



Mearns East
Community Council

MEETING OF	Mearns East Community Council	
HELD ON	Tuesday 5 th November 2024 @ 7.00pm in Mearns Castle High School	
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
	<p>In attendance: William Maxwell (Chairperson), Steve Rutherford (Vice Chairperson), Janet Olverman (Secretary), Jane Royston (Treasurer), Elnara Alderson, Susan Brodie, Anne Lithgow, Joan Macintosh, John Morrison</p> <p>Also Present: Cllr Paul Edlin, Graeme Paterson, Amjad Ismail, Junaid Shakoor, Margaret Hinchliffe, Mark Turnbull, James Sandeman, Peter Barry, Lee Bawdon</p>	
APOLOGIES	Gerald Edwards, Cllr Caroline Bamforth, David Buchanan, Andrew Reid, Doug Pitt	
ITEM DISCUSSED		Action Points
APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF MEETINGS	<p>Minute of MECC meeting dated 1st October 2024</p> <p>Upon agreement by members of the MECC, William Maxwell proposed the Draft Minute as a true record of the meeting dated 1st October 2024 and was seconded by Jane Royston</p>	
MATTERS ARISING/	<p>Estate Agent Boards</p> <p>A number of complaints have been made recently to members of MECC concerning the high number of Estate Agents advertising boards left lying at many sites within the area covered by this community council when boards are apparently just discarded at random.</p> <p>John commented that asking ERC to take down all these signs would be a waste of their time and tax-payer's money.</p> <p>Cllr Edlin suggested it would be better to write to the Estate Agents and ask them to remove these signs and not to erect signs in places obscuring sight lines for road users.</p> <p>The Chairperson pointed out that fixing them to street furniture is an offence and these should be reported to the Council for removal.</p> <p>Nicol Estate Agent had been contacted about removing their boards, but said they haven't got round to collecting these boards because there is a backlog.</p> <p>Cllr. Edlin offered to write to the relevant department at the Council asking them to write to estate agents asking them to cease erecting and remove the boards etc. from street furniture, as such attachments to street furniture</p>	<p>Cllr Edlin write letter to Council</p> <p>William to also write letter</p>



	are illegal. MECC will also write a strongly worded letter.	
POLICE REPORT	<p>Police were unable to attend due to Bonfire Night commitments but had submitted a written report for the period 1st October to 5th November 2024.</p> <p>The Chairperson read out the main points:</p> <p>CRIMES OF NOTE & CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE</p> <p>Crime levels in our community council area remain low in the past month.</p> <p>Ongoing issues with youth disorder continue to be a priority for the local community policing team, they are working closely with youth services to address this issue.</p> <p>Constituents are encouraged to report any anti-social behaviour they may experience. It is asked that constituents are reminded of the importance of home and property security, and it is urged that any suspicious behaviour be reported to Police because if this is not done there will be no record of any such incident.</p> <p>Crimes reported during the period 1st October to 5th November 2024 in our area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One female was arrested and charged with threatening and abusive behaviour• Two reports of fraud were made• Six reports of Theft by Shoplifting and one Theft by Housebreaking were reported• Five thefts of fuel were also reported.• One instance of Assault was reported• Two instances of Vandalism were reported in the MECC area• Three drivers were arrested during this time for driving whilst intoxicated with alcohol <p>Crime clear up rates - discussion</p> <p>Cllr Bamforth wrote to CI Gaillie, the local area Commander, and received a detailed response.</p> <p>The Chairperson read out the email.</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>Vandalisms and Theft by Shoplifting – Both of these crimes are amongst the largest ‘volume’ crimes in East Renfrewshire. Both crime types are also notoriously difficult to detect without CCTV or eyewitness evidence. Unfortunately, public space CCTV in East Renfrewshire is limited due to its geographical spread and our retailers</p>	



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	<p>are stretched when trying to prioritise security.</p> <p>Serious Offences –it is reassuring to know that in 2023/24 East Renfrewshire was above the national average clear up rate for Sex Crimes and Serious Assaults.</p> <p>East Dumbartonshire Comparison – It was highlighted that East Dunbartonshire (ED) is a comparable area and has a better clear up rate than East Renfrewshire (ER).</p> <p>ED’s clear up rate is impacted by having a prison located within its area. Unfortunately, prisons are not immune to crime and as such many offences are reported from there. A very high percentage of offences committed in a prison will be detected due to the enclosed and monitored environment.</p> <p>CI Gaillie said the clear up rates are a topic of close scrutiny and ED’s Policing model is being reviewed to see if there is a learning opportunity.</p> <p>The Chairperson displayed an extract from the last cabinet meeting minute which showed conviction rates throughout East Renfrewshire.</p> <p>To view the data please click the link below: https://datamap-scotland.co.uk/scotland-reported-crime-data/east-renfrewshire-council-ward-crime-map/</p> <p>It was noted that Police numbers have decreased by 2% since March 2023 and 7% since 2013.</p> <p>Chairperson to write to CI Gallie asking for more detailed figures if available.</p> <p>MECC to revisit this topic when the Police are present at our next meeting.</p>	<p>William write to CI Gaillie</p>
<p>COMMUNITY COUNCIL TRAINING</p>	<p>Nothing received this month.</p>	
<p>PARKING NEWTON MEARNS ISLAMIC CENTRE</p>	<p>Parking is an ongoing concern in the streets surrounding the Muslim Centre, and a member of the public has publicly commented that driveways of adjacent properties may be blocked.</p> <p>Two Islamic Centre members were present at our meeting and advised that this happens very rarely. However if blockage does occur, Islamic members do their best to deal with the issue immediately. Attendees of Muslim meetings are repeatedly asked to park considerately and to not double park or obstruct driveways. They also made the point that the Islamic Centre had not been contacted directly by the MECC to discuss this issue.</p>	



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	<p>For the past three months, the Islamic Centre has employed two parking wardens to monitor parking of vehicles in the area adjacent to the Muslim Centre. They are very conscious of the parking issues and are taking the matter very seriously. The wardens have been taking photos of badly parked cars and displaying these images up on the screen in the Islamic Centre to name and shame the perpetrators. These are immediately asked to move their car, even to the extent of leaving the meeting to do so. The TV screen announcements have been broadcast for at least 18 months.</p> <p>The Islamic centre is trying very hard to mitigate this problem, and have had dialogue with the Police and ERC parking wardens. So far, about 10 tickets have been issued for illegal parking on double yellow lines.</p> <p>The Islamic Centre has also approached the management at the Avenue and asked for permission for their members to use the main ASDA car park during the month of Ramadan. However, permission was refused. The Avenue did allow them use of the Long stay car park, which is now charged at a rate of £1.70.</p> <p>During the Ramadan evening prayers, the Islamic Centre also runs a minibus service from the long stay car park and from Maidenhill.</p> <p>It was noted that users of the Bowling Club are also guilty of illegal parking.</p> <p>The Imam is very approachable and open to dialogue. Cllr. Edlin offered to facilitate arranging a meeting between the Imam and both members of MECC and a Rabbi sometime in the New Year.</p> <p>In addition, the Islamic Centre representatives extended an invitation to MECC and Cllr Edlin to visit the Islamic Centre to continue discussions.</p>	<p>Cllr Edlin arrange meeting with Imam</p>
<p>CHANGES IN OPERATION OF OUR BANK ACCOUNT</p>	<p>Jane reported she received a letter from the Bank of Scotland to say that the bank are changing our account to a 'Community Account' which will incur a monthly charge of £4.25 - an additional £51 a year.</p> <p>The bank are also proposing charges of various amounts for transactions, although the first 100 transactions are free. This should not affect MECC because our transactions are usually less than this.</p> <p>Jane phoned the bank this morning but they would not change their decision. We have until 13th December to decide what to do. The change will be implemented with effect from 14th January 2025.</p> <p>Jane to research alternative options.</p>	



	<p>It was suggested that we contact voluntary action in Barrhead, who are there to support voluntary groups.</p> <p>The Treasurer raised this matter with the Chairperson and Andrew Reid, to ask if the other CC's are experiencing the same problem.</p> <p>The Chairperson to table this issue for discussion at the next CC Chairs meeting.</p>	
<p>BROWN BIN COLLECTIONS</p>	<p>The Chairperson advised that ERC's proposal to change brown bin collections to once every two weeks has been approved.</p> <p>There will be letters sent out next year when the licence is renewed. The cost of the licence will not decrease.</p> <p>Cllr Edlin said the cost for disposal of garden waste has increased and the grant from the Scottish Government has been cut by £10m a year. This is unfortunately one of the ways ERC are having to save money.</p> <p>Suggestions were made to increase charges, or reduce collections during winter months but ERC still voted to reduce the brown bin service to once a fortnight.</p>	
<p>REPORTS BY SUB-COMMITTEES</p>	<p>PLANNING AND BROOM PARK</p> <p>David Buchanan, has provided a summary:</p> <p>The Chairperson showed an image of a damaged fencing panel surrounding the new MCHS sports pitch, which had been deliberately cut.</p> <p>The previously vandalised panel had been replaced but the damage has reoccurred.</p> <p>This vandalism is costing ERC and tax payers a lot of money.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Is there CCTV in this area?</p> <p>Cllr Edlin said there is a policy to roll out more CCTV cameras and asked MECC to write to Roads Department and/or the Education Department to ask that priority be given to this area.</p> <p>Chairperson to write a letter.</p> <p>Broken Manhole cover</p> <p>David met with Mr. Graham from Scottish Water about filling in the manhole cover at the bottom of Broom Park. Mr Graham said there is some doubt whether it is the responsibility of Scottish Water or their sewage department.</p> <p>David following this up.</p>	<p>William write to Roads Dept about CCTV</p>



Cutting Back of Vegetation

Parks Department have started the process of cutting back overgrown vegetation.

Traffic Considerations

NMTZ's aim to reduce the dominance of traffic where people live; promote more accessible and better connected communities; and help people move around their neighbourhood more easily by healthy and more sustainable modes of transport.

There hasn't been much progress in the implementation of NMTZ's in East Renfrewshire. They are being rolled out over next 5 years.

Overview of LDP3

The Chairperson provided a 22 page summary of LDP3 for MECC members to review and discuss.

The key long-term climate trends for the Glasgow City Region are:

- a) Increasing extreme weather
- b) Heavier rainfall and reduced summer rainfall
- c) Higher average temperatures, with more frequent and extreme heatwaves
- d) Sea level risk and coastal erosion
- e) Increased likelihood of flooding

Carbon emissions by ERC show a 36% reduction from baseline 2019/20 but ERC will fail to achieve net zero by 2045.

The figures only show ERC's emissions. Emissions from the community are likely to be far greater.

The core priorities of the Vision for the Future include maintaining excellent educational standards, closing the poverty related attainment gap, improving young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Further expansion within East Renfrewshire will not be possible in most areas, as detailed in the projected estate section, without extending current educational establishments or establishing new schools.

The main problem is the lack of land available for schools and housing.

Cllr Edlin advised that land will be released but it has not yet been decided where that land will be.

The Chairperson pointed out that the UK's emissions are far smaller than other G7 countries like China and the



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	USA.	
LOVE TO RIDE	Janet to write to Bronte Tierney, Love to Ride's Community Engagement Manager, and invite her to our December meeting	Janet write to Bronte
PLANNING APPLICATIONS	<p>New Eastwood Park Leisure Centre. Planning Application 2024/0502/TP Demolition of existing building and erection of new building to house a leisure centre, theatre, local event and learning space with landscaping, parking and associated works.</p> <p>The current facility is outdated and costs a lot of money to maintain.</p> <p>The new facility will include a main pool; learner pool; café, a four-court games hall; fitness suite, two fitness studios, a spin studio and a state of the art theatre and local events space. It was noted there will not be a library.</p> <p>The cost will be £56m funded by Capital Funds and use of a long-term borrowing commitment. Not out of our council tax.</p> <p>Comments about the outward appearance were fairly negative but the facilities look good and will be a great asset to the community.</p> <p>MECC members can comment on this application if they wish.</p> <p>Demolition of cottage in Broom Road. 2024/0513/TP The bungalow has been left to deteriorate to such an extent it needs to be replaced.</p> <p>The nearby residents of Hendon Court are concerned that, due to the narrow road, they will be inconvenienced by the building works vehicles.</p> <p>The concerned residents should comment on this application and ask that the Planning Department to ensure the developer will implement suitable traffic control. Also that all Tree Preservation Orders must be observed.</p>	
LITTER PICKS	<p>Suggested dates The Chairperson advised that our litter pick on Saturday 2nd November, in the Mearns Kirk Church area, collected 6 bags of rubbish and he thanked those MECC members who attended.</p>	



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	<p>Our next litter pick will be held on: 7th December 2024, -location tba</p> <p>Future dates: 1st February 2025, 1st March 2025, 5th April 2025, 3rd May 2025 All on Saturday mornings 11am – 12 Noon</p> <p>The Chairperson has received an email from MCHS advising dates arranged for school litter picks</p> <p>Monday 18th November 11:30-12:20 (KM) Tuesday 26th November 13:05 – 13:55 (IR) Monday 9th December 13:55 – 14:45 (KM) Thurs 19th December 11:30 – 12:20 (IR) MECC members were asked to assist if they are available.</p> <p>Janet to email Amjad and Junaid dates.</p>	<p>Janet email Amjad and Junaid</p>
<p>AOCB</p>	<p>Fireworks Residents complained about the fireworks being set off at very antisocial hours and on days well before bonfire night.</p> <p>The Chairperson advised that as a Community Council we can apply to have a firework exclusion zone set up. Maybe excluding the parks?</p> <p>Fireworks are only allowed to be set off between 4th and 11th November, New Year’s Eve, the night of the Chinese New Year and Diwali.</p>	
<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>Tuesday 3rd December, 7-9pm in Mearns Castle High School. Attendees are invited to join us after this meeting for a festive mince pie and glass of fizz (alcohol free of course!)</p> <p>This meeting will be held in a classroom</p>	
	<p>With there being no further business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting</p>	