



Mearns East
Community Council

MEETING OF	Mearns East Community Council	
HELD ON	Tuesday 4 th February 2025 @ 7.00pm in Mearns Castle High School	
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	The Chairperson, William Maxwell, welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
	<p>In attendance: William Maxwell (Chairperson), Steve Rutherford (Vice Chairperson), Janet Olverman (Secretary), Jane Royston (Treasurer), Susan Brodie, Gerald Edwards, David Buchanan</p> <p>Also Present: Cllr. Paul Edlin, Cllr. Andrew Anderson, Cllr. Caroline Bamforth, Graeme Paterson, Mark Turnbull, James Sandeman, Amjad Ismail, Allan & Sheila Reid, Jenna Reid</p>	
APOLOGIES	Doug Pitt, Anne Lithgow, John Morrison, Joan Macintosh, Elnara Alderson, Peter Barry	
ITEM DISCUSSED		Action Points
APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF MEETINGS	<p>Minute of MECC meeting dated 3rd December 2024</p> <p>Upon agreement by members of the MECC, the Chairperson proposed the Draft Minute as a true record of the meeting dated 3rd December 2024 and was seconded by Jane Royston</p>	
MATTERS ARISING/	<p>Debate about setting up a Firework Exclusion Zone in the Broom Park area.</p> <p>In order to gauge public opinion about creating a Firework Exclusion Zone in the Broom Park area, the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson produced a leaflet/questionnaire to be printed and distributed to residents. The Chairperson asked members for comments and approval.</p> <p>The Chairperson to send a copy to MECC members.</p>	William email copy of leaflet to MECC members
POLICE REPORT	<p>The Police presented their report covering the MECC area for the period 6th December 2024 to 4th February 2025.</p> <p>“The Police are aware of the ongoing problem with youth disorder in the area and an enormous amount of work is being undertaken to address this issue.</p> <p>Constituents are encouraged to report any anti-social behaviour they may experience.</p> <p>Crime levels in your community council area remain low:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four persons were reported for being found in possession of a controlled substance. • Two reports of threatening and abusive behaviour were reported in this time. • Five instances of fraud were reported in this time. 	



This is a considerably reduced number over the past year.

- Fifteen reports of theft were received in this time, twelve of these were theft by shoplifting or theft of fuel type incidents.
- Two reports of vandalism were reported in this time.
- One driver was issued a conditional offer of fixed penalty for driving their vehicle without a valid MOT certificate.

It is asked that 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.

There has been a particular focus on speeding."

Fraud Prevention

The Police asked that if we know of any community groups with elderly or vulnerable persons who would benefit from a fraud prevention advice presentation, to raise this to the Chairperson who will contact Giffnock Community Policing.

Questions:

There is an ongoing issue with speeding traffic coming from the A726 bypass, not slowing down enough before the Mearnskirk Co-op chicane. Could there be improved signage?

This would be up to ERC's Roads Department.

Are there any statistics for accidents and speeding in this area?

There is no specific data available.

There is a particular problem with speeding down Mearns Road East, from the High School towards the Co-op.

One particularly dangerous driving incident was witnessed. The car was driven by a school pupil.

The Police advised they used to run a programme for new driver awareness with S5 & S6s. Reintroducing this course has been discussed.

They explain to young drivers they are limited on their points and being caught once can result in them losing their licence.

Cllr. Bamforth said the cars parked in the Ayr Road cycle lane cause an issue in Ayr Road, reducing visibility for



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	<p>motorists trying to turn into the road.</p> <p>The Police said the cycle lane is not an official one, therefore the legislation applying to cycle lanes does not apply in this case.</p> <p>Cllr Bamforth advised the Council are proposing to double yellow line the road. This will take enforcing parking away from a Police matter into the Council's authority.</p> <p>MECC expressed concern about this, because the council currently only employ four traffic wardens for the whole of East Renfrewshire.</p> <p>Jane commented that there is an ongoing problem with traffic not always stopping at the pedestrian lights near the Mearns Road BP garage. The sight lines to these lights are too short for traffic heading north.</p> <p>There was debate about possibility of introducing a chicane at the Mearns Road East Co-op and traffic calming along Waterfoot Road.</p> <p>Speed humps cannot be installed because ERC have a policy of not installing them on bus routes.</p> <p>Police have tried placing full size Police mannekins at the side of the road to deter speeding, however they were all vandalised.</p> <p>They concluded by advising the quickest way to report an incident to police is via the Report section of their website. This is treated in the same way as dialling 101.</p> <p>Link to the form below:</p> <p>https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/</p> <p>MECC thanked the Police for their attendance.</p>	
VISIT TO NEWTON MEARNS ISLAMIC CENTRE	<p>Visit to Newton Mearns Islamic Centre 23rd January 2025</p> <p>Three members of MECC attended along with Cllr. Edlin. We were made to feel very welcome.</p> <p>MECC appreciates the effort being made to mitigate the parking issues and acknowledge that MECC suggests there is not anything else the Islamic Centre can do. MECC requests that people parking near the centre show respect for local residents.</p> <p>The Islamic Centre employs four paid parking wardens and a team of volunteers. Since their introduction there has been little or no illegal parking.</p> <p>Over the past few years, during Ramadan, the Centre had a block booking at the Avenue long stay car park, for which they have paid thousands of pounds.</p>	



	<p>A minibus service was run between the Avenue and the Islamic Centre.</p> <p>Unfortunately, this year, the Avenue have not responded to their request. The Muslim Centre has sent at least 10 emails to the Avenue with no response. The Islamic Centre is still hopeful of having something in place before Ramadan begins on 1st March.</p> <p>The Islamic Centre pays their parking wardens £17ph and they are currently looking for two wardens.</p>	
<p>SCOTRAIL TRAIN CANCELLATIONS – EAST KILBRIDE TO GLASGOW CENTRAL</p>	<p>Train Cancellations and Replacement Bus Services between East Kilbride and Glasgow Central</p> <p>Four months is a long time for a well-used railway line to be closed.</p> <p>Our MSP has arranged for minibuses to be put on the route through Busby and Giffnock.</p> <p>Would it be possible for ScotRail to introduce extra trains on the Neilston line?</p> <p>Cllr Bamforth advised this won't be possible because in order to add extra trains they would have to change the whole timetable and there is limited or no extra capacity at Glasgow Central.</p>	
<p>DATA PROTECTION AWARENESS</p>	<p>Andrew Reid has suggested Community Councillors would benefit from Data Protection Awareness training and provided dates for one hour long sessions in February and March, being run by ERC's Data Protection Officer.</p> <p>Jane, William and Janet expressed interest in attending one of these sessions.</p> <p>Janet to co-ordinate a suitable date – all sessions between 5pm and 6pm.</p> <p>3rd 4th & 5th 10th to 13th 17th to 20th 24th & 26th</p>	<p>Janet email Jane and William dates</p>
<p>GLASGOW AND ERC PAVEMENT PARKING</p>	<p>The Chairperson reported:</p> <p>Drivers in Glasgow will now be fined £100 if they park on pavements on most streets in the city from Wednesday 29th January. The new rules are designed to protect pedestrians, especially people in wheelchairs and those pushing buggies, who could be forced onto the road by</p>	



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	<p>inappropriate parking</p> <p>Is ERC going to enforce this?</p> <p>Cllr. Edlin said that there are some roads in East Renfrewshire are so narrow that if people stopped parking on pavements there would be no room for vehicles to pass on the carriageway.</p> <p>ERC are undertaking a survey of streets within ER and will compile a list of those that may be exempted from the pavement-parking ban.</p> <p>This survey will take about 6 months.</p> <p>Erected Signs will advise of locations with no parking on pavements.</p> <p>Comment was made that forcing residents to cut back hedges away from the pavement edge, would leave more room for pedestrians.</p> <p>Cllr Bamforth agreed that overgrown hedges are an issue and asked that residents report them to the council who will contact the homeowners.</p> <p>Cllr Anderson advised that in Glasgow cars have to leave enough room for a fire engine to get past.</p>	
<p>COMMUNITY COUNCIL CHAIRS MEETING</p>	<p>The Chairperson advised that a meeting of East Renfrewshire Community Council Chairs was held on 16th January at Parklands.</p> <p>Attendees were from:</p> <p>Thornliebank, Mearns East, Mearns West, Clarkston, and Giffnock</p> <p>Items discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The poor availability of access to bus services,2) Impending changes to road usage resulting from traffic management schemes proposed by East Renfrewshire Council,3) Decisions on planning applications,4) Maintenance and public access to play-parks and green space5) Lack of involvement by members of the public in Community Councils. <p>Date of next meeting: 17th April 2025</p> <p>Jane asked if there has been any progress from Andrew Reid in producing a leaflet for promoting the work of Community Councils.</p>	



	The Chairperson has written to ERC but no response received yet.	
REPORTS BY SUB-COMMITTEES	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>2024/0610/TP - Residential development of 26 flats on old Mearns Primary School land.</p> <p>The Chairperson, on behalf of MECC, submitted a comment to this application. The main point being concern about access to the flats for emergency vehicles, especially fire appliances, along the single carriageway road. At the moment, access along this road can be completely obstructed by delivery vehicles at the M&S loading bay.</p> <p>There have been 23 comments against (so far).</p> <p>2023/0194/TP - 17 residential flats (opposite ASDA deliveries)</p> <p>This has been approved subject to conditions.</p> <p>Cllr. Edlin explained the decision making process. The primary driver is if the application complies with both the Local Development Plan and the National Development Plan.</p> <p>2024/0502/TP New Eastwood Sports Centre</p> <p>A special meeting of ERC planning committee to discuss the Eastwood Sports Centre planning application for demolition of existing building and erection of new building, was scheduled for 22nd January. This meeting was cancelled and rescheduled because not enough prior notice was given.</p> <p>PAN 250131</p> <p>East Renfrewshire Golf course pre-application notice.</p> <p>The Club is planning to re-profile a few of the golf holes to make way for a new driving range.</p> <p>Because this is considered to be a 'Major Development' there will be two public consultations on March 25th and 27th</p> <p>Broom Park</p> <p>David Buchanan reported that the possibility of a new litter-bin in Broom Park near the picnic benches has been discussed with ERC and will be going ahead.</p> <p>Manhole cover</p> <p>Cllr Edlin wrote to Scottish Water who have been out to look at the site.</p>	



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	<p>The Chairperson met with Steve Clark from Scottish Water who identified the waterway with the missing manhole cover and said it is the responsibility of SW sewers. Steve Clark said he would contact them. No response so far.</p> <p>The Chairperson to chase this up with Scottish Water.</p> <p>James advised there is a drain serving the whole car park that was blocked. This has been cleared but he's not sure if outflow is actually going into the burn. James offered to check.</p> <p>Storm Eowyn felled a few trees in Broom park. Two trees have been removed. Roads Dept. attended to the fallen tree in the car park. MECC thanks East Renfrewshire Council for its rapid response in this matter.</p>	
<p>HAVE YOUR SAY QUESTIONNAIRE</p>	<p>Health and Social Care 2025-2028 East Renfrewshire HSPC Strategic Pan consultation ends February 14th</p>	
<p>PLACE PLAN TRAINING</p>	<p>Place Plan Training for Community Councils 5.30-6.30 Every Wednesday There are a series of evenings scheduled throughout February and March to help Community Councils understand Local Place Plans. Meetings will take place on MS Teams.</p>	
<p>LITTER PICKS</p>	<p>Future dates: 15th February - 11am Broom Park Carpark 1st March 2025, 5th April 2025, 3rd May 2025</p> <p>Janet email Amjad and Junaid location of litter picks</p>	<p>JO email Amjad and Junaid</p>
<p>AOCB</p>	<p>Promoting Community Councils Andrew Reid is asking volunteers from all ER Community Councils to assist with making a short video, promoting the work of Community Councils. The Chairperson offered to take part if no other volunteers.</p> <p>Safe travel to school A member of the public asked MECC for assistance in contacting ERC Education Department to arrange transport for their child to Kirkhill Primary school.</p> <p>The Waterfoot Road, at Burnhouse Farm, is virtually impossible to cross safely during busy times, especially with a young child and a baby in a pram.</p>	



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	<p>Education Department have refused to assist with transport to school, stating that their postcode is within a 'safe' distance from school and there is a pavement. However, there is not a pavement on the farm side of the road.</p> <p>The parents have been told not to ask again.</p> <p>Cllr Anderson offered to take this case up with ERC.</p> <p>It might be worth writing to ROSPA for advice. https://www.rospa.com/</p>	<p>Cllr Anderson to assist</p>
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	<p>Tuesday 4th March, 7-9pm in Mearns Castle High School.</p>	
	<p>With there being no further business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting</p>	