

Winter works, such as planting new shrubs, has also been carried out, and bat-and-bird boxes have been installed.

It was queried why leaves are no longer being cleared on the estate. MS clarified that leaves are intended to be left within off-path areas as part of the biodiversity plan.

4. RMG accounts and charging structure

MS confirmed that bank statements for Woodilee are shared with the treasurer and that Woodilee's money is kept separate from that of any other properties or estates managed by RMG. The current figures will be circulated to committee members along with the minutes.

She advised that there are currently 27 debtors who owe more than a year of factors' fees – 13 of these owing over £500.

There are currently 44 unoccupied units as RMG's budget is based on full occupancy.

5. Winter plans (grit)

MS advised that gritting has been added to the winter schedule of works, and that this is currently carried out on an ad-hoc basis. East Dunbartonshire Council will only grit "main" roads, and in the case of Woodilee this equates to their entering the estate at Initiative Road, travelling up the spine road to the roundabout, turning left down Calfmuir Road to Market Road, and then returning. Any other gritting would need to be arranged privately and this is what the Residents Association has done (apart from within Springfield 2 – as the developers are still on site there, it remains their responsibility).

MS advised that the gritting contractors had been on site seven times in December and had also visited on the morning of the meeting and that the gritting had been carried out successfully. However, residents queried this, with a number of roads and pavements not appearing to have been gritted. MS said she would query this with the contractors as they should have advised her if the weather had meant it was inappropriate to grit.

6. Litter bins

MS told the association that she had met with East Dunbartonshire Council on January 16 and an additional 10 bins were to be installed across Woodilee, including one at the top of the hill when walking up from the Spar, one at the back of the play areas between Miller 1 and Cala 2 (the long path), and an additional bin at the top of Persimmon and Springfield 2 (at the basketball courts).

She added that the additional bins will be emptied by both the council and their own contractors, but that a plan will also be circulated outlining who has ultimate responsibility for each bin so people know who to contact – the contractors are currently due to empty the bins weekly, and carry out a bulk uplift for any larger items left in woodlands etc every three months.

It was queried why the bins were overflowing so often and were not being emptied. MS advised that, over the winter, a contract was changed over and the contractor who attended did not realise that some bins existed.

A request was made that the Woodilee Facebook page and website be updated with a link to the page on the East Dunbartonshire Council website where users can report an overflowing bin.

7. Drainage

MS advised that the consortium had again actioned a repair on the path running between Cala 2 and Miller 1, adding drainage across this. However, she had observed that there were still issues with water coming from further up the path (possibly partly as a result of owners trying to tackle drainage issues within their own properties). She was due to speak to Doug Riddell, the consortium liaison, to examine the next steps in resolving this. It was pointed out that water was running down the path and across Lapwing Avenue, which was a hazard; one resident queried the possibility of fitting proper drainage underneath the roadway. MS confirmed that the repair would not be being signed off until the Residents Association was happy that this had been fully resolved. It was queried whether there was a possibility of having the drainage issue resolved directly by RMG, with the consortium picking up the bill afterwards (as was done to resolve the issues with the culvert); MS said she would examine this possibility.

8/ Broadband

Many members have expressed disappointment with their lack of fast broadband access within Woodilee, with average speeds around the 2-3mbps range and fibre availability very limited. Exact numbers are not currently available, but it is hoped that the website will be able to offer a survey to collect this data.

MS advised that the consortium and Openreach have been in dispute as to the level of support for broadband that was installed – it was queried how much it would cost to resolve the issue as it is understood that the delay may be financial, and MS said she would endeavour to find those figures.

Meantime MS advised of a possibility of using a third party to improve supply. She advised she had been speaking to Hyperoptic about using Woodilee as a pilot project to roll out their own superfast broadband, which is independent from Openreach's infrastructure. Previously, Hyperoptic have only supplied blocks of flats but they are examining the possibility of treating Woodilee as a test case if there is enough interest, especially as there is a lot of common ground that would allow their infrastructure to be installed in an unobtrusive way and without requiring roads to be dug up.

MS urged all attending who wished to show their support to register their interest on the Hyperoptic website (www.hyperoptic.com) as that will increase the possibility of them looking to bring their facilities in to Woodilee – there would be no commitment required in doing so.

A subcommittee was formed to work more closely on the issues around broadband, with the members: Gordon Jahn; Philip Paine; Steven Smith; Jason McCartney (JM); David Bennett (DB); Steve Nicholls; David Connolly; and Ron Roberts.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

MS advised that there was an intention for Neighbourhood Watch stickers and information to be put up across the estate. She asked for residents to advise her of any issues at this stage and advised that she is already aware of cases such as children throwing rubbish bags into gardens, or remaining in the playparks until late at night.

Paul King was attending the Lenzie Community Council meeting on the same evening; that meeting is also attended by local police representatives and that would allow more specific information to be fed back. Quarterly updates have also been requested going forward, in terms of crime figures.

JM advised that the biggest issue in estates such as Woodilee was cases whereby thieves were “fishing” for keys through letterboxes, then using these to gain access to a property and to vehicles. Police recommend you ensure your keys are not kept anywhere near your front door.

10. Review of issues list

It was pointed out that many attendees were not aware of the issues list as it stood. DB suggested that discussion around the outstanding issues be delayed until the following meeting as this would allow further progress to be made and give those who had not seen the list time to examine it.

11. Plans for the year ahead

MS advised that the Christmas event was very well attended. It had hit a snag as the council had removed the electricity supply that was to be used for the tree’s lights, and they are currently looking to install an independent supply. It is planned that next year’s Christmas event will be held at the war memorial as that would allow more space. Going forward, a subcommittee will be formed to arrange that event, and others.

12. AOB

Some specific resident issues were raised with MS. These will be added to the active “Issues List” for consideration by the committee and RMG, and reviewed under the appropriate agenda item in future meetings.

Residents were advised that the development is prone to Japanese knotweed and hogweed, and that an annual spray for each was carried out (with a plan showing the locations of these to be put on to the website).

Going forward, there are plans for a quarterly newsletter that will be posted out to all residents and will advise on progress and new developments from both RMG and the Residents Association. This should improve communication for residents who are not part of the association.

13. Close and DoNM

It was proposed that future meetings be held on Tuesdays, the week following a community council meeting. The next meeting will therefore be held on Tuesday April 24, with venue and time to be confirmed.