

About the Mount

Mount Florida Community Council Newsletter Summer 2007

www.mountflorida.org.uk

e: mfcc@hotmail.co.uk

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

Community Council Report

Your Community Council has had a mixed year. We have had 9 very interesting monthly meetings with many issues discussed and some very interesting guests from City Council Land Services Department, Community Safety Services, Cleansing Department and Langside College. However in Glasgow, we live in times of great change. We have seen the recent Elections with the make-up of the City Council and the way we are represented change radically.

We have seen a zero increase in Council Tax for the last 2 years and the budget problems involved with tackling pay inequality among the Council's workforce, with up to £50 million invested to ensure the continued implementation of Equal Pay legislation. This has had a very large effect on the money available for City Council services.

We have seen the introduction of Culture and Sport Glasgow which has taken over the delivery of all services and facilities currently delivered by the Council's Cultural and Leisure Services. The rationale for this move was 'to improve and extend the cultural and sport services on offer; develop new partnerships and to widen the funding base through improved commercial development of retail and other trading opportunities and fundraising.' We have seen the introduction of Community Safety Services Department to deliver ASBO's, Clean Glasgow - to improve the 'joined-up' delivery of Council Services, Police and other agencies. How all these changes will unfold in the long term is still a matter of debate.

We have been invited to many meetings, to respond to many consultations, to read many reports and proposal documents. However how much our input has in affecting Council policies is of increasing concern to us in Mount Florida Community Council.

Elections May 3rd

Congratulations to Charlie Gordon who was re-elected as our MSP at the Scottish Parliament. As a result of the City Council Elections, we have 3 new City Council Councillors: James Dornan (SNP), Archie Graham (Labour), and Paul Coleshill (Liberal Democrats).

Mount Florida is now part of the larger Landside Ward with 3 Councillors. The details of how this new Multi-Member Ward system will work are not clear. The basic idea is that residents who vote for a particular party can have a councillor from that party to represent their views on the City Council. In practice, residents can contact any of the 3 Councillors, either directly at the City Chambers or at their Surgeries. The new ward covers the area from Shawlands Cross to Curtis Avenue, taking in the old Battlefield, Mount Florida and a bit of Kings Park Wards. Details of the surgery times and locations for the new City Councillors will be published in due course. We look forward to meeting our new councillors and working with them.

As a result of the elections, we say farewell to the City Councillors who have represented us in recent years. We would like to thank Margaret McCafferty and John Lynch for all their efforts in supporting the residents of Mount Florida as well as their work as Conveners of the Education and Culture and Leisure Committees. We wish John and Margaret all the best.

N.B. We as a Community Council still cover the same area as before. The first meeting of the new session, where new office bearers and community councillors will be elected, will be on Tuesday September 25, 7pm at Battlefield Church Hall. All welcome.

Community Police

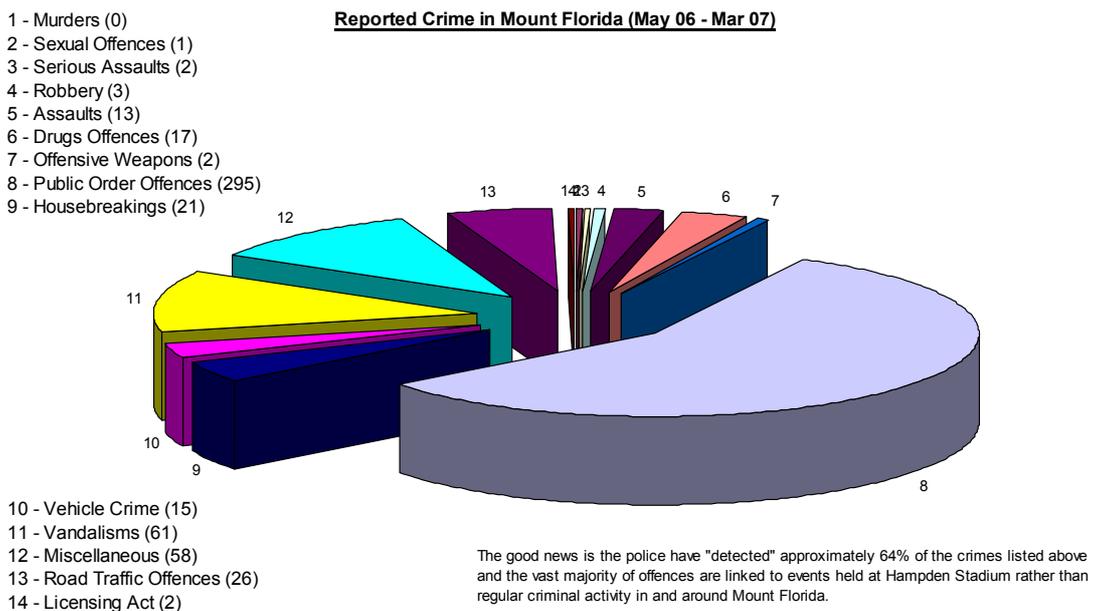
Our Community Police Officer for our area is Mark Paterson. As in previous years, the main source of arrests around Mount Florida continues to be major events at Hampden Park. There has been an increased level of problems with youth disorder in recent months. In most cases, an increased police presence in the streets/lanes involved has succeeded in solving that particular problem, however in most cases, the young people and hence the problem have merely moved to another area.

We have continued to receive complaints from residents that phone calls to the police have either not been responded to or else the response has come long after the problem has moved on. The Police answer these criticisms by emphasising that the Police is a finite resource which has to be prioritised. The new Contact Centre at Govan Police Station receives and records all calls and the message coming loud and clear from the Police is that they will respond to an incident about which they receive a large number of complaints from residents before incidents with a few calls.

The advice which your Community Council gives all residents is if you see something which you consider justifies a Police response, then YOU call Govan and do not assume that somebody else has called - even if somebody else has called, ALL CALLS ARE VITAL.

We consider present Police manning levels in our area to be inadequate and we will continue to lobby our elected representatives for increased levels of cover particularly during evenings.

The number for the Police is **532 4900**. Community Police (Aikenhead Road) can be contacted on **532 5022**, however residents requiring urgent response should call Govan.



Langside College

Plans are underway to replace the present main buildings at Langside College with a new complex situated on the existing site. It is expected, if planning is passed, for work to begin in January 2008. Mount Florida Community Council has seen the basic plans and feel that the new College with the main entrance on Battlefield Road will be a major improvement on the present facility with enhanced community facilities.

If developments proceed as planned, between January 2008 and February 2009, building work on the College and the new Hospital will be ongoing simultaneously within a few hundred yards of each other. However we have been assured that by the time college work will start, work on the Hospital will have moved onto the internal fitting out stage.

Victoria Infirmary

The creation of our New Victoria Hospital, the ACAD, is well underway. It is planned to be open by February 2009. The present Infirmary buildings and in-patient services will continue until 2012 apart from the Day Hospital and Out-Patient Clinics which will move to the new Hospital building across the road. After all the publicity and discussion about losing the A&E and in-patient services over the last few years, it is obviously a done deal - come 2012, we will have a Day Hospital on Grange Road with a 9am-9pm Minor Injury Unit and all other services will be delivered at the greatly enlarged Southern General Hospital. Exact details regarding exactly what services will be on offer at Govan and how we will be able to get there and back have still to be made clear. We will be keeping in close contact with the Community Engagement Department of the NHS to stay up-to-date with plans for the Southern Hospital.

Parking

Over the last year or so, we have had many meetings and consultations with City Councillors, City Council Land Services Department, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue as well as with residents and local businesses with regard to Parking restrictions during major events at Hampden Park and Daytime Parking Restrictions on Cathcart Road. Unfortunately all these discussions have been put on ice due to the recent elections. We will now be back in touch with these agencies as well as with our new City Councillors to resolve these issues once and for all.

Queens Park FC

We would like to congratulate our famous local football club on gaining promotion to Division 2 of the Scottish Football League. Well done to Billy Stark and his staff and players.

Rev. Hugh Wallace

We say goodbye to Reverend Hugh Wallace who has been the Minister of Mount Florida Parish Church for over 20 years. Hugh is moving to Aberdeen. Hugh has made an outstanding contribution to our community. We would like to thank him for all his hard

work and we wish him and his family all the best in their new life up North.

50th Glasgow Scout Group

Beavers (for boys and girls aged 6 yrs to 8 yrs) meet on a Tuesday night in the recently renovated Scout Hall, Garry Street, at 6.30 pm - 7.30pm, Cubs (boys and girls aged 8 - 10 yrs) meet on a Friday night at 6.15pm - 7.30pm and scouts (boys and girls aged 10 yrs - 15 yrs) meet on a Friday night 7.30 pm - 9.30pm. Contact John Cunningham 0141 638 6668.

Neighbourhood Watch

We have had a Neighbourhood Watch scheme operating in the Florida Avenue/Cathcart Road/Florida Square area for the last 2 years. The real benefits of such a scheme have been made crystal clear within the last few months when residents were victims of gangs of youths causing distress and damage to property on Florida Avenue. The Neighbourhood Watch were able to get residents together and involve all available support services, i.e. Strathclyde Police, City Councillor (Margaret McCafferty), MSP (Charlie Gordon), and the City Council Community Safety Services Department. The result was increased Police activity and a CCTV camera in Florida Avenue.

We would recommend that residents consider getting together either in streets or groups of streets and forming Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Strathclyde Police and your Community Council will provide support.

City Plan 2

Glasgow City Council has prepared a finalised draft of the its new CityPlan (known as City Plan 2). The plan sets out the Council's ambitions for the development and regeneration of Glasgow over the next five years. The Community Council provided comments on the Plan last year relating to local community facilities, local retail and recycling facilities. The

comments were considered by the City Council and responses were provided by the City Council on each issue. The City Plan is available at local libraries and via the City Council's website www.glasgow.gov.uk, which contains all information about Council Services, Council Activities and Contact Information .

Community Notice Board

The Community Council recognises that there is no central place in Mount Florida where residents can find out about local services and events in the area. It was identified that a notice board would be a good focal point for relevant community information. The notice board has four aims: 1) to provide information on community council meetings and other local groups; 2) to provide information on forthcoming Hampden events; 3) to provide information on local public services, parking, police etc; 4) to provide elected representatives a place to post surgery times. Funding for the notice board will mainly come from the Awards for All Lottery Fund. We expect a decision on funding by mid-June. Should the funding be secured, the community will be consulted on location and design of the notice board.

Hampden Park

The effects on our Community of the National Stadium continue. Lack of toilet facilities continues to be a major issue for residents both at football matches and concerts. We have recently met with Community Safety Services Department and requested that they set up a meeting between all the agencies involved in bringing fans into our community and their effects on our community, i.e. Hampden plc, City Council, and Police. We are hopeful that this new department can assist us to get Portaloos etc. Hampden events generate large quantities of litter and other debris and while Hampden pays Cleansing to clean up the area immediately around Hampden, the streets used by fans beyond this area are not cleaned as a matter of routine. We are hopeful that the Community Noticeboard which we are planning will assist residents in being more aware of events at Hampden and they will be able to make suitable arrangements in advance.

Befriending Service

The Church in the Mount Befriending Service provides Befrienders for older people in our community who are often housebound and isolated due to illness or age and is based at the old Post Office in Clincart Road. We now have 24 Volunteer Befrienders who do a fantastic job visiting their Befriendee(s) on a weekly basis for 1 - 2 hours. We have had a very busy year training many new volunteers and organising further training for all volunteers and staff too. We held a very successful Christmas lunch for Befrienders and Befriendees with all food donated by local shops and restaurants and live music was enjoyed by all. In February 2007 we were awarded the Approved Provider Standard for Befriending Services - this means that the service meets the required standard for safe and effective practice in Befriending.

If anyone has 1-2 hours spare a week and is interested in volunteering, please contact us on 0141-649 8800 or email:

churchinthemount@btconnect.com

Safer Routes to School

As you have probably noticed by now a big scheme of roadworks has been happening around Mount Florida Primary school which is the culmination of 2 years hard work to make it easier and safer for our children to walk to and from their local school. The work was carried out after consultation with the children, parents, staff, GCC and community council who all offered suggestions. Although at time of writing (May) there are still road markings etc. to be completed, people have noticed a huge improvement in the slowing of traffic and that the roads around the school are now much easier to cross. **This has benefitted not just the school children, but also the local community who travel on foot.** Recently the School was the only Primary in Glasgow to be visited by a large nationwide contingent from Sustrans to look at how the school produced its Travel Plan and Safer Routes to School.