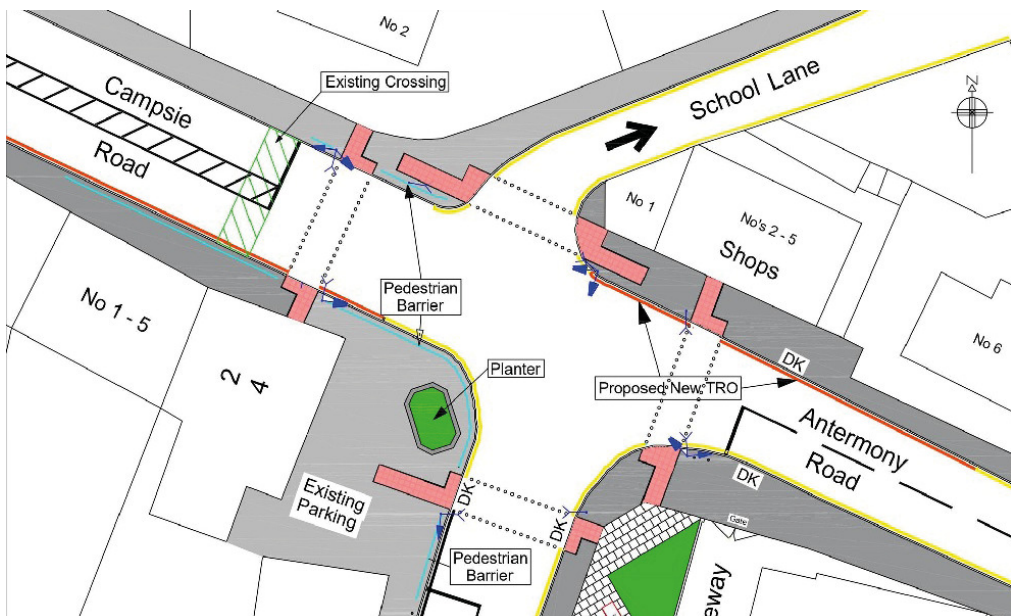




# SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023

## Traffic Lights at Milton Cross

A proposal to install traffic lights at Milton cross was supported by a large majority of residents who responded to a poll on the Community Council facebook page. The proposal has been agreed by East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC). Work on installation is likely to commence in the next year. There will be pedestrian-controlled lights to cross both Antermoney Road and Birdston Road, which should make it safer to access the school, the library, the village hall and local businesses. Parking is already prohibited in this area, so the impact on local businesses should be minimal.



# Speeding

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In response to an enquiry by the Community Council, EDC provided a summary of a survey of vehicle speeds that had been conducted. Unfortunately, the information provided was “average speed” rather than the proportion of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. The average speed of 35 mph conceals the fact that a small number of vehicles were travelling very fast indeed. The Community Council continues to press EDC to provide more useful information, and to consider solutions suggested by local residents via the Community Council. For example, should the speed limit for the whole village be reduced to 20mph? Could we have chicanes like the ones that have been installed in Croy and Strathblane? Or rumble strips? Or speed-triggered traffic lights, as have been observed elsewhere (i.e. lights turn to red only if a vehicle is speeding, and a photograph is taken of any vehicle going through a red light)?



## Traffic Free Schools

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EDC have announced they are running a pilot scheme for Traffic Free Schools from the return after summer break 14th August 2023. Further information is available here: <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/roads-pavements-and-parking/parking/traffic-free-schools>.

Please be advised there will be only permitted vehicle access to School Lane, Craighead Ave and Craighead Road between the hours 08.30 - 09.15am and 14.30 - 15.15pm, Monday to Friday during term time.

# Roadside Footpaths

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Roadside footpaths become unsafe and unusable if they are overgrown with bushes, and if soil creeps from the adjacent ground. There have been significant problems on Birdston Road and Antermoney Road to the east of the village. The responsibility for prevention or remedy usually rests with the owner of the adjacent land. A Community Councillor took a series of photographs of a measuring-rod at various parts of the Birdston Road footpath, showing progressive narrowing. Soon afterwards, East Dunbartonshire Council took action to clear the Birdston Road footpath, for which they are congratulated.



## Allotments

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It is now six years since EDC consulted on a proposal to create allotments at Craigfoot. The consultation in July 2017 said, *"The existing open field space was previously gifted to the Council with the aim to use the land for community benefit. The Council wishes to establish new garden allotments for the Milton of Campsie community which will be visually pleasing and integrates well into the surrounding landscape. It is important to the Council that the community has an input into the proposed development to ensure that any ideas or inspirations are incorporated where practically possible."*

It appears that EDC intends to continue with its proposals to create allotments at the Craigfoot site, notwithstanding concerns expressed about the discovery that the land is contaminated with lead. The new officer from EDC, Stephen Egan, has been in communication with the Community Council. Mr Egan gave an assurance that the allotment design will not encroach on the adjacent community garden (which EDC regards as a change of use without planning permission).



# Community Council – Treasurer's update (Andy MacKenzie)

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The constitution of the Community Council requires us to have a number of Office Bearers, including a Treasurer. I was approached to stand in as Treasurer following the previous post holder stepping down and was confirmed as Treasurer following the re-election of the existing members in 2022. The role of the Treasurer is to ensure the funds of the Community Council are correctly accounted for and to maintain appropriate records of all income and expenditure. Like many organisations the Treasurer is one of the authorised signatories for the accounts - the others being the Chair and Secretary, of which two are required to sign any cheque payments. However, all expenditure should previously have been approved and recorded in the minutes of a preceding meeting prior to payment being made.



The Community Council receives a grant from East Dunbartonshire Council each year to assist with the administrative costs i.e., meeting room hire, postage, newsletters etc. However, the Community Council is free to raise funds for other activities either by seeking donations or other grants. In previous years we have received grants from the Coop Local Community Fund to assist with work undertaken by the Community Council in repair work and upgrading of some of the core paths within the Village.

This current year we have also again made application to the Coop Local Community Fund and to a Scottish Government Initiative – Social & Loneliness Fund 2023 -26, seeking funding to operate a Lunch Club for those feeling Isolated and Alone as we recover from the restrictions of COVID19, and we await to be advised if we have been successful with these applications.

On the expenditure side the community council has recently

undertaken repairs and upgrades to parts of the core paths within the village, organised a Santa's Grotto, and an "old folks" Christmas lunch and as in previous years organised the annual remembrance service at the war memorial in November.

In addition to these events, we invited the local school children to design a Christmas card and distributed copies of this to elderly residents within the village. Around the same time, we toured the village and selected a winner for the best decorated Christmas themed garden with the winner pictured receiving a gift voucher from the Chair of the Community Council.

## Footpaths

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Grants have been obtained to provide for maintenance and repairs of other footpaths in the village (not roadside footpaths) if volunteers will undertake the work. The repair of the bridge at Kincaid last year was very successful. Teams of volunteers will help other projects; we are looking for people to volunteer to lead them.

## Access and Sight-Lines

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It is important that developers adhere to the conditions when planning consent is given for access to public roads. The Community Council is vigilant to respond if planning consent is breached in ways that affect safety, especially of people walking on the roadside footpaths. Also, plants should not be allowed to grow into thoroughfares to the extent that visibility is obscured.



Sightlines along Campsie Road

# Public Meeting - Birdston Coup

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Birdston Regeneration Group (BRG), now registered as a charity, had a very successful public meeting in the village hall on Monday 3rd of July.

Brian McFall chaired the meeting. Speakers from the BRG Morag Campbell and Graham Beastall spoke about the coup and its history of toxic waste and how the BRG charity was formed, its operating and its aims. The group were delighted that Heather Yearwood from Community Land Scotland was able to attend the meeting and provide examples of other projects that have negotiated Community Right to Buy (CRTB). Heather spoke about the Scottish Land Fund and other funding routes that could support the purchase of the coup.

The meeting was interactive and locals had lots of questions and suggestions that have been gratefully noted by BRG. It is important that the community engage in the process of CRTB for it to be successful. Following the speakers' interactive activity, stations were set up to allow residents to contribute to the process of making the coup safe. BRG launched its petition for community support which is an essential,



Recent photo of the site



early part of the right to buy process. The group will be actively seeking support from the community through its petition and memberships during the summer.

The group were pleased that local councillor Colette McDiarmid and Alex Buist, chair of the Community Council, were able to attend the meeting. Sadly Stuart McDonald MP was unable to attend but has continually given great support and assistance to the group, Stuart was able to confirm he will be catching up with the group very soon.

BRG is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC052301).



Recent Public Meeting at the Village Hall

## New Constituency Boundaries

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The Boundary Commission has recommended changes in the constituencies for Milton of Campsie.

The existing constituency for our MP at Westminster is called "Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East", and at the next General Election we will be in "**Mid Dunbartonshire**".

For the Scottish parliament, our present constituency is called "Strathkelvin and Bearsden", and at the next election for the Scottish parliament it has been proposed that we will be in "**North Kirkintilloch & Kilsyth**".

# Councillor Colette McDiarmid

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*Since being elected in May 2022, I have made regular visits to Milton of Campsie and assisted numerous constituents with issues they have raised. Some of the most common issues raised include requests for road repairs, road safety, flytipping and bus services.*

*I am pleased to report that following a request to repair large potholes on Birdston Road earlier this year, it has been actioned by the roads department. Broken paving stones at the cross were also replaced, shrubs were trimmed back, plants were planted at the memorial garden last summer and a request to paint the railings at the cross has also been requested.*

*I am always struck by the individuals I meet in the local community, how passionate they are about the area, and how they can improve it. I have visited Sked's Garden several times which is a fantastic community asset. Each time I visit, there's always a new section which Sked is always pleased to show me. I know how valued the area is for local people and around East Dunbartonshire.*

*In addition to supporting constituents, I have also attended the community council several times and been in communication with them about key issues in the area. I also had the honour of leading the procession from St Paul's Church on Remembrance Sunday in November last year as Depute Provost.*

*Finally, I would like to thank Milton of Campsie Community Council for their work in the local community and for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself in their newsletter.*

*If you need any assistance, please get in touch with me via email [colette.mcdiarmid@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:colette.mcdiarmid@eastdunbarton.gov.uk) or by calling 0141 578 8072.*



# EDC Consultation about “A Circular Economy”

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East Dunbartonshire Council produced a Draft Circular Economy Strategy (CES) at the end of 2022. Public consultation took place between 4 January and 3 February 2023.

The EDC website says,

*“In a Circular Economy, all waste is minimised as far as possible, with materials being kept in use or repurposed for as long as possible. It is a shift away from a disposable culture, in which everything is designed to be thrown away after use. In a Circular Economy, the end of a product’s lifecycle is considered in the design process, waste is avoided in the manufacturing process and everything is designed to last for multiple uses or to be broken down into reusable, recyclable or biodegradable components when the user is finished with it.*

*It encourages local businesses, anchor organisations and communities to support each other by sourcing goods and materials locally. The draft actions presented in the strategy were developed in collaboration with members of the East Dunbartonshire Economic Partnership, a Circular Economy Ambassador Group with a board of local stakeholders (including representatives from the local business and social enterprise community) and with teams across the Council as part of the Net Zero Working Group.”*

There are 16 action areas, three of which are identified as action for communities:

- Online Support and Information on the Circular Economy for Residents
- Circular Economy Community Engagement Activities
- Develop a Workforce of all ages to be Equipped for a Circular Future

More information can be found at <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/east-dunbartonshire-circular-economy-strategy>. In June 2023, the Scottish Government introduced the Circular Economy Bill. <https://www.gov.scot/news/circular-economy-bill-published/>

## “Shut out scammers” campaign

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Police Scotland notified the Community Council that they were operating a joint initiative on this subject on 18th May. Unfortunately the message was received too late to publicise it.

# Local Development Plan

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East Dunbartonshire Council is about to begin work on its next Local Development Plan (LDP) – to be known as LDP3. An LDP sets out a long-term vision for where development should and should not happen. According to EDC, it is vital for:

- Addressing climate change
- Delivering high-quality places to live
- Attracting new jobs and investment
- Regenerating town centres
- Protecting the historic and natural environment.

The current Local Development Plan – LDP2 – has been adopted and will remain in place until LDP3 is fully approved (expected by early 2028). EDC is asking communities and stakeholders how they would like to be consulted in the process of preparing LDP3.

Milton of Campsie Community Council sees this as an opportunity to put together a local plan which suits the village. It is time that housing developers are stopped from enlarging the village without contributing any infrastructure.

## Contact the Community Council

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The Community Council is contactable via the email address **secretary.moccc@outlook.com** or via Facebook messenger on the Facebook page **@miltonofcampsiecc**. Our meetings are the third Monday of each month at 7:30pm. We are in the Milton of Campsie Village Hall, in the large hall on Caighead Road.

All residents of Milton of Campsie and Birdston are welcome to attend. It would be excellent to see as many members of the public with us each month as it gives us better insight into what the village thinks about issues that arise and what the villagers think we should be concentrating on getting sorted. The agenda and minutes of meetings are posted on the notice board at the cross and are available on the website at <https://miltonofcampsiecc.co.uk/>.

# Voter ID

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The Elections Act 2022 has introduced a new requirement for voters to show photo identification before voting in person in a polling station. From Thursday 4 May 2023, voters in Scotland will need to show photo ID in some elections, namely UK Parliamentary by-elections and recall petitions. From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

If you have a postal vote, there is no need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. Identification is only required if you intend to vote in person at a polling station. To apply for a Postal Vote is very simple, you can ask for a postal vote just because you want to; no reason needs to be given. Voting by Post involves the issue of your ballot paper to an address of your choice, and the marking, by you, of your vote on the ballot paper. That ballot paper then requires to be returned by the close of poll on polling day. You can find more information on voting by post at <https://www.saa.gov.uk/dab-vjb/electoral-registration/absent-postal/>.

# Waterways

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The flow of Glazert Water varies greatly. Sometimes there is a spate, which increases erosion of the banks. The Community Council has found it difficult to establish whose responsibility it is to undertake maintenance and repair of the banks, and there has been little progress with this in recent years.

The course of the Glazert is not entirely natural. In the past, people made changes to the course of the river to reduce flooding in one area without considering the consequences downstream. There has been some recent publicity about natural solutions being tested on rivers in other parts of Scotland. Could they work for the Glazert, and reduce the need for long term maintenance?

EDC has a plan for restoration of the Glazert Water at Lennoxton that involves some natural solutions (see <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/river-glazert-restoration-project>). It remains to be seen whether this will have any beneficial effect in Milton of Campsie.

There has also been some concern about a broken bank of the burn near the Alloch dam.



# Playparks

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We understand that EDC is to receive additional money from the Scottish Government for playparks. The Community Council would like to create a new playpark in the area of the Belway estate, but it seems unlikely that the funds will be sufficient. In the meantime, it would be helpful if EDC would provide larger litter bins at the playpark, or empty them more frequently. People use the bins, but they overflow.



## Verges, shrubberies and meadows

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A few years ago, EDC changed its policy for verges and grassland. Instead of mowing frequently, some areas were designated as zones for wildlife, generally as “pollination” zones to encourage insects. There was a lack of consultation before the policy was implemented, and there have been consequences that should have been foreseen. Without a long-term plan, the zones become invaded by undesired plants – otherwise known as weeds – and for parts of the year they appear unsightly. There are varying opinions about the way forward. Should we revert to mown grassland? EDC appears reluctant to fund the necessary frequency of mowing.

We have a similar problem with shrubberies. Although the bushes are occasionally trimmed, they have been invaded with nettles, docken and thistles that need to be pulled or hoed.

Some other villages appear to have found ways to make mixed meadows attractive year-round. An example is the wildflower meadow at Lennoxton, organised by Butterfly Conservation (<https://butterfly-conservation.org/events/lennoxton-wildflower-meadow-creation>). We have been told that the work is mainly done by a team of volunteers.

# Heating Our Homes Without Gas

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A majority of people and organisations, including East Dunbartonshire Council, now recognise that there is a climate emergency; and the Scottish Government has committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2045, five years ahead of the UK as a whole. How is this to be done? Since heating our homes is a large contributor to emissions, one method is to replace fossil fuel appliances (such as gas boilers) with renewable energy technologies (like heat pumps).

Milton of Campsie is eminently suitable for retrofitting with heat pumps, especially the air source type, because there are so many detached and semi-detached properties with large enough gardens to hold the external fan units, and with internal space (such as a large cupboard, utility area or the loft) for the water tanks, which are bigger than conventional boilers. The technology also exists for ground source, water source, and air to air type heat pumps, so it is a flexible solution for a village community to adopt over time.

However, it would be an unfair demand on the individuals who make up the community, if we were expected to manage all the following steps, without an inclusive system of reliable advice, and technical and financial support:

- researching which is the most suitable renewable energy system for our own home
- finding the extra money to pay for the installation of the equipment
- identifying trained experts to install it for us, who themselves understand how the technology works
- weeding out any dishonest traders who want to make a profit and aren't interested in providing competent systems or proper financial guarantees.

In future newsletters, we will describe MoC householders' practical experiences with heat pumps, and consider further how our local government institutions could help residents participate in this very necessary transition.

Visit Home Energy Scotland for information on Grants  
<https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/>

# Campsie Festivals in our Village Hall

Campsie Festivals Association (CFA) provides free Art and Music events in Milton of Campsie Village Hall ([www.campsiefest.org.uk](http://www.campsiefest.org.uk)). Milton of Campsie Village Hall Trust provides the Hall free for these CampsieFest celebrations of the Arts. All donations go to the Hall Trust to help keep the Hall going.

We hope to organise another Christmas Orchestral Concert, with audience (especially children) participating in a percussion band and singing carols.

Could you volunteer to help Campsie Festivals Association? More help is needed, especially with advertising and social media.

Come and support events - you're guaranteed enjoyment!

A longer version of this article is available at <https://miltonofcampsiecc.co.uk/news/>



Winterfest - St Vincent Baroque Players

## Tell us What You Think!

There are many ways to contact us with your thoughts and opinions about the village and what we are doing to represent you. We can be contacted via the email address **[secretary.moccc@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.moccc@outlook.com)** or via Facebook messenger on the Facebook page **[@miltonofcampsiecc](https://www.facebook.com/miltonofcampsiecc)**. Even better we would love to see you at the monthly meetings which are held in the village hall on the third Monday of every month.





Whistlebinkies Audience



CampsieFest Ceilidh



[www.miltonofcampsiecc.co.uk](http://www.miltonofcampsiecc.co.uk)

Instagram: [miltonofcampsiecc](https://www.instagram.com/miltonofcampsiecc)

Facebook: [miltonofcampsiecc](https://www.facebook.com/miltonofcampsiecc)



This year we will run from  
**Monday 31 July - Thursday 10 August**  
with activities for children, young people and adults



ENROL THE KIDS FOR OUR  
FREE **"SCRANARAMA"**  
HOLIDAY CLUB  
WEEKDAYS 10AM - 12PM

## Enjoy singing?

Join us at 8.00 pm  
rehearsals on  
week-nights leading up  
to our Charity Concert  
on Thursday 10 August  
at 7.00 pm



More info from Phyllis on 07582 713463  
or visit us online at **[mocpc.org.uk](http://mocpc.org.uk)**