



Mearns East
Community Council

MEETING OF	Meeting of Mearns East Community Council	
HELD ON	Tuesday 5 th December @ 7.00pm in Mearns Castle High School	
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
	In attendance: William Maxwell (Chairperson), Janet Olverman (Secretary), Susan Brodie, Elnara Alderson, Doug Pitt, Anne Lithgow, Joan Macintosh, Asif Majid Also present: Cllr Paul Edlin, Cllr Andrew Anderson, James Sandeman, Peter Barry	
APOLOGIES	Steve Rutherford, Jane Royston (Treasurer), David Buchanan, John Morrison, Cllr Jim McLean	
ITEM DISCUSSED		Action Points
APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF MEETINGS	The Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 7 th November was proposed by William Maxwell and seconded by Susan Brodie and approved by the Community Council	
MATTERS ARISING/	<p>Maidenhill Footpath</p> <p>Cllr. Edlin had been told by CALA the path upgrade is a priority and would be started soon.</p> <p>The Chairperson said that MECC had been advised by the CALA Land Director that they would attend to this urgently, but the contractors have not yet started.</p> <p>MECC to write again and urge CALA to provide an actual start date.</p> <p>Janet said the path was so dangerous on Saturday 2nd December, following the snowfall. There is no handrail and coming down the steep section was treacherous.</p> <p>Dog waste bins - Maidenhill</p> <p>MECC wrote to the Maidenhill factor asking them to empty these bins. It was noted that the dog waste bins have been emptied.</p> <p>Cllr Anderson advised he had spoken to the refuse workers in ERC to urge the factor to empty the dog waste bins every Tuesday. The Factor has emptied them and hopefully has created a weekly schedule for emptying these bins.</p> <p>Litter bins at the bus stop at Waterfoot Road</p> <p>Cllr Edlin has asked for bins to be installed but has not yet received a response. Cllr Edlin to follow up.</p>	<p>Will to write to CALA</p> <p>Cllr Edlin to ask for response about bins</p>



POLICE REPORT	<p>The Police were unable to attend this evening but provided an update:</p> <p>"This report covers progress we have made in dealing with your priorities for the Mearns East Community Council area for the period 5th November to 5th December 2023.</p> <p>CRIMES OF NOTE & CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE</p> <p>Crime levels in your community council area remain low in the past month. Ongoing issues with youth disorder continue to be a priority for your local community policing team.</p> <p>It is asked that constituents are reminded of the importance of home and property security, especially with the festive period approaching, and it is urged that any suspicious behaviour be reported to Police. The continued engagement of the community allows us to tailor the best policing response to the community.</p> <p>Three reports of Frauds were received, two of which were attributed to online scams.</p> <p>Two instances of vandalism were reported during this time.</p> <p>Two instances of assault were reported during this time.</p> <p>One instance of Housebreaking was reported during this time.</p> <p>We have continued to see a decrease in criminality and youth disorder at The Avenue during this time. This continues to be a focus for us as we work alongside the staff therein to challenge anti-social behaviours.</p> <p>Home security</p> <p>As it is getting darker earlier with each passing day, it is asked that constituents are reminded of the importance of maintaining home and vehicle security. Crime prevention advice can be found on Police Scotland's webpage via the links below.</p> <p>https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/your-home/your-house/</p> <p>https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/your-home/your-garden/</p> <p>Our officers would like to also highlight the importance of vehicle security. Some important advice is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Remove valuables from cars.- Take time to ensure your car is locked.- If you have keyless entry/start consider key security	



Mearns East
Community Council

	<p>within your home or purchase a Faraday pouch to help prevent theft.”</p> <p>Janet to forward full report to MECC members.</p>	<p>Janet to forward report to MECC</p>
	<p>Cllr Anderson reported that the Police now have a regular meeting with Ward Councillors.</p> <p>MECC asked the Councillors to ask Police about their attendance at our meetings and what, if anything, can be done to improve regular attendance. Police have been unable to attend several of our meetings due to clash of shifts.</p>	<p>Cllrs to ask Police about MECC meeting attendance</p>
MAIDENHILL FOOTPATH UPDATE	<p>See Matters Arising</p>	
SCOTTISH WATER / CALEDONIA WATER ALLIANCE	<p>MECC submitted a petition to Scottish Water, signed by all the shop-keepers, sadly this has been ignored and work has now started at the Broom Shops.</p> <p>Work should be completed by the 16th December</p>	
SCHOOL EXTENSIONS	<p>The Chairperson reported that an extension comprising four classrooms is to be built at Maidenhill Primary School and four classrooms are to be added to Mearns Castle High School at a cost of approximately £5.2m.</p> <p>The old unused changing rooms in Mearns Castle High School are going to be converted into new classrooms.</p> <p>Detailed plans are not yet available but parents could seek more information about the proposals from the Head Teachers.</p> <p>The Maidenhill Primary capacity will be increased from 420 to 540 pupils and is expected to be finished by August 2025.</p>	
PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT	<p>Janet provided an update:</p> <p>Following the disappointing response to our local survey, the Planning Committee agreed to extend our survey to include MCHS pupils and submit an article to the Community Magazine, with the intention of gleaning positive support for this project.</p> <p>The estimated cost of £32k will have to be raised through approaching various funding resources, and the MECC will have to raise 12% of the total cost ourselves.</p> <p>Jane Royston has drafted an article for the community magazine, hopefully to be included in the January issue and David has written a letter to MCHS head teacher. Janet submitted the letter to the school on 4th December.</p>	



	<p>Once we have a better idea of the support for this initiative we can proceed with raising the necessary funds.</p>	
<p>BOUNDARY COMMISSION – CONSULTATION REVIEW</p>	<p>Boundary Commission’s Consultation Review</p> <p>The Chairperson reported that there is to be a hearing on 14th December at Parklands Hotel between 6 and 8pm. The meeting will be Chaired by Sheriff Murphy and William has been invited to address the meeting.</p> <p>The proposed changes are only for the Scottish Parliament elections; boundaries for UK (Westminster) elections have already been accepted and will come into force in 2024.</p> <p>The Boundary Commission’s plans would split Busby, Clarkston, Netherlee, Stamperland, Williamwood, Giffnock and Thornliebank from Newton Mearns, Crookfur, Waterfoot and Eaglesham.</p> <p>Two new Scottish Parliamentary constituencies will be created:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock and - Renfrewshire South <p>MECC and ERC oppose the Boundary Commission’s suggestion.</p> <p>The Chairperson displayed a map demonstrating the Boundary Commission’s proposed changes.</p> <p>In order for Giffnock to remain within the Eastwood constituency, MECC suggested using the M77 to separate the constituencies, which would provide more or less equal voting numbers.</p> <p>Cllr. Edlin reported that ERC discussed this at a meeting a few months ago and are bringing forward a strong argument against this plan. All political parties are united in their opposition to this proposal.</p> <p>Cllr. Edlin suggested sharing MECC’s views with Jackson Carlaw.</p> <p>William is concerned that he has not been provided with any information from ERC. Although he wrote to Cllr. O’Donnell asking for information about ERC’s presentation he has received no response. MECC feel it is important that there must be some sort of consensus between ERC and MECC.</p> <p>Cllr Edlin to speak to Jackson Carlaw and ask if he has read William’s presentation.</p> <p>Cllr Anderson to speak to Owen McDonald</p> <p>The Chairperson offered to meet in person to discuss.</p>	<p>Cllr Edlin speak to Jackson Carlaw</p> <p>Cllr Anderson speak to Owen McDonald</p>



<p>STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PLANS AND PROJECTS</p>	<p>East Renfrewshire Local Transport Strategy</p> <p>East Renfrewshire’s Local Transport Strategy (LTS) is intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce carbon emissions and other harmful pollutants - Enable more walking, cycling and wheeling - Improve Public Transport connectivity and accessibility - Support liveable, resilient and connected communities - Sustainable management of local road and path networks <p>A presentation was made to councillors in February this year about areas where 20mph limits will be enforced. Tommy Taylor acquired maps in a freedom of information request. A very large part of Newton Mearns and Kirkhill will be designated as 20mph zones.</p> <p>Studies in England showed that following introduction of the lower speed limit, average speed reduced from 32 to 26mph but there was no reduction in the number of accidents.</p> <p>Some parts of the country have already removed the 20 mph zones because they are ineffective.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Traffic Management Zones (20mph Zones)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 74 Zones have been identified - ERC are proposing a roll out of lower speed communities (20mph zones) <p>Interventions may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased use of double yellow lines - Narrowing of road junctions - One way streets etc. - Footway buildouts to ease pedestrian crossing - Formalise on street parking 	
<p>DATES FOR LITTER PICKS AND ORDINARY MEETINGS</p>	<p>Litter Picks</p> <p>9th December 11am – 12 pm Mearns Castle High School</p> <p>Christmas lunch between 1 and 2pm at La Vita</p> <p>3rd February 2024 – location tba</p> <p>2nd March</p>	



	<p>6th April 4th May 8th June</p> <p>Meetings – all at 7pm in Mearns Castle High School</p> <p>6th February 2024 5th March, 16th April, 7th May (AGM) 11th June</p>	
AOCB	<p>MECC are sorry to hear Cllr Bamforth is not well and agreed to send some flowers with our best wishes.</p> <p>Delivering net zero for Scotland’s buildings</p> <p>There is a Consultation on proposals for a Heat in Buildings bill, running until the end of February 2024.</p> <p>Avenue Shopping Centre steps</p> <p>The steps at the Ayr Road entrance are not very visible and present a real trip hazard. Could they be painted white to help prevent accidents?</p> <p>Car park gritting</p> <p>Doug asked who owns the car park at Broom shops. Recently the surface was impossibly icy and had not been gritted. This presents a dreadful hazard to people accessing the doctor’s surgery and local shops.</p> <p>This area must be gritted.</p> <p>Councillors to raise this matter with ERC</p> <p>MECC would like to ask ERC to provide a priority list of pavements as well as roads for gritting.</p> <p>Public spaces which are pedestrianised must be gritted.</p>	<p>Cllrs to ask ERC to grit Broom shops car park and pavement</p>
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	<p>The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th February at 7.00pm in Mearns Castle High School</p>	
	<p>With there being no further business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay for a mince pie and some fizz.</p>	