



MEETING OF	Broom, Kirkhill, & Mearns Kirk, Community Council	
HELD ON	Monday 15 th April 2019 @ 7pm in Mearns Castle High School	
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
RECORDING OF MEMBERS PRESENT	<p>An attendance sheet was circulated.</p> <p>In attendance: Will Maxwell (Chairperson), Doug Pitt (Vice Chairperson), Jane Royston (Treasurer), Janet Olverman (Secretary), Robert Jones, Ron Gimby, Zhada Robertson, Bev Brown</p> <p>Also present:</p> <p>Cllr Tony Buchanan</p> <p>Cllr Caroline Bamforth</p> <p>Cllr Barbara Grant</p> <p>Cllr Colm Merrick</p> <p>Vincent McCulloch, ERC Community Council Liaison Officer</p>	
APOLOGIES	Cllr Jim Swift	
ITEM DISCUSSED		Action Points
MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING: MATTERS ARISING	<p>Minute of the Meeting 18th March 2019</p> <p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Cllr Bamforth made some comments and corrections to the Minute as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The timescale for the three new schools is by 2029 not 2024 2. The £100,000 Community choices programme was endorsed by COSLA and has already been allocated to Auchenbach, Barrhead, Neilston and Thornliebank this year. It is unlikely that Newton Mearns will be included in this as this area is too high on the SIMD scale. 3. Education - Roughly 70% of the Education cost is for salaries, which is ring-fenced, to maintain teacher numbers. Local Authorities can't cut costs by reducing the number of teachers. This is a policy dictated by the Scottish Government. 4. Community Liaison workshops on the school run. Cllr Bamforth attended one of the workshops, which was attended by many Parent Council groups. This was a pre-consultation on the consultation. The idea was to gather concerns, ideas, and proposals and use this to form the consultation, to reflect local issues. Residents will be encouraged to participate 	<p>Janet to update the Minute and recirculate for approval at the AGM in May</p>



	<p>in the eventual Consultation. All local schools already have junior road safety officers, to try to get the message across to parents. Beat the Street was a great success and is being used to further promote the reduction of cars around schools, by encouraging children to walk. There have been many meetings in local schools, which Cllrs have attended, where the issue of changing drivers (parents) behaviour has been discussed.</p> <p>5. Pavements. – There is no pavement on one side of Waterfoot Road on the way up to Mearns Castle High School and the new St Clare’s and Calderwood Lodge Primary School. It would have been prohibitively expensive, if not impossible, to buy land from local farmers and take land from the cemetery, to build a pavement on the other side of Waterfoot road. It would also have added time to construction and disruption to traffic using Waterfoot Road. The new Maidenhill Primary School has been designed with safe paths and walking routes.</p> <p>6. School buses. ERC provides transport from home to school for all Primary children if they live over 2 miles from the school and High School if living over 3 miles, as well as those who do not have a safe route. This exceeds the statutory requirements which only go up to the age of 8.</p> <p>7. Travel behaviour workshop. Safe walking routes are included in all new developments, including Maidenhill, and an extended bus route is being planned to service Maidenhill. Whether this will continue after the 2 years will depend on usage. As far as shops are concerned, Cllr Bamforth has had discussions with planners, as the issue of large developments with no local shops has been highlighted.</p> <p>The Chairperson asked Janet to modify the minute and resubmit at the next meeting in May for final approval.</p>	
<p>ADDRESS BY CLLR. TONY BUCHANAN</p>	<p>The Chairperson introduced Cllr Tony Buchanan who had agreed to answer questions which had been submitted from Community Councils</p> <p>The Chairperson had submitted the four questions to Cllr Buchanan to assist with his preparation for the meeting.</p> <p>Question 1 from Giffnock Community Council</p> <p>1) “At the full Council Meeting on 31st October 2018, ERC formally agreed to enter into discussions and negotiation with Advance Construction (Scotland)</p>	



regarding the future of Braidbar Quarry. Given the importance of such a major potential planning decision, will the Council also enter into parallel discussions with Giffnock Community Council and, through them, the wider Giffnock Community, about the future of the Quarry and Huntly Park?"

Cllr Buchanan responded:

Advance Construction were looking for ERC to agree to work together to develop the site.

There were no formal discussions about possible development on this site.

This site is unsafe and fenced off, although people do ignore the warning signs.

The Director of the Environment advised at that Council meeting that ERC would enter into discussion with Advance Construction on the basis that another report would be brought before ERC should anything constructive come from this discussion.

Discussion is still at a preliminary stage and part of the process of due diligence by ERC is to see if Advance Construction may ever be in a position to proceed with remediation work.

There are immense issues with this site, due to it having huge, flooded caverns, it being overgrown, and there being water and other harmful substances present.

Following the due diligence process ERC would decide if they may be able to give Advance Construction permission to access the site and proceed with tests.

Once ERC receive the technical data they would then look at the cost of remediation.

About 12 years ago the company that looked at this site estimated that remediation would cost £20m. Such a cost which would be much greater now.

Cllr Buchanan confirmed that Huntley Park would be protected in the event of development at Braidbar Quarry.

He also confirmed that should Advance Construction achieve the remediation process stage, ERC would engage with the community prior to any development taking place.

Questions from the floor

Ron Gimby asked who Advance Construction are.

Cllr Buchanan responded - They are a construction company dealing with elements of housing, land reclamation and waste management. They have a number of sites around Scotland to deal with their waste strategy. Cllr Buchanan confirmed they deal mainly with land



remediation but are also involved in construction.

Ron Gimby enquired if ERC own the quarry and if so would it not be prudent to obtain quotes from more than one company.

Cllr Buchanan responded that ideally yes, but there are very few companies who deal with this kind of project. If ERC were going to remediate this land it would cost £20m+ so it would be better to consider Advance Construction's ideas because they deal with all the aspects of this kind of development.

Jane Royston enquired if the contamination of the land would be a problem.

Cllr. Buchanan responded that they don't really know any details of any potential contamination, hence further investigation is required.

Doug Pitt asked if, once the remediation work has been completed, would ERC pay Advance Construction for this work or would the latter be expected to recover their costs from the potential sale of buildings such as housing.

Cllr Buchannan advised that the costs of remediation work would be part of the agreement if planning permission was granted.

Cllr Buchanan confirmed that ERC would perform due diligence on any information Advance Construction provide and would also obtain the views of further independent specialists.

Cllr Grant mentioned that there was some minor remediation work done a while ago and about 20 properties were built in Forres avenue, however owners are now unable to sell these properties as they are unable to obtain the rights to a mortgage on these properties.

Question 2 – from BK&MCC

In the 7 National Standards for Community Engagement there is a desire to develop mechanisms of Inclusion, Support, Planning, Working together, Methods, Communication and Impact between Local Authorities/Councils and Community Councils. Can you please explain how ERC apply such mechanisms with regard to Community Councils?

Cllr Buchanan responded:

Community Engagement

Cllr Buchanan said they do this very well. ERC has been a leader in many of those aspects.

In respect of Community Involvement some examples of this were started in ERC which is an area consisting of an amalgamation of various other councils.



Inclusion

An example of inclusion is the unique mixed school campus of St. Claire's and Calderwood Lodge which educates both Catholic and Jewish children as well as 20% of pupils being of the Islamic faith.

All communities work towards inclusion. Community engagement is about communities not just community councils.

Planning

Community planning partnership is the best in the country.

There are Parent Councils in all schools and ERC take feedback from Community Councils. Cllr Buchanan assured the CC that our comments are considered as part of the planning process.

Cllr Buchanan asked that Community Councils work with them to help build trusting relationships across all these bodies.

Cllr Merrick spoke about budgetary meetings and advised that there is another £2m available for communities and he asked that CC's offer suggestions as to how this should be spent in their communities.

Cllr Buchanan confirmed that £600,000 has been spent on roads which had been proposed by the local communities.

Once this money is available CC's will be notified and asked for suggestions.

Bev Brown enquired if the £25,000, which has been allocated for public access defibrillators, has come from this extra funding.

Cllr Buchanan advised that Cllr. Yates has campaigned for public access defibrillators in Barrhead and this has been raised as a council issue, to ensure defibrillators are available on council premises, in all libraries and accessible on the outside of buildings. Cllr Buchanan asked the CC to consider and advise some suitable sites.

Cllr Bamforth advised that ERC have agreed to spend £25,000 and have bought 23 defibrillators. Three of which will be located in Ward 5. ERC have agreed to be responsible for the running costs of the defibrillators

It was noted that Community groups can also apply for separate funding.

Question 3 from BKMCC

The BK&MCC seeks to construct a more effective forum with the governing coalition of East Renfrewshire Council. We are keen to improve the channels of communication, with the objective of achieving positive interaction and discussion with the administration. Cllr Buchanan, do you



support this objective and can you advise how we may improve the dialogue between Community Councils and ERC.

Cllr Buchanan responded:

Relationships with Community Councils

Cllr Buchanan commented that in the past he has attended CC meetings where elected Cllrs have been abused because certain individuals had specific disputes with ERC and were angry.

Planning issues will always be controversial, however if you only pay attention to these issues, you lose sight of other important services.

Doug Pitt suggested that these issues could be dealt with through better dialogue and an improved level of engagement with officials.

Cllr Buchanan advised that there was a huge amount of consultation in relation to LDP1. The Head of Planning attended public meetings and explained why certain decisions had to be made.

Bev Brown commented that recently tensions in this area have increased due to a real concern about the recognised threat to our parks and open spaces. When such areas are threatened people become very emotional and angry.

The Community Council would like to see ERC improve this by greatly improved communication and engagement with protest groups, eg Save Shawwood Greenspace and Save Broom Park and we would like to see ERC being more direct and honest about their plans.

Cllr Buchanan advised he had a meeting with Save Shawwood and had answered as many questions as possible.

It was noted that ERC does not own very much land, because land was sold off prior to the authority coming into existence and that this creates difficulties with Planning procedures.

ERC have acquired some additional sites, eg Nestle and Shanks Park in Barrhead but there is much pressure from developers coming forward with plans, and the Scottish Government are dictating the number of houses Local Authorities are required to build, so unless ERC have a very good reason they cannot stop them. It was noted that only 15-20% of the land area of East Renfrewshire is actually built on.

Ron Gimby advised that accessibility is very important.

Cllr Buchanan stated that ERC have not built on any parks, and that none of the parks we currently enjoy are going to



be built on. They were all removed from the first LDP.

Cllr Buchanan reassured the CC that they are trying to ensure that the planned new leisure centre will be delivered in the appropriate place at Eastwood Park.

ERC are currently working on LDP2 and he anticipates that they are not going to build on any of the current parks. However, Cllr Buchanan stated he can't rule out these being looked at in order to make other decisions to validate their rationale.

Ron Gimby stated that ERC have to communicate with their community to establish the importance of their greenspace to local residents.

Cllr Grant commented that the green spaces in East Renfrewshire are essential to maintain a high quality of life for the people living here.

Cllr Bamforth advised that there are three Ward 5 councillors on the Cross Party Member Officer Working Group for LDP2 so they will do their best to resist building on greenspace.

Cllr Merrick commented that the negative comments on Social Media relating to the Save Shawwood campaign had a detrimental effect upon communications between the community and ERC.

A member of the public commented that the public feel frustrated by the lack of direct communication from ERC and suggested that public notice boards could help to address these issues.

The Communication has to be initiated by the Council.

Cllr Buchanan said that issues can arise when people take selected paragraphs of a report in isolation, rather than reading the full report. Then disinformation is circulated in order to stir up a campaign.

The Community Council enquired if it would be possible to have a list of senior officers and phone numbers so that CC's can speak directly to the relevant officers, this would ensure correct information is received in a timely fashion.

Cllr Buchanan was reluctant to agree and advised that CC's could contact Vincent McCulloch to ask for a response.

Ron Gimby commented that BK&MCC's communications with officers have not always received a response. Specifically letters to the Chief Executive.

Cllr Buchanan advised that the Chief Executive would first have to contact the relevant department for an answer. He suggested copying in the elected Councillors, who would be able to chase up a response in the event of a delay.



Doug Pitt commented that there still appears to be an ambivalence towards some CCs as a result of previous conflicts.

Cllr Buchanan said that some of their staff have been abused in the past and it will take time to rebuild this trust. If people are treated with courtesy and respect, they will respond in kind.

Zhada Robertson asked if Cllr Buchanan could suggest an acceptable manner for CC's to communicate the community's frustrations.

Cllr Buchanan suggested we should ask the relevant officers to attend CC meetings but he would not ask anyone to put themselves into a hostile situation.

Eaglesham and Waterfoot CC said that the historical abuse is being overstated, and now that new CC members are more engaged, without any personal issues, it was felt that communication and meeting attendance should no longer be an issue.

Vincent McCulloch stated that there is a belief that we can all up our game, ERC are drawing up a survey to obtain all views on standards, from both sides, Councillors and officers at ERC.

Question 4 –from Uplawmoor Community Council

Since the boundary changes and the Uplawmoor local councillors changed, only one out of four Councillors attend the Community Council meetings and they are unable to make contact with two of their Councillors, who do not respond to their email, phone or letter communications.

'How can the community council effectively represent and tackle local issues, with only one councillor assisting and feeding back to ERC? And what can be done to improve councillor communication and attendance at our meetings?

Cllr Buchannan responded:

He is aware of the current difficulties being experienced by Uplawmoor CC since the changes in boundaries of the Uplawmoor CC. As Leader of the Council, however, he has no powers to insist that Cllrs representing local wards relevant to Uplawmoor CC attend CC meetings. Rather it is up to Uplawmoor CC to establish and maintain communication with local councillors.

There were no further questions.

The Chairperson thanked Cllr Buchanan for his attendance and stated that he feels reassured by his dialogue and hopes we can further build a good relationship with ERC and its officers.



<p>POLICE REPORT</p>	<p>The Chairperson read out the Police Report for the Broom, Kirkhill & Mearnskirk Community Council area for the period 11th March to 10th April 2019.</p> <p>1. Homes being broken into</p> <p>About 10:50am on the 14th March, a resident in Castleton Court, disturbed males acting suspiciously in a block of flats. On being confronted the 2 men made off.</p> <p>Around midday on the following day a resident was within her home in Dunbeath Avenue, when she disturbed a male suspect who had entered her home via an unlocked door. Nothing was stolen and enquiries are continuing in an effort to identify the male.</p> <p>During daytime hours on the 19th March, entry was gained to a dwelling flat in Broomhill Avenue, Newton Mearns. A quantity of jewellery was stolen. This crime remains under investigation by a CID led team.</p> <p>About 8-30pm on the 21st March, a resident in Birkwood Place observed a group of males acting suspiciously in his garden. When confronted they made off. Enquiries are continuing into this incident.</p> <p>Overnight on the 27th into 28th March, a house in Lochbroom Drive was broken into. The householder's car keys and car were stolen. This crime remains under investigation.</p> <p>2. Antisocial behaviour and disorder</p> <p>On the evening of the 18th March a garden fence in Larchfield Avenue was deliberately damaged. Officers are continuing enquiries into this vandalism.</p> <p>A report of youths causing annoyance in Alloway Drive, Newton Mearns, was received on the late evening of the 23rd March.</p> <p>3. Violent crime</p> <p>Three boys aged 14, 15 and 15 years of age have been reported for assault after another 14 year old boy was assaulted on Broomburn Drive on the afternoon of the 8th March.</p> <p>No other crimes of violence in public locations in our community council area have been recorded during the period under review.</p> <p>4. Drug dealing and misuse</p> <p>Whilst carrying out pro-active patrols in our community council area, officers have detected the following drugs offences</p> <p>15/03/2019 Roddinghead Road 18 year old man in</p>	<p>Janet to send copy of report to Vincent</p> <p>Also put copy of Cyber Crime notice on Facebook</p>
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possession of cannabis.

21/3/2019 Broom Shops, Mearns Rd 31 year old man in possession of cannabis.

27/3/2019 Broom Shops, Mearns Rd 25 year old man in possession of cannabis.

CRIME PREVENTION

The Police continue to receive reports of "Cyber Fraud" carried out by criminals who contact potential victims by telephone.

For further information, to help you protect yourself and other people you know who may be vulnerable to this type of criminality, there is lots of useful information on the Police Scotland web site at

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/identity-theft-fraud-and-scams>

and

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/the-banking-protocol>

Whilst crime levels in our area remain very low, the Police again emphasised the importance of reviewing security measures and giving consideration to installing such things as CCTV and intruder alarms, which can be purchased and installed at relatively low cost.

Please ensure that vehicles are locked. Works vans are often targeted and owners are encouraged to consider additional security measures to protect tools and equipment therein.

Please report any suspicious persons or activity via 101, or in an emergency, by dialling 999.

NEWS

Ready Scotland

Please note the Scottish Government's "Ready Scotland" web site that contains some really useful and interesting information. Please have a look at ...

<https://readyscotland.org/>

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland

The Chairperson reminded everyone to sign up for Neighbourhood Watch Scotland alerts which are now being issued on this system.

Further information can be found at

www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

By signing up to this service you will receive crime



	<p>prevention information relevant to both local and national issues.</p> <p>LOCAL PRIORITIES</p> <p>The East Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2017-2020 can be found in full on the Police Scotland website</p> <p>http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/greater-glasgow/east-renfrewshire/</p> <p>This document explains our National and Local Policing Priorities how these have been identified and how they are linked to the Fairer East Ren – Local Outcomes Improvement Plan</p> <p>The local Policing Priorities for East Renfrewshire have been identified as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homes being broken into • Antisocial behaviour and disorder • Violent crime • Drug dealing and misuse • Child abuse including child sexual exploitation <p>Please remember you can communicate with the Police by using any of the following:</p> <p>Twitter - @policescotland Twitter - @GreaterGlasgPol Twitter - @EastRenPolice Facebook – PoliceScotland Web – Scotland.police.uk 101 – Non emergency 999 – Emergency 0800 555 111 – Crimestoppers</p> <p>Cllr Bamforth said she had been in touch with police about the recent incident where a 15 year old was attacked at the MUGA near Mearns Castle High. No arrests have been yet been made.</p> <p>Zhada Robertson mentioned there was a large group of youths hanging about at Patterton station and felt concerned that they might cause trouble. She was reassured to see a police van surveying the situation.</p> <p>Cllr Bamforth also praised the police intelligence and said they are quick to respond to incidents.</p>	
<p>COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS</p>	<p>Vincent McCulloch, Community Council Liaison officer reminded everyone about the up-coming Community Council Elections.</p> <p>Every four years CC’s need to be re-elected.</p> <p>Election forms were distributed.</p>	



	<p>Completed forms should be handed to the Secretary who will collate these and submit them to ERC prior to the close of the nomination period which runs from 1st – 28th August.</p> <p>If anyone wishes to obtain a form, please contact the Secretary, Janet Olverman at bkandmcc@gmail.com</p> <p>We can print and issue as many of these forms as required.</p> <p>Vincent explained that the BK&MCC is allowed a maximum of 20 Community Councillors. If there are less than 10 members we cannot be re-established. If there are more than 10 but less than 20 the CC will be re-established. If there are more than 20 there will have to be an election for any area which has too many nominations. The three areas concerned are Broom, Kirkhill and Mearns Kirk.</p>	
<p>FUNDRAISING CEILIDH</p>	<p>The Chairperson confirmed that a photograph of the cheque being handed over to the First Responders was published in the Extra on April 4th. This fundraiser was a great success and raised £1,200 for the First responders.</p> <p>On behalf of the First Responders, Bev Brown thanked everyone for their help.</p>	
<p>COMMUNITY COUNCIL LITTER PICKS</p>	<p>The Chairperson advised that the CC litter pick in Broompark on 24th March was a success and collected lots of rubbish – thank you to all who helped.</p> <p>The Chairperson reminded everyone that there is going to be a litter pick at Shawwood Greenspace on Sunday 28th April from 12 – 1pm. Everyone is to meet at 11.50am to collect their pickers and black bags. The helpers will split up and spread out to cover as much of the park as possible reporting back to the car park at 1pm with their bags.</p> <p>The Chairperson will take the bags home to be collected from his driveway by ERC on Monday 29th April. Please note the council do not supply gloves so you should bring your own.</p> <p>We have received an enquiry to arrange another litter pick for the 'Three Woods' areas off Poplar Avenue</p> <p>Suggested date - Sunday 2nd June 12 – 1pm</p> <p>Jane Royston raised the issue of litter on the way to Greenbank Gardens, there is so much rubbish trapped inside the fence. This matter has been raised before and hasn't been attended to yet.</p>	<p>Janet to contact ERC and Three Woods contact to organise litter pick in June</p>



<p>PEOPLE POWERED PLANNING</p>	<p>Putting Communities on the Front Foot Conference Saturday 11th May, Trades Hall, Glasgow 10-4.30pm</p> <p>The Chairperson advise everyone about this conference and asked if he may have permission to book some members of the BLKMCC onto this course at £20 each. The Chairperson, Janet Olverman, Doug Pitt and Bev Brown volunteered to attend. The treasurer confirmed there are enough funds to cover this cost. Chairperson to book the course.</p>	
<p>POINTS FOR AGM</p>	<p>The Chairperson will distribute points for the Annual Reports prior to the AGM on 20th May</p>	
<p>ROAD SAFETY</p>	<p>Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>Bev Brown raised the issue of Road safety at Greenlaw where several serious accidents have occurred and asked what is being done to increase safety at this junction. There was a serious accident where a car turned upside down on the pavement outside Aldi's on Sunday 14th April. She raised concerns about speed at this junction where cars have to change lanes between roundabouts. Cllr Buchannan advised that the police will be looking at this with regard to safety. There have been numerous surveys undertaken and they are awaiting a response from the Police.</p> <p>Excessive speed is usually a factor along with bad driving.</p> <p>Cllr Bamforth advised that this area had originally been designated as commercial retail however the Scottish Government Reporter overturned this decision and designated this area for housing which has greatly increased the amount of traffic in this area.</p> <p>Clarkston Toll</p> <p>Doug Pitt asked if the sequence of the pedestrian traffic lights could be changed at the Clarkston Toll, as the problem with traffic flow in Clarkston is serious. He raised this issue before with the Roads Department and was told that changing this sequence would be impossible.</p> <p>Cllr Buchannan said that this issue should be looked at but changing traffic light sequence may impact elsewhere if traffic backs up onto the Sheddens roundabout.</p> <p>Doug Pitt asked Cllr. Buchannan to look at this issue for us.</p>	



	<p>Ayr Road Shops Car Park Cllr Grant advised that the disabled parking spaces are going to be relocated from the end to nearer the chemist which will be easier for disabled customers. The car park will be closed for a period of time to allow this realignment.</p> <p>Paidmyre Road surface Cllr Grant has approached the Roads Dept. to ask if this road could be promoted up the list for repairs as it is in a terrible state of disrepair. Doug stated if you remediate some of the road or footpath but leave the rest, does this count as being remediated and further repairs being put down the list again.</p> <p>Cllr Buchannan said this would depend on the seriousness of the problem, if the road surface was dangerous it would not be left. The decision is up to ERC Road Engineers.</p> <p>Cllr Bamforth mentioned that once the Maidenhill Primary school is opened there should be less traffic coming from this direction to Mearns Primary because the catchment areas will change.</p>	
<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>Monday 20th May AGM in the Conference Suite at Mearns Castle High School.</p>	

With there being no further business the Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

All at 7pm in Mearns Castle High School Conference Centre unless indicated otherwise

Monday 20th May 2019 AGM

Monday 17th June 2019