



Newsletter – December 2020

What's the CC been doing?

Welcome to our December 2020 Newsletter. This provides a round-up of recent work we have done on the community's behalf. There is some good news and we have highlighted it with a



If you think there are local issues the CC could help with please email us at cramton17@gmail.com

Our Chairperson

Many of you know our Chair, Andrew Mather. For a large number of years Andrew has vigorously pursued extensive activities on behalf of the CC and wider community. Over recent months, however, he has been unwell and now plans to step down in 2021. He will continue as CC Chair for part of the year while supporting our incoming Chairperson, John Loudon. We are very grateful for his invaluable input and continuing support.

Planning matters

NB: references given in each section allow you to find the application on the Edinburgh City Council portal. Access this at <https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idxpa-web/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

Housing North of Craigs Road (18/10028/PAN) This revised pre-application proposal is for 300-500 houses, with access from Bughtlin Roundabout. We have previously objected to larger, similar proposals and are objecting to this one as it ignores its current Green Belt designation, is premature in respect of Edinburgh's CityPlan2030, contributes to traffic congestion on Craigs Road and associated roads and junctions – especially after completion of other major local developments – impacts on the landscape and poses potential flood risks.



Brighthouse (former Cramond Campus) - Extension of timescale for compliance with conditions relating to grassing and sports facilities (20/02916/FUL) This application is likely to go to a City Council Committee in December. We've asked our City Councillors to seek a hearing and site visit.

Replacement house, 20 Barnton Gardens (20/04342/FUL) We expressed reservations about a proposed garage in front of the building line of adjacent homes and suggested that hedges and trees be safeguarded to reduce visual impacts of the house.

Cammo Meadows: Development is progressing (see photo) and two show homes will open in the Spring. Roadworks and water, gas and electricity supply operations outwith the site, which required some road closures, have been completed. Representatives of the CC and Cammo Residents Assoc. have met CALA staff for an up-date and to discuss matters raised by local residents. Notes of this meeting is on our website (<https://www.cramond-barnton.org/>)



Lauriston Farm Agro-ecology Project: Edinburgh Agro-ecology Co-operative is proposing an ambitious community-oriented 'urban agro-ecology' project at Lauriston Farm, focusing on food growing, habitat and biodiversity enhancement, and community engagement and activity. The proposals can be seen at <https://www.lauristonfarm.scot/>.

Roads and Transport Issues



Parking on Cammo Road and Cammo Estate Car Parks: We pleased to say that our request to the Council to re-open Cammo Walk from Cammo Lodge to Cammo Estate South Car Park has been successful. Our aim is to relieve parking pressures on Cammo Road and Strathalmond Road.



Parking Restrictions on Whitehouse Road: We now have double yellow lines on the western side of Whitehouse Road between Inveralmond and Cramond Vale. We are still asking for white lines across the driveways of houses between Cramond Vale and Fair-a-Far.

Access to Cramond Village and Foreshore: We remain concerned about increasing congestion and will chase the Council's promised Action Plan.

Cammo Walk and Barnton Junction Community: following our Participation Request a further meeting with City Council officers, focussing on Cammo Walk and the Cammo Gardens/Maybury Road junction, was held. No decisions were made, but officers agreed to consider a road link, with separate walking/cycling path(s), between Cammo Walk and Bughtlin Roundabout. This would enable southbound traffic on Cammo Walk to continue. Without such a link, we fear that Cammo/Strathalmond southbound drivers would suffer several years of feeling "landlocked" with no exit through Cammo Walk and no assistance from traffic lights at Cammo Gardens. We have stressed we would strongly resist permanent closure of Cammo Walk to southbound traffic without lights at Cammo Gardens.

Enhancing Walkers' and Cyclists' Safety at Cramond Brig, Brae Park and between the Golf Courses – Local cyclists and pedestrians have complained about increasing dangers caused by: inconsiderate parking; blind bends; cyclist speed and failure to warn pedestrians; lack of raised footpaths and the very narrow path from Barnton Ave West to the section between the Golf Courses. At City Council Roads staff's invitation, we suggested enhancing safety through: parking restrictions at hazardous points near the Miller & Carter Car Park; green road markings to demarcate footpaths where the River Almond Walkway crosses Brae Park Road and at the steep section of Brae Park Road; rumble strips and signing.



Bus Lanes on Queensferry Road – The only measure that will affect this area is a temporary eastbound bus lane from Cramond Bridge to the approach to Barnton Junction. In order to avoid resulting longer queues on approach to Barnton Junction, we suggested changing the timing of the existing Burnshot lights to hold more traffic back on the A90.

Bus Performances: Concerns at the absence of information on how Lothian Bus services' performance will be pursued with Transport officials, including assessing the impacts of Spaces for People schemes on bus timetables.

Airport Issues – Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee met in November. April-September passenger numbers were down by 91%. Substantial improvements were completed in this period, but new capital projects have been halted. A new access road will be applied for in December. New drop-off and pick-up charges have been introduced, with a discount scheme being considered for neighbouring areas. The Airport Airspace Change consultation has been halted pending further guidance from CAA.

Noise complaints have dropped with the reduction in air traffic. The Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise is consulting on how its work should move forward and suggesting statutory status. The Dept. for Transport, which regulates night time use at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, will also be consulting (hopefully more widely) on night flights.

Engaging with the Community and City Council



Developing the Community Council's Social Media Activities: Over the past year, we have up-dated the CC's website, established a popular Facebook page and produced occasional Newsletters. We are delighted that so many of you are showing an interest in, commenting on and sharing content from our Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/CramondandBarntonCC/>). Analysing these posts shows us what concerns you most. Amongst our most-viewed, recent posts are those on housing proposals at West Craigs, the agri-ecology project at Lauriston Farm and other road and traffic management issues.

Joint Community Councils' Community Participation Request on Engagement by the City Council – South Queensferry Community Council, with its North West Edinburgh CC partners, has submitted a joint Community Participation Request seeking enhanced arrangements for engagement between the CCs and City Council on major matters of community concern. Former Locality arrangements have now ceased and, as a result, there are now no direct channels for CCs to discuss matters of concern with the Council. Recent attempts to engage with senior staff and/or lead Committee members have achieved no positive results.

Other news



Cramond's Toilets: We are pleased that, at a positive meeting with Council staff who are developing a strategy for toilets across the City, we heard that they view Cramond's toilets as meriting priority and not being fit for purpose, due lack of all-abilities access and the poor building and facilities. Staff agreed with much of a Discussion Paper we presented which included potential relocation to a more accessible site, improved hygiene and better facilities for disabled people and parents with children. Progress will depend on finance.

Salvesen Steps: Rising cost estimates for the preferred hanging walkway option mean that the Friends of the River Almond Walkway, the CC and other partners are reluctantly having to support replacement of the Steps, on condition that the Council works with the community to provide a longer term, more accessible, solution.

Cramond Inn: We continue to press for action by Licensing staff to require contactless payment options at the Inn.

Cramond Surgery: Concerns regarding surgery access due to Covid arrangements and internal building works are under discussion.

To find out more about the Cramond and Barnton Community Council and to check for latest news visit <https://www.cramond-barnton.org/> and follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CramondandBarntonCC/>