

About the Mount

Mount Florida Community Council Autumn Newsletter – October 2011

The purpose of this Newsletter is not to be a local newspaper – once a year news is no news. We at MFCC are continually surprised at the number of things which happen in Mount Florida, to Mount Florida and to Mount Florida residents which we, as your Community Council, know nothing about and are not informed about.

The purpose of the newsletter is to update residents on what issues and meetings MFCC and its Community Councillors have been involved in and to alert residents to issues which, in our opinion, require input from and action by residents.

As we have said every year since 2004 when this format of Newsletter began, we cannot perform the job allocated to us by the Scottish Government without dialogue. This continues to be a major challenge; however with email, websites, Facebook and Twitter at our disposal, as well as face-to-face monthly meetings, your Community Council continues to be dedicated to achieving its aims detailed below. We hope you find our Newsletter informative and interesting.

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, James Dornan and Paul Coleshill who report on issues involving Mount Florida within the Council. Meetings are attended by our Community Police officers. We would like to congratulate James Dornan on his election as MSP for Cathcart in May and also thank Charlie Gordon for his efforts on behalf of residents over the last 4 years.

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 held 9 meetings this session.

We are always looking to engage new Community Councillors and we have been very pleased to welcome 4 new community councillors this year. 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 I'm 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 25th October which is our AGM.

Our Community Council has been proud to have represented our area for over 30 years now and 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 their area. The elections take place at our AGM on the 25th October, so come along and get involved.

This year, Jim Scott, Steve Booth and Jim Devine are stepping down from MFCC. Jim has been chair and secretary for a number of years, Steve has been secretary and Jim has been our 'website man'. We all would like to say a big thankyou to these residents for giving up their time and helping to keep MFCC strong over the last few years.

What's been happening around the Mount since last autumn?

These Newsletters have been dropping through letterboxes for a good number of years and they have not always been awash with good news and successes. This year, we have quite a few pieces of very good news and a few bits of not so good news. Starting with the good news:

Proposed Queen's Park Recreation Grounds Care Home

Permission was granted by the Glasgow City Council Executive Committee for plans to proceed to build a large Care Home on our Queens Park Recreation Grounds earlier this year. This proposal was passed by the Council without any consultation with anyone in Mount Florida, in whose patch the Recs are. The proposal was brought to our notice by Councillor Paul Coleshill, who has led an extremely successful campaign against the proposal and the campaign was joined by the many residents who use the Recreation grounds on a regular basis, and by the Southside Festival committee who hold their event on the Recs. The picture painted by the Council was that the Recs was in poor condition and was rarely used. The potential loss of more green space fired up the local community and in September, the Council announced that plans for the Care Home in the Recs had been scrapped.

MFCC would like express our gratitude to Councillor Coleshill for leading this amazing campaign and to those residents who joined in to defeat this proposal. The next step is to ask the Council why the Recs is in poor condition and for MFCC to get involved in planning how the main green space in Mount Florida can be upgraded.

Proposed Tesco Express Store on Cathcart Road

The planning application for this was passed in August last year after a long unsuccessful campaign by residents and elected representatives and the shell was constructed over the winter. Tesco applied for an alcohol licence in the spring and their application was heard in June but postponed for 2 reasons: firstly to allow further investigation regarding the present level of provision of licences in our area, 'over-provision' having been the basis of most of the objections lodged with the Council and secondly to allow the Police to investigate levels of anti-social behaviour around the site and in the surrounding area.

The licence was passed by the Council in September and work has now started on the fitting out of the premises. The effect which this Tesco Express store will have on the present businesses in The Mount is an issue which will become evident with time. It is our hope that there will not be a detrimental effect on Mount Florida Town Centre.

Stanmore Social – Street Party

Community spirit is alive and kicking ! On Sunday 18 September 2011 around 700 people – residents, their families and guests attended a street party on Stanmore Road organised by 'Stanmore Social'. Opened by James Dornan, Councillor/MSP everyone enjoyed a full line-up of live music including resident musicians; 12 arts and crafts tables; 9 talks on a range of topics including local history by Jean Baird Rafferty, First Aid by St Andrews Ambulance and Glasgow 2014 update by Councillor Archie Graham; a communal picnic; a 'tug'o'love'; and children's activities including a rock and roll class, a bouncy castle, face painting, a fire engine, flexi kids sessions, chalk painting and more. And the sun shone on it all ! The event raised more than £800; a third will be donated to the charity that received most votes on the day – Playpumps (water in Africa), a third will go towards commissioning a new bench on Stanmore Road, and a third will fund further community events. A comment on a feedback board said: "What a fabulous idea. Lovely to see a community working together !", and a child wrote: "I feel happy here".



Stanmore Social is a not-for-profit, community organisation which was set up in May 2011 by neighbours Mandy Evans Ewing and Jenny Kumar, initially to facilitate a street party for residents of Stanmore Road. Substantial lottery funding was secured to realise the project. The group intends to organise and promote further community events that engage the residents of Stanmore Road and the wider Mount Florida area because they believe it's worthwhile and valuable to foster good relations, enhance community spirit and increase community cohesion, and important to make the effort to encourage a happy, healthy and close-knit community. The Street Party certainly achieved all of its aims and facilitated residents in getting to know each other better, having fun and learning new skills from each other. The happy faces and positive comments recorded through the photographs and feedback on the website are testament to what the organisation and residents accomplished with this first event. With such a successful beginning to its name, discussions and plans for further community events and activities by this exciting new Southside initiative are already underway.

Contact information:
 Mandy Evans Ewing and Jenny Kumar
info@stanmoresocial.org
www.stanmoresocial.org

Atrocious Winter Conditions Another mad winter. We don't really know what else we can say about the roads and pavements that wasn't said in our last 2 Newsletters. Cutbacks – Cutbacks – Cutbacks. We reiterate our message to residents; those citizens of Glasgow who shout the loudest and complain the most often will inevitably get the best service from Glasgow City Council. Again, we advise residents to contact your City Councillors if you think the service you are getting is not up to scratch, in winter or summer. This applies to roads/bin emptying/bulk uplift/nuisance. The effects of the 'Freeze' on the state of

our roads and pavements are there for all to see.

Hampden Park Games and Concerts

The 'highlight' of the Hampden concert season was 3 days of Take That in June. This time, the concerts were midweek, but, as before, the street drinking and its effects on concertgoers continues to really annoy residents both during the hours leading up to the start of the concert and also afterwards. In addition, the traffic chaos at the end of these concerts is quite astonishing.

As before MFCC are concerned about the level of policing around these concerts

both in terms of public drinking and urinating. The good news was that there were more porta-loos placed around the stadium and we are grateful for that.

The promised consultation about traffic problems surrounding Hampden and rat-running in our area has not materialised for another year.

Hampden Park and Ride Facility: Hangingshaw – Its Trees and Hedges

We received an application by Glasgow City Council to create a park and ride facility on the site of the old Lighting Dept which for many years has been used as a Hampden Car Park. Basically, the proposal is to tarmac the present car park and a chunk of the green space where the Hangingshaw prefabs were. It was also proposed that on non-match days, the area could be used as a park and ride facility for bus travel into town. The response from MFCC was that we were not sure how this could benefit residents as it would not be available on event days – exactly the time it WAS needed!

In the early spring of 2011, residents in Bolivar Terrace and surrounding streets were outraged when the council began clearing the land between Hangingshaw Place and Prospecthill Drive of all its trees and bushes. Following their complaints, work was stopped until a meeting was arranged for residents and the council to discuss the matter. The meeting which took place on 1 April was well attended by residents and local councillors.

Members of GCC Land Services department apologised for not informing the residents of their intention of removing the trees and shrubs. Most residents remained unconvinced that the 'overflow' area would be used other than on days when major events were taking place at Hampden and by landscaping the remaining area it would encourage alcohol-infused visitors to picnic and party causing further disruption to the residents.

Other concerns voiced included the detrimental effect on local wildlife that had

now lost mature habitats. It was agreed that the remainder of the site, i.e. between Prospecthill Drive and Bolivar Terrace, would not be cleared but instead would be tidied up with the existing boundary fence to be repaired. Now in early October, the site is simply an area of grass with a few recently-planted trees around the perimeter.

One resident pointed out that Hampden had yet to fulfil its commitment to parking which had been part of their plans for refurbishment of the National Stadium. He felt that the park and ride facility was a way of allowing them to go back on this obligation and allow the Council tax payers to pick up the tab instead. This was denied.

New Vicky Hospital The new hospital is now a fixture in our community and is making a really positive contribution to the health and well-being of our residents. Work on the new Glasgow Hospital, which will replace the old Vicky and Mansionhouse in 2015, is well underway. The existing Victoria and Mansionhouse continue until the South Glasgow hospital is complete. What happens then with respect to residents getting back and forward to Govan is an issue which your Community Council will have to investigate. If you remember, this was a major worry while the New Vicky was being fought over a few years ago.

Church Amalgamation Here's what Rev Mike Gargrave had to say about the new Clincarthill Church formed by the amalgamation of Mount Florida and Battlefield East churches in June 2010.

"Our first year as a congregation has been a challenging time and this was to be expected. Battlefield East and Mount Florida churches both had slightly different traditions and ways of doing things, but I have to say that I have been delighted about the willingness of our people to deal with change, and compromise for each other. After our first year I can say that our congregation is in good heart and we are preparing for mission and outreach to those living in our parish. We are also about to

embark on refurbishment to some areas of the church and this will be exciting and enable us to do mission more effectively. We have started a coffee morning that meets every Tuesday at 10.00am and this open to everyone, and we have a senior citizens lunch club where a three-course lunch can be had for £2.00 and this is also open to all senior citizens in the area.”

Bin-Emptying and Uplift of Bulk Items

The frequency of the refuse collections to the tenemental property is unchanged after recent announcements, however green bin collections to non-tenemental properties have changed from weekly to every 2 weeks with recycling uplifts frequency doubled.

Our advice to residents who have issues with refuse collections or bulk items uplift is to phone the Land & Environments 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 response received or if the service generally is not up to the expected standard, as always, residents are advised to contact any one of their 3 City Councillors.

Community Policing

Community Police Officers have been in attendance at most of our meetings and have been able to report that crime levels in our community remain at a low level apart from events at Hampden. 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. Each resident with concerns should call – the higher the

number of calls regarding a particular incident, the higher the priority the incident will be given by the Police.

We have had a small number of significant events this year, namely the discovery of a drug house and the hold-up of a security van at a local bank.

M74 Extension Motorway

The new road opened in late June and it has had an effect on roads and traffic around our area. The new road layout at Holyrood seems to be improving as timings of the traffic lights are altered. Having access to the Holyrood Sports Centre at such a crucial junction seems inappropriate as vehicle access could be achieved from Albert Drive, so simplifying the main road junction.

Traffic levels on Aikenhead Road and most main roads around our area have increased considerably. Our main concern, as expressed at a meeting last year, was an increase in traffic levels on Mount Annan Drive due to its position as first available right turn after the Aikenhead Road/ Cathcart Road junction. However the allowance of right turns off Polmadie Road and off Aikenhead Road at Calder Street has helped matters.

Reports from residents are that the traffic situation with regard to rat-running in Mount Annan is worse in the morning rush hour but similar at other times. The new road, overall, seems to have considerably improved access to and from all points west of the city centre and to and from the Kingston Bridge.

Public Access Information Terminal at Jobcentre Plus on Battlefield Road

We have also been watching the start of a pilot public access terminal at the Jobcentre Plus on Battlefield Road. This is a touch-screen facility which provides information about services and Community Councils in our area. There have been many operational problems over the year but it appears to be up and running again.

What else have we been up to this session?

Below is a selection of the long list of the many and varied initiatives, proposals and notifications of future events which have dropped through our letter box and have been drawn to our attention.

- 1 2012 London Olympics – 8 football games planned for Hampden next August. There will be parking restrictions, etc. involved with these events.
- 2 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth games – not much hard evidence of how Mount Florida will be affected or how the Games' Legacy will benefit us.
- 3 Glasgow 2061 – yes 2061 – we have been consulted on our thoughts on how the City should be planning for the future!
- 4 Housing Development at Manse Brae – not technically in our area but significant housing developments so close will have an impact but no consultation.
- 5 Stonework repairs to tenement at Cathcart Road-end of Hampden Lane have restricted vehicle access for a long time – repairs now complete. 'No Parking' lines have also finally been placed at the vehicular access to this lane on Stanmore Road – again, worth the long wait.
- 6 The Hyundai Garage on Battlefield Road has closed and a planning application has been granted to change to Class 1 Retail – can we expect a supermarket to open soon?
- 7 Notice has been received for the upgrading of facilities at Lesser Hampden which will allow the portakabins to be removed.
- 8 The housing development on Cumming Drive continues but the site of the old bingo hall remains inactive.
- 9 We continue to be invited to a large number of meetings which take place during working hours. Pity!
- 10 We continue to have a good relationship with the Mount Florida Primary Parent Partnership. This group, where parents and staff work together, have made a significant contribution to our local Primary School over the last few years. Any parents who would like to join the MFPP or require any information regarding the group, should email them at MFPPP@hotmail.co.uk

Area Committee

MFCC operates on a grant of just over £400 each year. This pays for renting the premises for our meetings and for other associated expenses. It does not allow us to support local groups and their activities. However, our local Langside Area Committee is given a budget for grants to provide funds for community activities in our, and Langside Battlefield and Camphill Community Council areas. The budget for 2011-12 is £56,923. At this time there is just over £38,000 unallocated. We continue to be disappointed with the lack of support requested by groups in Mount Florida area. We would ask that all groups make sure they are familiar with the procedures for accessing these funds. Groups should contact MFCC or Area Development on

0141 287 4687/ 5643/ 5927. Applicants are encouraged to contact officers in Area Development prior to completing application forms which can be downloaded from the City Council Website.

2011 Southside Festival

This year's Festival on 28th May was a very successful day; however the weather was not very kind and the wind and the showers had a rather dampening effect on the proceedings. Just as in 2010, the festival steering group, of which MFCC is a member, organised many events throughout May. This year, we also held events throughout the winter. We had a Halloween Party and a Christmas Fayre as well as a series of concerts, all held in the Queens Park Glasshouses.

Plans for the 2012 are getting going. As in previous years, any offers of assistance with the planning for or organisation of the Festival would be warmly received. Any Community Councillor will pass on your details to the SSF steering Group or email the steering group on southsidefestival@hotmail.co.uk.

Queen's Park Arena Project

This project is a pilot project initiated by the Scottish Government to see how Community Councils from an area can work in partnership. The job of the group from the four Community Councils which surround Queen's Park, including two members of MFCC, is to refurbish the amphitheatre which operated as the Queens Park Bandstand until it was burnt down in the 90's.

The very good news is that the committee has raised over £180,000 and works have started on Phase 1 of the project which will stabilise ground conditions under the site and fully refurbish the amphitheatre itself as well as installing power and access lighting and creating a flat performance area.

Work has also begun on involving those groups and organisations which will be using the performance space within the Arena. Any local group who feel they would be like more information about the Arena or would be interested in performing in the new QP Arena, should contact MFCC or the committee on queensparkarena.org.uk.

Phase 2 of the project which will involve building a performance structure on the site and which will cost a further £300,000 is being planned at present but will only be implemented when funding is obtained and Phase 1 is complete.

Local Groups

MFCC was contacted by a representative of these local groups and we are pleased to include information on them in our Newsletter.

Mount Florida Out of School Project

"Mount Florida Out of School Project has been offering childcare in the local community for the past 18 years based at Mount Florida Primary School. The project includes an earlybird service for parents from 7.45am, holiday cover throughout the year and of course, term time after school care. We are always keen to hear from parents/carers to ensure that our service is meeting local needs therefore, please call us on **07711 548074** and we will be more than happy to supply any further information on the project."

Mount Florida Youth Action Group

“Mount Florida Youth Action Group was established in 1996 to meet the needs of young people in Mount Florida and the surrounding areas. Over the years we have run a detached youth work programme and also a youth club based at Mount Florida Primary School. We have also worked with Langside College who provided the use of a gym hall and their swimming pool. Sadly, over the last few years the project has dwindled and the committee has now become defunct despite having obtained charitable status. It would therefore be wonderful if we could now attract some new members who would be willing to revitalise the project and build on the previous successes. Please contact Heather Low through the Community Council if you are interested and would like more information on the Youth Action Group.”

Communication between MFCC and Residents

There are 3 ways at present for Residents to contact and inform their Community Council of their opinions:-

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

We are planning to start up Facebook and Twitter accounts. Assistance in this area would be gratefully received.

Contact Information for our local City Councillors

Paul Coleshill 0141 287 5372

Archie Graham 0141 287 7048

James Dornan 0141 287 3751

Dates of MFCC Meetings in Session 2011/2012

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

We sincerely hope that you have found 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.