



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

Safety on the roads through the village has been the top priority of the Community Council in 2022. A second report with recommendations was submitted to EDC in the spring of 2022. Cllr Ferretti assisted us in getting a response from EDC in November. Progress has been made and EDC have confirmed that we will have a 3-way set of traffic control signals at the junction of Milton Cross which will provide badly-needed crossing points and hopefully slow down those speeding through the village. The proposals are available to view on the CC website.

In the meantime, we ask you to focus on hazards related to maintenance and repairs. Potholes can cause road users to swerve, and can damage cycles and vehicles. Road flooding may be exacerbated if gullies are not kept clear. We encourage everyone to report road faults via <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/webform/road-fault-report>.



Craigfoot Allotments - the story so far

The Community Council has been working with East Dunbartonshire Council for several years to create allotments in the village. In 2014 the land at Craigfoot Field was offered to the Community Council by the landowner for this purpose.

EDC included the proposal in its Local Development Plan for 2017-22 and commissioned a series of reports to produce a plan. This plan has finally been shared with the Community Council (see the MoCCC website at www.miltonofcampsiecc.co.uk).

The reports show several problems with the site – access would require significant improvement work, and utilities would need to be diverted; there is said to be a flood risk; and it has been discovered that the soil is contaminated by lead.

The site covers the area in which a local resident has created a popular and attractive garden, open to the public.

The CC secretary met with Joe McCulloch of EDC Streetscene in early September to discuss the issue of the clash with Sked's Garden and had a very productive meeting. Very shortly after this meeting, Mr McCulloch, who had only recently returned to EDC, left his post. We are still no further forward with the allotments beyond EDC proposals.

Craigfoot Allotments - what next?

There will be a public consultation to discuss the plan, which is expected to cost more than £400,000.

The Community Council has requested a small redesign of the layout if it is still to proceed in this area but due to its difficulty in accessibility and the existence of natural lead contamination in the earth and the costs involved, we have suggested a site at the edge of the village on the road heading towards Kilsyth. This potentially would be better value for money.

No contact has been made from EDC since Mr McCulloch left his post.

Community Council Elections

Elections for Community Councils take place every four years, linked to the cycle of local Council elections. After the Council elections in May 2022, Community Council elections were scheduled for November. Milton of Campsie Community Council has ten positions for eligible candidates (people on the electoral roll in the area of MoC).

The election was advertised on the MoCCC facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MiltonOfCampsieCC/>. Six candidates stood, and because this was fewer than the vacancies, all were elected.

At the first meeting of the new Community Council on 21st November, its members elected the chair, secretary and treasurer. To ensure it can carry out its work, the Community Council co-opted two non-voting members.

The members are:

Elected: Alex Buist (Chair), Andy Mackenzie (Treasurer), Brian McFall (Secretary), Elizabeth Rowan, Jim Crawford, Neill Simpson.

Co-opted: Agnes Raybould and Iona Gilchrist.

The four local Councillors for the ward are also members. We will invite your elected representatives who attend Community Council meetings to write short articles in future newsletters.

Community Council Meetings

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. This is located on Craighead 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://www.miltonofcampsiecc.co.uk>**

Secretary's News

The CC have been organising a free Christmas lunch for initially those who live alone, retired and are elderly with couples being added in to make up numbers. We were trying to focus on over 70's as we didn't think that many 60+ feel themselves to be old these days.

In these days of Data Protection it has proven difficult to obtain all the names and addresses of this grouping. As such what we would like to propose is that villagers who wish to be included and invited to these events to provide us with your name, address and telephone contact number and confirm that you are happy for the Community Council to retain this information purely for social use.

Your information can be sent to the secretary by e-mail, secretary.moccc@outlook.com, submitted in written form to the CC at any of our meetings or by posting the written information in the post-box at the village hall. We will also create a registration page on our web site for those technically minded.

Many thanks to MoC Village Hall Trust for the use of the hall free of charge. A raffle was held in aid of the Village Hall Trust. We are very grateful for the donations to the raffle made by The Fells, Blossoms, Blue Hair and Campsie Pharmacy. We also thank members of Milton of Campsie Community Council and many others who donated home baking; and to the Kemp family who gave an excellent performance of seasonal music free of charge.

We hope to organise events such as the Christmas lunch and other events through the year, all of which we would like to be free. We look forward to organising more events and are happy to receive ideas of events to hold.



Christmas Decorations Competition Winner 2022 - 25 Lochalsh Cresc

Birdston coup: an update from the Birdston Regeneration Group

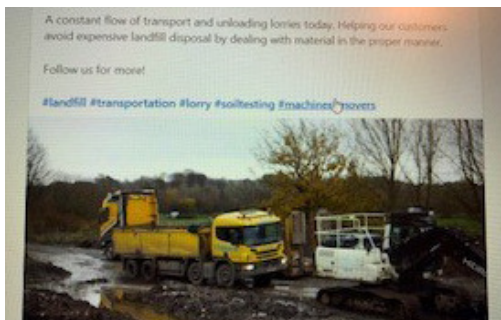
Having formed as a 'working group' to tackle the many issues presented by the former Birdston Coup site, just off of Birdston Rd (see below), we are pleased to announce that the newly named 'Birdston Regeneration Group' has applied to become a charitable body and await the outcome of their application to the Scottish Charity Regulator. Charitable status will allow the group to apply for vital funding support on behalf of the community, in order to ensure that the site is made safe, regenerated and returned to community use under 'Community Right To Buy' legislation. More updates will follow soon, including how to become a member of the Regeneration Group! What would you like to see happen on the site in future?

The story so far....

- Birdston coup sits on the edge of our villages and was initially unregulated.
- Once regulation began it was registered on local and national data bases.
- It is registered in Westminster as a coup which can accept nuclear waste and hospital waste which it is understood to have done. This can't be proved due to lax record keeping but must be assumed to have happened to be safe.
- The coup was closed in 1990 and the then current owner was given a short-term temporary planning approval to cap and seal the coup for good.
- Late 2020 / early 2021 the coup was purchased by a waste disposal company from Ireland with the purported end to be the area covered and returned to agricultural land.
- Birdston Management Ltd was formed to carry out the works needed to bring it back to usable land which was to take 2 years according to SEPA records.
- The early formation of large soil bunds to the perimeter led to many people suspecting that these were to hide what was taking place in the site.
- This act led to the initial primary concern being that the machinery on site had breached the surface of the original coup, possibly in an attempt to bury more waste but more disconcertingly possibly

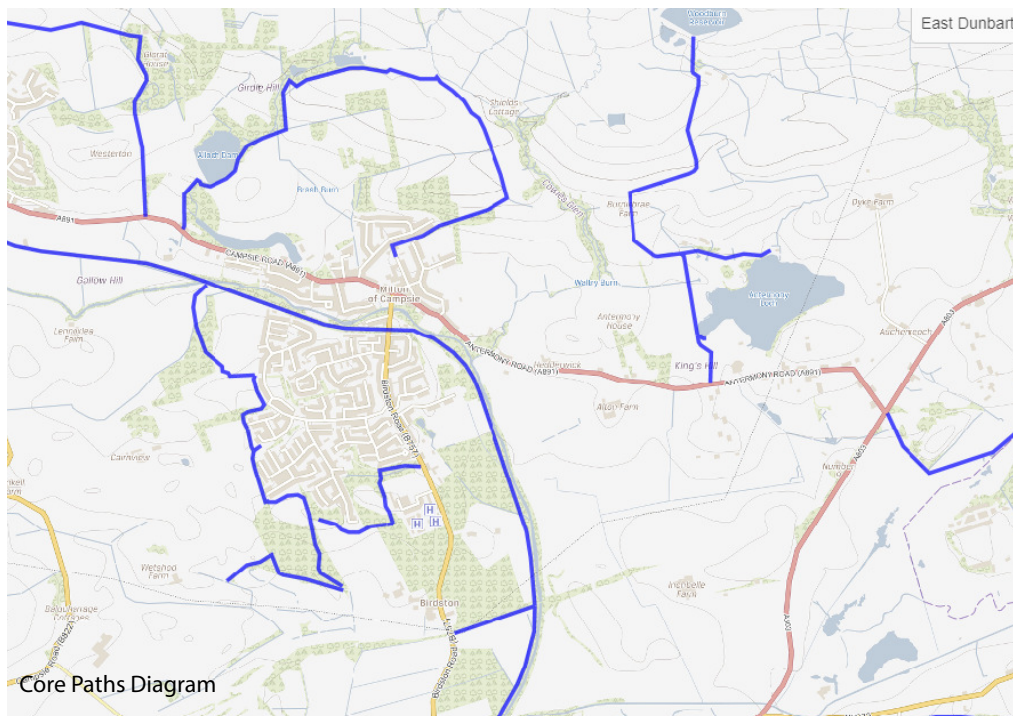
disturbing the potentially toxic products previously buried.

- From online research the company appeared to be advertising a Waste Treatment facility and soil sale facility. They did not have permission for this from SEPA.
- As the months wore on the stench emanating from the coup was so bad that residents of Birdston could not open their windows and some became physically ill.
- When questions were asked about the activities, EDC Planning department stated that the temporary permission for 1991 was still open in extant. This means that the Temporary Planning Permission which had a very precise end date attached to it was still active and BML could use this to carry on working the site.
- Initially the Community Council set up a working group to investigate the issue which quickly grew in size to become an independent action group now called Birdston Regeneration Group which is in the process of applying for charitable status.
- The group researched the area, lobbied SEPA, EDC and our local MP's providing information and photographs clearly showing that BML were acting outwith their SEPA exemptions. Materials and products were found on site which should not have been there with at least one product which if airborne and breathed in could be carcinogenic. Only Stuart McDonald our Westminster MP engaged, and he has been a tremendous asset.
- Due to the pressure applied by the group and our MP, SEPA took a more detailed look at what was happening and visited the site on numerous occasions taking notes and samples of soil and water with the outcome ultimately being the withdrawal of the approved exemptions and the closure of the coup for now.
- EDC have been particularly unhelpful with Environmental Health, the Access Officer and the Planning Department all being extremely



slow to act and incredibly blind in their assessments of what was happening on site until SEPA shut the site down. EDC now appear to take the position that should the company wish to reopen the coup they will need to apply for planning permission, at least we now have some form of intervention by EDC.

- Currently the core path alongside the coup remains closed due to the dumping of soil and the vandalism of the vegetation at the site along the edge.
- The companies involved have reapplied to SEPA for further exemptions to allow them to reopen which presently have been refused however we know that they will try again and again, which is where the Regeneration Group plays such an important part-we will oppose any applications to work the land of the former Coup and instead propose that it is brought into community ownership.
- The process is now gaining speed and we are finding more and more support from external bodies. As a matter of due course we will be beginning to organise public events to inform the wider community of the issues and solutions available to us. A small part of this will be asking for villagers to sign either a physical or online petition showing the support of the community. This is likely to take place over the next few weeks.



Sked's Garden

Just beside the Co-op is a garden which has been created by Sked, using recycled materials, local resources, and donations it has become a feature of the village. This has been created over lockdown and has become a well-loved place within the village and has used a piece of land which was left in disregard, the garden uses the piece of land for a community garden and lovely meeting point.

It is very beautiful and quiet, the flowers which have been planted attract many types of butterflies and bees which are very beautiful. The garden is perfect for photographers who enjoy capturing flowers, wildlife, and rustic structures.



The local children's clubs enjoy visiting and spotting different types of flowers and wildlife, it is a good example of biodiversity within the village and highlights that we can all help to increase the number of bees and butterflies in the village with just planting a few extra flowers in our gardens.

Milton of Campsie Path Maintenance and Repair Project

Local resident Douglas Rushforth led a team of volunteers to repair the boardwalk and bridge at the entry to Kincaid House. The work was completed on 7th June, supported by a grant from Milton of Campsie Community Council to cover the cost of materials. This has been a great success, and we hope that further projects will follow. Many thanks to Douglas and the team. Which paths are the next priority for repair and maintenance by volunteers?



East Dunbartonshire Council has completed the work on the walkway that follows the route of the old railway. The core path to Woodburn Reservoir is inaccessible without a vehicle, and the one close to Birdston coup is currently unusable. Last year EDC held a consultation about Active Travel, and we await the report to find out if there is a strategy to connect and enhance the network of paths.

The village has several “core paths”, as shown on the map at <https://www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/routes-explore/local-path-networks>. They are well-used but some are in need of signage, maintenance and repair.

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** or via Facebook messenger on the Facebook page **[@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.

What's that bang?

Shooting season is well underway in Scotland and this means there can often be shoots taking place in the areas surrounding Milton of Campsie, these shoots are completely legal and help to keep the number of deer and pheasants in the area to a manageable number so that the ecosystem doesn't become unbalanced. Deer cull season runs year-round, whilst pheasant shooting runs from the start of October to the start of February.

The noise from these shoots can be heard all over the village we do appreciate that the noise can be disruptive and upsetting for household pets, we suggest helping this some calming music or a podcast to help combat the noise from the guns.

Queen's Jubilee Wood

At the time of the platinum jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth in April 2022, about 70 (seventy) trees were planted at Kincaidfield. Sadly, shortly after planting the trees EDC had the grass mowers in and we lost about 30% of the young trees. Weeds are now competing with the young trees, and ideally there should be a mulch laid around the saplings. To avoid damaging trees, the area is now not mowed.



Local Development Plan 2

The new Local Development Plan, known as LDP2, was adopted on 28th November 2022. The Adopted Plan and Environmental Report can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-standards/planning-policy/local-development-plan-2>. They will also be made available at libraries and Council Hubs in January.

The purpose of the planning system is to manage the development and use of land in the best long-term public interest, in particular by contributing to sustainable development and achieving the national outcomes. The policies and proposals in LDP2 relate to one or more of the following objectives.

Development must contribute to this purpose and meet the following objectives, where applicable:

1. Promote sustainable development, as part of a low carbon economy, which is energy efficient, improves air quality and contributes to net zero emissions by 2045 and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
2. Support the redevelopment or reuse of brownfield land within sustainable locations in the urban area or brownfield land with acceptable green belt uses.
3. Improve the quality of design in our places and improve health and wellbeing, with opportunities for social interaction and recreation and enhancing green infrastructure.
4. Protect and enhance the natural and historic environment of our towns, villages and countryside.
5. Create places that are safe, easy to move around and are well connected by walking, cycling and public transport.
6. Deliver good quality homes in the most sustainable locations that meet local needs, including a range of tenures and house types.
7. Support the growth and diversification of businesses and attract employers to the local area.
8. Create successful town and village centres that have high social value and are lively and accessible.

News from from Clubs

Boys Brigade – towards the end of the last session the boys planted a wildflower garden next to the church car park, to encourage bees and butterflies. We also sponsored a honeybee which we called Campsie Bee Bee. We also had our awards night where all the boys hard work throughout the year was recognised.

Beavers – during the last term of beavers we have been focusing on the creative skills, we have made many crafts and discussed the different types of art we can make. Along with this we have focused on our Scottish Beaver Thistle Award which teaches us all about Scotland through fun activities such as a mini highland games and a burns supper.

Cubs – at the end of the last term the cubs were focusing on the world around us, the different types of trees around us and made bird feeders and bug hotels. Many of our new cubs made their promise and became full members of the cub pack. We handed out many badges which recognised all the hard work which the cubs did last term.

Scouts - Over the past term we have been working to develop a variety of skills within the scouts. We have focused on fire building and map reading as well as some more helpful skills in the house like cooking and cleaning the dishes as a result. With the culmination of these skills being camping weekends where we can see everything they have learned. We try to cover many different types of activities ranging from athletic games, outdoor adventures, using tools to build all sorts of contraptions and dungeons and dragons to let them tell their own stories. We have many badges to be given out highlighting all of the great achievements that the scouts have accomplished.

Guiding - Our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are all back after their summer holidays. The Rainbows are having fun finding out about nature for their badgework and are learning some new songs. Brownies had a fantastic time in June at their Pack Holiday at Catterburn. The weather was lovely, so they got out to fly the kites they made for their Aviation badge. The Guides had a great day at the County Event 'Catterburn Chaos' in June where they took part in a variety of activities and met lots of Guides from around the County.

What's on? Contact details of clubs

Boys Brigade - Jackie Scott

Email – 2campsie@boys-brigade.org.uk

Website – www.mocpc.org.uk/2nd-campsie-boys-brigade

Anchor Boys P1-P3 Junior section P4-P6

Every Friday 6:15pm to 7:30pm in MOC Parish Church

Beavers – Jen Gilchrist

Email – jen.gilchrist@btinternet.com

Age range 5¾ - 8

Wednesdays 6:30pm to 7:30pm in Milton of Campsie village hall

Cubs – Bob Brownlie

Email – BrownlieB@northlan.gov.uk

Age range 8 - 10½

Tuesdays 7pm to 8:30pm in Milton of Campsie village hall

Scouts – Oliver Gray

Contact via Jen: Email – jen.gilchrist@btinternet.com

Age range 10½ - 14

Tuesdays 7pm to 9pm in Milton of Campsie village hall

Girl Guiding - Margaret Boyle

Email – mboyle88@aol.com

Facebook – Girl Guiding Kirkintilloch Div

Phone number - 01360310996

Community Council Website

The Community Council website hosts further information on current issues, including:

- copies of the CC meeting minutes
- contact numbers for complaints and reports to EDC
- details of the new tree planting by EDC in greenspaces
- proposals for the allotments
- roads report
- additional bin locations requested

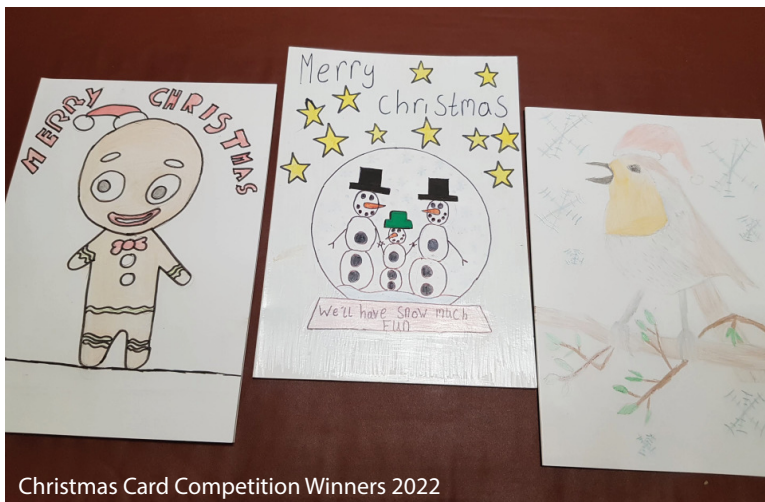
visit www.miltonofcampsiecc.co.uk



First place - Louise



Second place - Beth



Christmas Card Competition Winners 2022

Christmas Card Competition Winners

- 1) Louise
(St Machans)
- 2) Beth
(Craighead)
- 3) Finlay
(Craighead)



Christmas Dinner 2022



Stuart McDonald MP



Milton of Campsie is a fantastic place to live – I'm lucky to have grown up there - and in the years ahead, we can make it even better. Central to this will be the community itself.

In the autumn I dropped by Sked's Garden, meeting some of the volunteers that have utterly transformed the site next to the Co-op. It's just the most recent example of brilliant grass-roots community action to enhance wellbeing, of which there are many others – the Community Hall, the Station Project, youth clubs, church groups and lots more.

Sometimes community initiatives don't need help. Other times, support can maximise their potential. It's up to elected representatives like me to improve that support – through decent funding streams, enhanced community empowerment/ownership, and ensuring residents have a bigger role in decisions.

Like everywhere, Milton of Campsie's community also faces massive challenges– like the 'cost of living crisis' and playing our part in tackling global warming. I don't doubt these challenges will bring out a similar local response to the covid pandemic. Neighbours will support neighbours, and community groups will organise in response. I welcome the new council's package of support for those facing greatest hardship. Can I also shamelessly plug the series of 'Cost of Living Advice Events' I've been hosting alongside colleagues, the next of which will be at Kilsyth Garrell Vale centre on 24th February (10.30 to 12.30).

We all have a big role. But community will remain key to overcoming challenges – and making MOC even more fantastic.

Gala day

A proposal has been made to the Community council to have a gala day for the village in the summer. If you have views about this please, and especially if you are willing to volunteer to be on the organising team, please contact Brian McFall at **secretary.moccc@outlook.com**



Glazert Bank erosion



www.miltonofcampsiecc.co.uk

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Facebook: [miltonofcampsiecc](#)