



Mearns East
Community Council

MEETING OF	Mearns East Community Council	
HELD ON	Tuesday 3 rd December 2024 @ 7.00pm in Mearns Castle High School	
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	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, John Morrison, Doug Pitt, Gerald Edwards, David Buchanan</p> <p>Also Present: Cllr Paul Edlin, Cllr. Andrew Anderson, Bronte Tierney (Love to Ride), Graeme Paterson, Mark Turnbull, James Sandeman, Peter Barry</p>	
APOLOGIES	Elnara Alderson, Cllr Bamforth	
ITEM DISCUSSED		Action Points
APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF MEETINGS	<p>Minute of MECC meeting dated 5th November 2024</p> <p>Upon agreement by members of the MECC, Steve Rutherford proposed the Draft Minute as a true record of the meeting dated 5th November 2024 and was seconded by William Maxwell</p>	
MATTERS ARISING/	<p>Jane thanked William for putting together a comprehensive objection to the traffic management arrangements and tree protection for the Broom Road Cottage planning application.</p> <p>The Chairperson wrote to Chief Inspector Gaillie asking for information about crime clear up rates in East Renfrewshire.</p> <p>The Chairperson wrote to ERC Roads Dept. about the possible installation of CCTV at Broom Park and is awaiting a response.</p>	
POLICE REPORT	<p>Police report for the period 6th November to 30th November 2024</p> <p>The Police were unable to attend:</p> <p>The Vice Chairperson read out the main points:</p> <p>“CRIMES OF NOTE & CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE</p> <p>Crime levels in your community council area remain low in the past month.</p> <p>Ongoing issues with youth disorder, continue to be a priority for your local community policing team, they are working closely with youth services to tackle this issue.</p> <p>Constituents are encouraged to report any anti-social</p>	



Mearns East
Community Council

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 is reported to Police. The community's continued engagement allows us to tailor the best policing response to the community.

- Five reports of fraud were made during this time period.
- Four thefts of fuel were reported in this time and one other theft.
- Three males were arrested and charged with being found in the curtilage of a property with intent to commit crime along with other various offences.
- One instance of Assault was reported during this time.
- One instance of Vandalism was reported in your area in this time.
- One driver was arrested for driving whilst under the influence and dangerous driving."

The Chairperson provided feedback on the response from Chief Inspector Gaillie, the local area Commander.

Cllr Bamforth had also written to CI Gaillie. The Chairperson read out the response to Cllr Bamforth.

The Chairperson asked if MECC members wish to ask CI Gaillie to attend one of our meetings.

Cllr Edlin suggested it might prove problematical inviting the most senior police officer to come and speak to us, where he has already provided a response and probably won't be able to tell us anything different about the crime statistics.

We should remember that our Community Council area has the lowest crime rate in East Renfrewshire.

Cllr Anderson advised that Brian Eaglesham should be the person to invite to discuss this matter, not CI Gaillie.

The Council Fire and Police cabinet meetings are platforms where we can interrogate them about these matters.

The Police and Fire cabinet report provides more detailed statistics and is available on ERC's website.

MECC decided not to pursue further correspondence with CI Gaillie.



<p>COMMUNITY COUNCIL TRAINING</p>	<p>Community Engagement How can Community Councils work together in 2025 to highlight the role and the presence of Community Councils across East Renfrewshire?</p> <p>Andrew Reid advised that the CEO of East Renfrewshire, Steve Quinn, is keen to highlight the role of CCs within East Renfrewshire.</p> <p>MECCs membership is strong, but other Community Councils are struggling with membership. ERC are aiming to increase CC members and want to attract more diversity to the membership.</p> <p>Community Learning and Development (CL&D) is planning to put out some materials in the new year. ERC would like CCs to work in conjunction with CL&D and ask for two people from each CC to sit on a steering group to highlight the working of CCs.</p> <p>The CEO is keen for the Council to work better for the community and is looking to CCs to let them know what the people want.</p> <p>CC collaboration can have an impact on various applications for funding etc.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>CCs are supposed to have an impact on the decision making of ERC. Are ERC officers going to take part in this meeting so they can explain to CCs what authority we have to effect change?</p> <p>Andrew said this could be one of the topics for discussion at these meetings.</p> <p>The Chairperson said we used to have meetings every six months or so with representatives from all CCs, chaired by Vincent McCulloch. These meetings were really useful for sharing ideas and learning from more experienced CC members.</p> <p>The Chairperson advised he has set up a meeting of Chairs of CCs and managed to hold one so far. Another meeting is arranged for January. These meetings are intended to explore common grounds or concerns in the CC neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Possible reasons for lack of members of CCs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is an opinion that there is no point because we cannot affect change.	
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Mearns East
Community Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People are too busy working to commit the time required. Most members of MECC are retired.• Unless there is something specific on the horizon, residents in the MECC area are generally content with the way things are.• The Scottish Government has taken so many decisions away from Councils that we feel we have no influence at all through ERC to the Scottish Govt., although there is a statutory right for CCs to be consulted on planning, licencing etc. <p>The Chairperson suggested a Community Council newsletter would be a good idea in order to promote our activities and meetings. Would there be funding for this?</p> <p>Andrew said there is a member of staff who will be attending the steering group who could help with this.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Chairperson invite the CL&D supervisor to attend the CC Chairs meeting in January, along with Andrew Reid, who would attend as an observer.</p>	
LOVE TO RIDE	<p>Presentation by Bronte Tierny, Community Engagement Manager, Love to Ride</p> <p>Love to Ride's main objective is to encourage more people to ride bikes. Their website (link below) provides lots of information about how to start riding safely. There's an app to log your rides and rate the route. They work alongside ERC to provide incentives to promote active travel.</p> <p>If, when you're out riding, you notice a junction that is not safe, contact Love to Ride who can follow up the problem.</p> <p>Campaigns run throughout the year with various prizes.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to engage with other people on the platform. You can set up a profile, post pictures etc.</p> <p>Their Winter Wheelers campaign which runs from 1st December to January 2025 focusses on shorter journeys and how to ride safely in the winter.</p> <p>Their platform has an interactive map showing local bike routes, bike shops, events etc.</p>	



Mearns East
Community Council

	<p>Doug asked that the group provides education for cyclists behaving properly as well.</p> <p>John said he does not cycle with others. Anyone can do a park run, but there is not a cycling equivalent.</p> <p>Jim French, part of East Renfrewshire cyclists takes groups at the windfarm.</p> <p>Link to the Love to Ride website below:</p> <p>https://www.lovetoride.net/scotland?locale=en-GB</p> <p>The Vice Chairperson thanked Bronte for her informative presentation.</p>	
PARKING NEWTON MEARNS ISLAMIC CENTRE	<p>Cllr Edlin reported he has arranged a meeting on 23rd January at 7pm in the Islamic Centre - all members of MECC are welcome to attend. This will be an informal meeting with an opportunity to ask questions.</p>	
ESTATE AGENT BOARDS	<p>The Chairperson wrote a circular letter to all estate agents in Newton Mearns but only received an acknowledgement from one who agreed to remove their old boards. The MECC request has been ignored by all the other major agents.</p> <p>Cllr Edlin wrote a letter to the council and will report any response at the next meeting. They are looking into this problem but do not have the resources to police it.</p> <p>It is illegal for estate agents to attach signs to street furniture. The agents can be fined for this offence.</p> <p>MECC ask that ERC write to all the estate agents and tell them to stop erecting their signs anywhere other than on the actual property for sale.</p>	
USE OF FIREWORKS	<p>The misuse of fireworks has been discussed at a previous meeting.</p> <p>The Chairperson explained the various rules.</p> <p>Category 1 fireworks include small sparklers, Christmas crackers and party poppers.</p> <p>Categories 2 and 3 are 'adult' fireworks include rockets and Roman candles and can only be used by persons over 18 years of age.</p> <p>Category 4 fireworks may not be purchased by members of the public. These fireworks may only be purchased by and used by professional organisers of public displays.</p>	



	<p>It is against the law to set off fireworks in a public place such as a park.</p> <p>You can only set off 'adult' fireworks between the hours of 6pm and 11pm</p> <p>Exceptions are:</p> <p>Bonfire Night (November 5th) when the cut off is Midnight.</p> <p>New Year, Diwali, and Chinese New Year when the cut off is 1am.</p> <p>Infringement of this law can result in a £5k fine or imprisonment for up to 6 months.</p> <p>Firework Control Zone</p> <p>MECC have been approached to assist in the setting up of Firework Control Zones in both Broom Park and Shawwood Greenspace.</p> <p>MECC can apply to set up a Firework Control Zone. Nobody in this area will be allowed to use them at all, even in their private gardens. We are aware that this might prove unpopular.</p> <p>In order to gauge general public opinion, MECC should undertake a widespread consultation of the area concerned.</p> <p>We also have concerns about the illegal use of fireworks in Broom park. MECC could contact police prior to November 5th and ask for them to enforce the act in Broom Park.</p> <p>Residents should call the police if they see illegal use of fireworks.</p> <p>It was agreed that MECC explore the possibility of setting up a pilot FCZ.</p> <p>Email Stephen.bell@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk</p>	
<p>REPORTS BY SUB-COMMITTEES</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>There was no input required for any of the planning applications circulated last month.</p> <p>The Barrhead Road flats application has been approved.</p> <p>Broom Park</p> <p>David Buchanan provided a summary:</p> <p>Manhole cover</p> <p>He has spoken to Scottish Water who are still undecided whether it is a Scottish Water issue or not. David will</p>	



	<p>keep on the case.</p> <p>David reported that a couple of the old benches in Broom Park have been vandalised with graffiti.</p> <p>It was suggested he write to ERC Parks Department, noting the defacement and ask can they please attend to it. Explore the possibility of using community payback to attend to this.</p> <p>David asked if there are any improvements in our area we can think of.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bin nearer to picnic benches would be good and help with littering around the play area. 	
<p>LITTER PICKS</p>	<p>7th December 2024, location - Broom Church car park 11am</p> <p>Future dates: 1st February 2025, 1st March 2025, 5th April 2025, 3rd May 2025</p> <p>Janet email Amjad and Junaid location of litter picks</p>	<p>JO email Amjad and Junaid</p>
<p>AOCB</p>	<p>Community Council Bank Accounts The Treasurer provided an update. MECC are going to be charged in future for use of our bank account. Alternative options with other major banks have been explored but they all charge as well.</p> <p>Cllr Edlin suggested some online banks e.g. Starling Bank, provide this service and it would be worth looking into them.</p> <p>Jane agreed to look further into this matter but if no alternative can be found we will have to leave the account as it is and forfeit the £50 a year for this service.</p> <p>New Commonplace Questionnaire The Chairperson had contributed to a few meetings in Barrhead and advised this does not apply to our CC area.</p> <p>MCHS litter picks MECC to provide feedback to the school how disappointed we were with the lack of pupil support for the litter pick held at the school on Tuesday 26th November. We are very keen to encourage pupils to be responsible.</p>	



Mearns East
Community Council

	<p>Brown bins – Report in Barrhead News. Following the announcement of ERC’s reduction in our Brown bin service, can they provide a cheaper deal for a second bin?</p> <p>The ERC website states: “Households can purchase an additional permit and have two bins emptied each week. The cost of the additional permit is £114.84 which includes £52.20 for the permit and £62.64 for a new brown bin. This will be limited to 5,000 households. If you already have a spare brown bin and it's in good working order, you don't need to purchase a second bin and can order an additional permit for £52.20.”</p>	
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	Tuesday 4 th February, 7-9pm in Mearns Castle High School.	
	<p>With there being no further business, the Vice Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting</p> <p>Attendees were invited to join us after this meeting for a festive mince pie and glass of fizz (alcohol free of course!)</p>	