



**Mearns East**  
Community Council

<b>MEETING OF</b>	Meeting of Mearns East Community Council	
<b>HELD ON</b>	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024 @ 7.00pm in Mearns Castle High School	
<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b>	The Chairperson, William Maxwell welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
	<p>In attendance: William Maxwell (Chairperson), Steve Rutherford (Vice Chairperson), Jayne Royston (Treasurer), Doug Pitt, Anne Lithgow, Joan Macintosh, David Buchanan, Gerald Edwards</p> <p>Also Present: Cllr Paul Edlin, Cllr Andrew Anderson, Peter Barry, James Sandeman, Margaret Hinchliffe, Andrew Reid (CCLO), Graeme Paterson, Peter Barry, Susan Davidson</p>	
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Susan Brodie, John Morrison, Elnara Alderson, Janet Olverman (for late arrival)	
<b>ITEM DISCUSSED</b>		<b>Action Points</b>
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF MEETINGS</b>	<p><b>Minute of MECC meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b></p> <p>The Chairperson stated that he wished to change the comment on Page 7 under "Co-ordination of Community Councils meeting to explore any common ground of concerns".</p> <p>The motion to write to Andrew Reid was not carried. Rather, James Sandeman at our meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> suggested that it might be more practical to arrange an informal meeting of Chairs of CCs within ERC at which a freer discussion might pertain.</p> <p>The Chairperson agreed to write to the Chairs of all Community Councils within East Renfrewshire.</p> <p>Upon agreement by members of the MECC, the Chairperson proposed the Draft Minute as a true record of the meeting dated 4th June and was seconded by Jane Royston.</p>	
<b>MATTERS ARISING/</b>	There were no matters arising	
<b>POLICE REPORT</b>	<p>Constable Michael Diamond presented the Police Report for August 2024, covering events within our area between 4th June and 3rd September 2024:</p> <p><b>"CRIMES OF NOTE</b></p> <p>Crime levels in your community council area remain low in the past three months. Ongoing issues with youth disorder continue to be a priority for your local community policing team. They are working closely with youth services to tackle this issue. Constituents are</p>	



encouraged to report any anti-social behaviour they may experience.

Constituents are reminded of the importance of home and property security, and it is urged that any suspicious behaviour be reported to Police. The community's continued engagement allows us to tailor the best policing response to the community. After one of the recent housebreakings there were numerous reports of suspicious activity in the local area, by members of the community, we would like to thank those who called in.

- Three reports of Threatening and Abusive behaviour were made to Police during this period, one with a Racial Hatred Aggravator.
- One report of Theft by Shoplifting and Four thefts were reported in your area during this time.
- One Theft by Housebreaking was reported in this period.
- Two instances of Assault were reported during this time.
- Eight instances of Vandalism were reported in your area in this time.
- One instance of Careless Driving was recorded in this time.
- Two vehicles were seized, and the drivers charged with driving without a valid policy of insurance in this period.
- Two drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Two persons were charged with being found in possession of controlled drugs during this period and one report was raised for being concerned in the supply of drugs.

### **CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE**

#### **Home security**

It is asked that constituents be reminded of the importance of maintaining home and vehicle security. Crime prevention advice can be found on Police Scotland's webpage via the links below:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/your-home/your-house/>

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/your-home/your-garden/>



	<p><b>Vehicle security.</b></p> <p>Some important advice is:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove valuables from cars.</li> <li>• Take time to ensure that your car is locked.</li> <li>• If you have keyless entry/start, consider key security within your home or purchase a Faraday pouch to help prevent theft.</li> </ul> <p>We would also like to highlight the importance of keeping keyless entry vehicle keys secure in a Faraday pouch to prevent the chance of relay vehicle theft.</p> <p><b>Pedal Cycles</b></p> <p>If any community group would be interested in organising a bike marking event for persons' bikes to be securely marked free of charge please highlight this to the chair who will contact Giffnock community policing.</p> <p><b>Fraud</b></p> <p>Instances of Fraud continue to be frequent both nationally and locally. Frequently, victims, of all ages, may be scammed when they receive unexpected text or telephone messages and respond to these.</p> <p>Crime prevention messages are regularly provided via our social media accounts and further advice is available at:-</p> <p><a href="https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/scams-and-frauds/">https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/scams-and-frauds/</a></p> <p>We encourage everyone to discuss this crime prevention message with anyone they know who may not have access to the information or who may be more vulnerable.</p>	
<p><b>GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS</b></p>	<p>Andrew Reid, ERC's Community Council Liaison Officer, asked all CC's to include an aspect of Guidance for Community Councils within their meeting Agenda.</p> <p>Andrew will provide a different topic for each monthly meeting.</p> <p>For September, Andrew specifically asked that we note and discuss the guidance for the four categories of Community Council meetings. The Chairperson talked through slides provided by Andrew.</p>	
<p><b>PARKING NEWTON MEARNS ISLAMIC</b></p>	<p>A member of the public asked MECC for assistance in contacting ERC about the irresponsible parking in the area surrounding the Newton Mearns Islamic Centre in</p>	



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<b>CENTRE</b>	<p>Langrig Road.</p> <p>The Scottish Parliament passed the Transport (Scotland) Act (2019) which bans pavement parking, parking at dropped kerbs and double parking. East Renfrewshire Council is still considering how to enforce these new provisions under East Renfrewshire Parking Management Strategy (ER Cabinet 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024).</p> <p>The Chairperson illustrated the presence of extensive Schedule 2 – No Waiting at any Time – road markings at the same locale.</p> <p>The complaint is noted and MECC will act upon it diplomatically.</p> <p>Cllr Andrews commented – some of the neighbours tried to put out traffic cones to mitigate this issue and have spoken to the Islamic community and asked them to please act responsibly.</p>	
<b>BRIGHTER BARRHEAD WORKSHOPS</b>	<p>The Chairperson attended a Workshop in Barrhead on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024</p> <p>Approximately 25 attendees were split into four groups to discuss the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic Themes</li><li>• Environmental Themes</li><li>• Social and Community Themes</li><li>• Organisation and Capacity Themes</li></ul> <p>Major Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Redevelopment of Barrhead Main Street</li><li>• Redevelopment of Salvation Army Building</li><li>• Redevelopment of the Shanks factory site</li></ul> <p>The main concerns expressed at the meeting were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Housing Provision,</li><li>2. Enhanced Green Networks,</li><li>3. Main Street Traffic Control.</li></ol> <p>The Chairperson asked if there were funds for development in the MECC area.</p>	
<b>REPORTS BY SUB-COMMITTEES</b>	<p><b>Treasurer</b></p> <p>The Treasurer reported that we have received the annual grant of £611, a slight increase from the previous year.</p> <p>We received a £40 contribution from ERC for the</p>	



purchase of varnish and brushes for the refurbishment of benches in Mearns Cemetery. This contribution did not quite meet the whole cost.

Balance as of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 = £612

### **Planning and Broom Park**

David Buchanan reported:

One metal picnic table and bench has been installed in Broom Park and the base of another has been sited. The second bench will soon to be installed.

The benches are neat and sturdy and are already being well used by young families.

David thanked Janet, Jane and William for their support with this project.

### **Mearns Castle High School Running track**

The Chairperson received the following confirmation from ERC's head of planning:

Condition 1 of planning permission 2021/0420/TP states:

"Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority, the running track, synthetic pitch and floodlights hereby approved shall not be used outwith the hours of 09:00 to 19:00 Monday to Friday or 09:00 to 13:00 on a Saturday.

Reason: To safeguard the residential amenity of the adjacent properties."

This will remain enforceable throughout the life of the development.

### **Other Broom Park initiatives**

Awaiting update from ERC:-

- Manhole cover at the car park end of the park
- Dead trees and bushes to be removed
- Cutting and pruning of existing plants such as dogwood starting soon.

### **Benches in Mearns Cemetery**

MECC received an appeal for help in revarnishing the benches in Mearns Cemetery in May 2024.

Over a dry weekend in August, a volunteer group sanded and re-varnished the two benches.

We noticed there was some rot in parts of the legs from standing on damp ground. Still considering what to do about this!

Janet wrote to the lady who brought this matter to our



	<p>attention and received a thank you note in return.</p> <p><b>Attendance and Maidenhill Summery Fayre</b></p> <p>Janet, John, Elnara and William attended this event in order to promote the MECC.</p> <p><b>Cutting back of overgrown vegetation</b></p> <p>The Chairperson wrote to ERC Roads Department to ask about removal of vegetation encroaching traffic lights, and is pleased to report this has all been removed.</p> <p>The grassy area in the middle of Mearns Road has also been cut.</p> <p><b>Mearnskirk area</b></p> <p>The bushes between the south roundabout and A726 orbital roundabout are overgrowing the pavement and need to be cut back.</p> <p>The Chairperson advised that the area inside this fence is probably owned by Taylor Wimpey and offered to write to them to ask if they could attend to this matter.</p> <p>Other areas requiring attention were mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ballantrae Path (owned privately)</li><li>• Hedges along Waterfoot Road overgrowing the pavement</li></ul> <p>Andrew Reid advised that ERC can place a compulsory order on householders to trim their hedges.</p> <p>It was pointed out that some of the householders are unable to do this because of age or infirmity.</p> <p>Andrew Reid advised that ERC have a payback unpaid work service to attend to things like this.</p> <p>David Buchanan offered to make initial contact with ERC.</p> <p><b>Consultation – charging for single use cups</b></p> <p>The Scottish Government is proposing to put a 25p charge on a paper disposable cup.</p> <p>There is a Government consultation open, see link below. <a href="https://consult.gov.scot/environment-forestry/charging-for-single-use-disposable-beverage-cups/">https://consult.gov.scot/environment-forestry/charging-for-single-use-disposable-beverage-cups/</a></p>	<p>William write to Taylor Wimpey</p> <p>David to email ERC about payback scheme for trimming hedges</p>
<p><b>MEETING WITH CHAIRS OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS</b></p>	<p>The Chairperson attended a meeting with other Chairs of CC's to share any common concerns.</p> <p>The main areas of concern raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of access to healthcare</li></ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to public transport</li><li>• Housing</li><li>• NTMZ's – These are going to be initialised across the whole of Glasgow in one go.</li></ul> <p>There will be 74 NTMZ zones introduced across East Renfrewshire, at a rate of 15 each year, between 2024 and 2029. These are to encourage motorists to limit their speed to 20mph.</p> <p>It was noted that motorists are largely observing the new 30mph limit on Ayr Road.</p> <p>Janet asked if it would be possible to have the usual small 30mph reminders rather than the red wordy new 30mph limit signs. The former are much easier for drivers to recognise and will help to avoid accidental speeding.</p> <p>Peter said the police had been catching motorists speeding on the Ayr Road.</p> <p>The Chairs are writing a letter to Cllr Katie Pragnell, Chair of the Integration Joint Board in East Renfrewshire, asking about healthcare provision, to bring to the board's attention that residents cannot get dental and GP appointments because some of the local practices are so oversubscribed that their patient lists have been closed.</p> <p>The Maidenhill residents are having to attend the practice at Mearns Cross but find it very difficult to get an appointment.</p> <p>The problem lies within the Planning Process where Planning Applications for housing developments are granted and houses built without consideration of provision of appropriate infrastructure.</p> <p>The Chair stated that, after the success of the initial meeting of Chairs of CCs, it was agreed by all attendees that meetings of Chairs should be held at quarterly intervals.</p>	
<b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b>	<p><b>2024/0224/TP Construction of boundary walls with gates</b></p> <p>Approved 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Blackhouse Avenue. This planning application was granted on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The documentation did not mention any appeal.</p> <p>Cllr. Edlin stated we should not be discussing this after the application has been approved.</p> <p>The Chairperson advised that MECC had submitted an objection to this application, hence the update for CC members since the current meeting is the first since June 2024.</p>	



	<p><b>PA 2024/0364/TP - Maidenhill Primary School 09/08/24</b> An application for an extension comprising four new classrooms.</p> <p><b>2024/0394/PAR Balgray Station</b> An application has been submitted for a new railway station with footbridge, lift towers, waiting shelters and car park at Balgraystone Road, Barrhead.</p>	
<p><b>LITTER PICKS</b></p>	<p><b>Suggested dates</b> Saturday 7th September 2024 Shawwood Greenspace – Meeting in Newtonlea Avenue at 11am</p> <p>5th October 2024, 2nd November 2024, 7th December 2024, 1st February 2025, 1st March 2025, 5th April 2025, 3rd May 2025</p> <p>Jane suggested tidying up the layby on the A77 at Loganswell farm which is very unsightly. Returning any bags collected to William.</p> <p><b>Mearns Castle High School – litter picking</b> The Chairperson wrote to the Head teacher at MCHS. He is keen for us to help and suggested assisting with their term time litter picking sessions.</p> <p>The Chairperson has also written who is responsible for the ECO group and meetings will be arranged by mid-September.</p> <p>Doug commented that continually clearing up the MCHS area has made no difference to the amount of litter being dropped by school children. We need to find an alternative approach.</p> <p>One of the main problems is children purchasing take away lunches from the local shops and dropping their rubbish on their return to school.</p> <p>James suggested that since the HT has endorsed this – go back to the HT and ask if we can actually organise something with the school.</p> <p>A resident said that because the bins have open tops, animals and the wind spread the litter, especially when</p>	





	they are full.	
AOCB	<p><b>North bound traffic turning right from Mearns Road into Mearns Road East, near Broom Church.</b> A resident suggested it would greatly assist traffic flow if the road was widened, by reducing the grass verge slightly, thereby introducing a right turn lane.</p> <p><b>Flooding Broom area</b> Cllr. Edlin advised that there have recently been incidents of sewer flooding in certain streets within the Broom area - Broomcliff Drive, Dunbeath Avenue etc. Scottish Water know about this issue and say it's going to cost in the region of £10m to fix.</p> <p>Sewer flooding is Scottish Water's responsibility to remediate.</p> <p>MECC can write to Scottish water stating we have been told about the recent flooding and ask if anything can be done about improving drainage in this area.</p> <p><b>Tree cuttings – Broompark Drive pond area.</b> Janet advised we received a request for assistance in asking ERC to clear away tree branches and cuttings which have been piled up near the Broompark Drive duck pond. The mess is very unsightly and poses a fire hazard. Also, the grass hasn't been cut in over 3 months.</p> <p>The resident has contacted ERC about this matter and was told by the parks department that this is biodiversity in action!</p> <p>David advised the tree cutting may have been by Springfield properties starting to clear the site ready for building the 5 new houses under PA 2021/0130/TP.</p>	
<b>DATES OF NEXT MEETING</b>	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October, 7pm in Mearns Castle High School	
	With there being no further business, the Vice Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting	