

## **Meeting of Crookfur, Greenfarm and Mearns Village Community Council - 8th February 2018**

**Present:-** Bryson McNeil (BMcN) (acting( Chair), John O'Brien (JO'B) (Treasurer), Gargi Singla (GS) and Karen Armstrong (KA)

1. **Apologies** - James Kerrigan (Chair) sent his apologies
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** - JOB approved these and GS seconded as a true record of the minutes.
3. **Police Report** - the report covered progress being made in dealing with Police priorities for the Community Council area covering the period of 1 January to 31 January 2018.. Officers gave an update on domestic house-breakings which are being investigated as part of a wider operation relating to a series of high value thefts which have occurred during late 2017 across the Greater Glasgow area by a UK gang.. Several members have already been arrested with ongoing leads and investigations relating to others who may be involved.

The report also reminded residents to be vigilant in terms of securing their doors and ensuring car keys etc were stored in a secure place and not in easy view for a potential criminal activity. The report mentions a break-in in Colonsay Drive where the householder was confronted with persons trying to break into his house and steal the car.

Police also highlighted risks to modern cars that have key less access, stating that signal boosters are being used to gain access and ultimately steal cars.

The report also covered a very small number of anti-social behavior and disorder crimes, violent crime and drug dealing and drug misuse related crimes. The Police also highlighted the need for car owners to be vigilant and ensure their cars are locked at all times.

Anti-social behavior incidents have been identified around the Avenue Shopping Centre area - the police are aware of this and looking to find solutions.

No drug dealing offensives were committed in the area in the time frame, with only one possession charge.

JOB highlighted and asked about the rebranding of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to Neighbourhood Watch Scotland. This is an alert system where once you have signed up you can receive information on crimes and other alerts in your area. A text or an e-mail will keep you updated.

BMcN asked if the CC receiving the electronic version of the police report could be re-instated.

4. **Introductions** - brief introductions were given by CC members for the interests of the Leader and Councillor that were in attendance - Tony Buchanan, Charlie Gilbert and Jim McLean.

### 5. **Any Other Business**

**Grant for Laptop and Printer** - John highlighted to those in attendance from East Renfrewshire Council that he was awaiting confirmation on a grant application to purchase a laptop and printer for use by the CC.

Colours Festival - GS updated that this will not now take place but CC are looking to explore options for an Easter Event.

### Winter Weather and Roads

KA mentioned that she had received a number of e-mails and experienced for herself, travel gridlock in the Newton Mearns area due to what appeared to be lacking of gritting on the roads. Roads in NM were at a standstill. She also raised the issue of once main roads are gritted how does ERC prioritise side roads, as roads leading to East Wood High from both Pattern Station and Harvey Avenue were particularly bad with cars that could not get into the side streets parked on the road making it difficult for young people to walk on as the pavements were solid ice and had had no grit or salt put on them. This was over a continued period of time.

KA also asked if ERC was in direct contact with Patterton Station as it had had no gritting in the car park during the severe weather. Several commuters and a school child had fallen. This should be a priority route as school children travel through this station.

Tony Buchanan stated that the grit teams had worked particularly hard during the recent bad weather and had only heard good reports.

### Education and Communication

KA also brought up the fact that there was a considerable amount of social media traffic in relation to ERC posting, during the bad weather, that they would update residents in the morning as to whether there would be school closures. Lots of traffic on the twitter page was asking for a clearer update and early decision making. Jim McLean also stated that he had seen sight of this and had complaints in relation to the timing of the update 7.47 am - which does not enable parents to make adequate changes to their plans for childcare.

Tony Buchanan stated that the right action and approach had been taken and that residents should consider schools to be open at all times, unless otherwise told. He also stated that ultimately it is a decision for Head Teachers.

### Flood Prevention

BMcN read out an update from the Newton Mearns Residents Flood Prevention Group. It included the following:

- There are five planning applications for the Maidenhill Master Plan area to be determined (three amendment at Malletsheugh East, Maidenhill School and Maidenhill Farm (more houses).
- There have been at least five recorded sewer flooding of family homes and required the disinfection of streets and school-walking routes.
- Scottish Water is still unable to provide the calculations for their Final Development Impact Assessment for Maidenhill Master Plan area to demonstrate no additional sewer flooding (beside St Cadoc's School and Rouken Glen Park).
- The applicants have still not determined the capacity of the downstream culverts on the burns, and flood risk in Mearns Village, Crookfur, Mearnskirch and Broom. This essential requirement was highlighted by the Scottish Government Reporter.

Tony Buchanan updated that Scottish Water have put through an amendment to the plan, involving taking a different route. These issues have been raised by ERC to Scottish Water, who are fully aware of the problem. Another meeting with Council officials and Scottish Water will take place imminently.

Discussions then turned to the fact that Scottish Water had provided 3 options for drainage systems. ERC planning authority should be able to pick the correct option that prevents flood risk or anxiety to residents. Someone has to show authority rather than ERC constantly stating that it is a decision for Scottish Water to take, the Council should have residents interests at heart and work collaboratively with Scottish Water to ensure the best outcome for all.

#### Pot Holes

KA raised the issues of the state of the local roads. Pot holes have been appearing everywhere with little evidence of these being repaired. Meadow Hill was discussed as a particularly dreadful road full of potholes. KA asked what the work plan was for this and when would ERC address the problem. Tony Buchanan indicated that there was a work programme in place that was based on a priority list.

#### Patterton Station

BMCN raised the point that the over-spill car park at Patterton has several disabled bays; however it would be extremely difficult for a wheelchair user or someone with another disability being able to get to the station as they would need to traverse a steep hill. BMCN said that this made no sense and the disabled parking should be moved solely to the main car park.

KA also asked in the Council liaised regularly with Scot Rail as due to the very large number of new housing in Newton Mearns the carriages provided for those travelling by train was now inadequate, with over crowded train carriages and platforms and insufficient parking. Needs to be more discussion in relation to infrastructure. Tony Buchanan stating that the Council did indeed liaise with Scot Rail.

Broadband - a resident asked about broadband and why broadband was not considered at the planning stages of housing - this was usually an after-thought and once housing estates were built Broadband providers were having to come back out and dig up new roads. The Council are working with all utility companies to ensure a more co-ordinated approach to house building.

#### Planning applications

Netherplace Village was mentioned in the context that the CH/CP had objected to this planning application and there had been coverage in the Extra.

Planning for 163 Ayr Road was also discussed as a planning application has been submitted to demolish the traditional bungalow and replace with 5-6 flats adding to the already overloaded infrastructure in that area and throughout Newton Mearns.

A community member mentioned that a building warrant had been issued for 30 flats next to Walden House. This was confusing as the planning application had been refused. An update on this from the Council would be welcomed.

#### **Action - Update on planning application next to Walden House**

Newton Mearns has expanded beyond all recognition with flats and houses springing up all over the place, however there seems to be little, if any, investment in infrastructure from ERC as roads are congested and there is no connectivity in relation to public transport across the region. The trains at Patterton were mentioned

as a prime example of overcrowding on the platform, not enough carriages provided for passengers. KA asked if ERC worked with Scot Rail to update them on the large amount of additional housing in Newton Mearns and with lack of bus infrastructure many people travel to and from Glasgow via train.

#### Budget Consultation

JO'B asked about the recent budget consultation and what the outcome of this was and when would residents be made aware of any cuts to services that were being made.

KA asked what the response rate had been as she felt that input to consultations were exceedingly low and the Council should do more to ensure residents are feeding into consultation processes, especially around major issues such as budgets. The Council could consider giving out leaflets at the train stations at peak hours or perhaps handing out at local shops such as Waitrose to try and engage with a wider pool of residents. 700 responses in terms of the population of Newton Mearns was low.

An update was given that the budget will be set on 1 March.

#### **6. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Fairweather Hall - however the CC are looking at different dates to meet in order to enhance participation of residents and to ensure that they do not clash with the Broom CC.

Karen Armstrong  
15 February 2018