

About the Mount

Mount Florida Community Council Autumn Newsletter 2012

Once again, Mount Florida Community Council seeks to let local residents know what issues we have been tackling over the last few months, and to get your views on local issues which are of concern. We sincerely hope that you find our Newsletter interesting and informative. Remember, that without a healthy two-way dialogue between us and yourselves, your Community Council cannot operate effectively. By all working together, we can make Mount Florida a better place for us all. We very much look forward to seeing or hearing from you.

What is MFCC and What do we do?

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, local traders and businesses, local groups such as schools and voluntary groups, Glasgow City Council departments and other public bodies, such as the Scottish Government, NHS and the Police. We are consulted on all major issues, meetings and initiatives. Our role is to keep residents informed of City Council actions and anything affecting our area and then feed residents' opinions back to the agencies involved. We also have developed strong links with neighbouring Community Councils through attendance by our members at Area Committee meetings and involvement in the Southside Festival and Queens Park Arena projects.

Our meetings are attended, on a rota basis, by our 3 City Councillors, Archie Graham, Susan Aitken and Liam Hainey who report on issues involving Mount Florida within the Council. Meetings are also attended by our Community Police officers. We meet in Clincarthill Church Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month (not normally in Jul/Aug/Dec) and all residents are most welcome to attend and join in discussions.

We are always looking to engage new Community Councillors and would welcome anyone interested to find out more. To be an effective Community Councillor, all you need is an interest in what is going on in your area and a determination to make our area better for all our residents. If you can spare a few hours each month, then we are sure you will find being part of your Community Council a very interesting and rewarding experience. You'll be made most welcome. If you would like to become a Community Councillor, you are 16 or over and you live in Mount Florida, e-mail us on mfcc@hotmail.co.uk, or come along to our next meeting on **Tuesday 23rd October** which is our AGM.

Our Community Council is proud to have represented our area for over 30 years. Every two years we formally hold elections for new Community Councillors, and say goodbye and many thanks to those residents who have 'done their bit' for Mount Florida. Together, we can help make our community flourish.

There are 3 ways at present for Residents to contact their Community Council:-

- 1 Come along to our meetings in Clincarthill Church Hall on 4th Tuesday of each month
- 2 E-mail us on mfcc@hotmail.co.uk
- 3 Leave a message on our website www.communitycouncilsglasgow.org.uk/mountflorida

Dates of MFCC Meetings in Session 2012/2013

October (AGM) 23rd	March 26th
November 27th	April 23rd
January 22nd	May 28th
February 26th	June 25th

What's been happening around the Mount ?

Quite a few changes have been taking place in Mount Florida since last autumn; some for the better, some perhaps not so welcome. Other projects which will affect Mount Florida residents are still at the planning stages — here is just a small selection; let us know what you think.

Hampden Park Events

Hampden events: portaloos, alcohol in the street, urinating in public, the joys of an event at Hampden. We live with it every year — football matches, concerts, and the occasional public event. But we accept it. The organisation of the events is getting better; we have seen the introduction of more portaloos, for which we (and others living adjacent to football grounds around Glasgow) have been campaigning for some time. The policing of the events also continues to improve, and there is better crowd traffic management. However, we will continue to press for further improvements.

Sporting Events 2012 and 2014

MFCC's successful contribution to the 2012 Olympic events at Hampden was to press for the introduction of residents' parking permits. However some residents only applied for their permits a day or two before the events, and they didn't arrive on time. Fortunately wardens acted with discretion and had lists of addresses of those residents who had applied for, but had not yet received, their permits. The permits have been of great help to most residents, and will continue to be so for forthcoming events. If, however, anyone feels they have grounds for complaint, the parking unit can be contacted on 0141 287 4000.

The Commonwealth Games 2014 will undoubtedly be a much bigger event, leaving a lasting legacy for the city, with social housing being introduced after the athletes' village is complete, and the velodrome, the hydro, and the mountain bike track adding to the jewels in the city's crown.

There is a lot to look forward to, and with the athletic events taking place at Hampden, local people will get the chance to see top class athletics on their doorstep. All we hope is that tickets are reasonably priced and available to all.

Two planning applications are currently underway, for the temporary installation of a warm-up track at Lesser Hampden, and for the extension to the North Stand at concourse level. Some local residents have raised concerns about the extension of the North Stand (see further on page 5), which will bring it very close to houses. Assurances were given to MFCC that the impact on nearby housing has been fed into the design process and will not be as severe as might first appear. Local authority guidelines will be adhered to, and there should be no significant effect on light levels to houses opposite. Somerville Drive will not be reduced in width; building will be effectively "on stilts". Regarding the security element, on non-match days the area underneath will be closed off by gates or shutters, and the aesthetics of these will be considered. There will be no glass on the external façade, which will be given a metal-type cladding similar to that on other parts of the stadium. The Portacabins will be permanently removed, and work will begin shortly on building a new pavilion for Queens Park Social Club.

The capacity of the venue will drop to 44,000 during the games; less seating will be available as the track is introduced. There will be a new passenger lift, and an upgrade of the existing lift. Wheelchair facilities at the SE and SW will remain, and more wheelchair platforms will be created,

with a Super Riser to enable wheelchair users to see.

Existing toilet facilities will remain, and these and catering facilities will be improved. Portaloo provision will be made for spectators and volunteers, taking into account the 'last mile' and approach to the stadium. Glasgow City Council and Strathclyde Police are in co-operation on this, and are acutely aware of the issues that arise. Anti-social issues that arise off-campus will be dealt with by local police, and there will be a street clean after events. More information on the Games can be found at <http://www.glasgow2014.com/>

Hospital Modernisation Update

Earlier in the year, Daniel Connolly of the Community Engagement Team gave a presentation to MFCC on the hospital modernisation update. Phase 1 involved the new West of Scotland Cancer Centre and the Ambulatory Care facilities at the new Victoria and Stobhill; Phase 2 will include new-build adult and children's hospitals and laboratories at the Southern General (SGH) site. Lab facilities from Inverclyde will be moved to SGH; the new facilities will attract top-class technicians. The Western Infirmary will close and transfer to the new SGH site also. Phases 3 & 4 (2015-2020) will see redevelopment at Gartnavel and Glasgow Royal Infirmary (GRI). The New Victoria is designed around the patient journey, and includes increased diagnostics to improve waiting times, increased day surgery capacity (81.5% of procedures performed same day) and new services including renal dialysis. There will also be streamlining of unplanned care, emergencies being dealt with at trauma centres at GRI and SGH, with Minor Injuries Units elsewhere (including the Victoria and Stobhill). At the GRI site, A&E is doubled in size with modular buildings set up to meet additional requirements. The Mansion-house Unit will eventually be closed, but there is no set timescale for this closure. Anyone with further questions should contact Lorna Gray at the old Victoria.

Refuse Collections

Residents wishing to find out about refuse collections or bulk items uplift should phone

the Land & Environmental Services Contact Centre on **0141 287 9700**, who will provide them with details of regular bin-emptying days well as details of bulk uplift and recycling bin information. If the service received is not up to the expected standard, residents are advised to contact any one of their 3 City Councillors.

Community Policing

Community Police Officers have attended most of our meetings and have reported that crime levels in our community remain relatively low. However, there had been a spate of housebreakings earlier in the year; residents of tenements are reminded to ensure that outer doors are secure, and that only those with bona fide reasons for entering closes are admitted. Contact with your **Community Policing Team** can be made via e-mail to Langsidecommunitypolicingteam@strathclyde.pnn.police.uk or by telephone to **0141 532 4900** and ask to be connected to the department. Urgent issues apart from emergencies can be dealt with by contacting the **Police Call Centre at Helen Street on 0141 532 3000**. Our advice as usual is for residents to contact the Police at the Call Centre if you have any concerns. Don't wait for someone else to call - the more calls received, the higher the priority the incident will be given by the Police.

Useful Numbers

Dog fouling continues to be a problem in our area. If you have information on who is responsible for allowing their dog to foul pavements, contact **CleanGlasgow** on **0800 027 7027**.

Noise nuisance - If you are being bothered by noisy neighbours, consider approaching those responsible to make them aware of the problem – they may not even realise that they are disturbing you. If this does not help, or if you feel you cannot approach the noise maker, then please contact **Glasgow Community Safety Services (GCSS) Noise Team**, who can help resolve your problem on **0141-287 6688** (24 hours). Noise officers are available to carry out home visits between the hours of 9am-3am Mon-Fri and 5pm-3am Saturday and Sunday.

Contact Details for our local City Councillors

Susan Aitken 0141 287 3751
Archie Graham 0141 287 7048
Liam Hainey 0141 287 4405

Area Committee 2012/13 Fund Open for Applications

Glasgow City Council's Area Committees award grants to community and voluntary organisations to develop and support local community activity. 2012-13 Funds are now available and Glasgow City Council is accepting new funding requests.

Glasgow City Council's decision-making process includes a system of 21 Area Committees – one for each Council Ward in the City. The main role of Area Committees is to monitor how Council services are delivered and developed locally, helping to ensure that services reflect the policies of the Council and are responding to local needs and opportunities. To assist the Area Committees in their role they are each allocated an Area Budget. Community and voluntary groups working with Glasgow residents are invited to apply to Glasgow City Council for grants from this fund.

Mount Florida Community Council is a member of the Langside Area Committee and will work alongside Committee Chair Councillor Archie Graham and Councillors Susan Aitken and Liam Hainey throughout 2012-13. Local projects Mount Florida Community Council and the Langside Area Committee have supported in the past include the Southside Festival, the restoration of the bandstand in Queen's Park and The Mount Befriending Service.

To apply for funding, please contact the South Partnership & Development Team on 0141 2769880 or visit www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/YourCouncil/Council_Committees/AreaCommittees to download an application form and guidance notes.

Who can apply? Constituted community and voluntary groups.

What can funding be used for? Assistance to help improve current activities or to develop new projects.

What can be applied for? New equipment, activity costs at residential centres, environmental improvements, pilot projects, production of educational plays/materials, start-up grants, bus hire grants for group trips, projects that fill gaps in Council Service provision and promote community activity.

What cannot be funded? Items for personal use, ongoing running costs (such as staffing, utility bills and maintenance), purchase and maintenance of vehicles, provision of meals and snacks and the purchase of fireworks.

Queen's Park Arena Project Update

MFCC has two representatives on the Queen's Park Arena steering group. This venture started in March 2009 as a Scottish Government pilot project to evaluate how Community Councils could work together. Its objective is to restore the former bandstand area in Queen's Park to usable condition and create a flexible performance and activity space.

Grants totalling £180,000 were obtained from the Landfill Community Fund, the Southside Central, Pollokshields and Langside Area Committees, the Strathbungo Society and the Govanhill Community Development Trust in 2011-12.

Grouting of old mine shafts underneath the site was necessary to make it safe. This was done in October 2011, with financial assistance from Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government.

Phase 1 of the work (for drainage, electrical supply, repair and re-surfacing of the arena floor, re-landscaping and restoration of the seating) was to take place during April-May 2012. Long delays in obtaining the necessary legal documents from Glasgow City Council held up the start of work for some time, but it is now underway and is scheduled for completion by the end of September 2012. QPA approved the design drawn by ZM Architecture, the winner of the architectural competition held in 2010, who will supervise work on site.

Throughout the year there have been meetings with potential event partners, such as Glasgow Life, the Citizens Theatre and the Friends of Kelvingrove. A successful application for a Lottery Awards for All grant of £10,000 enabled the appointment of a part-time Events Organiser in April 2012.

The steering group has also been working on a Business Case which will complement the Business Plan and provide a basis for phase 2 fund raising. The Strathbungo Society, Hutchesons' Grammar School, Langside College and the Common Guild have joined the group.

Consult the website for more information and updates: <http://www.qppp.org.uk/>

Glasgow Factoring Commission

70% of households in Glasgow are in a tenement or other flat, so the majority of home owners have a responsibility for the common parts of the property. Some properties have a factor, some are self-factoring arrangements and some are without any agreement on dealing with parts owned in common. Issues raised include the refusal of some property owners to pay their fair share or uncertainty over resident's rights when dealing with unsatisfactory service from existing factors. Glasgow Factoring Commission has been set up to establish a blueprint for how common property can best be managed and maintained.

The Commission is issuing a public call for evidence, inviting interested parties to register their views and supporting evidence regarding common property management. The Call for Evidence is seeking to collate a range of property management and maintenance experiences around seven key questions:

- 1. What are the key problems/issues being experienced by owners with respect to factoring/property management services?*
- 2. What are the key problems/ issues being experienced by factors/property managers in providing factoring/ property management services?*
- 3. How satisfactory are the procedures used in resolving complaints/disputes between owners and factors/property managers?*
- 4. How can owner/ consumer experiences of factoring services be improved and what opportunities are there for introducing improvements?*
- 5. What are the issues facing owners where properties are not factored and how can owners be helped to address these issues?*
- 6. The Commission is interested in good practice of property management where arrangements are working well, and/ or where issues have been resolved satisfactorily. Please provide examples. What actions can be taken in Glasgow to grasp and/ or replicate these examples?*
- 7. What are the wider impacts of an absence or minimal level of property management?*

Written evidence of no more than four sides of A4 can be submitted by email to:

factoringcommission@drs.glasgow.gov.uk or to:

Factoring Commission

Housing Services

Development and Regeneration Services

Local Residents voice opposition to the proposed extension to Hampden

The application for an extension to the North Stand of Hampden Park is currently pending consideration with Glasgow City Council, but serious questions remain about the level of consultation and information provided to local residents prior to such a significant development.

Legally there is very little that applicants have to do to notify neighbours of any proposals, meaning that many people will be unaware of the developments until it is too late. In addition to the required notice in the Evening Times, for this application the Commonwealth Games committee intended to distribute letters to local residents to provide information and an opportunity to view the plans before they were submitted. However, they openly admit that these letters were largely undelivered. Even if they had been sent out, the open days gave neighbours only one week to respond, which suggests that consultation at this late stage was no more than tokenistic.

Many of the immediate neighbours only knew of the proposals when they received the official notification from the Council that an application had been submitted. However, it would appear that many believed it could only be a minor piece of work, or they surely have heard about it, and few people have time to view the extensive plans within the 28 day period.

250 householders from the properties immediately adjacent to the proposed extension signed a petition objecting to the proposed design, urging a review of the plans to reflect the views of the community who had received little or no notification of the plans before they had been submitted. Of all the householders contacted, only one person did not want to sign the petition which demonstrates the overwhelming community opposition.

This case highlights the strong feelings that local residents have about proposed developments that have a significant impact on their lives, homes and communities, and it is crucial that they are considered. The Hampden proposals follow on from other controversial planning decisions such as the Cathcart Road Tesco's, and highlight the need for communities to have more of a say in the decisions that affect them.

— Beth Crozier

Local Resident Raises Concerns about Proposed Polmadie Gasification Plant

At a July 13 meeting in Toryglen organised by Urban Roots,* Mount Florida Community Council was made aware of Glasgow City Council's (GCC) proposal to sign a twenty-five year contract with a private contractor, Viridor, to build a Gasification (incinerator) plant at the present Polmadie Waste and Recycling Centre, called Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre (<http://www.transformingwasteinglasgow.com/>). In an online discussion with Steven Don, Viridor's Scottish Regional Manager, Viridor's full professional team and representatives from GCC, it was claimed that advertisements for events highlighting the proposal were released in three local newspapers, through Viridor's website, as well as direct mailings to local stakeholders and newsletters to 16,000 local residents. Viridor also claimed to have written to community organisations and to have met with community councils. However, surrounding community councils, including Mount Florida, were not informed, nor were local residents.

GCC will have to provide 175,000 tonnes of waste per year, that is, waste outwith GCC's own recycling and composting efforts; any failure by the council to meet these terms will allow Viridor to impose fines on GCC and as a direct consequence, its citizenry. One way, however, of avoiding future fines is for GCC to import waste from surrounding areas. The present council is, therefore, creating financial burdens for future City Councillors, as well as future generations of Glasgow citizens, as any fines remove much needed money from the city budget. Furthermore, GCC has entered into these contractual negotiations prior to the Scottish Parliament's far-thinking Zero Waste policy. For example, all Scottish councils have to provide food waste recycling facilities by 2016. This shows a further lack of foresight during contractual negotiations, as the council has failed to consider present and future awareness by Glasgow citizens of climate change and the need to recycle household products as part of a wider environmental policy, nor has GCC considered future European Union (EU) legislation concerning packaging of consumer food and durable products.

Promoted by GCC, in partnership with Viridor, as a Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre, the planned works will separate additional household waste for recycling, yet incinerate materials considered to be non-economically viable. This means that the proposed plant will work along the lines of a Dirty Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). This Dirty MRF process accepts mixed solid waste, separating designated recyclable materials through manual and mechanical operations, which allows GCC to claim that incineration creates jobs. However, this process only recovers between 5% and 45% of incoming materials as recyclables; the remainder is landfilled or otherwise disposed of. Therefore, the city's long-term landfill problems remain unresolved. A Clean MRF on the other hand can have as little as 10% of waste materials, and through a properly organised public outreach and education programme, less than 5% of non-recyclable waste going to landfill.

As well as academic evidence proving that recycling creates more jobs than incineration, there are proven world-wide environmental projects where job creation is greater. In Nova Scotia with a population similar to Glasgow, the Nova Scotia Waste Management Programme has created 1,000 jobs in the collection and treatment of recyclable and compostable products, and a further 2,000 jobs in industries handling the recovered materials. The Viridor/GCC proposal will create 250 jobs, the majority

* [Urban Roots is a group that brings communities together, encouraging them to take action on local issues. A public meeting will be held on September 3 at 6.30pm in Mount Florida Primary School, organised by Glasgow Alternatives to Incineration, the umbrella group opposed to these proposals. Urban Roots can be contacted at Toryglen Community Base, Prospecthill Square, Glasgow, G42 0LE, Telephone: 0141 613 2766 / 2763 or email: projects@urbanroots.org.uk, website www.urbanroots.org.uk]

of which are short-term construction work. In San Francisco, California, there is a proven 72 per cent waste reduction. As a result of the city of San Francisco's environmental policy, the state of California created new markets for recycled products by establishing environmentally preferable purchasing rules for state agencies and creating Recycling Market Development Zones, which provide loans, marketing and other assistance to businesses in specified areas that use waste materials to manufacture their products. California state legislation also required certain products such as newspapers and plastic bags to contain some post-consumer recycled content.

Closer to home, in Northern Ireland, the Bryson Recycling Programme, an arm of the Bryson Charitable Group, provides a kerbside service to 170,000 homes, in addition to local schools and local business premises, from several council areas. Included within this recycling programme is the sale of refurbished white electrical equipment, fridge freezers, washing machines, dishwashers, cookers and tumble dryers, through the Bryson run Arc Direct store. More recently, the large choice of recycling options provided by Edinburgh city council were enhanced when the council amended its recycling policy to include a city-wide food recycling service in an attempt to further encourage household recycling, four years ahead of the 2016 deadline.

Although 'Gasifiers' (incinerators) fall within EU legislation, a number of projects on this island have suffered problems since their inception. Labelled as a model for an '*advanced thermal treatment*' centre, the 2008 Isle of Wight facility has been closed twice as a consequence of the facility's breach of harmful emissions of dioxins. Dioxins are harmful by-products of industrial waste which are regarded as highly toxic environmental pollutants that damage the health of a community and its residents. The World Health Organisation (WHO) claims that dioxins can cause cancer, damage the immune system, interfere with hormones, as well as cause developmental and reproductive problems. For a period, the Isle of Wight facility ran at a reduced capacity at a cost to the taxpayer and now due to the unreliability of the plant, land fill taxes continue to increase, as well as the council proving unable to prevent penalties imposed under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS), all this on top of the cost to the public purse of building the most '*advanced thermal treatment*' centre. The Isle of Wight council has now increased kerbside collection of recyclable materials, introduced 240 litre wheeled bins, and moved residual waste collections from weekly to fortnightly and expanded food waste collections.

As a consequence of gasification (incineration) plant problems in the Isle of Wight, a similar plant proposal in Derby was refused planning permission following pressure from local communities. The planning application appeal was also rejected. (It appears as part of Derby city council's 25 year contract that the council had to pay the costs of the appeal to the private operator, which begs the question, is there a similar stipulation within the Viridor/GCC contract?) A 2009 gasification plant run by Scotgen in Dargavel, Dumfries, was also closed in 2011 as a result of the plant releasing cancer-causing dioxins over two and a half times the accepted limit into the atmosphere. The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) reported that the plant suffered 200 breaches of emissions limits, two of which were due to dioxins. The plant also had 100 '*short term exceedances*', including forty-five complaints of noise. As a consequence Scotgen are now experiencing difficulties receiving planning permission for a similar plant at Dovesdale Farm near Stonehouse in South Lanarkshire. Question marks were also raised following tests in 2008 at a similar plant in Dundee. In the Dundee facility, emissions were found to be 102 times the legal limit for dioxins.

Given the discussion above, is it little wonder GCC has chosen to keep community councils and residents in the dark over Viridor's proposals.

Jim Matheson (jimmatheson@live.co.uk)

Olympic Football and Hampden Memories

Duncan Martin

Now that Glasgow's involvement with the London 2012 Games is over and "Fortress Hampden" has been dismantled and restored to its natural beauty, I am sure we can all say "Thank goodness for that!"

When Hampden was selected as one of the six stadiums to hold football matches, I thought this would be a good thing for Glasgow, but when it was revealed that there would only be three men's and five women's matches being played, then the success of the venture depended on which teams were selected to play here. But we know now that only one game – Spain v. Japan – attracted a fair crowd of 20,000, along with eight of Glasgow's finest constables to man the barrier at the entrance to Somerville Drive. We then had the mix-up of the Korean flags; an international incident at the highest level that took well over an hour to sort out with many apologies but fortunately no gunfire at the 38th parallel.

The very strict parking on match days did much damage to the takings of the food shops affected by the permit-only parking, which will be difficult to recoup, but the shops selling teas, coffees and hot snacks did rather well, if only on the Spain-Japan game.

The organisers will no doubt claim the games were a big success bringing lots of pounds, dollars and euros to the city but ask the taxi drivers – a good barometer as to how busy the hotels, pubs and restaurants in the city centre were and you will get a truer picture.

As someone who has lived their life in the shadow of the old and new Hampdens, I decided to attend the Egypt v. Belarus game, and paid £16 for a ticket. Fewer than 100 supporters, divided between the two teams, were there to cheer on their teams, and the rest of the crowd, perhaps 2000, could have been there thanks to give-away free tickets just to help fill a few seats. I could not help thinking of the first time my father took me to the game when the original "Team GB" consisting of players from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales, played a team of continental players to celebrate the end of World War II. 134,000 attended that game and in these days the gates opened twenty minutes before the game ended to let the fans out and many youngsters in looking for "ginger" bottles – the Glasgow name for any kind of flavoured fizzy drink – then could sell them back to the ice cream shops to trade for sweets.

1960 saw the European Cup final when Real Madrid, playing wonderful football, won their fifth consecutive final beating Eintracht Frankfurt 7-3, a game still shown for the spectacular goals scored that day. It is reported that Jack Mowat, the referee that day, charged the Scottish Football Association one shilling and threepence for his return train fare from Burnside to Mount Florida station.

In 1978, to bid farewell to the Scotland team before they left to play in the World Cup in Argentina, and inspired by Andy Cameron's "We're on the march with Ally's Army", a song that made the hit parade, thousands of mums and dads, grandparents and weans turned up at Hampden to cheer on the team, led by Alastair McLeod, who used to live at 15 McLennan Street with his mother and sister. How could we not win the Cup was our dream, but Peru, Iran and Holland also had the same dream and after a first round 3-1 defeat by Peru, and in spite of Archie Gemmell scoring the greatest Scottish goal ever against Holland, we were back home before the postcards, as the saying goes.

And now to 2014 and the Commonwealth Games, and Chinese suppliers of Saltire flags in all sizes are in full production to cater for the thousands of competitors and supporters from all around the world who will flock to the Dear Green Place. If you thought you had parking problems in 2012, just wait for a further two years when Hampden will really be busy, but hopefully not "fortress" Hampden again!