

# Mayfield and Easthouses Community (MAECC) Minutes of meeting

## 6 September 2023 7pm - Meeting held in Mayfield Church

### **ATTENDEES**

Robert Hogg (Chair), Judy Thomson (Treasurer), Stephen Liddell (Planning), Cllr Peter Smaill, Brian Martin (Planning), Craig Gallier (Environment), Cllr Bryan Pottinger, Sharon Hill (MAEDT), Susan Ryan, Michael Hogg (Vice-Chair), Cal Haston, Robbie Beattie, Jennifer Allison, Paul McCallion, Alan May, Paula Leca, Ross Irvine, Steve Holtz, Jim Johnstone, Michael Davidson.

### **Apologies**

Tracylee Armit, Theresa Morrison, George Jackson, Cllr Stuart McKenzie

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

RH welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies (documented above). The minutes from the last meeting in September were moved by CG and seconded by RH. Normal business was suspended as there was a delegation in attendance from Morrisons Construction and Midlothian Council to discuss Community Benefits of the new Easthouses Primary School.

### **Community Benefits**

- Jim Johnstone is the Head of Communities and Social Impact at Morrison Construction. He expressed his intention to make a positive impact on the community. The aim is to involve the community and form partnership. He wants to leave a legacy and to make a difference.
- Paula Leca is the Communities and Social Impact Manager at Morrison Construction and has a background as a community worker. She highlighted opportunities for the community, including site tours, apprenticeships, work experience, and pathways to employment. She also mentioned collaborating with local organizations like MAEDT, Y2K, Passionate about the Park and Easthouses FC. Plus involving local children in producing a newsletter.
- The discussion emphasized that the meeting was not about discussing community facilities but rather a separate conversation. Jim and Paula intend to share a detailed document outlining what they will offer, with possible redactions due to commercial sensitivities.
- The project aims to provide local jobs for local people and collaborate with the Job Centre to prepare individuals with the required skills.
- Suggestions were made for potential legacies, including involvement of the school in gala day, and volunteer opportunities in local parks. The expected opening date for the new school is August 2024, so will miss the local gala days but new Head Teacher Jennifer Allison is keen to get involved in the future.
- CC expressed interest in having a space or storage facility at the school, particularly for Community Resilience work as there is often equipment that needs to be stored somewhere.

#### **2. Police Report**

Concerns were raised about the lack of police presence, with a suggestion to visit each CC once a quarter. RH read out the police report for August and said he would chase a Facebook post we were expecting to share.

Bike-related issues were raised and Cllr Smaill was asked to raise this at his quarterly meeting or with a liaison officer at the council. He reported incidents of bus vandalism and catching speeders in Eskbank. Lack of CCTV was discussed and RH said he would chase an update on that subject from Council Officers. R Beattie said the equipment is bought and now needs to be rolled out. Approximately £250,00-£300,000 being spent on this project. CC would like to have an input on the focus of the cameras. Another possibility would be to add to this system using Morrison's 'legacy'. There was nothing further to report on the case where RH had submitted footage of a bike from a bus.

It was felt that there is a drug crisis in the area and it was suggested to speak to MELD about what is being done and what could be done in the future.

There are many units empty in Bogwood Court and there's a toilet at the back that should be condemned/demolished. Community groups should join up and look for funding for improvements. There is a Masterplan for the Town Centre but no money to fund it. SL opened a conversation with Morrisons about any possible benefits to the community.

### **3. Planning**

BM – Local Place Plan. Public survey is now open, launched on Monday and open till end of Sept (both online and paper versions). Thanks to MAEDT, for printing. Thanks to JT for help with survey. All locations for paper versions are listed on the website. BM will go back to Scotmid now that it's back open. Schools/Parent Councils could email a link home.

SL – Presentation about Housing Allocations. SL gave a compelling presentation about housing developments in our area and the potential for more in the forthcoming Local Development Plans. He showed evidence to show that there are enough houses in the committed sites and there is no need to add further sites. Concern is felt that once a proposed site is included in a Local Development Plan it is very difficult to remove it again. Developers can choose to bring forward future sites in preference to building on committed sites if it was deemed to be commercially valuable. It was agreed for SL to present to the Midlothian Federation of Community Councils to seek support for a joint letter to Head of Planning at the Council.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

There was no income or expenditure in August. The account balance at the end of August was £7,637.97. The issue with the Council withholding money for the Mayfield and Easthouses Christmas Lights is still ongoing.

### **5. AOB**

After two important presentations, time ran out for all other items on the agenda.

RH thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.