



**Mearns East**  
**Community Council**

<b>MEETING OF</b>	Mearns East Community Council	
<b>HELD ON</b>	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 @ 7.00pm in Mearns Castle High School	
<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b>	The Vice Chairperson, Steve Rutherford welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
	<p>In attendance: William Maxwell (Chairperson), Steve Rutherford (Vice Chairperson), Janet Olverman (Secretary), Jane Royston (Treasurer), Susan Brodie, Anne Lithgow, Joan Macintosh, David Buchanan, John Morrison, Gerald Edwards</p> <p>Also Present: Cllr Paul Edlin, Cllr Caroline Bamforth, Peter Barry, James Sandeman, Graeme Paterson, Trish Dunlop,</p>	
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Doug Pitt	
<b>ITEM DISCUSSED</b>		<b>Action Points</b>
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF MEETINGS</b>	<p><b>Minute of MECC meeting dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024</b></p> <p>Upon agreement by members of the MECC, Steve Rutherford proposed the Draft Minute as a true record of the meeting dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September and was seconded by William Maxwell</p>	
<b>MATTERS ARISING/</b>	There were no matters arising	
<b>POLICE REPORT</b>	<p>The Police were unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>The Vice Chairperson read out a summary of the Police report for our Community Council area for the period 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.</p> <p><b>“Crimes reported during period 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One report of Threatening and abusive behaviour;</li> <li>• Two persons were charged after being found in possession of a controlled drug;</li> <li>• Four reports of fraud were made during this time period;</li> <li>• Three reports of Theft by Shoplifting and one other theft were reported;</li> <li>• One Theft by Housebreaking;</li> <li>• One instance of Assault;</li> <li>• One instance of Vandalism was reported in your area in this time;</li> <li>• One vehicle was seized, and the driver charged with driving without a valid policy of insurance.</li> </ul>	



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	<p>Peter asked if we could be informed about resolutions to these crimes and expressed concern that East Renfrewshire is at the bottom of the table when it comes to prosecution and clear up rates.</p> <p>Cllr. Bamforth said the Police and Fire Cabinet report which is available on ERC's website, will report on retrospective crimes which have been brought to justice. She pointed out that the crimes notified in the Police report will have to be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal which takes some time before they get to court. Some crimes are difficult to be brought to justice with not enough evidence to bring a successful prosecution.</p> <p>The Chairperson pointed out that the Police report only refers to crime reported in our Community Council area whereas the conviction report is for the whole of East Renfrewshire.</p> <p>East Renfrewshire does, however, have the lowest level of crime in the whole of mainland Scotland.</p> <p>For more detailed information use the link below to the Police and Fire Cabinet report:</p> <p><a href="https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/cabinet-police-and-fire-130624">https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/cabinet-police-and-fire-130624</a></p> <p>Peter to send Steve/Janet a copy of the report he referred to. Janet to forward to the Councillors.</p>	<p>Peter to send copy report to Janet for forwarding to Cllrs.</p>
<p><b>GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS</b></p>	<p><b>GDPR Guidance</b></p> <p>Andrew Reid issued an email confirming that MECC does not have to be registered with the ICO. Andrew offered MECC members the opportunity to attend a briefing session if they wish to learn more about GDPR.</p> <p>Basic principles for Data Protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always be careful when emailing contacts other than our members - using BCC to avoid sharing their personal email address.</li> <li>• MECC members have all agreed to share their email address with other members.</li> <li>• Always delete past members' contact details, unless they agree to continue receiving correspondence from MECC.</li> </ul> <p>The Secretary confirmed that she adheres to GDPR guidance in respect of the above.</p>	
<p><b>ALLOCATION OF SCHOOL PLACES</b></p>	<p>A member of the public had emailed MECC complaining about the allocation of school places for her children, who are all at different schools in East Renfrewshire, making the school run very challenging.</p> <p>Cllr Bamforth explained the very rigorous process East</p>	



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	<p>Renfrewshire Council applies to the allocation of school places.</p> <p>Places at schools are firstly allocated to children living within the catchment area of each school. Each residential property located within East Renfrewshire has a "catchment" non-denominational and Roman Catholic primary and secondary school assigned to it.</p> <p>The location of the property of the parent/carer with whom the child resides is used to determine the local school catchment areas for the child.</p> <p>Although the Council aims to provide enough places for all children at their preferred catchment primary and secondary school, living within the delineated catchment area of a school does not guarantee a child a place at a catchment school.</p> <p>If any school places are available after placement of catchment children, schools may reserve about 10 spaces for children moving into a catchment area during the school year. In the event that the number of applications from catchment pupils is greater than the number of places available at that stage in the catchment school, all catchment applications will be processed as placing requests with registration places allocated based on the Council's published placing request priorities.</p> <p>It is only when any spaces are still available that a "Placement Request" may be made for a pupil not living within a catchment area.</p> <p>East Renfrewshire residents will be considered first, then if any places remain, residents from other areas will be considered.</p> <p>MCHS has not taken any placing requests from outwith East Renfrewshire for several years.</p> <p>Janet to forward school catchment email to Cllr Bamforth.</p> <p>Cllr. Edlin commented it is almost impossible to get a placing request if you live out with East Renfrewshire. Priority has to go to catchment. However there is an appeals panel.</p> <p>St Ninian's catchment area is wider. If more than catchment children apply to St Ninians, because it is a Catholic School, a Baptismal Certificate will be required.</p> <p>ERC are very diligent about ensuring children live in the catchment area. If there's doubt about residency, they</p>	<p>Janet forward email to Cllr Bamforth</p>
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	<p>will actually visit the home to ensure children are residents.</p> <p>If it is suspected that someone doesn't live in the catchment area, they can be anonymously reported to the Education Department, who will investigate.</p> <p>Occasionally a placement request for a child to remain may be granted.</p> <p>The Chairperson advised LDP2 stated in order to accommodate more housing they would have to build a new school. At the last planning round ERC could not issue more land for housing because of the lack of school places.</p> <p>Cllr Edlin advised under LDP3 more land will become designated for housing and schools. There will have to be a contract with a developer to build one new secondary and two new primary schools before 2030.</p> <p>The Vice Chairperson asked if ERC fill all the schools to capacity.</p> <p>Cllr Edlin said ERC cannot overfill a school, if they go over the maximum pupils by even one child they have to employ an additional teacher.</p> <p>Janet to suggest the lady contacts the Education Department who may be able to provide a fuller response.</p>	
<p><b>PARKING IN AYR ROAD BICYCLE LANE</b></p>	<p>A member of the public contacted MECC with a complaint about the illegal parking in the Ayr Road cycle lane.</p> <p>He provided images of the cars parked in the cycle lane and also an image of a lady having to push her pram in the road to get past cars parked wholly on the pavement.</p> <p>It is an offence to park in a cycle lane with a solid white line at its edge as stated in the Highway Code. It is just that ERC does seem to enforce the offence at present.</p> <p>It is a legal requirement that if parking on a pavement is undertaken, a space of a minimum of 1.5m width must be available to pedestrians.</p> <p>He also contacted the for guidance and received the following response:</p> <p>"A Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) scheme is in place in East Renfrewshire which allows parking attendants to issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to</p>	



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anyone not following parking rules.

In areas with DPE, stationary traffic offences cease to be criminal offences enforced by the police and instead become civil penalties enforced by the local authority. There are no Traffic Regulation Orders in place by East Renfrewshire Council in relation to this cycle lane.

As you point out below the only offence we can consider (if appropriate) in relation to this cycle lane relies on officers seeing a vehicle cross the solid white line.

Parking on a pavement and causing an obstruction is an offence. "

Comments and suggestions:

It was noted that Cllr. Bamforth is pushing to get a TRO in place so that anyone parking in the cycle lane can be penalised, however in order to introduce a TRO there has to be a public consultation which can take 6 to 9 months..

She commented that there was a proposal to introduce a kerb to segregate the cycle lane from the road, but this couldn't be implemented because the bin lorries could not cross the kerb and would obstruct the carriageway.

MECC requests that our Councillors urgently take action and press for a TRO in relation to this cycle lane.

Could ERC introduce double yellow lines, which can be enforced?

Some cars are parked there all day – they must be owned by shop workers. There is no deterrent to them parking in this lane.

Cllr. Edlin commented that ERC currently employs about 20 traffic wardens and would have to employ more to enforce a TRO which would cost money.

Although ERC Wardens issue parking tickets, it was interesting to note that Glasgow City council actually deal with parking tickets on behalf of ERC.

How do we resolve this issue?

- Introduce a TRO
- Introduce double yellow lines
- Make the road a 'Freeway'
- Colour the cycle lane red

Gerald pointed out that the Avenue are now charging fees for long term parking in the lower ground car park. Any parking over 4 hours is charged at £1.70 for the day.

MECC to write to ERC requesting introduction of a TRO.



<p><b>ESTATE AGENT BOARDS</b></p>	<p><b>Estate Agent Board Clutter</b></p> <p>Residents in Newton Grove have asked MECC for assistance in asking the Council to remove the clutter of Estate Agent boards in Eaglesham Road across from Newton Grove.</p> <p>The estate agent boards are erected there pointing to Newton Grove and blocking sightlines.</p> <p>These boards are simply advertising litter, some of which are dangerously placed.</p> <p>Is there anything the council can do about this?</p> <p>Can the agents only place a board on the property they are selling?</p> <p>Cllr. Bamforth stated there is a policy of no advertising on public roads and street furniture.</p> <p>There is a form on ERC's website to report this to Roads Dept. who would come and take them down or ask the estate agent to remove.</p> <p>John commented that even once a house is sold the signs are not removed for months.</p> <p>John to provide Cllr. Edlin a list of streets where the problem lies.</p>	<p>John to provide Cllr Edlin a list of streets</p>
<p><b>SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p>	<p><b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b></p> <p>Weekly Planning Applications Circulated for Review:</p> <p>6th September</p> <p>13th September</p> <p>27th September</p> <p>There were no objections to any of the recent planning applications</p> <p>MECC received notifications of the following licence applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Late Hours Catering - A &amp; A Bros, 184 Fenwick Road Giffnock</li><li>• Second Hand Dealer Licence - Lochdales Coins Ltd</li><li>• Parklands Public Procession - Remembrance Day</li></ul> <p>No objections</p> <p><b>BROOM PARK</b></p> <p>David Buchanan provided an update:</p> <p>The manhole cover has still not been sorted. Sam Ibbot has been emailed for progress update.</p>	



	<p>Adrian Baines advised all dead trees and shrubs have been removed.</p> <p>A general tidy up with dogwood pruning will take place during autumn and winter.</p> <p>The second picnic bench has been installed and is being well used.</p> <p>David to contact Andrew Reid about the unpaid work scheme for help in clearing vegetation along the lane, where elderly residents are unable to do this for themselves.</p> <p>Jane advised the dead broken tree in Shawwood Greenspace has been removed.</p> <p><b>MCHS Running Track</b></p> <p>The Chairperson reported that one panel of the fence around the new facility has been cut out and removed. He has written and reported this to Parks Department and received no response as yet.</p> <p>Trish spoke to some young people who have gained access to the running track and were using it for the intended purpose - it's a shame that residents who wish to use this facility for exercise cannot do so because it is locked and youngsters cannot use it at weekends.</p> <p>Concern was expressed about children climbing the high fence to gain access which could be very dangerous.</p> <p>Cllr Edlin said planning was granted subject to the conditions that the facility would only be open during school hours for pupils and be locked after 7pm at night and at weekends.</p> <p>It was suggested that residents could set up a petition.</p> <p>David said unfortunately there is a lot of mess created by the youths who meet there and abuse the facility.</p> <p>Cllr. Bamforth said sadly this is why all the MUGA's are locked at night because youths abuse them, they break bottles etc. They are very expensive to repair if the surface is damaged.</p> <p>This facility is for school use only. There are no changing rooms or public toilets. It has always been the school playing fields, never a public park area.</p>	
<b>LITTER PICKS</b>	<p><b>Suggested dates</b></p> <p>The Vice Chairperson advised that our last litter pick in Shawwood Greenspace collected 7 bags of rubbish.</p> <p>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Broom Park – Meeting in Broom Shops car park at 11am</p>	



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	<p>5th October 2024, 2nd November 2024, 7th December 2024, 1st February 2025, 1st March 2025, 5th April 2025, 3rd May 2025</p> <p>Jane suggested tidying up the layby on the A77 at Loganswell farm which is very unsightly. Returning any bags collected to William.</p>	
<b>AOCB</b>	<p><b>Healthy Planet, Healthy People</b> – The Royal Society of Edinburgh in support of Williamson Trust are providing up to £5,000 in funding. Closing date for applications 5th December 2024 MECC members were asked to think about possible projects.</p> <p><b>GCC Dissolution</b> The Vice Chairperson advised MECC members of the Dissolution of Giffnock Community Council due to membership falling below the minimum of 10.</p> <p><b>Buses campaign update</b> The Chairperson advised there has been a Change in attitude of SPT in that they have scrapped plans to initiate a Bus Service Improvement Partnership and to rather take bus services back into public control through a franchising and the setting up of a new municipal operator. There is a Petition to sign: <a href="https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2116">https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2116</a></p> <p><b>LDP3</b> The Chairperson reported that East Renfrewshire has accepted the LDP3 evidence report and sent it to the Scottish Government for comment or approval.  Some bullet points have been provided. MECC members were asked to review with a view to commenting.  Link to the LDP3 report below: <a href="https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/ldp3">https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/ldp3</a></p> <p><b>LDP 3 Housing</b> Projected completion rate and demand are very different The demand in ERC is so high because of excellent schools.  Cllr. Edlin said the whole council have been considering LDP3. There will be consultations over at least the next two years.</p>	





ERC believe the Government's proposed number of new builds is far too high and submitted an evidence report with a figure of 3,100 new houses. This was arrived at by professional planners based on evidence and land available. The evidence report will go to a professional assessor within the Scottish Government.

The Chairperson proposed a motion that several MECC members discuss and formulate a response. Cllr. Edlin advised this is probably too early, they are not taking evidence from other sources yet.

### **Scottish Water Survey link**

MECC members were asked to complete the Scottish Water Survey -link below:

<https://survey.websurveycreator.com/s/scem23>

### **Community Council Chairs meeting**

The Chairperson reported the CC Chairs met with John Shelton from ERC environment on 25<sup>th</sup> September. The main topic of discussion was the NMTZ Consultation which closed in June 24

NMTZ speed limits will only apply to non-designated residential roads. The Ayr Road will not be included in the 20mph speed reduction.

There is funding of approximately £300K so that each zone will receive £20K to increase road signage.

They have changed the 5 participatory budgeting zones where a major issue has been identified as far as traffic is concerned. Broom Road East will now be included.

### **Restart a Heart Month.**

MECC members have been invited to attend CPR training sessions on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at either:

- Barrhead Community Fire station 1030 –1230hrs
- Clarkston Community Fire station 1400 –1600hrs

Attendees:

William Maxwell  
Jane Royston  
Janet Olverman  
David Buchanan  
Elnara Alderson  
Graeme Paterson

### **Mearns Castle North Car Park (nearest to traffic lights)**

Anne Lithgow has been asked by neighbours to raise the problem of cars parking in the evening at the north car



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	<p>park causing a disturbance to neighbours. Honking horns, revving engines, loud music, racing speeding cars etc.</p> <p>Residents were advised to Call 101 and ask Police to assist.</p> <p>It was suggested that the gate could be locked at night.</p>	
<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November, 7pm in Mearns Castle High School	
	<p>With there being no further business, the Vice Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting</p>	