

Blackhall Community Newsletter February 2017

Dates for your diary

- **Public meeting:** Tuesday 28 February 7.30pm St Columba's Small Hall - all welcome!
- **Pop-up Community Café:** Saturday 22 April 10-12 Blackhall Primary School Hall – enjoy tea/coffee and home-baking and find out about activities and opportunities in Blackhall. Please do come along and join us.

Public Meeting: ****Special Focus on people aged 50+ in Blackhall****

Tuesday 28 February 7.30pm St Columba's Small Hall

We are delighted to welcome a guest speaker from Community Connecting, specialists in supporting people to stay active and connected to their local communities. Older people across Edinburgh enjoy activities such as cinema and theatre clubs, local walks, swimming or cycling buddy schemes, walking football, seated exercise and indoor iceless curling. We will consider the following questions:

- What activities would you like to see in Blackhall?
- Can we use local facilities such as Ravelston Park to deliver more opportunities for older people?

Please share your ideas and views (contact details at the end of this newsletter).

Blackhall Community Trust – now formed!

Our well-attended public meeting on 4 October discussed possible solutions to our identified community need - a community hub, more places at Blackhall Nursery and recreational facilities. Opportunities include community asset transfer (e.g. ownership of Ravelston Park Pavilion could be transferred from the City of Edinburgh Council to the Blackhall Community Trust) and land acquisition, both of which are now possible because of new legislation. We also heard about possible funding sources such as the Scottish Land Fund. The Development Trusts Association Scotland was in attendance, generously sharing their expertise.

Mandated by the meeting, the Steering Group of eight Blackhall residents has now set up a limited liability company, Blackhall Community Trust, and has applied for charitable status.

If you would like to support Blackhall Community Trust and you live in Blackhall (school catchment area), **please become a Member of the Trust** (at no cost, with a liability of only £1 and with voting rights) or join our email database. Contact us via blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com or c/o Blackhall Nursery, Ravelston Park Pavilion, Craigcrook Rd EH4 3RU.

The Objects of the Blackhall Community Trust, agreed by the meeting, are:

- To advance community development within the Community, including urban regeneration;
- To advance education, including early years and community learning, for the benefit of the public;
- To provide facilities for recreation, sport and other leisure activities for the health and wellbeing of the public;
- Any other purpose that may reasonably be regarded as analogous to any of the preceding purposes.

In the last few months, the Steering Group of Blackhall Community Trust

- has been allocated a support officer from the Scottish Land Fund
- has been working on a Business Plan
- is completing the Stage 1 grant application form for the Scottish Land Fund
- has been liaising with the City of Edinburgh Council about a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of Ravelston Park Pavilion.

Many thanks to those community groups and residents who attended our fundraising Coffee Morning and Community Celebration at Blackhall School on 29 October. Information-sharing over coffee and delicious home-baking (thanks to Nursery parents) created a fantastic buzz.

We are repeating the event on Saturday 22 April 10-12noon – do join us!

Useful Information for Blackhall Residents

Blackhall Community Trust: Show your support by becoming a member or joining our email list – or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

Email: blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com

Post: c/o Blackhall Nursery, Ravelston Park Pavilion, Craigcrook Rd EH4 3RU

Social Media:  www.facebook.com/blackhallcdt and  @BlackhallCT

Website/Blog: www.blackhallcommunitytrust.wordpress.com

Blackhall Nursery: To apply for a free place as soon as your child is two years old, please download and complete our application form at www.blackhallnursery.co.uk. Blackhall Nursery offers 600 hours of free early years learning to 3-5 year olds.

Late night buses to Blackhall from the city centre: Stagecoach buses x55, x58 and x60 operate late night weekend services from the West End to Barnton. They all stop on request at the Esso garage at Craigeith and the stop outside Blackhall Medical Centre.

Active Blackhall: Find out about physical/sports activities in our area at www.activeblackhall.com. If you are involved in a sports club or activity, however informal, Active Blackhall is happy to post details on its website. Email contact@activeblackhall.com

Support for Dementia Sufferers and their Carers: Lifecare in Stockbridge offers a wide range of support services for dementia sufferers and their families. Phone 0131 343 0940 for information or visit www.lifecare-edinburgh.org.uk

Craigeith and Blackhall Community Council (CBCC): Visit www.craigeithblackhall.info to find out about CBCC's meetings or email secretary@craigeithblackhall.info to contact CBCC.

Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre Contact Details: info@drylawnc.org.uk 0131 315 4989
Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre runs a range of activities including adult computer classes, activities for under 5s and for senior citizens. It can be booked for children's parties, meetings, exercise classes etc. It is located on Groathill Rd North and has parking facilities.

Blackhall Community Trust is a company limited by guarantee, No. SC551774. Its Board members are: Tina Woolnough (Chair), Sandra Riddell (Vice-Chair), Fergus Henderson (Treasurer), Fiona Gilbert (Company and Membership Secretary), Katie Gilbert (Communications), Peter Allan (Planning), Ian Ashcroft (General).