

**Meeting of Crookfur, Greenfarm and Mearns Village Community Council - -9<sup>th</sup>**  
**February 2017**

1. **Present:** David Pearson [chair], Bryson McNeil , Lee-Gek Poon, Karen Armstrong, John O'Brien, Cllrs C Gilbert and I McAlpine
2. **Apologies:** Azra Saleem
3. **Introductions:** David Pearson welcomed everyone to the meeting.
4. **Minutes from last meeting** – These were approved with a few amendments:
  - (i) Biogas Plant – the discussion covered whether or not a bond was in place to cover the regeneration of the plant once operations were completed in 25 years time. However it transpired that ERC did not ask them to put a bond in place.
  - (ii) The correct figure in Community Council A/C is £567. Proposed: Bryson McNeill; Seconded: John O'Brien
5. **CGMV AGM** – to be postponed perhaps till after the community council interim elections, when it is hoped the CGMC CC may gain some additional councillors.
6. **Police Report:** This covers the period 1 Jan 2017 to 31 Jan2017
  - Assault and Violent Crime: No crimes of assault were recorded in public places
  - Drug Dealing and Drug Use: 2 persons found in possession of controlled drugs. Members of the public could provide the Police with information relating to drug supply by telephoning the non-emergency number 101 or anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111
  - Drunk and Disorderly Behaviour: 2 vandalisms recorded and 2 calls related to public nuisance at Harvie Avenue shops
  - Housebreaking and other Thefts: 5 reports of housebreakings reported, all of which occurred during the day and evening. Residents were encouraged to report any suspicious persons loitering in their area who may be looking for opportunities to steal.
  - News: A taxi driver has had his licence suspended following a report of inappropriate conduct towards a female passenger. 3 drivers in the Newton Mearns area have been charged with driving without Insurance.
  - The future of Giffnock and Barrhead Police Stations is currently under review – there will be no change to the number of police officers in the area and the police presence will be maintained as at present. Any future decisions will be dependent on formal consultation with communities.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** John O'Brien gave a report – at the moment there is £567 in the account. There has been no expenditure.

8. **No 4 Bus Service:** A petition has been set up on Facebook but so far, there have only been 162 signatures. First Bus and Eric Stewart (SPT) were invited to the meeting but declined. First Bus has said that they have no plans to restore the service. Jackson Carlaw (MSP) and Kirsten Oswald (MP) have been approached. Cllr Gilbert will be meeting with SPT within the next week and Ms Oswald is meeting with First Bus on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

9. **Health Centre Bus:** Bus 374 serves Clarkston, Busby and Giffnock but there are no buses serving Newton Mearns or Eaglesham. It was mentioned that Patient Transport (a Charity) was available. This is free but the patient has to contact his or her GP to organise this. Cllr McAlpine is campaigning for the bus to cover Newton Mearns and is seeing Julie Murray (Chief Officer of East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership) next week.

Action: David Pearson will contact Julie Murray and report back at the next meeting

10. **Looking Forward Paper:** Karen Armstrong gave an update. She felt that if the community had issues, there would need to be a process and a set time-scale to move things on.

Suggestions for increased participation from the community was discussed and a flyer with the agenda on it was suggested. This could be circulated a few days before each meeting.

A contact list for ERC would also be very helpful so that the relevant person could be contacted. Cllr Gilbert said the best plan would be to write to him with a copy to Jim Fletcher, Leader of the Council and in that way, he could chase matters up.

#### 11. **AOCB:**

- Newton Mearns parents have received correspondence from ERC stating that their children are not guaranteed a place in the local schools and may have to go to schools in Barrhead. Another added difficulty is that there is no direct public transport from NM to Barrhead. Karen Armstrong also mentioned that someone had stated that they had been told that their second child might have to attend Barrhead High rather than Eastwood High where their sibling was. Various issues with that as parents cannot be in two places at one time and there are no transport links to Barrhead.

Action: Karen Armstrong will try and get a copy of the correspondence from ERC and forward it to Cllr Gilbert for further action

- ERC is having interim elections for Community Councils and nominations are now open. There are 14 vacancies for this Community Council (5 for Crookfur, 3 for Greenfarm and 6 for Mearns Village). Nomination forms have to be in by 12 noon on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and are available from Council HQ, Eastwood Park or by contacting Vincent McCulloch, Community Council Liaison Officer on 0141 577 4645 or

[vincent.mcculloch@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:vincent.mcculloch@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

- There have been 2 Licensing applications: Co-Op, 421 Mearns Road and Oscars, 108 Ayr Road. No objections received from the floor.
- There is a survey on the Scottish Community Council website –anyone interested to see David Pearson.
- Council Tax - The Scottish Government has introduced legislation to change Council Tax from April 2017. This will affect Bands E to H. ERC have also passed a budget to include the 3% flexibility in adding additional increases.
- MIR12 - - The Main Issues Report (MIR) is the starting point in the preparation of the Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2). The consultation on the MIR closed on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017. There was a lot of discussion on the Preferred Housing Sites on the Report. Ref MIR 12 refers to the re-designation of existing area of open space for 100% affordable housing (20 units). This is land on the Ayr Road adjacent to Mearns Primary School and even the school management was unaware of this till the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017. It was felt that ERC was not informing the public properly and ideally a leaflet about forthcoming MIR's and LDP's should be delivered to every household in the same way as letters for Council Tax increases. It was suggested that a Public Meeting should be held when the LDP comes out and all the Community Councils in ER should meet and focus on one specific point.

Action: David Pearson to write to ERC to ask for an extension of at least one month.

- Fairweather Place and Parents Parking: Because of insufficient parking at Mearns Primary School, parents are parking on double yellow lines and on pavements. This is causing access problem for local residents.

Action: David Pearson will contact the Police and the School regarding this.

- Committee Council Meetings in private: It was advised that the Community Council constitution would need to be changed as the current constitution does not allow for meetings to be held in private. The public would also need to be informed in advance regarding these meetings.
- Crookfur Homes – the Care Home is now closed and at weekends, there is only a security guard. This is causing some worry and residents there are feeling quite unsafe.

**Next Meeting** – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 at 7:00 pm – Fairweather Hall