



Broom Kirkhill Mearns Kirk
Community Council

MEETING OF	Broom, Kirkhill, & Mearns Kirk, Community Council	
HELD ON	Thursday 19 th April 2018 @ 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: William Maxwell (Chairperson), Doug Pitt (Vice Chairperson), Janet Olverman (Secretary), Jane Royston (Treasurer), Gordon Muirhead, Ron Gimby,</p> <p>Also present:</p> <p>Cllr Caroline Bamforth, Cllr Barbara Grant</p>	
APOLOGIES	Zhada Robertson, Cllr. Jim Swift, Rob Jones	
ITEM DISCUSSED		Action Points
MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING	The Minute of the meeting on 8 th February 2018 was proposed by The Chairperson Will Maxwell, seconded by Jane Royston and approved by the Community Council.	
MATTERS ARISING	There were no matters arising	
POLICE REPORT	<p>Two police officers attended the meeting to present their crime report for the period 1st March to 14th April 2018.</p> <p>Homes being broken into</p> <p>During the 6 week period under review the following reports have been received.</p> <p>On the afternoon / evening of the 11th April, a house in Raeside Avenue, Newton Mearns was broken into. Enquiries are ongoing in to this crime.</p> <p>We are also investigating an incident that occurred on the 8th March whereby a householder reported that a male had attempted to force entry to a house in Belford Grove, Newton Mearns. Access was not gained due to security measures the householder had in place.</p> <p>During daylight hours on the morning of 25th March a business premises (Chemist) in Mearns Road was broken into. No property was stolen. Enquiries progressing as to whether any drugs were taken.</p> <p>2. Antisocial behaviour and disorder</p> <p>Our Problem Solving Team officers continue to give extra attention to key locations in your Community Council area.</p> <p>During the 6 week period under review we have received a</p>	



total of 8 calls relating to youth disorder throughout your Community Council area. Of these 8 calls, 3 calls related to locations in the immediate vicinity of Broom Burn Park; one being a house party, and one being youths at the rear of the "Broom shops". On the 9th April a youth was found at the Broom Burn Park under the influence of alcohol and was returned home by the police and left in the care of his parents. The remaining calls relating to youth disorder were at diverse locations throughout the area.

3. Violent crime

No further crimes of violence in public locations in your Community Council area have been reported during the period under review.

4. Drug dealing and misuse

Our officers continue to carry out proactive patrols in your Community Council area, particularly in areas you highlight as being of concern.

During the period under review, officers carrying out such patrols have detected the following drugs offences

- 28th March 2018, Waterfoot Road, Newton Mearns – 17 year old male found in possession of cannabis
- 28th March 2018, Mearns Castle Football Pitches – 18 year old male found in possession of cannabis
- 13th April 2018, Broom Road East – 28 year old male found in possession of cannabis

CRIME PREVENTION

At this time of year, it is not uncommon for us to observe seasonal increases in reports of thefts from sheds/garages and other outbuildings. Please take the time to ensure that such buildings are well secured. Consider fitting a shed alarm, or more advanced security measures if higher value items are stored within.

Janet Olverman enquired what measures are being taken with regard to the recent spate of break-ins and attempted break-ins, especially in the Paidmyre Crescent and Mearns Kirk area.

The Police explained that these break-ins are probably by opportunists, rather than organized gangs, which makes prevention and detection more difficult.

The Chairperson enquired if there had been any further crime at the Broom Shops.

There has been nothing reported since the off-licence problems last year. They have taken on more staff which has helped.

A member of the public enquired about an incident where



	<p>two large dogs attacked a small dog. The Police were unsure of the outcome but Cllr Grant advised that this is an ongoing matter which has not yet been resolved.</p> <p>With no further questions, the Police left the meeting.</p>	
PETITION ON ROAD REPAIRS	<p>Gordon Muirhead advised the CC that we have not yet received a response from Tony Buchannan to our email dated 14th February 2018.</p> <p>There was discussion about the amount of money ERC have spent on apparently non-essential items such as landscaping, virtual reality headsets, and the waste of a £3m council tax write off.</p> <p>Holyrood have awarded £10m to local councils in order to tackle their financial problems, but this is a "drop in the ocean" compared to the monies required to repair roads within the area covered by BKMCC.</p> <p>Cllr Grant advised that some of the worst roads are being repaired soon although agreed that not enough money was being spent.</p> <p>There was discussion about how to increase pressure on ERC to consider funding the necessary road repairs.</p> <p>Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing the volume of letters to papers with complaints about the poor state of roads.• Publicising the correspondence BK&MCC have already submitted to ERC.• Start a campaign• Crowd funding for a legal challenge <p>Gordon Muirhead suggested that ERC could repair the roads if they wished using some of their reserves.</p> <p>The terrible state of our roads is not just an East Renfrewshire issue, it is a problem all over the UK.</p> <p>Cllr Grant said that ERC do not have the money to repair roads, and that borrowing money will escalate costs.</p> <p>Bev Brown enquired how much ERC had to pay out in successful claims from motorists whose cars had been damaged by potholes.</p> <p>About £20,000 has been claimed but it was noted that making a claim may be very difficult and tedious. However, the BKMCC strongly suggests that, if one does experience damage to one's car as a result of poor quality roads then one should make a claim for recompense.</p> <p>Doug Pitt suggested inviting the Editor of the Extra to a</p>	



	<p>meeting and enquire what sort of publicity they are willing to offer CC's.</p> <p>The Chairperson offered to approach the Extra and ask if they are willing to publish an article about the roads and our efforts to improve them.</p> <p>It was felt that crowd funding was not a good idea as we already pay enough Council Tax and there would be no grounds for a legal challenge.</p>	<p>Will Maxwell to contact the Extra to publish an article</p>
<p>SPSO REFERRAL</p>	<p>Doug Pitt updated the CC with the current situation in relation to the SPSO Referral.</p> <p>The BKMCC regards it as unfortunate that Lord Glennie's decision has provided Mr. Cahill, Director of the Environment at ERC, with a strong position from which to repudiate our, and others, arguments.</p> <p>Nonetheless, flooding remains a serious issue.</p> <p>The BKMCC continues to hold serious concerns about responses by Scottish Water, SEPA and ERC to our complaints. None of these organisations seem to want to admit responsibility for the current problems with drainage.</p> <p>Two local residents, who felt that the PAC meeting was not properly addressed, have submitted complaints to ERC (Mr. Cahill)</p> <p>As expected Mr. Cahill rejected all the arguments with only one concession, that he may revisit using on-line viewing of information.</p> <p>The ombudsman has already advised that Planning Decisions and Granting of Planning Permission may not be rescinded or revisited. The SPSO may only investigate matters when judgement might be regarded as unattended due to lack of diligence in provision of background information to the PAC.</p> <p>It is pleasing to note that Mr. Cahill will review ERC policy about placing planning applications and responses online.</p> <p>ERC say there are two issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom of Information • Data protection <p>They argue that redacting takes time by ERC Planning Department staff and may result in decisions being taken more slowly associated with lower rates of office performance.</p> <p>On-line it was noted that people may become embroiled in uncontrolled and abusive public debate with ERC. This should be strongly discouraged to ensure that civilised discussion occurs.</p>	<p>Doug Pitt to continue with SPSO referral</p>



	<p>Lord Glennie’s report effectively says, “I hear what the NMRFPG are saying but when considering advice given to Cllrs before and at a PAC meeting it is in the planning officer’s judgement to decide the relevance and need of information placed before the planning committee”.</p> <p>This potentiates Cllrs being open to misdirection by the planning officer who may be selective of the information placed before the Planning Committee.</p> <p>In the instance of the PAC meeting on 2nd June 2017, Debutante Cllrs only had 3 days from being elected to review all the information prior to the PAC meeting.</p> <p>A member of the public enquired who is going to compensate local people if their homes are flooded as a result of PAC decisions. ERC say it’s down to the developer.</p> <p>Further legal action will be expensive and is therefore not practicable for BKMCC.</p> <p>We therefore need to consider what we want to achieve from a submission to the SPSO.</p> <p>Ron Gimby said it would be beneficial if the ombudsman recognises the confusion of the roles of three organisations (SW, SEPA and ERC) and provided clarity of their responsibilities.</p> <p>A clearer procedure going forwards would benefit everyone.</p> <p>ERC have no real expertise in hydrology and rely on Scottish Water and SEPA for advice. While Scottish Water do not know who has responsibility for flood prevention information within ERC.</p> <p>Scottish Water raised the issue of lack of a Flood Prevention Officer within ERC. Many councils do have such an officer and considering Newton Mearns is a vulnerable area for flooding, this would make a practical addition to ERC’s staff.</p> <p>If the decision makers are unaware of their responsibilities we should raise this as an issue and try to address the lack of process.</p> <p>Look at obfuscation.</p> <p>The Community Council voted unanimously to go forwards with a submission to SPSO</p>	
<p>MEETING WITH SCOTTISH WATER 18TH APRIL</p>	<p>The Chairperson presented a summary of the meeting arranged between the Newton Mearns Residents Flood Prevention Group, BK&MCC and Scottish Water.</p> <p>Scottish Water have indicated that a Maidenhill Sewage plan has been produced. There will be pumping stations inserted into the Maidenhill development to move sewage</p>	



up to the sewer connection point at Malletsheugh road. However, Scottish Water (SW) haven't provided any plans for this sewerage system.

The proposed route the sewer is now going to take is down the Malletsheugh Road. This is an old combined sewer system but Scottish Water said that the developers should provide underground retention basins or Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SuDS).

It is of great concern that developers are encroaching on the volume of the proposed SuDS, as witnessed by a succession of minor development planning applications within the Maidenhill development area as a means of increasing the total number of new-build houses at the Maidenhill/Malletsheugh development sites. It currently appears that there is no ERC control over this as minor developments, defined as 50 or less properties, do not require ratification by local authorities like ERC. There seems to be no control over this.

As yet, SW have no plans available for the Malletsheugh West (Robertson Homes) proposed development as they haven't yet been approached by the developers.

SW will endeavour to keep us better informed.

Infilling between earlier building/development plots throughout Newton Mearns has increased the number of properties connected to the outdated sewerage system. The frequency of floods has as a result increased, with 6 floods in the last 12 months recorded. Planners say this is due to their lack of control over infill developments.

In addition, Scottish Water have not been approached with respect to these infill developments. The inadequacies of the earlier design of sewerage system have therefore been exacerbated and resulting in an increased frequency of flooding.

Furthermore, Scottish Water has **never** made any objection to any development. Cllr Grant stated that there is nothing to stop SW lodging an objection but it never happens.

Also, developers have experienced problems where SW never comment on their plans until the last minute. SW doesn't come forward at the beginning of the planning stage and state what regulations need to be enforced.

SW revealed that they are only just beginning to prioritise attending to such flooding issues, and then only on a National basis. Newton Mearns is low down the list of priority areas for attention.

Doug Pitt enquired if it is a mandatory responsibility for SW to disinfect roads once polluted with sewage. SW said that it is not mandatory but that they do disinfect out of good will.



	<p>A member of the public enquired in relation to objections online. Would it be possible for ERC to publish the objections raised and state how many had objected under each heading, without actually putting individual objections online?</p> <p>Cllr Bamforth advised that Cllr Annette Ireland is trying to get these put back online. She is fighting for this in pursuit of transparency of the working of the current Planning Structure.</p>	
<p>OVERVIEW OF JOINT MEETING ABOUT BIOGAS PLANT</p>	<p>The Chairperson gave a summary of the joint public meeting between BK&MCC and Crookfur, Greenfarm and Mearns Village CC.</p> <p>There were approximately 100 attendees including one MSP and a representative of a MP.</p> <p>The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the modification to Option 10 in the Conditions set against Planning Application 2016/0070/TP for the erection of the proposed Greenhags Biogas Plant. The developer wants this change because OFGEM have changed the criteria for award of an OFGEM subsidy.</p> <p>There is a new requirement for inclusion of wheat straw waste (an agricultural waste product) to be included in the biofeed supply to the digesters.</p> <p>This will result in a 12.5% reduction in lorry movements per week, 140 instead of 160, but this still equates to one every 20 minutes throughout the working period of a week.</p> <p>One major concern is the movement of considerable amounts of cattle slurry which is required to initiate the digestion process, the slurry being an addition to the total biofeed content.</p> <p>We are still waiting for clarification about how these lorry movements will be handled or controlled by Greenhags Energy.</p> <p>Gordon Muirhead commented that there was considerable concern raised about the qualifications of the people behind this development. However this is not a reason for rejecting an applicant.</p>	
<p>QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC</p>	<p>Is there any indication of the source of the biofeed which the lorries would deliver? No answer has been provided by Greenhags Energy.</p> <p>The original application said biofeed would be coming from Ayrshire. However, the suggestion was made that there is only one farm locally who could produce such quantities, and this would imply that the lorries would be travelling over greater distances to supply biofeed.</p> <p>It was asked whether any other CCs will be making an</p>	



	<p>objection?</p> <p>With regard to Greenhags Biogas Plant, the Crookfur Greenfarm, Mearns Village CC have also objected.</p>	
CC TRAINING MEETING	<p>Jane Royston attended a training meeting "Running Effective and Efficient Community Councils".</p> <p><u>Notes from Training: Running Effective and Efficient Community Councils 16/04/18</u> <u>Brief recap of Statutory Purposes of C.Cs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Councils may carry out activities that are in the general interest of the communities they represent <p><u>Group Task to write down issues and projects we would like to see our Community Council take forward and in what projects are we currently involved.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cycle Hub (Eaglesham)• Issue over parking difficulties for walkers at Carrot Farm (Eaglesham)• 20s plenty zones (Eaglesham)• Road repairs pot holes etc (All)• Scotland in Bloom (All)• Encouraging greater public participation (All)• Flooding, inadequate sewage and drainage (All)• Provision for more seating (All)• Improve Communication with Officers of E.R.C e.g. Planning, Roads etc. (All) <p>(There were others however with much discussion about the Group Tasks.)</p> <p><u>Planning and Structuring Effective Meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good preparation and effective chairperson.• Control of meeting.• Motivate members providing support etc_• Encourage initiative• Solve problems.	



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Community Council

DATE OF NEXT MEETING	The next meeting of BK&MCC will be our AGM on Thursday 17 th May at 7pm in the Mearns Castle High School.	
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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

Thursday 17th May 2018 (AGM), Classroom
Thursday 21st June 2018

DRAFT