



# Hello Maidenhill!

A Special Neighbourhood Event

28th November, 2019



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@tomorrows\_UK  
[www.tomorrowsolderpeople.org.uk](http://www.tomorrowsolderpeople.org.uk)  
#HelloMaidenhill





## Hello,

'Tomorrow's Older People' is a local initiative funded by The National Lottery Community Fund. We work with local people, organisations and groups to design the services, supports and opportunities we need to have a happy and healthy future. We aim to make connections between people who want to make a difference. Where there's the will to change things for the better, we help get things started.

As part of 'Caring Homes of the Future' research, we've been talking to local people and organisations about the environment in which we live in and its real impact on our well-being.

When we came across the new Maidenhill development, we thought what if we supported the new

residents to turn the collection of new houses into a caring and connected community?

The event was our opportunity to share information we had gathered on community-led initiatives designed to enable connections between local people. Above all, we wanted to capture the ideas and encourage local people to get involved in making their local neighbourhood a thriving community.

We didn't leave disappointed. The residents didn't just show up to our first 'welcome to your neighbourhood' event; they were chatty, open to new ideas and showed a real can-do attitude. We can't wait to go back!



## What's On...?

Moving to a new area can be very isolating. Our team know there is lots going on in the local area. With new residents of Maidenhill in mind, our team created a 'What's On' guide for residents looking for activities in their local area. We hoped it would become a useful source of local information, especially for those new to East Renfrewshire.

The guide included a wide range of information for families moving into a new area, i.e. the list of parent and toddler groups, restaurants, activities

for school-aged children, and a list of family activities etc.

The feedback was very positive. The residents said they would use and keep the guide for future reference, and that it would save them time researching local activities and help make new connections in their community.



## Street Meet

Street parties have been around for many generations. They are hugely successful at getting local people involved in planning and participation while helping to make local connections.

The idea of producing a 'Street Party' guide originated from Tomorrow's Older People research on ways to connect people across their community but with a fun element to it.

We realise it isn't always easy to get a street party approved, but Street Meet can be organised everywhere! All you need is a driveway, parking area, front garden and neighbours. We hope to see many Street Meets popping up in Maidenhill this summer!

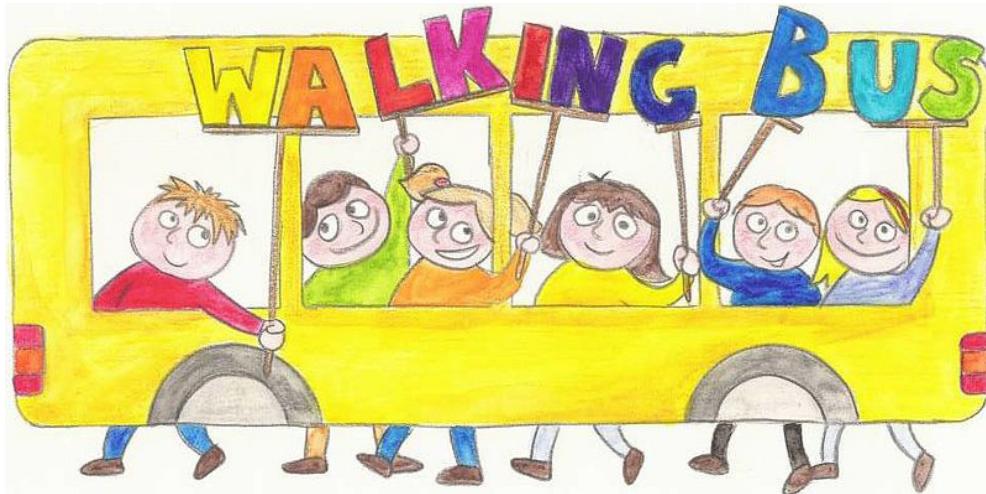
# Transport

While researching various transport models, our team met with a local woman behind a successful Car Pool in Eaglesham- a great example of how communities can support their own transport needs. As an outlying community, Maidenhill residents recognised the benefits of having a Car Pool to share transport needs. We shared our Car Pool toolkit at the event and encouraged the residents to connect and learn from Eaglesham and Waterfoot community.

We also spoke about the difficulties of traffic around schools at drop-off and pick-up times and how setting up a walking bus could benefit the local community. It boosts exercise, lowers the carbon footprint and gets the community working together. The evidence suggests that children who walk to school are better able to concentrate and more ready to learn. For the community of Maidenhill, the

most obvious benefit is to prevent the build-up of traffic and reduce the number of parked vehicles at key times. Introducing a walking bus in the early months of a school opening helps establish it as the school roll grows, so it becomes “the norm”.

Maidenhill has a primary school at its centre with currently one access road. The footpaths joining Maidenhill to Ayr Road would not be in place for a couple of years. The residents felt that this should be given more priority to encourage more walking to school. However, the Maidenhill community could use a walking bus or a car pool to positively influence traffic calming measures at the same time build relationships with the wider community in Newton Mearns.



# **Online tools to help you better connect with where you live**

There are some great examples of online groups in East Renfrewshire set up to support communities, such as 'Go Giffnock' and 'Love Where You Live – Clarkston'. The groups allow members to make local connections, share information and recommendations.



At the event, we shared information about different digital tools that enable people to connect, along with the benefits of using these tools for communities. Examples included Nextdoor.com, Whatsapp and Facebook. For those interested, we also provided a guide on how to set-up a closed Facebook group.



We learned that the residents already successfully set up Whatsapp groups on some streets. However, those who attended were also interested in building wider connections across the estate using, for example, Facebook groups.



Since the event, one of the residents has set up a private Facebook group: 'Maidenhill Community, Newton Mearns'. Everyone is invited to join in!

## **Next Steps**

We hope that all who came to the event enjoyed it as much as our team did. Above all, we hope this special neighbourhood event inspired Maidenhill's newest residents to work together to build a connected and vibrant community for themselves. After all, where we live is vital to our well-being.

Over the past few months, we've collected feedback from engagement with local people and organisations from across East Renfrewshire. We also researched innovative housing models and community-led services which support people to feel cared for and connected with the community in which they live.

Our next step is to pull all the information we gathered through our 'Caring Homes of The Future' work and share it with people and organisations across East Renfrewshire and beyond in a variety of formats. We'd also look to connect with local authorities, planning departments, housing and care sector.

Visit our website and follow us on social media for updates on 'The Caring Homes of The Future'.

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