

# **Fairmilehead Community Council Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 7 April 2026 at 7 pm in the Caiystane Hall, Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls, 1 Frogston Road West, EH10 7AA.**

**Present:** - Dennis Williams (Chair), Colin Anderson (Secretary), Barbara Dick (Treasurer/Buckstone Association), Amanda Dovesi, Mike Wilson, Norrie McLeod (Friends of Swanston Village), Stella Thomson (Engagement and Inclusion Officer)

**Guest:** - Ronnie Shaw (Liberton and District Community Council)

**In attendance:** - Sgt Mark Coull, South West Community Police Team

13 Members of the Public

**Apologies:** - Ian Murray MP, Councillor Jason Rust, Councillor Neil Cuthbert, Gill Holmes (Planning Officer and Minute Secretary), Jamie Adams, Helen Wilson, Brian Ralph, Robert Skilling, Linda Goode

## **1. Welcome**

Dennis Williams thanked all present for their attendance and requested that phones be set to silent.

## **2. Declaration of Interests**

Colin Anderson asked if there were any Declarations of Interests. Colin Anderson noted an interest in Item 4 - Grit Bins as there is a Grit Bin immediately in front of his house which may be impacted by the proposed review. No other interests were noted.

## **3. Police Scotland - "Community Speedwatch Programme"**

The Chair introduced Sgt Mark Coull of the South West Community Police Team. Sgt Coull explained that each Policing area in Edinburgh is being asked to pilot this Programme. Sgt Coull is keen to include FCC if there is still interest from local residents. Sgt Coull will send the Secretary an email setting out the details. **UPDATE** – Email received and included in the Information Bulletin for April 2026.

Sgt Coull also mentioned 4 cars had been broken into the Edinburgh South West area. In all cases, it is understood there were coins in the console – an obvious attraction for criminals.

## **4. Approval of Minute of Meeting held on Tuesday 3 March 2026**

Proposed: - Jim Robertson

Seconded: - Moira Scott

**Matters Arising** (items covered later in the Agenda will be mentioned then): -

**SEStran presentation** – still no response to letter sent to the Chief Executive. Colin does not propose to pursue this further.

**Scottish Water office building** - this will be discussed later in the Meeting.

**Winton Care Home** – known as the “Winton Suites” – Colin said that Craig Moody, the Head of Client Relations at Northcare (Scotland) Limited will be attending the next FCC Meeting on Tuesday 5 May 2026. We look forward to welcoming him then.

**EACC – Community Council Internal Forum** – Colin attended the first meeting on Tuesday 10 March on-line through Teams. Reps from 18 Community Councils attended. A number of ideas are being taken forward. The appointment of a **Community Council Liaison Officer** by the Council is being taken forward who would be a valuable point of contact to support community councils and build relationships.

There are 3 initiatives being considered: - i. Investigate the support needed to establish and improve the administrative infrastructure of community councils – remember all the Members of community councils are volunteers and financial support from the Council is minimal; ii. Develop ways in which it is easier for community councils to contact the right people at the Council; iii. Explore ways to promote and demonstrate the impact of community councils.

The Council is looking to develop a programme of training for Members and the potential opportunities for linking up community councillors with Council officers.

**EACC** – EACC is looking to form a couple of working groups to engage directly with CEC operational divisions and then report back as required to individual community councils. FCC will play a part in this. The initial areas are Planning; and Roads and Transport.

**Car parked South of the Junction on Biggar Road** – residents will no doubt have noticed this car which has been parked there for a few weeks now. Councillor Cuthbert contacted Police Scotland in case the car had been abandoned. The Police have spoken to the owner who advised the car had broken down and the owner is trying to get the money together to recover the vehicle. **UPDATE** – the car has now been moved.

**Grit Bins** – this subject was mentioned in the Information Bulletin Number 2 issued last week. There had been a discussion on this subject at the T&E Committee Meeting on 2 April 2026. Officers were asked about the process for how treatment is prioritised. The weather forecast is assessed and the Roads Officer might make a call on this, say 3 or 4 times during the day – the position might change where there are sudden temperature changes during the day. A lot of gritting is done in the South West of the City which is higher than other parts of the City – also in the City Centre. A review was last done in the early 2020s – this took into account the needs of people with disabilities, and additional funding was allocated at that time. Comment was made at the Meeting that there is no statutory duty to provide grit bins. Edinburgh has the most grit bins in Scotland - 3,248. The network does need to be expanded from time to time to include new housing developments. A review of the current arrangements is to be done which could lead to a reduction in the number of grit bins. A similar review is being done by a number of other Local Authorities.

**Pothole Pro** – comment was made that the recent work done on Oxbgangs Road was of a good standard.

**Road Repairs** – at the last FCC Meeting a question was asked about the specification of the tarmac used for filling in potholes. Councillor Savage has taken this up with the Council to seek clarification. He has also asked whether priority is given to road repairs at Lothian Buses bus stops. Councillor Savage is chasing for a response. An Update will be given at the next Meeting. A comment was made that the standard of road repairs in Scotland was of a poor quality – why is this?

A resident mentioned that in New South Wales, Australia refuse lorries are fitted with a monitor on the underside of the vehicle. While collecting the refuse, the surface of the road is continuously scanned – this immediately identifies pot holes etc. This information is then relayed back directly to the Local Authority in real time – perhaps an idea to consider for Edinburgh?

**“Quiet Route” in the Braid Estate** – a Late Report was presented to the Meeting of the T&E Committee on Thursday 2 April 2026. This set out 3 options for dealing with this matter. Council Officers recommended Option C. As a result of this Late Report, the Motion lodged by Councillor Booth was withdrawn.

3 Options were put forward

- i. A - Abandon the Scheme and revert to the pre-Covid situation.
- ii. B - Take forward the decision made by the T&E Committee in March 2024 to remove the modal filters and put in a segregated cycleway, along with traffic calming measures (the new drawings for this are attached to TRO/25/17).
- iii. C - Refer the issue to the Council’s TRO sub-Committee to consider at their Meeting on 2 June 2026, the objections to the current Scheme (Ref. No. TRO/21/29D) (i.e. what is on the ground at present) and whether this should be permanent (it being noted that the current Scheme expires on 15 June 2026). The TRO sub-Committee could decide to make the ETRO permanent in full, or in part, or not to make it permanent. Depending on the TRO sub-Committee’s decision all, part or none of the current Scheme could be retained.

3 deputations were heard by the T&E Committee, all in support of Option C. Comment was made that the current Scheme had resulted in a reduction in car volume of 40% in the Braid Estate and an increase in cycle journeys of over 60 %.

The T&E Committee, after discussion, voted 7 – 4 for Option C. The issue will be referred to the Meeting of the TRO sub-Committee to be held on 2 June 2026. **UPDATE – The Meeting will now be held on 12 May 2026.**

**Possible third tram line (using Edinburgh’s south suburban railway)** – there is a presentation on this by the Project Group on Thursday 23 April within the King’s Buildings complex. Details were given in the email circulating the Agenda and other papers.

## **5. Correspondence and Report from the Secretary**

2 Information Bulletins were issued during March 2026 – I hope you found these helpful.

The Fairmile now has 372 subscribers.

**Firework Control Zones 2026** – FCC will not be submitting an application for Fairmilehead to be a firework control zone (FCZ).

**Community Police Team South West** – will be attending the FCC Meeting on 5 May 2026.

**Damhead and District Community Council** – some updates from Damhead DCC. **A701 Relief Road** – an updated EIA is awaited. **3-way junction at Hillend** – further tweaking of the traffic lights is still required. DDCC are pressing for a reinstatement of the bus stop for the **Lothian Bus No 4** close to the Steading Inn, but Lothian Buses have said no. **Police Report for March 2026** - the petrol thefts from the ESSO Petrol Station continue. During March 2026, there were a further 6 thefts of petrol, ranging from £20.02 to £93.13. There was an accident on 27 March 2026 at the **3-way junction** – a vehicle turning right into Old Pentland Road collided with an oncoming vehicle – details were sent to

BEAR Scotland for information. On the A702 near to Boghall Cottages on 6 March 2026, a vehicle collided with an oncoming vehicle due to the vehicle travelling too fast on the bend. **Park and Ride** – it appears there is opposition from local residents to the proposal of a new Park and Ride at the Gowkley Moss roundabout on the A701 – this would involve tarmac over a green agricultural field.

**Dropped Crossings at 68/72 Pentland Terrace** – Last summer, the Council proposed to progress improvements to a batch of side road crossings, with the aim of improving these significantly for pedestrians. In essence, the radii of the junctions were to be reduced. 3 of the crossings were in the FCC area. FCC were asked for comments on this. Amanda who lives nearby, spoke with her neighbours – a Note was then sent to the Council with comments. The Council acknowledged these comments, and said they would consider the alignment of the kerblines at the sites and review the proposals by slightly reducing the amount of footway widening in a way that best balances the needs of pedestrians with those of motorists turning in and out of the side roads safely.

The Council have now sent a letter to the nearby residents, and this is reproduced in the Information Bulletin for April 2026. The Council are currently planning to complete both of these side roads “between **27 April and 8 May 2026**, although this may vary by a few days.” **UPDATE – the work is now underway.**

Thanks were expressed to Amanda for her efforts on this – a good result!

## **5. Financial Report – Update from Treasurer**

The FCC financial year ended on 31 March 2026. The Accounts will be submitted to the AGM on 2 June 2026 for approval.

## **6. Local Place Plan for Fairmilehead –**

The deadline for lodging the LPP with the Council is September 2026.

Engagement with the Primary Schools – a workshop was held with pupils at Buckstone Primary School – Mike and Barbara attended on behalf of the FCC. Very useful and productive – follow up survey being prepared.

What does the local community want included in the draft LPP? The Meeting were asked for suggestions, and the following were mentioned:

- Ongoing protection of the Green Belt and the 2 Conservation Areas (Swanston Village and Morton Mains) against development

- Public seating in the Brough Park (Buckstone) – this might be funded by an application to the Community Grants Fund

- Play equipment for the Buckstone Estate

- Dog exercising park – involving the charging of an entrance fee. It was pointed out that planning permission would be required for this, and the costs of gates, fences etc would be significant

- Establishment of a Gym

- General store opening later, until 10 pm

- Use of Buckstone Primary School outwith school hours, as a Community Hub

Affordable sheltered housing within the Scottish Water site

Housing density – preference for low density development

These suggestions will now be considered by the LPP sub-Committee. Further suggestions and comments can be sent to the dedicated email address of [lpffairmilehead@gmail.com](mailto:lpffairmilehead@gmail.com).

## 7. Scottish Water site - proposed redevelopment

2 public consultation events were held during March 2026. The exhibition boards can be viewed at [www.scottishwater.co.uk/Fairmilehead](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/Fairmilehead). 100 people attended the first event, with 60 at the second one.

It is understood the application for planning permission in principle will be lodged by Scottish Water in June 2026. **It should be remembered that a developer after acquiring the site, may take a different approach from Scottish Water and seek a different type of development, use or layout etc.**

Colin highlighted to the Meeting some of the concerns which had been expressed by residents and others to date.

## 8. Planning Matters

**The former Filter House** – earth moving works have started at the site. Colin has been in touch with Donald Macleod of Turret Developments Limited who confirms the work has started to convert the former Filter House into 3 residential properties. The build out period will be 12 months.

## 9. Transport and Environment

**Sheriffhall Roundabout – A720 Edinburgh City Bypass** - Final Year Civil Engineering students at Heriot-Watt University, as part of their final year project, have been re-designing the Sheriffhall Roundabout. This has been done using a layout known as a “throughabout” – an example is given of such a junction at a location in South Gloucestershire. Details of this appeared on Scott Arthur’s Facebook page. They compared their design with the option currently being considered by the Scottish Government. Their design was found to be 74% cheaper; larger reduction in traffic congestion; and much better value for money

**Sheriffhall Roundabout – A720 Edinburgh City Bypass** - As mentioned in the Information Bulletin Number 2 – March 2026, no decision will be made on the proposed flyover etc until the next session of the Scottish Parliament. Alison Irvine, the Chief Executive of Transport Scotland has now written to the Council. *In her letter, Ms Irvine said she was disappointed there was no decision ahead of parliament's dissolution, but added she had been assured that every effort was being made for the decision to be made as soon as possible.*

*She continued: "I am not involved in the decision-making process and appreciate the frustrations about the length of time that the process is taking. However, it is essential that due process is followed. In excess of 1,200 pieces of evidence were lodged for the local inquiry, and that evidence needs to be rigorously scrutinised by technical and legal advisers. This is a time-consuming process, but it is necessary to ensure robust and well-reasoned decision making."*

*She concluded: "Both myself and the Cabinet Secretary for Transport had hoped that a decision would be made before now, however, I want to reassure you that Transport Scotland is under no*

*illusion that the incoming Government will expect to be presented with that advice in order to make a decision early in the new session of Parliament.*

*“Finally, I would like to reassure you that funding is included in the Scottish Spending Review to continue to make further progress in delivering improvements to Sheriffhall.”*

**Frogston Avenue adjacent to the Church** – representations have been made to the Council about the poor condition of this road and the need for urgent action – a Transport Officer came out to inspect the road surface. Councillor Rust has been in touch with the Transport Officers regarding this. The response received on 1 April 2026 said -

*“First all I would like to apologise for the delay in getting this response to you.*

*“As you will fully appreciate, the demand for work to be carried out on carriageways and footways will always outstrip the available funding. We, therefore, must prioritise the work that is carried out. Our prioritisation system for carriageways is based on a condition assessment score which is then multiplied by prioritisation weightings. The prioritisation weightings for carriageways are based on vehicle use as well as bus and cycle use.*

*“The carriageway on Frogston Avenue was last assessed in April 2025. The result of this assessment is that the carriageway does not feature on the 2026/27 capital programme of resurfacing works due to other priorities across the network.*

*“In the meantime, defects can be reported for reactive inspection by our Safety Inspection team at: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/roadproblem>*

*“Regarding the issue raised regarding the condition of the verges of Frogston Avenue & Frogston Gardens, I have copied in our Parks team who will provide a response.”*

While accepting the assessment position, the complaint lodged on 15 February 2026 under Council Reference Number 102000174135 was presumably a call for a **“reactive inspection”** – I am not sure what the outcome of that was, so I have gone back to the Local Councillors on that point. An update will be given at the next Meeting.

**Timings of traffic lights** - A resident said the timings of the traffic lights on Frogston Road West (near the former PMR) had been extended by 20 seconds. Evidently this was mentioned in a Report to a Council Committee. Colin agreed to check this out.

**CEC Transport Capital Investment Programme 2026/27** – a Note on this was included in the Information Bulletin Number 2 - March 2026 circulated last week. The Programme was agreed at the T&E Committee on 2 April 2026 with 2 additional carriageways added in, namely Freeland Road and West Mill Road. There was a comment made that the Lists were not for modification at the Meeting where these are agreed, otherwise the T&E Committee would be inundated from every resident group in the City about the condition of their worst roads.

**Communicating CEC Road and Pavement Improvements** – a Note on this was included in the Information Bulletin Number 2 – March 2026.

**Forthcoming drainage works in Winton Drive** - these works are due to start on **6 April 2026 and last for 3 weeks**. An item on this was included in Councillor Rust’s Report for March 2026. An update was received from the Council on 11 March 2026: -

*"This will be a full closure with temp traffic lights to control the narrow section on the diversion route with an TM operative on site 0700-1900hrs Monday to Friday – section from email below to the contractor last month before the plans came out.*

*"Given that it will have to be a full closure and the diversion route is not the best, I would be looking for this diversion route be controlled by temp traffic lights and have a TM operative on site 0700-1900hrs Each day the closure is in place for safe access for Emergency Services / Bin Collection. Area below to be controlled on Winton Park.*

*"Please have the TM plans / TTRO Application / Permit Application sent through for approval with the works being done in 2 phases maintaining the residents' driveways at no: 6&8. It would also be best to have a letter drop done once we have agreed dates for the closure."*

In addition, I have been sent a copy of a **Drainage Impact Assessment** – all 41 pages – if anyone who like a copy of this, please email me.

## **10. Reports from Councillors**

The Report from Councillor Rust was received on 6 April 2026 and will be circulated to the FCC Mailing List.

## **11. AOCB**

**AGM** – a reminder that the AGM will be held on **Tuesday 2 June 2026** – this will be the final Meeting before the summer recess.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 5 May 2026**