

**Fairmilehead Community Council Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 4 November at 7pm,
Caiystane Hall, Fairmilehead Parish Church, 1 Frogston Road West, EH10 7AA**

Present: Colin Anderson (Secretary); Barbara Dick (Treasurer/Buckstone Association); Stella Thomson (Engagement and Inclusion Officer); Amanda Dovesi; Jamie Adams; Mike Wilson.

Ex Officio: Councillor Neil Cuthbert (Ward 8); Councillor Connor Savage (Ward 8)

13 members of the public.

Apologies: Ian Murray MP; Councillor Jason Rust; Dennis Williams (Chair); Gillian Holmes (Minute Secretary/Planning); Johanna Carrie; Norrie McLeod; Helen Wilson; Janice Pauwels; Brian Ralph; Edinburgh SW Community Police Team.

Welcome

Barbara Dick welcomed all to the meeting and Colin Anderson said he would be acting as Chair. The report by Councillor Rust was handed out.

Minute of Meeting held on Tuesday 7 October 2025

The minutes were approved by the meeting.

Proposed: Amanda Dovesi

Seconded: Jamie Adams

Matters Arising

Colin Anderson updated

SES Tran presentation – no response to letter sent

Consultation on the Tram Extension -

No response has been received from the project team. A reminder to all, the closing date for the online consultation is 17 November 2025.

Colin did attend a EACC meeting and there was a presentation on the Tram Project. Costs are projected at 2.9 billion not including compensation for individuals or traders who could be impacted by the work on Queensferry Road and Orchard Brae. Major engineering work would be required on the Dean Bridge. At the present time more than 4500 responses have been received with regard to the consultation.

The Fairmile

As a result of Mike Wilson's hard work there are now 284 subscribers.

ETRO-Greenbank to Meadows Quiet Route

No Update.

Buckstone Play Park

Councillor Savage received a disappointing response from the Council. There is no cash to fund the upgrade. Councillor Savage said he is now looking at alternative funding, for example a Deep Clean of the items already in the park and a paint upgrade.

Resurfacing of The City By Pass

This work is now underway from Straiton to Lothianburn Junctions, Westbound.

The Shell Garage on Comiston Road has now reopened.

Scottish Water office building-update

Councillor Rust received an email to say the staff in the building have been told to prepare for a move from the Fairmilehead office during Spring/Summer of 2026. Once an update is received from the Project Team he will provide further information.

Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum (PHRPCF)

Meetings take place from time to time. Norrie McLeod attended the last one and he will provide an update at the December Meeting.

East Safety Camera Unit

Hopefully this will reduce the speed on Comiston Road/Buckstone Terrace.

Emergency Gas Repairs Comiston Road

These works were completed on Tuesday 28 October. The Community Council only heard of the closure from Councillor Cuthbert. Although Scottish Gas Networks (SGN) did add the Community Council to their updates once contact was made.

Colin opened this up to the attendees and the following points were made: -

1. Signage inadequate although it was recognised it was an emergency situation. Passers by could smell gas.
2. No signage on the bus stops that a diversion was in place. Passengers who did not have access to the app were standing at the bus stop until someone passing updated them. The bus tracker showed bus times.
3. Some drivers did not see the signs or were ignoring.
4. Stella said she witnessed a situation where a driver did a handbrake turn to avoid the bollards on Comiston Road.
5. Lothian Buses were only stopping at some of the stops from Greenbank Crescent to Fairmilehead Crossroads. Some passengers aware of diversion had assumed it would stop at all the bus stops to Fairmilehead Crossroads. They were not able to alight from the bus until it reached the crossroads.

Colin has already written to Lothian Buses and Scottish Gas Networks (SGN) and is awaiting further responses. However, it was agreed there should be a policy in place in the unlikely event there was a closure of Comiston Road. Colin is taking this forward with Lothian Buses.

Councillor Savage

Colin advised the Councillor had to leave to attend another engagement and he would provide his update. Councillor Savage said he had received queries on fly tipping and crime and burglaries which he was addressing. Amanda said someone was camping near a barrier at Dregghorn Barracks. This same issue was previously discussed with Scott Arthur MP. At that time, he was concerned with anyone camping near the army barracks. Connor said he would review. Amanda will send an update to Connor.

A question was asked about pot holes and Connor advised there was finite funding available but he has flagged the issue.

Off Road Electric Bikes

Scott Arthur MP is holding a meeting on Thursday 13 November at 7pm in the Space, Broomhouse Hub, 79-89 Broomhouse Crescent EH11 3RH. The Police and Local Councillors will be present. All welcome.

Navigating Energy Improvements for Historic Houses

The Edinburgh Climate Change Institute is holding a meeting on Sunday 9 November 2025 from 14.30 to 15.30. The meeting has been arranged by Edinburgh University and places can be booked at <https://edin.ac/4oJ7JKl>. Colin has further information if anyone is interested.

Falcon Road Post Office Delivery Office

This office is not closing.

Astley Ainslie Site

A Facebook post from The Astley Ainslie Community Trust dated 1 November 2025 suggests there could be 500 housing units built on this site.

Financial Report

Due to Barbara's perseverance the bank account is now up and running. The following motion was put to the meeting.

Those present agree to the Treasurer, Barbara Dick, taking over responsibility for the new bank account for Fairmilehead Community Council ensuring payments made from that account are agreed to in advance with either the Secretary or the Chair.

The motion was passed.

Swanston Farm donated £500 to help with the Local Place Plan.

Local Place Plan (LPP)

Mike said The Fairmile Website explains what we are trying to do. Every Community Council has to feed into the Council Plan 2030 to 2040.

This will mainly be an online survey from 30 November to 15 January 2026. Hard numbers and data are needed for the council. It is hoped from the survey hot topics will emerge and at that point in person events will be organised.

Mike thanked Stella for her advert in the Directory. Survey is open to everyone in the household. Hopefully others can help people who are not online.

Nursing Home Winton Drive

Colin said only 12 underground parking spaces are available and it is thought these will not be sufficient for the numbers visiting or working in the home. It is expected the home will open by March 2026.

The residents in the area are fed up with the number of vans parked in the area as they are a danger to other road users. Colin accepted these were valid points but the battle had been lost at the planning stage. It was suggested continued monitoring take place. Scott Arthur MP had suggested monitoring when the home opened. However, the process for yellow lines is long and cumbersome and can take 18 months to 2 years.

Mike asked if we could call for a TRO. Colin said we could make representation. However, he thought they would say no action could be taken until the home opened and issues arose. Colin will investigate.

White lines Frogston Road West

It was pointed out the white lines at the junction of Frogston road West and Buckstone Terrace need repainting. This is important due to the number of visitors using Mortonhall Caravan Park. Councillor Cuthbert said this should be taken up with Clarence at Edinburgh Council. He said a particular format is needed to update the website and at the present time it is not working! Councillor Cuthbert said a meeting has been arranged with the council regarding lack of paint and road safety.

Buckstone Primary Planters

Unfortunately, the planters have not been removed; however, Colin believed a meeting was arranged for this coming Friday. Barbara advised the meeting was now taking place on 21

November. The residents are not happy with the current proposals and their wishes need to be considered.

Councillor Cuthbert said this issue seemed perfect for the Local Place Plan.

Biggar Road

A resident who lives on Biggar Road can hear cars travelling in excess of 30mph due to the width of the road. There was a speed camera on this road several years ago. Neil Cuthbert said there were limited options with regard to speed cameras as the police were in control of these cameras. The default speed is 30mph.

Braid Road

Barbara asked why this road had not reopened. Colin said around 2 years ago drawings had been produced. Consultations then took place with the residents and one option was adopted. However, the drawings produced showed all 3 options. It was decided to keep open the alternative options. This would give flexibility depending on resident feedback. The ETRO chosen option would not be implemented before January 2026.

Kames Renewable Energy Park

Planning permission was refused by the council but the applicant appealed to the Scottish Government (DPEA) and an unaccompanied visit has been arranged with DEPA. An update will follow.

Summer Festival Planning Applications

A report will be going before the Planning Committee next Wednesday 12 November. At the meeting on 6 August, it was considered the location of the Spiegeltent, within St Andrews Square was not an appropriate siting moving forward. An update will be provided at the December meeting.

Discussions will also take place regarding planning applications referred to the Management Committee. There will be no changes to objections made by a Statutory Consultee (Community councils) ; these will still be referred to the Management Committee.

Councillor Cuthbert said the committee were aware several planning objections especially by email had the same objection and tone. They will consider if this should be treated as 1 objection for reaching the threshold referral limit to the management committee.

A question was asked regarding the disposal of the land by the Water Board. Colin advised the whole site would be sold with the exception of The Pump House as it is still operational. Sewers and wayleaves would also be retained.

Transport and Environment

Biggar Road

Councillor Cuthbert said a Pedestrian Crossing will be installed on Biggar Road between the Fairmilehead Crossroads and the By Pass. (A copy of the Council email was included with the agenda papers.) There is also a proposal for a pedestrian crossing at the Lothianburn Roundabout which would improve road safety and reduce speeding.

A701 Relief Road Midlothian Council

The Proposed Road will go from A702 Boghill Farm, cross over A703(Penicuik) and join Straiton Junction. The project includes plans for cycle lanes to encourage alternative transport. The estimated cost of the project is £55 million. The residents of Damhead are incensed by the proposal. However, if the proposal goes forward it is expected to relieve the A702 at Hillend; the project once funded should take 3-5 years to complete.

Councillor Cuthbert said the CEC Transport Committee supported the proposal as part of the City Deal which has funds available. It is for Midlothian Council as Planning Authority to decide on the plans. Midlothian Council is the fastest growing council in Scotland.

Liberton community Council are not commenting on the application.

Colin said 120million is set aside for an upgrade at Sherriffhall Roundabout. Land has to be purchased and no decision has been made on the Report sent to the Scottish Government over 2 years ago. It is estimated the project would take 3/4 years and the costs will have increased significantly from the original figure. East Lothian and Midlothian Councils are supporting the proposal.

Mike said the Cabinet Secretary had announced all objections needed to be reviewed. The Scottish Greens also object to the proposals. It is believed there are over 2000 objections but it is thought some 1800 of the objections came from the same party. Do not expect a decision until after the May election.

Cala has put in an application for 400 houses on Old Pentland Road.

Seafield Road Bilston

This road will be closed in the evenings from Monday 3 November for approximately 2 weeks. Taking place at the same time as the resurfacing on the westbound bypass.

Reports from Councillors

Councillor Neil Cuthbert mentioned the Hillend traffic lights. He has written to the Scottish Government with dashcam footage. This is online and can be shared with people. Transport Scotland said they would review. Tail backs are occurring all the time and photos and dash cam are very useful. He wants someone to come out to review.

Traffic is backing onto the A720, due to the speed of traffic this is very dangerous. The three-way junction at Hillend is still causing delays. People are using Fairmile Avenue as a rat run to avoid the Fairmilehead junction.

The ski slope junction traffic lights are also causing delays as there are two sets of lights very close together.

A suggestion was put forward for the ski slope traffic lights to be turned off when it closed. It was thought this may involve a huge time commitment to take forward.

Councillor Cuthbert said he thought the Community Council should arrange for a walk through the area to establish issues in conjunction with the Local Place Plan.

Tram train launch event took place on 7 October 2025. The reaction to the proposal was positive. However, where is the funding coming from?

AOCB

Barbara said the speed traffic data strips on Mounthooly Loan should be put further back as they are missing out many houses. Councillor Cuthbert said there were many traffic surveys taking place and he has asked for an explanation.

Amanda said she received an email from Edinburgh District Council about the City Plan 2040. She asked if the results would be shared with the Community Council. Colin said we may hear something around May or June.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 2 December. This will also be the AGM with the appointment of Office Bearers.