinkhill and Forrester are associate members and their voice is strengthened by affiliating with a statutory body.

**AOB**

None raised.

Post meeting note: Due to the current situation with Covid-19, there will be no organised service on Remembrance Sunday this year. However, in line with tradition, Steve will lay a wreath at the war memorial on behalf on the Corstorphine Community Council.

Meeting ended at 9.15 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 17 November, 7.00 pm online via Zoom. These minutes are also available online at http:// http://corstorphinecc.uk/minutes/.