

About the Mount

Mount Florida Community Council Newsletter Summer 2008

Community Council Report

We continue to have a healthy membership of 15 residents who have signed up to be Community Councillors for the next 2 years. We have held 10 meetings this year covering those issues which remain important to all Mount Florida residents:

Liaison with Glasgow City Council/NHS

Policing

Litter/Bulk Item Dumping-Uplift

Traffic/Parking

Effects of Major Events at Hampden

Youth Disorder

While most residents will recognise these issues as being permanently on our agendas, none of them will be sorted or will go away if we all do not continue to pursue the City Council, Strathclyde Police and the Scottish Government to maintain the required efforts and resources to address them.

We are very pleased to report that our City Councillors, Archie Graham, James Dornan and Paul Coleshill have attended our meetings and have taken on board our requests for action and, in general, have made a significant contribution to our renewed optimism regarding the role which MFCC can play in our community.

Overall we feel that improved commitments to Community Councils by Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government has given us encouragement that we will be able to fulfil our role as link between Residents and the City Chambers and Holyrood more effectively in future.

In Glasgow, Area Committees, which are the formal meeting place between Community Councils and City Councillors, have been reinstated and our area is our own Langside Ward with our own City Councillors and our neighbouring Community Councils. Our Area Committee will have a budget which can be used to address local issues. We have also joined our local Community Planning Reference Group which will allow us to have a say in how the delivery of all Community Services such as Road Safety, Policing, Youth and Leisure Services, Street Cleanliness, Children's Play Areas and generally the quality of our local environment can be 'joined up' and improved. In a survey of residents all across our South-East area, the top issue on residents' wish list for attention was increased community policing - more cops on the beat. As you will read later in the newsletter, this is being addressed by the Scottish government, Community Planning Partnerships and by the Police themselves. This local group will feed back into the full Glasgow Community Planning Board. Community Councils were not involved in this before so we are pleased to take a role in this new venture.

In the following sections of our newsletter, shortcomings in services are highlighted. MFCC does recognise that the recent Council Tax freeze and the plans to extend it must have a serious knock-on effect on levels of service. However we live in a high quality area we therefore must demand highest quality facilities. If we do not demand high quality, we will never get it.

We have said goodbye to Winnie McCallum who has decided to step down from the Community Council to concentrate her energies on the very successful Mount Florida Over 50's Club. There is absolutely no doubt that without Winnie, there would not be a Mount Florida Community Council. She has been the major driving force in the Community Council for over 20 years, many as Chair. Winnie was instrumental in many community innovations over the years including organising grants to get our tenement properties refurbished. She was also the energy behind the MFCC Gala Day which ran successfully for many years. MFCC would like to publicly pay tribute to Winnie for her contribution to Mount Florida and thank her for her efforts and wish her well in all her projects ahead.

Sadly, we have to note the passing away of Minnie Lacey, a Community Councillor for many years who died after a long illness.

Contact us:

MFCC website www.mountflorida.org (information about meetings/minutes)

e-mail mfcc@hotmail.co.uk

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each Month (except July/August/December) - 7pm in Battlefield East Church Hall - enter by Red Door on Battlefield Road. We are always pleased to see local residents, and welcome your input. Come along and make a difference! We are also pleased to welcome potential new Community Councillors.

June 24th 2008

February 24th 2009

September 23rd 2008

March 24th 2009

October 28th 2008 - AGM

April 28th 2009

November 25th 2008

May 26th 2009

January 27th 2009

June 23rd 2009

Local News / Developments

Langside College - Construction of the new College is progressing rapidly.

Safer Routes to Mount Florida Primary School - Now complete and parents and children are very pleased to report that it has made a significant contribution to road safety around the school.

2014 Commonwealth Games - bid successful and Mount Florida will be central in the plans for the games. Our Councillor Archie Graham is the chair of the organizing committee. No plans have reached MFCC to date. During major events at Hampden, Mount Florida, in addition to the City Centre, is the only area of our city which visitors see. During 2014, many tens of thousands of additional visitors will see Mount Florida and will judge Glasgow on the appearance of and the services supplied by Mount Florida. It's up to us to make absolutely sure that we use 2014 to make the case for Mount Florida's upgrading in terms of facilities and appearance.

M74 Extension - The signs are up, the route has been decided, the land has been cleared now work has officially started. The ground-breaking ceremony for the £445m project was performed by First Minister Alex Salmond on 28th May. The five-mile extension, which is expected to open in 2011, is designed to connect the M74 to the M8, west of the Kingston Bridge in Glasgow. The cost of the project is being met by the Scottish Government and Glasgow, South Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Councils.

Toryglen Regional Indoor Training Complex - building of the indoor and outdoor facilities is progressing rapidly. Who is going to get to use particularly the big indoor arena is not clear at present.

Mount Florida Railway Station - A passenger lift down to platform level is being constructed - part of the transport benefits of 2014.

Cathkinview Place High Flats - External walls have been cladded and painted - very impressive.

Communication with Residents

Our main method for communicating with residents, apart from our monthly meetings, continues to be our Summer Newsletter which is distributed to each household as well as in local shops, doctor/dentists/libraries. Plans for a Community Noticeboard have had to be abandoned as the National Lottery turning down our application. David Kells of Hampden plc has generously pledged £1000 towards the Noticeboard, however without Lottery support; we have had to rethink our plans. We are pursuing a new line of communication. 'Touch Screen' Technology exists where a touch-sensitive transparent film is fitted to the inside surface of a glass window. This film is connected to a computer/TV situated inside the window of a shop. The system allows users to access information, in our case from your Community Council, by following simple on-screen menus, through the glass. A major bonus of this system is that it can easily be updated, done remotely. Other advantages are that it can be used to provide information about any local or national information or services and while it is not required to provide interactive information, it can be programmed to display or advertise local events or businesses. Over the next few months, we will be investigating this type of facility with the support our friends at the City Council Community Council Resource Centre in the City Chambers.

We now have 2 local Monthly Newspapers, G42 and Southside News, both of which are making considerable contributions towards residents being kept up to date with local events and up-to-date information regarding local services and contact information.

These free newspapers are available in libraries, sports centres and shops. Our elected representatives are using these to keep residents informed about issues in our area.

Hampden Events and their Effects on Residents

The 2007/2008 concerts and football matches, although still a disruption to life in our area, did not create the major problems of Oasis in 2006. Fans urinating continues to be a problem. However the good news is that the City Council has agreed to place groups of Portaloos at car parking areas during major events. Loos have been situated at Queen's Park Recreation Ground and at Toryglen Park/Football Pitches. MFCC has requested that additional portaloos be placed around our area. However the Police would oppose this as individual portaloos are vulnerable to being pushed over trapping the occupants and without lifting gear, righting would not be possible. Having said that, the Police have agreed to give the prevention of public urinating a much higher priority.

The very strong message from Superintendent Deans is that if residents have any issue with fans behaviour, street drinking, urinating or car parking, they should not hesitate to phone the Police Contact Centre on 532 2000 and the centre will allocate officers who are part of the Disorder/Complaints team set up for major events - they will not be taken off crowd management/safety duties.

Parking restrictions placed on residential areas of Mount Florida and Kings Park by Police during events at Hampden continue to be a major disruption to residents. At a recent Youth Cup Final between Rangers and Celtic, a crowd of 6045 merited the imposition of parking restrictions from 4pm till 11pm on 60 local streets. We get the same restrictions for 6000 fans as 60,000 fans - that can't be right or necessary. It is our opinion that the huge majority of the 60 streets outwith the immediate surroundings of the stadium play no part in safe access or exit for fans or of emergency vehicles and are therefore unnecessary and should be removed. This view is shared by Councillor Archie Graham who supports our opinion that restrictions extend further from the stadium than is required. We have discussed our views with Strathclyde Police and they have undertaken to review the parking arrangements put in place for major events at Hampden later in the year.

Another major issue is the lack of clear signs to inform fans and residents of the times and locations of restrictions. An A4 piece of paper wrapped and sellotaped around a lamppost here and there hardly constitutes an adequate amount of notice/warning. At any particular event, there can be a selection of new and old notices covering up to 3 or 4 matches or events. Cones, which can be moved or removed, are not a satisfactory method of informing residents. A proper system with signs which indicate clearly the restrictions in force is urgently required. This was highlighted at the recent Scottish Cup Final where 47 cars were lifted and removed for being parked on access routes to/from the stadium and 84 parking tickets were issued - the message is not getting through to car owners - both residents and fans.

Another major issue is the inconsistent enforcement of restrictions with fans parking on coned off areas and no parking attendants appearing to enforce the restrictions while residents are parked miles away!!!!

Old and Alone?

Did you know 1/3 of Scotlands OAP's live alone?
Did you know half of all older people consider the TV as their main form of company?

Can you make a difference to someone's life by spending just 1-2 hours a week visiting a lonely older, isolated person living in Mount Florida, Battlefield, Shawlands, Muirend, Castlemilk etc.?

VOLUNTEERS are urgently needed (all ages - 18 yrs+ and all backgrounds) by the Church in the Mount BEFRIENDING SERVICE. Full preparation, ongoing support and expenses paid. Interested? - pop in to the office at 4 Clincart Road, Mt. Florida G42 (next to Loafers cafe) or give us a ring any day between 10 and 12 noon; Tel. 649 8800.

50th Glasgow Scout Group (boys and girls)

Meet on a weekly basis at the Scout hut in Garry Street (near Holmlea Park) as follows:

Beavers age 6 - 8 years meet on a Tuesday 6.30 - 7.30pm

Cubs age 8-10.5 years meet on a Friday 6.15 - 7.30pm

Scouts age 10.5 - meet on a Friday 7.30 - 9.30pm

Contact John Cunningham on 0141 638 6668 for further info.

Senior Citizens' Coffee Fair

At Mount Florida Church, 9th September 2008 at 10 a.m.

New Victoria Hospital

The ACAD continues to take shape with only a year to go before it opens mid 2009. In terms of facilities, we have little new to report. The New Victoria Hospital will take over the out-patient clinics, day hospital operations and the non-blue light bit of the A & E. We have been reassured that between the new Vicky opening next summer and the New Southern General opening in 2012, the existing facilities not moving across Grange Road, i.e. the in-patient beds and the A & E (Ambulances or Doctor Referrals required) will definitely remain at the old Vicky. It's worth repeating that the NHS has assured us that the existing emergency services at the Vicky A & E will remain in place until 2012 even although all non-emergencies will move to the nurse-led (no doctors) Minor Injury Unit next year. We certainly have doubts about this assurance - but we await events. Residents who want to keep up to date with progress at the ACAD can look up the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Website to see fly-through views of the very impressive building. WE should start to see an increase in the publicity about the new Hospital, what it has and hasn't got coming out of the NHS as next summer approaches.

Traffic / Parking / Roads

The 3 main issues here, outwith the Hampden events, are:-

1. Rat-running through residential streets to avoid traffic lights:

Many residents are concerned at the road safety risks posed by drivers rat-running through the above areas to avoid traffic lights. Drivers who are not familiar with the many junctions regularly drive across junctions causing damage to residents' cars and property as well as endangering the lives of pedestrians. Councillor Dornan has distributed a questionnaire to residents around the Carmunnock Road/Aikenhead Road/Mount Annan/Kings Park Avenue areas asking for views and solutions. He has had a very impressive 40% response with most residents preferring traffic calming measures with many voting for closing off local streets at their junction with Carmunnock Road He will now take the results to the City Council with our thanks for taking residents' complaints on board.

2. Commuters using the streets around Mount Florida Station as a Park and Ride area and to a lesser extent, the effects of the imposition of parking charges at the Vicky.

The City Council, in response to city-wide issues of residents having problems parking at or near their homes due to commuters using nearby train stations, hospitals, universities, colleges etc, have initiated an extensive informal consultation process. Residents, including us in Mount Florida and Battlefield are being asked for their views on restricting parking in our area to residents with permits or to pay-and-display drivers. All homes in our area have been given a questionnaire to fill in by the 19th May. MFCC applauds the initiative but feels that in Mount Florida, we have 2 areas with differing issues. The tenemental streets around the Station and Langside College have got commuter and college parking issues during weekdays but not in the evening. The Villa/Terrace areas south of

Hampden do not have any real issues with daytime parking. Residents will vote as they see fit and we eagerly await the results by the end of June. Our neighbours in Battlefield who have seen the effects of charges at the Vicky may opt to accept the proposals and hence there might be a displacement of parking into our area.

3. The deteriorating conditions of the surfaces of roads and pavements.

There can be no doubt that the overall condition of both our road and pavement surfaces and white lining have deteriorated markedly in recent years. We cannot wait for accidents; we have to continue to complain, via our Councillors if necessary, to the City Council. Although resources are limited, those communities who push hardest and make the best case for these resources will get them - we don't think we shout loudly enough!!

Policing / Youth Disorder / Alcohol

We continue to have regular contact with the Police through the attendance at our meetings of our Community Police Officer, Mark Paterson. Mark reports on the monthly crime figures for our area. As before, the huge majority of entries are Public Order offences related to Hampden. The main message throughout the year has been to encourage all residents to report all crimes, no matter how small. The philosophy that even though an officer is not able to respond immediately or even in time to make contact with the perpetrators, residents must accept that all reports are used in planning and allocating manpower, establishing priorities and in intelligence work. If an incident takes place which involves all the residents of the street, the Police want everybody to phone. One call is logged as one crime.

MFCC has had a meeting with Jim Creelman, our new Community Inspector. He had very good news for our area. His report is included below.

Strathclyde Police is currently going through a period of considerable internal restructuring. New Chief Constable Steve House has laid out his vision for neighbourhood policing as the way we will deliver services to the public in the future. Funding has been sourced from the Scottish Government, local authorities (Community Planning Partnership), and internal savings within the Force, which will provide an additional 30 - 35 Community Police Officers over the next 12 - 18 months for the Langside and Linn area. Core shift personnel have moved to a 5 group system providing more officers on the street at the busiest times throughout the day.

The new Communities Unit will be headed by an Inspector, with 2 or 3 Sergeants. Support will be provided by an Intelligence Officer, Community Safety Officer, CID representative, and Crime Pattern Analyst who will work closely as part of the team. A recruitment drive will continue with a view to attracting Special Constables, who will also work as much as possible with the Communities Unit.

Neighbourhood surveys will identify 'signal crimes', i.e. those issues which have the biggest impact on the local community. Key Individuals Networks (KIN groups) will be developed. Members of the KIN group will be questioned regarding their perceptions before and after the issues are targeted by the police in partnership with other agencies. The overall aim is to reduce the fear of crime and to make people feel safer and happy to live and work in the area.

As this newsletter is being produced, MFCC have been informed about a change in Police philosophy. With the pledge of the Scottish Government to create 1000 new Police officers, Strathclyde numbers are planned to increase by around 400 officers and the huge majority of these new officers will be allocated to Community Police duties - to be 'on the beat'.

Significant Police resources have been directed towards to youth disorder around our area, particularly around Cathkin Park and the surrounding streets as well as around Hampden/Cumming/Stanmore lanes.

Various initiatives involving test purchases where under-age teenagers attempt to buy alcohol in off-licenses have taken place throughout the year. Youngsters under the serious influence of alcohol and creating disturbances and committing crimes, continues to be an on-going issue in our community.

Southside Festival - 28/6/08

The Glasgow West-end Festival has been running successfully for a number of years. The good news is that we in the South-side are getting our own festival this year. It runs throughout June and culminates in a grand celebration on Saturday 28th June in Queens Park. Lots of hard work has been put into the organisation of this festival and MFCC urges all residents to take full advantage of all opportunities to celebrate all through June.

All information required is on the website - www.southsidefestival.co.uk

It should be a great day - let's hope the weather is kind.

Contact Information

City Councillors: Surgeries in Mount Florida Primary School (no surgeries in school holidays)

Archie Graham - 3rd Wednesday in month - 6 - 7pm (Phone 287 7048)

James Dornan - 1st Monday in month - 6 - 7pm (Phone 287 3751)

Paul Coleshill - 4th Wednesday in month - 6 - 7.30pm (Phone 287 5372)

All Councillors hold other surgeries across the Langside ward - details at www.glasgow.gov.uk

Clean Glasgow Freephone 0800 027 7027.

Dog Fouling Enforcement 287 9700

Hampden event information 620 4000

Community Police Aikenhead Rd 532 4923

Cleansing Contact Centre 287 9700 - for all enquiries regarding cleansing. Bulk Uplift (Monday by 11am) All Flats on Hampden Side of Cathcart Road and East; (Wednesday by 11am) All Flats on Non- Hampden Side of Cathcart Road and West.