

WHAT'S ON IN THE MOUNT

Mount Florida Over 50s Club

Mount Florida Over 50s club meets in battlefield East Church Hall on Battlefield Road on Wednesdays from 1-3pm. All residents are welcome to attend where they will enjoy a variety of activities including bus trips, lunches, musical entertainment, indoor bowls, pool, darts, table tennis, line dancing and a cup of tea.

Befriending Service

Volunteers are urgently needed to Befriend the elderly who are isolated and lonely within our community. At present there are 17 individuals awaiting a Befriender.

If you have a couple of hours a week to spare, please consider volunteering for this rewarding work. No experience is necessary, full training is given and expenses are paid. Wish to know more?

- Call into the Centre Monday - Friday 10am - 12md and speak to a member of staff.
- Telephone for information : 0141 649 8800 - mobile 07906 065818

Make a difference in someone's life and be part of a caring team within your community

Email - churchinthemount@btconnect.com

Neighbourhood Watch

There is currently one Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in operation in Mount Florida that we are aware of. If you are interested in setting up Neighbourhood Watch, please contact the Community Police Officer Stephen Connor on **0141 532 4900**.

The Bridge project

This is a voluntary project set up to provide free and confidential information and advice such as benefits advice, help with form filling, making phone calls and carers support. They can be contacted on **0141 569 1200**.

Mount Florida Parish Church

The following activities take place at Mount Florida Parish Church:

- Youth Club (Saturdays 7.30pm)
- Boys Brigade (Fridays 7.30-10pm)
- Guides (Thursday 7.30-9.30pm)
- Choir (Alternate Thursdays 7.30-9pm)
- Family Badminton (Wednesday 8pm)
- Ramblers Club - most months
- Guild (Oct - Mar Mondays 7.30pm)

Let us know about your local groups and activities - and don't forget to visit the website at <http://www.mountflorida.org.uk>

VICTORIA ACAD

Mount Florida Community Council would like to thank the NHS for providing the enclosed flyer, and for contributing the cost of distributing the newsletter.

About the Mount

Mount Florida Community Council Newsletter Summer 2006

www.mountflorida.org.uk

Mount Florida Community Council is now online at <http://www.mountflorida.org.uk>.

The website provides comprehensive information on everything relating to Mount Florida. Moreover, it informs residents about the activities of Mount Florida Community Council, and offers an opportunity for residents to contribute to Mount Florida Community Council, raise issues and comment on all we do.

All residents of Mount Florida are invited to contribute and use this website. We have provided various ways in which residents can bring concerns to our attention or simply suggest information or links to be added to the website. This can be done by leaving comments under any article on the website (simply click on the "comment" link), or by posting to the forum, or by sending an email to our new email address at mfcc@hotmail.co.uk. We look forward to your comments, suggestions and contributions!

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What is Mount Florida Community Council?

We are a formally constituted group of residents who have a keen interest in what is happening in our area. Our main role is to act as a link between residents, Glasgow City Council departments and other public bodies, such as the Scottish Executive, NHS, and Police. We are consulted on all major issues and our role is to keep residents informed of City Council and other initiatives affecting our area and then feed residents' opinions back to the agencies involved.

We have regular communication with our elected representatives; City Councillors, Margaret McCafferty and John Lynch, Charlie Gordon our MSP and Tom Harris our MP. We also maintain links with our local businesses and, in particular, with Hampden Park.

Litter

One of the major concerns for residents in Mount Florida is that of litter. Residents have made representations about many problems such as fly tipping, inadequate disposal of rubbish, pole mounted litter bins overflowing and dog fouling in the area. This issue is high up on our agenda and therefore we have passed on these concerns both to our local councillors and to the Cleansing Department. We have been investigating the litter issue and have established the responsibilities of both Glasgow City Council and residents. We will continue our dialogue with the City Council but residents can contribute to making Mount Florida a clean space to live in by disposing adequately of their own rubbish, and by informing Clean Glasgow of littering offences. Alan Sinclair, Assistant Cleansing Service Manager at Polmadie, is keen to support any effort to keep Mount Florida clean. Please also bear the following in mind:

Bulk Refuse Uplifts

For residents in tenement properties bulk refuse uplifts are provided once a week. The present arrangements are if you live on the Hampden side of Cathcart Road, your Bulk Uplift day is Monday, if on the other side of Cathcart Road, your day is Wednesday. There are special arrangements for Fridges and Freezers. Each property should have a notice in their close stating which day of the week they should put their bulk items out on the front kerbside before 11am. It is an offence to put bulk items out at other times. If you no longer have a notice in your close, please contact Alan Sinclair at the Polmadie Complex who will provide a replacement notice (287 2019). If your bulk uplift day coincides with a public holiday, then there will be no uplift that week.

For residents in non-tenement properties, bulk refuse will be uplifted by Polmadie if they are advised. If you are disposing of bulk items or fridges, please ring Polmadie to ensure prompt uplift and reduce the length of time bulky items are on the roads / in lanes.

Tradesmen should include the cost of disposal associated with their work in their quote rather than leaving waste lying around the lanes / street.

If you are unsure about bulk items or are unable to get them to the kerbside, phone 287 9700 or check the website www.glasgow.gov.uk.

Fly Tipping

The Environmental Protection Services Department Enforcement Section will investigate fly-tippers and illegal dumpers and prosecute if evidence of the identity of offenders is obtained (Contact: clean@glasgow.gov.uk or freephone 0800 027 7027)

The Environmental Protection Services have set up an Access Centre for communicating more effectively with residents. Residents can contact the Access Centre at 0141 287 9700.

Clean Glasgow

Launched in April 2002, Clean Glasgow is the biggest ever initiative to tackle litter and rubbish in Glasgow's streets and public places.

Clean Glasgow targets graffiti, litter - particularly take-away cartons, cans, cigarette butts and chewing gum, fly-posting, fly-tipping and the illegal dumping of rubbish on city streets and in local areas.

To back up the campaign, the City Council set up a freephone hotline 0800 027 7027 for Glaswegians to report problems, with 14 hit squads - called environmental enhancement teams - on call to clean up the city in a co-ordinated way.

The Clean Glasgow campaign - with the tag line "it's our city, play your part" - calls on everyone to play their part and involves businesses, schools and many other organisations.

Household Rubbish

Generally, household rubbish should be disposed of in black bin bags at the designated bin areas. On-street bins should not be used for household items as they are small and quickly overflow.

Recycling

Many households in Mount Florida have been issued with blue recycling bins. We can thus make a real difference to reducing landfill and promoting recycling, by separating rubbish and disposing of cans, plastic bottles, and paper/carton only in the blue recycling bins.

Dog fouling

Please clean up after your dog to make pavements clean and safe to walk on.

If you see someone dumping rubbish, throwing small items on the street, or not clearing up after their dog, please alert the person that this is an offence and inconsiderate to the environment and community. Alternatively, contact the Public Health section of Environmental Services (0141 287 9700) and ask for John Boyd of the Enforcement Section. Environmental Health staff are empowered in terms of the legislation to issue Fixed Penalty Notice of £40.00, increasing to £60.00 if not paid within 28 days. Close liaison is being made with Strathclyde Police to target areas of complaints with a view to issue fixed penalty notices.

The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 makes it an offence for a person to allow a dog to foul public places without immediately removing and disposing of the excrement appropriately (i.e bag and bin dog mess).

Street Cleaning

Cathcart Road is swept twice a day with side streets swept as required but at least once a week. If residents have any problems with the cleanliness of their streets, do not hesitate to contact the Cleansing department at Polmadie (287 9700).

Useful Contacts

Glasgow City Council: 0141 287 2000

Bulk Refuse Uplift: 0141 287 9700

Clean Glasgow Campaign:

0800 027 7027

Graffiti and Flyposting: 0845 595 595

RALF (Roads and Lighting Faults):

0800 373 635

Police (Aitkenhead Road): 0141 532 4900

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Furniture projects:

Second Opportunities (Castlemilk):

0141 631 3620

Spruce Carpets: 0141 425 1555

MP

Tom Harris, 0141 637 6447,

tomharrismp@parliament.uk

MSP

Charlie Gordon, 0141 632 8645,

Charlie.Gordon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Regional MSPs

Bill Aitken, 0141 810 5743, Bill.Aitken.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Robert Brown, 0141 243 2421, Robert.Brown.msp@scottish.parliament.uk,
<http://www.robertbrownmsp.org.uk>

Patrick Harvie, 0141 332 6405, Patrick.Harvie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk,
<http://www.patrickharviemsp.com>

Rosie Kane, 0141 429 8200, Rosie.Kane.msp@scottish.parliament.uk,

Tommy Sheridan, 0141 429 8200, Tommy.Sheridan.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Nicola Sturgeon, 0141 204 1775, Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk,
<http://www.nicolasturgeon.co.uk>

Sandra White, 0141 204 1767, Sandra.White.msp@scottish.parliament.uk,
<http://www.sandra-white.co.uk>

All MSPs can be contacted by post at:
The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Glasgow City Council website <http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/> contains all information about Council Services, Council Activities and Contact Information

Councillors

Cllr John Lynch, 0141 287 4033,
John.Lynch@glasgow.gov.uk,
Surgery: at Mount Florida Primary School
- first Monday of the month at 6pm; third
Monday of the month at 7pm.

Cllr Margaret McCafferty, 287 7032,
margaret.mccafferty@councillors.glasgow.gov.uk,
Surgery: First Monday of month at
Battlefield Primary School (6pm)

The Community Council meets on the
4th Tuesday of the month in Battlefield
East Church Hall at 7 p.m. Come along,
or Contact the Community Council at
mfcc@hotmail.co.uk

Plans for Session 2006/2007
First Meeting Tuesday 26th September
AGM Tuesday 24th October

Traffic calming in Mount Florida

A 'Safer Routes to School Traffic Calming Project' has been commissioned on the streets between Kings Park Primary School on Kingsbridge Drive and Aikenhead Road. This project has involved speed bumps along most streets, raised speed tables at each access point to Aikenhead Road and Kings Park Avenue as well as alterations to priorities around the school to discourage rat-runners. This project arose out of a School Travel Plan drawn up by the staff, parents and pupils at Kings Park Primary.

Mount Florida Primary School has also drawn up a School Travel Plan and they have contacted Land Services with a number of concerns regarding traffic around the Primary School. To date, they have not received, in our opinion, satisfactory responses from Land Services. We consider the area around Mount Florida Primary School to be significantly less safe than that around KP Primary and we feel strongly that the pupils require, as a matter of urgency, a 'Safer Route' to their school. MFCC are working with the School Travel Plan team, and intend to start a dialogue with our City Councillors and Land Services for a Safer Routes to School Traffic Calming Project for our area.

How can Mount Florida Community Council best Communicate with Residents?

1) Residents can attend our Monthly Meetings

We meet in Battlefield East Church Hall on the 4th Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 7pm. Residents are cordially invited to all meetings and will have the opportunity to join in with the discussions taking place or to raise any issues of their own.

2) Newsletter

Newsletters, like this one, will be distributed 2 or 3 times a year. We experience difficulties delivering to controlled entry closes. Any suggestions from residents on how this could be made easier are requested.

3) Website

Mount Florida Community Council is now at www.mountflorida.org.uk.

For those who do not have access to the internet, you can access it at your local library (if you are a member) or at Tek-Wyz Technologies at the corner of Cathcart Road and McLellan Street.

4) By E-Mail

Our e-mail address is: - MFCC@hotmail.co.uk

5) Community Notice Board

MFCC are planning to erect a community notice board in Mount Florida. It will provide a focal point for all local community news and events, including those at Hampden Park. All suggestions from residents regarding the best location of the board will be most welcome.

6) By Letter

You can write to:- MFCC c/o Community Council Resource Centre, 8 John Street, Glasgow, G1 1LJ

It's a Fair Cop

The Community Police officer has a regular slot at MFCC meetings where he/she reports on local crimes or initiatives. Mount Florida, generally speaking, is not a high crime area but even so called 'minor' crimes can be distressing to the 'victim'. Some residents have been upset recently by the length of time it has taken Police to respond to calls and it has discouraged them from reporting minor incidents. However, according to PC Connor, they should report all crimes and suspicious incidents as this may highlight a local 'problem area' and once Police are aware of this they can take action. The way the Police receive calls from the public has recently changed. Instead of calls going directly to your local Police Office at Aikenhead Road, they go to a Call Centre in Govan. There they are prioritised and resources are allocated. During busy periods this may result in reports of minor crimes not being dealt with right away but they will be investigated.

Over the last few months PC Connor has given us some useful information to help us avoid becoming another crime statistic. For example:

- 1) **Housebreaking:** don't leave items lying around your garden as they can often be used by a housebreaker to reach higher places or jemmy open windows.
- 2) **Thefts:** during the summer months there is often an increase in thefts of garden tools so make sure you lock them securely away. Encourage kids to bring their toys or bikes back into the house rather than leave them unattended in the garden. Many thieves are opportunists and an unattended bicycle can be stolen in seconds.
- 3) **Identity Theft :** bins are being searched for bank details. Protect your personal details from theft by shredding receipts and other important documents. Contact the Police if you notice someone going through your bin shed. Bin Sheds should be kept secure. It is the residents' responsibility to make sure that their shed is locked except for the day of refuse uplift.
- 4) **Bogus Callers:** Be aware of people coming to your door claiming to be from Scottish Water or other utility providers. Always ask for ID before letting someone into your house.

If you have ever wanted to pass on information to the Police but not wanted to give your name then Crimestoppers is the answer. By calling them on **0800 555111** you can pass on information anonymously and you may even be eligible for a reward if your information leads to a conviction.

Finally, if your house is being left vacant while you are on holiday, let the police know. Give them the name of someone who has a key and that they can contact in an emergency.

Planning Applications

A resident told MFCC recently that he has not received information about the proposed change to the use of the former Hamilton's Carpet Shop into a Restaurant. Neighbours have a legal right to be informed of any such planning applications.

MFCC receive details of all Planning Applications for our area and it is our intention to put this information onto the website. In addition, residents can use the Glasgow City Council Website (www.glasgow.gov.uk) and type 'Weekly Planning Application List' into the 'Search' section. All Planning Applications are listed in Community Council order. Planning permission for the 76 flats to be built on the former Kwik-Fit site has recently been passed.

Hampden

Following last year's Oasis concert at Hampden, where a considerable amount of disruption was caused in and around Mount Florida, the Community Council invited Mr David Kells from Hampden Ltd to speak at their meeting on 28 February 2006. He addressed a number of issues and answered questions put to him by the residents. He said that well before any big events at Hampden all the agencies involved (Emergency services, Cleansing, Licensing, Building control, Environmental Health etc) hold meetings to plan a strategy for the event. He agreed that things had not gone well at the Oasis concert but that lessons had been learnt which he hoped would allow future events to go more smoothly. It was suggested that a community representative could sit on the Board of Hampden Ltd to represent the views of residents, but this was refused. Most residents accept that Hampden is part of their community and Hampden Ltd are keen to encourage that view and not to be seen as the 'neighbour from Hell'. The Community Council welcomed the opportunity to share their views with a representative from Hampden and look forward to continuing the dialogue in the future.

One of the pervading problems witnessed by residents is fans urinating in the street. Portaloos have recently been placed in the car park in the old lighting department. However, it is the view of MFCC that more portaloos should be available to fans and in particular around the train station or en route to the stadium.

What can you do?

Residents can assist with this problem by reporting all incidents to the police, keeping a record of available information such as registration numbers of cars and buses.

Scotland - France match

Euro 2008 match against France on Saturday 7th October

Concerts at Hampden this summer

23 June Eagles

25 August Rolling Stones

1 & 2 September Robbie Williams

The Bon Jovi concert on 3 June went off without any major problems and this was greatly appreciated by residents and fans alike. Well done to all concerned.

Daytime parking restrictions on Cathcart Road

At present, parking is not allowed on Cathcart Road from Prospecthill Road down to the triangle during daytime hours. MFCC feels that not only is this not necessary in terms of traffic flow but that it adversely affects the viability of local businesses and causes access problems for local residents. We consulted with local businesses and residents of Cathcart Road and received an almost unanimous response that the restrictions should be changed. The majority favoured a 'park for an hour and no return for an hour' arrangement. Discussions with Glasgow City Council Land Services Department and our City Councillors are ongoing. However, the City Council Land Services Department have advised us that they have found in other areas of the city that limited time parking is not successful and is almost impossible to enforce cost effectively. We are looking at the alternative of allowing unrestricted parking outwith peak hours which would prevent 'park and ride' commuters parking on Cathcart Road during business hours but would allow shoppers to come and go as required. There would be no restrictions apart from peak hours on Saturdays.

Parking Restrictions during Major Events at Hampden Park

On the day of the recent Scottish Cup Game between Hearts and Hibs, cars were being removed from Bolton Drive at 8am on a Sunday morning by Land Services. This highlighted the need for a reassessment of the parking arrangements at big events at Hampden. There are 2 main issues:-

1. Communication of the details of upcoming events/restrictions to residents.

New signs are planned which will display the date and times of restrictions and these will be displayed a few days ahead of the events. MFCC believes that the signs will satisfactorily solve the communication problem.

2. The number of streets affected by Hampden events.

Parking restrictions are imposed on 53 streets in the area during major events. MFCC agrees that the main routes to and from the stadium and those streets adjacent to the stadium require to be kept clear. However a large number of streets which normally allow parking on both sides of the street and along which emergency vehicles can gain full access are, in our opinion, restricted unnecessarily to single-sided parking during Hampden Events. A large proportion of these streets do not appear to be relevant to the comings and goings of fans or emergency vehicles on event days. The disruption to residents of having to find parking places considerable distances away from home seems unnecessary. We are in negotiation with Strathclyde Police Operational Planning Department, Land Services and our City Councillors to try to improve the situation.

Upgrading Mount Florida's Greenspace

In the Mount Florida area, we are lucky to have 4 areas of Greenspace; Queens Park Recreation Ground, Cathkin Park, The Triangle and the site previously occupied by the Prefab houses at Hangingshaw.

Since the last newsletter in October 2005, MFCC has been looking at ways to improve the quality of these areas for local community use. To date the focus of this work has centred on Queens Park Recreation Ground.

The Queens Park Rec has suffered from years of neglect and all of the pitches have been affected. The recent road development across the park has removed one pitch, a second pitch will shortly have the NHS Victoria ACAD unit built on top of it, and most of the others have become overgrown over the years through lack of use, leaving one useable pitch. The condition of the football pitches has not been helped by their use as off-street car parking during events at Hampden Park. An additional problem has occurred as a result of the new road; there is no easy access to the Recreation ground from the new road.

We are keen to preserve and make better use of the remaining Greenspace in the future, providing a focal point for the community with something for everyone. After canvassing existing Recreation Ground users, the MFCC has presented a number of proposals for investment to Land Services and our local councillors. Everyone has been supportive of the suggestions we've made to date. We have been advised that some of our suggestions can be put into place quite easily, for example:

- marking up & maintaining two half sized football pitches with permanent goals,
- installing picnic benches and more bins
- seeding an area with wild flowers to create a meadow to encourage biodiversity (butterflies etc.)

Other suggestions will require funding to be raised; these include an enclosed adventure playground and the upgrade of the existing skate park. We will update you with our progress on our website and in subsequent newsletters.

What can you do?

Email us with your suggestions and support.

Let us know if you use the park regularly (or would like to!) and what for.