

Ordinary Meeting – Thursday 13 October 2016
Draft Minutes

1. **Present:** – David Pearson, Nasreen Hussain, Raza Hussain, Charanjit Kaur Panpher, Jagdish Singh Panpher, Azra Saleem, Elaine Grogan (minute taker)
2. **Apologies:** – Bryson McNeil, Lee Gek Poon.
3. **Matters Arising from Minutes (not included in the Agenda)** - none
4. **Approval of previous minutes:** a member of the public disputed the accuracy of the previous minutes, which in turn led to a heated debate with a member of the community council and the member of the public. The community council member apologised to the meeting for his conduct.

Clarification is required as to who is allowed to request minutes are changed, and what channels this goes through. In the meantime these minutes will be adjusted and will be uploaded onto the website with the agreed changes made as highlighted by the floor. **Action** – David Pearson

5. **Police Report** – see attached report. Key messages from Police Sergeant, Michael Morgenthaler: - please get in touch with your views at scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts Encourage residents to lock their doors and windows and remove your keys from the door. Also to think carefully about where you park your car, this led to a debate around the parking issues at Mearns Primary school with Michael explaining that the parking issues should be taken up with ERC as the powers of traffic had been taken over from the police. The public explained if it was possible for the school to shut the rear gates that would solve the issue.
Sgt Morgenthaler also summarised the police update sent to the CC (copy attached)
Sgt Morgenthaler also referred to a Local leadership Forum held earlier that day to which cc members were invited and which our secretary Azra Saleem attended.
6. **Co-optees:** both John O'Brien and Karen Armstrong were warmly welcomed to the Crookfur, Greenfarm and Mearns Village community council. Both co-optees have the same duties and voting rights as the members of the community council *except* they are unable to vote for another co-optee
7. **Treasurers Report** - £567.38
8. **Planning:**
 - a. Permission to build to the west of Ayr Road, Newton Mearns this appeal was denied by the Scottish Government on the 5.10.16 ([see report](#)) the community council would like to thank the member of the public (Colette Patton, Mearns Village Community Association) for this documentation.

- b. There was discussion around roads in particular the link between Tesco and Waitrose in Greenlaw Village. This at present is a difficult crossing for pedestrians. When Aldi opens the difficulties for pedestrians will further increase. **Action:** David will action this with ERC/Roads
- c. A member of the public asked if the old British Legion building in Langrig Road was coming to the end of their tenancy agreement. The member of the public asked if Raza could look into this but as this is a planning issue Dr Poon will look into this. **Action:** Dr Poon

9. Correspondence:

- a. Councillor McNeil has requested a 20's Plenty sign for Greenlaw Road in light of complaints from residents re parking at school times
- b. Letter announcing Meeting on 10 November re Empowering Schools Unit (see attached) Karen Armstrong indicated she would attend.
- c. Correspondence from former NMCC member Michael Bradnam re schools admission consultation. (see attached) Michael felt his report might be helpful to the CGMV CC. David has thanked him for this.

10. A.O.C.B.

- a. **First Bus** proposed cuts to 4 bus route
There was a great deal of discussion around the changes in bus services and views are being gathered from community members. These until now have been channelled through Cllr Gilbert. However members of the public have requested input from the community council. Discussion included the fact that ERC have put money into the pot to the sum of £64,000 to contribute towards transport for the new health centre, and that the community was promised a 15 minute interval service.
- b. David has consulted with both ERC and Kelvindale CC, who have been active at their end
- c. David has explored the possibility of putting flyers up on bus stops affected – however the ERC spokesman was unhappy about this.
- d. David has made a formal submission to First Bus in the name of CGMV in which passenger groups affected are listed, including Westacres travellers, workers in the care home, as well as many groups residing west of Ayr Road in Crookfur and Greenfarm.
- e. David made available a link to First Buses and urged individuals to make their own submissions.
- f. The Extra has highlighted the issue in its pages and it was disappointing that so few members of the public attended this meeting.
- g. The community council was also reminded that there are other media sources they could tap into, eg Mearns Gossip Girls

11. War Memorial Bench

A member of the public brought up the subject of the war memorial bench that sits right next to the bins outside Fairweather Hall and they felt it was

disrespectful to the war dead. They felt the seat should be moved to the cenotaph. The British Legion has asked ERC to remove it.

Action: David will progress this

12. Biogas

A member of the public asked if someone from the community council was keeping a check on the biogas plant's planning application and should the community council be asking someone from ERC, as landlords, to come along to a meeting in the future to discuss? As David will be on extended absence next month, **Vice-Chair;** Bryson McNeil will respond to this.

13. Boundary Changes

Mearns Village wished to know as the boundary changes have been approved will Crookfur, Greenfarm and Mearns Village community council be their community council area?

Action: Dr Poon will be asked to progress this.

14. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 8 November 2016, Fairweather Hall, Newton Mearns 7.00pm



Community Council Meeting Updates

Our focus..... Your priorities

LOCAL PRIORITIES

This report covers progress we have made in dealing with your priorities for the Crookfur/Greenfarm/Mearns Village Community Council area.

1. Assault & Violent Crime

You told us that assault and violent crime are concerns within the local area and the impact these have had on how safe the local community feels.

2. Drug Dealing & Drug Use

You told us of your concerns about people selling drugs from their homes and from streets within your community and the associated problems of drug users.

3. Drunk or Disorderly Behaviour

You told us that there were problems with public drinking, youth disorder and vandalism/graffiti.

4. Housebreaking & Other Theft

You told us your concerns about housebreaking and other forms of theft, including stealing from motor vehicles.

RESULTS

The following information relates to the period 1st September 2016 to 30th September 2016.

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data are extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 08/10/2016

1. Assault & Violent Crime

In September there have been a total of 5 crimes of assault reported. All of these are classed as common assaults. One of these involves two school age children. One has been detected and positive lines of enquiry are ongoing in relation to the remaining three crimes.

2. Drug Dealing & Drug Use

During the period in question, one person has received a recorded police warning for possession of controlled drugs.

3. Drunk or Disorderly Behaviour

Only 3 crimes of disorderly behaviour have been recorded during the month of September. One of these was racially aggravated and remains undetected. A total of five other persons were arrested in relation to the other crimes.

Please be aware that the statistics provided DO NOT include Fixed Penalty Tickets

4. Housebreaking & Other Theft

No housebreakings were reported in the period.

One theft of a motor vehicle has been reported.

Six other thefts have been reported during the month.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Good News

We are pleased to see that housebreakings crimes have been successfully reduced following the arrests reported in last month's report.

2. Crime Prevention Advice

Please keep front and back doors of your homes locked and do not leave car keys in obvious view. The vast majority of car thefts occur by use of the "true key", and these are often stolen by sneak-in thieves.

3. Road Traffic

Four persons have been charged with various road traffic offences in recent weeks, including no insurance, no MOT and no driving licence.

Parking complaints continue to be reported frequently. We encourage all drivers to park considerately and safely.

Please remember you can contact the police on any of the following:

Twitter - @policescotland

Facebook – PoliceScotland

Web – Scotland.police.uk

101 – Non emergency

999 – Emergency

0800 555 111 - Crimestoppers

Hi All,

Let me quickly introduce myself, my name is Daniel and I currently work in the Empowering Schools Unit in the Scottish Government. On 13 September we launched a Governance Review of early years and schools education and we would really like to hear your views, and those of the Community Councils in your area, when we visit Glasgow on 10th November (details below).

The review seeks your views on really important questions such as who should take decisions on things that impact the education of our children and young people, and how can funding for schools be made fairer?. It also asks about the support that teachers and practitioners need to do their jobs well and how this can be improved. We want to hear views from every part of Scotland – from children and young people, from parents, teachers, practitioners and the wider community. We want to hear from those with a formal role in our education system and those who share a stake in its success, such as your community council. The review will run until the 6th January 2017.

We will be hosting a ministerial engagement session on 10th November 1000 – 1300 and 1800 – 2100 at the Hilton Hotel and we would hope that it would be possible for the Community Councils to have representation there. It is important for everyone to be aware that the Governance Review is taking place and I would greatly appreciate it if you were able to pass this on to your community. I can provide flyers and some text for websites if this would be of assistance to anyone. I would also be happy to discuss this further with people on the phone.

More information on the Education Governance Review and engagement sessions can be found [here](#).

You can access the Education Governance Review document and consultation [here](#)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Daniel Waddell

Daniel Waddell

Education Governance Review #edgovrev

Comments on School Admissions Consultation – October 2016

I would like to comment on the public consultation on Schools Admissions. This response is a personal response. However, I was a member of Newton Mearns Community Council in 2013. I wish to highlight points on school provision that I helped to research in 2013 when I was a member of the Community Council. I was subsequently asked to present our report to district councillors in August 2013. I believe that these points remain relevant to the current consultation.

Summary

The driver for the current consultation is the shortage of school places in the east part of East Renfrewshire. In particular, there is a shortage of provision in the denominational Roman Catholic schools.

In terms of the legal basis, it is noted that the Council has a number of requirements that it must meet in terms of school provision and admissions arrangements. The Council advises that these requirements include:

- The duty to provide sufficient places for its resident population.
- Maintaining Roman Catholic school provision.
- Every public school must be open to pupils of all denominations.
- The right of parents to express a preference for a particular school that they want their child to attend by submitting a placing request, which must be granted if places are available.

In order to understand the scale of the current shortfall it would be helpful for the council to publish more information on the projected demand for school places in the denominational and non-denominational schools, including more detail on the current breakdown.

It is noted that St. Clare's Primary School, currently under construction, is already known to be too small. It is noted that the current school provision does not address the needs of the adopted Local Development Plan nor recent changes in demographics. It is welcome that the Council has stated that it will not re-zone children out of their catchments nor change the existing catchment areas.

St Clare's Primary School is too small

It is noted that a new Roman Catholic primary school, called St Clare's, is currently being built in Newton Mearns. Given that every school must be open to pupils of all denominations, it is of concern that St. Clare's is already known to be too small.

We are also in the process of investing £77.6 million in our education estate over the next three years to provide even more new and extended nursery and school accommodation. This includes the £18 million faith schools' joint campus in Newton Mearns due for completion in 2017 which will see the opening of a new Roman Catholic primary school - St Clare's - to alleviate pressure currently being experienced at St Cadoc's. However despite these significant measures, the rate at which demand is now increasing means these actions will still not provide the capacity needed to meet the appetite for Roman Catholic school places in future years." (Source: East Renfrewshire Council, 2016)

It would be helpful for the Council to explain how large the shortfall in places will be for all schools in East Renfrewshire. In the earlier consultation on the revised catchments for St Cadoc's and St Clare's primary schools, for example, we were informed that the intake for St Cadoc's would be two streams and the intake for St Clare's would be two streams. The approved plans for the construction of St Clare's school confirm that there will be two classes in each year group, and a total of 14 classrooms. The statutory maximum class size for P1 is 25 pupils. As such the maximum provision for P1 in Roman Catholic primary schools in Newton Mearns would appear to be of the order 100 places (25 pupils per stream, multiplied by four streams). However, the available P1 intake for St Cadoc's has already averaged 98 places in the period 2012 to 2015.

“St Cadoc’s roll projection is based on a future P1 intake of 98, the average P1 roll over the last three years. By using the average P1 roll, it ensures that future demand is not based on one single year group and it recognises the upward trend in catchment pupils. This is consistent with the department’s approach to calculating future school rolls.” (Source: Education Department, East Renfrewshire Council, 2015).

As such there appears to be little capacity for any increase in Roman Catholic primary provision in Newton Mearns, despite the opening of St Clare's in 2017. This confirms the Council's conclusion that St Clare's will not provide the capacity required. This appears to be compounded by the fact that St Cadoc's will reduce from a three stream school to a two stream school over the same period, due to the shortage of places at St. Ninians.

Questions:

- How large is the projected shortfall in provision at St Clare's going forward?
- Is there the possibility to reopen a third stream at St Cadoc's as a contingency?
- Would the increased provision at the other St Ninian's feeder schools preclude the reopening of the third stream at St Cadoc's?
- How many children in Newton Mearns who requested a denominational education are currently being schooled in a non-denominational school?

Local Development Plan

In 2013, Newton Mearns Community Council was a statutory consultee for the Local Development Plan (LDP). The Community Council took its statutory duties very seriously and commented on each of the proposed development sites within Newton Mearns. As part of that exercise the Community Council also calculated the potential total number of new properties that would be built in Newton Mearns. Based on the Planning Department's estimates for each proposed site, the total number of new properties ranged from 2260 to 2451. (This total was possibly an underestimate as some developers are known to have since lobbied the Council to allow them to increase the number of properties on their sites.) We recognised that additional properties in these numbers would significantly impact upon school provision. So the Community Council modelled how many additional school places would be required. East Renfrewshire Council had advised us in 2012 that 0.4 primary school places would be required for an average house plus 0.3 secondary places. The

Council advised us that one third of these school places would be required for denominational Roman Catholic education.

- **Secondary provision** - We projected that an additional 678 to 735 places would be required in Newton Mearns. Of these 226 to 245 would be required at St Ninian's High School.
- **Primary provision** - We projected that an additional 904 to 980 places would be required in Newton Mearns. Of these an additional 301 to 327 primary places would be required within the St Cadoc's catchment.
- **Pre-five provision** - Using an estimate of 0.1 places per house we projected that an additional 226 to 245 places would be required. (NB: No formula was provided to us.) We were advised that there was no shortage of pre-five provision.

As a result of our modelling, we were able to determine that there would be a shortage of pre-five and primary provision in Newton Mearns, as well as a shortage of provision at St Ninians High School. We presented our findings to our local councillors at the meeting of Newton Mearns Community Council in August 2013. The Education Convener and Deputy Education convener were both in attendance. They were unable to confirm whether our projections were correct or not. However, the Convener of Education assured us that there would be sufficient school places and also assured us that no children would be re-zoned and bussed out of their catchment. The Community Council requested a copy of the Council projections for provision of pre-five and school places but I understand that they were not available. As such, we were not able to compare our model with the Council's model and debate the matter further. Suffice to say, our model correctly predicts that St Clare's would need to be larger than the current construction.

I would suggest that the Council should publish as part of this consultation:

- The projections of required school provision for each school within East Renfrewshire for the duration of the current Local Development Plan.

Changes in Demographics

I note that the Council had previously found that the demand for a Roman Catholic education was 30% of pupils. Recently this has increased to 33%.

"St. Clare's Primary School and a new non-denominational primary school were both planned as part of the infrastructure requirement of the Local Development Plan The investment was expected to meet the demand from East Renfrewshire families in the east of the Council area choosing a Roman Catholic route for their child(ren)'s education. This has proved sufficient based on the average of around 30% of the P1 resident cohort opting for this route. However in recent years this has increased averaging 33% resulting in further pressure on places. The evidence now indicates that in the east of the Council area the planned P1-intake capacity is insufficient." (Source East Renfrewshire Council, 2016)

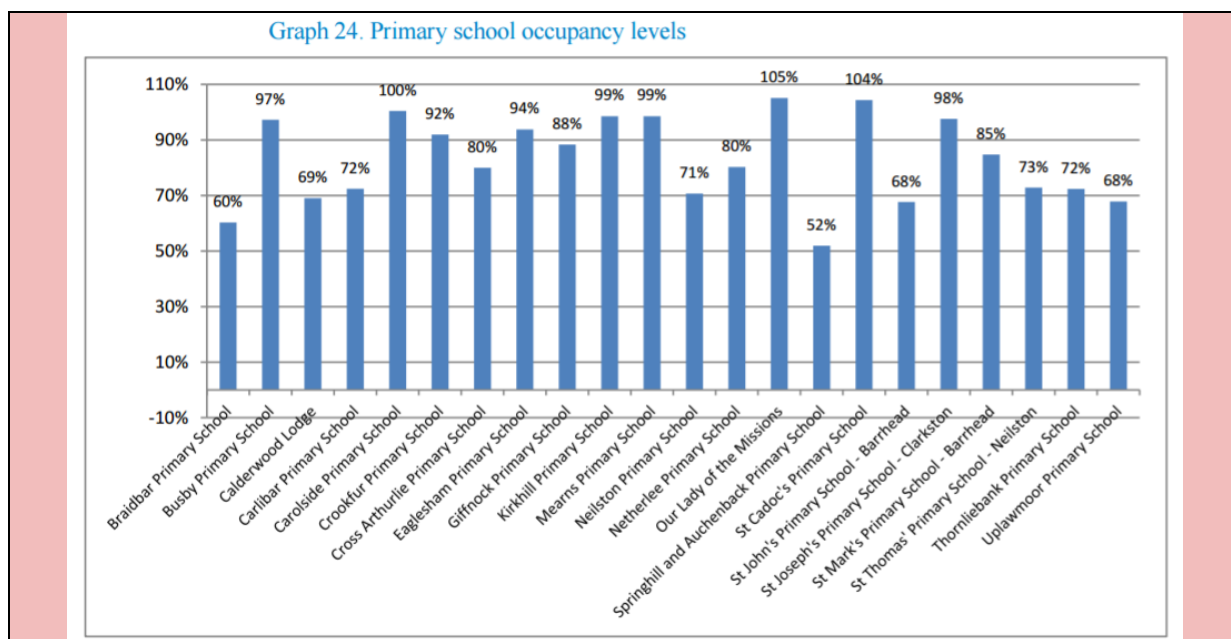
Questions:

- What percentage did East Renfrewshire Council use to calculate the required provision within St Clare's?
- What was the reason for the use of that percentage please?

I confirm that Newton Mearns Community Council used the 33% demographic trend information for their modelled projections in 2013, as originally advised by East Renfrewshire Council in 2012.

Re-zoning of children from Newton Mearns

I note the high-level of occupancy of primary schools in the east part of East Renfrewshire (Source: East Renfrewshire Council, 2016).



I note that this high occupancy has resulted in demands to re-zone some pupils in Newton Mearns out of their catchments. I note East Renfrewshire Council's stated position that there shall be no re-zoning nor changes to existing school catchments. These are important assurances:

"All pupils already at our Roman Catholic schools are unaffected by these proposals as we will honour all existing arrangements for children currently in all our schools. Temporary accommodation would be created at St Ninian's to accommodate children already in Primary 1 – 3 who are due to progress to St Ninian's for their senior education. The proposed changes will only apply to new primary and secondary pupils from January 2017 onwards. It is also important to stress that these proposed arrangements will see no changes to existing school catchment areas or re-zoning anywhere in ERC." (Source: East Renfrewshire Council, 2016)

I also note the Education Department's long-held view that re-zoning of children has implications for them and their families. These implications include learning, friendships and after-school activities. Newton Mearns Community Council supported this view in the 2013 consultation.

I note that the Scottish Government Reporter has this week also concurred with the view of the Education Department. He has rejected proposals from a developer to re-zone children out of their Newton Mearns catchment, simply in order to accommodate a planning application. The Reporter agrees that re-zoning of children has adverse implications for their development and the general wellbeing of not only themselves but also their parents:

“..... in social terms, it would be disruptive to transport young children to and from schools outside their locality, having regard to the general wellbeing of the children and their parents. There would be the added issue of children potentially changing schools in 2019 and impacts on their education through loss of teaching continuity.”
(Source: Scottish Government Reporter, 4 October 2016)

Michael Bradnam
9 October 2016