



THE AVENUES



Scotstoun Conservation Area Residents Association newsletter

April 2005

The Scotstoun Conservation Area Residents Association (SCARA)

Please note our new name, which was agreed upon at the 2004 AGM. This change of name was agreed to better reflect that our association represents only the homes within the boundaries of the Conservation area.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **April 19th at 7pm in Scotstoun Primary School.**
Enter by Duncan Avenue – all Welcome!

Items for Discussion at the AGM

- 1) Crime and Vandalism
- 2) Conservation Area Status
- 3) Recycling facilities
- 4) Upgrade of the sports centre
- 5) Traffic Calming Measures

Annual Subscriptions

Our Association relies on donations from local residents in the form of a subscription to maintain payment of our overheads. In order to continue our work, we have a suggested annual subscription fee of £3, which we would encourage all residents to pay. Cheques should be made payable to the Scotstoun Conservation Area Residents Association or in cash which can be paid at the AGM or handed in to our treasurer John Hannah at 39 Dunglass Avenue

Traffic Calming – Success at Last

After many years of campaigning, plans have been drawn up to tackle the rat runs up and down the Avenues as part of the Councils 'Safe Routes to School' scheme. The scheme will include 20's plenty signs at the perimeter of the conservation area and speed restriction pads at junctions along Norse Road and Earlbank Avenue. Plans will be on view at the AGM.

Recycling in the Area

A trial effort to introduce 'kerbside' recycling in some parts of the avenues last year failed because the recycling lorries were unable to gain access to through the back lanes to collect the bins. An alternative solution to this was the siting of large communal recycling bins at the corners next to Scotstoun Primary school, met with stiff opposition from local residents with genuine fears of spillage, obstruction and vandalism. If you have any suggestions for overcoming this problem please bring them along to our AGM or put them in the post to Michael Sheridan, 66 Queen Victoria Drive. Until this

issue is resolved, please remember, we do have a multipurpose recycling site within the Leisure centre.

Development at the Leisure Centre

Many of you will have heard of Glasgow City Council's proposals to upgrade Scotstoun Leisure centre to include a new stadium for Glasgow Rugby. This, of course, has struck fear in the hearts of many residents who are

already concerned about the limited parking facilities on the site. Proposed strategies for traffic management include measures to encourage the use of public transport; additional parking spaces at the leisure centre; the use of Victoria Park blaes pitches as an overspill car park and off site parking for coaches. Formal planning applications are to be submitted at the end of March and will be available for public consultation.

Community Safety Patrol Officers

You should by now have noticed our friendly Community safety patrol officers out and about in the avenues in their grey uniforms. These officers are working closely with the police to improve community safety and tackle minor crime, vandalism, noise and litter. By patrolling our streets these officers provide a visible presence in the area which aims to help deter anti-social behaviour and criminal acts by being the eyes and ears of the neighbourhood. Since September, the officers have reported over 400 incidents in Scotstoun.

The on-going problem of dog fouling is one of the problems being addressed along with graffitti and faulty street lighting. Our local team can be contacted by phone on 07843 455 138 from midday until 10pm.

On The Buses

Since First Bus opened their Scotstoun depot in January 2004, meetings have been held in April and September

to allow residents to discuss the impact with representatives from First Bus, the Community Council and the Land Services department of Glasgow City Council. Despite some progress problems still remain, notably with the location of driver changeover points on Queen Victoria Drive and Dumbarton Road, the routing of out-of-service buses, and the parking of drivers' cars. Discussions are continuing with First Bus in the hope that there will be some improvement in coming months.

Conservation Area – Time To Decide

The first houses of the Scotstoun we know today were originally part of the Scotstoun House Estate and were built on Dumbarton Road at Lennox Avenue in 1895. In 1987, to preserve the character of the area, the Scotstoun Avenues were designated as a conservation area and guidelines were distributed to all the households giving advice on the conservation of stonework, roofs, windows and railings etc. By then, of course, many residents had carried out alterations, which were contrary to these guidelines. There was nothing illegal in this, as Local Authority had not applied an Article IV Direction which would have brought such works under the control of their planning department. In 1995 the guidelines were again circulated but no further action was taken until late 2003 when the local authority carried out a survey, which revealed that the character and appearance of the area had changed so much that the conservation status was in danger of being withdrawn. This issue brought a large attendance to our 2004 AGM when various views were expressed but no decision was taken as to whether the neighbourhood wishes to have the Article IV direction applied or not. Now, however, Glasgow City Council are likely to take action one way or another towards the end of April this year when a decision shall be taken as to whether the conservation area status shall be removed, leaving greater freedom to residents to make alterations to their properties or whether an Article IV direction shall be applied in order to control any future alterations with a view to preserving the present character and appearance of the area. The council will not allow the conservation area status to remain as it is currently. An Article IV direction would not be retrospective and would not oblige residents to change alterations that had already been carried out. We hope to discuss this matter at the AGM, such that by means of a vote we can indicate the wishes of the majority to the City Council. It would appear that we have to decide from the following options: -

A) - To request the making of an Article IV Direction to control future development

B) - To remove the Conservation status with subsequent relaxation of planning and development controls.

This, of course, is not intended to interfere in any way with individual residents' rights to make their feelings known to Glasgow City Council.

You can indicate your preference by voting at the AGM, or by writing to the Hon. Sec. SCARA 66 Queen Victoria Drive, at least 48 hours prior to the AGM.

Scotstoun Lanes Charity Committee

APRIL
'05

Formed about 5 years ago by residents in the Norse/Verona/Dunglass block to raise cash for deserving charities whilst promoting community spirit in the area, this energetic band of volunteers goes from strength to strength. Their 2003 event raised £2500 for the St Margaret's hospice in Clydebank and the Mediaeval Market in 2004 raised over £4,000 for the Children's Hospice Association (Scotland). This year the theme will be the "Wild West" featuring cowboys and Indians (of all ages) and lots of yee-haa-ing with the lord Provost Liz Cameron leading the Stampede at **2pm on Saturday August 20th** from Verona Avenue at Norse Road. Come along and see the Rodeo, Indian Reservation and 'Last Chance Saloon' YEE-HAA!

Access to the Nature Walk

For many years the committee has been looking for ways to tackle the problem of erosion in the rear lanes, however, as these lanes are privately owned any upgrade would have to be at the expense of local residents. More recently, members of the association have been campaigning for upgrade of the two lanes from Lennox Avenue into the Nature Walk which we felt should be upgraded by the Council as they are used daily by many sections of the community including parents taking their children to Scotstoun Primary School and are the only means of access to the walkway without involving a major Road. Anyone who has braved the journey recently will have noticed that the lanes are 2-3 inches deep in mud and are treacherous to negotiate. The good news is that Glasgow City Council have been alerted to the problem and have agreed to upgrade the lanes to a standard suitable for pedestrians, pushchairs and cyclists.

Development of Former School Site on Queen Victoria Drive

This site has been derelict since the school was demolished in the late 90's. Plans for new houses and flats to be built on the site have been delayed because the Council did not feel that the recommended developer's offer was high enough. It is hoped that a revised offer will be agreed soon and that redevelopment work will start on the site.

Keeping In Touch

We are keen to encourage feedback, thoughts, concerns and suggestions from everyone. Letters/enquiries to the committee should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary (SCARA) and delivered to 66 Queen Victoria Drive; 1376 Dumbarton Road; 39 Dunglass Avenue or 34 Vancouver Road.



THE AVENUES



5/06
+ P1010R

Scotstoun Conservation Area Residents Association

Newsletter May 2006

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday the 17th May at Scotstoun Primary School from 7pm to 9pm (enter from Duncan Avenue). All welcome

Leisure Centre Update and Permit proposals

We set up a special committee last year to consider Glasgow City Councils plans for the upgrading of The Scotstoun Stadium Site. This was as a direct result of the vote at last years AGM.

Since then it has been a busy time for this committee and indeed the Association as a whole. Twice now the 700 or so houses in the conservation area have been lettered with objection notices together with meetings and correspondence to ensure we are kept up to date.

Thanks at least in part to the high volume of objections back in September 2005 the City Council withdrew its proposal for the Stadium so it could address some of the issues raised.

In February last the department for Cultural and Leisure Services resubmitted an amended Stadium proposal. This attempted to resolve the three main categories of objection,

1. Coach drop off / pick up on Danes Drive will be moved to Southbrae Drive, Anniesland Road and Alderman Road.
2. The North Stand will be reduced to decrease the shade on the Allotments behind.
3. The event parking will be satisfied by utilising The Victoria Park blaes pitches.

The committee urged the residents to object once again as it still felt very strongly that the amended proposal lacked regard for the surrounding area and the people who would undoubtedly suffer as a consequence. It still failed totally to address the issue of how the

cars would be prevented from using our Avenues for its event parking. Or what extra policing would be allocated to tackle the inevitable rise in crime. Not surprisingly the biggest uproar came from the proposal to utilise Victoria Park for Event parking. An action group, Friends of Victoria Park, has been formed by Jordanhill residents to raise awareness and fight the plans head on. A public meeting held in Scotstoun Parish Church on

March 3rd overwhelmingly voted its opposition to the proposal.

One suggestion that has since been put forward by Glasgow City Council is the introduction of a permanent traffic regulation order that could include residents permits. This could be either as a permanent order or could be matched to periods where events are being held. It is unclear, however, how much this would cost the residents of Scotstoun or indeed why we should foot the bill for the Councils lack of parking provision. We hope to have more information regarding these proposals available for discussion at our AGM.

The Associations discussions with the Evening times newspaper bolstered their article on Friday March 3rd which suggested over 400 objections were already with the Planning Department.

We have distributed copies of our objection document highlighting the present as well as the future issues that the Leisure Centre and the Stadium presents to the local area to Councillor McFadden, Scotstoun Ward 10, Bridget McConnell, Cultural and Leisure Services, and Ken Clark, Development and Regeneration Services. This informative document is designed to highlight the present and future issues that the Leisure Centre and the stadium presents to the local area. To visit the document or register your comments visit our website at www.theavenues.co.uk

To date no information has been published as to the result of the planning application although we hope that the volume of objection is such that Glasgow City Council will reconsider its plan.

Conservation Status

The decision last year by the Council to maintain the area's Conservation status remains unchanged but there is no word yet of the public meeting promised to discuss firmer controls through an article IV directive. Meanwhile, if you are planning any major alterations seek advice from the City Council on 287 8555.

Improved access

Efforts by the Committee to have the two muddy lanes leading to the nature trail from Lennox Avenue upgraded at the council's expense has been partially successful. One has been completed but work on the other has been held up for legal reasons. We do not expect any further work to be carried out, but we'll keep trying.

Finances

The treasurer wishes to thank all residents who responded overwhelmingly to the new £3 per annum subscription last year. The funds generated allowed the Committee to respond promptly to the proposed Scotstoun Stadium planning application in an effective and professional manner and to the subsequent 'amended' proposal which did little to address our objections. While the associations funds are in a healthier state we cannot afford to be complacent and trust that a similar response this year would ensure that our work on your behalf is not hindered by lack of funds. Cheques (with name and address on the back) should be made payable to Scotstoun Conservation Area Residents Association (S.C.A.R.A) and sent to our treasurer John Hannah at 39 Dunglass Avenue, G14 9EJ or handed over at the AGM to save on postage.

Activists

Many thanks to those residents who helped with the delivery of newsletters throughout the year. While most Avenues do have activists who help with such, there are some with no representation at all. If you live in Upland Road, Northland Drive or Lennox Avenue and would like to help, please give your name and phone number to our secretary at the AGM. Such work entails as little as 2-3 hours per year.

Road Safety

The 20's plenty scheme outlined in our last newsletter is, as you may have noticed, almost complete. Yet to come is the "Toucan" crossing to replace the existing pedestrian crossing on Danes Drive. (Our mole in Police HQ tells us that a "Toucan" crossing is pretty much the same as we have but with brighter lights and is not solely for parrots visiting the leisure centre.

Muddy Back lanes

In Our September newsletter we outlined the difficulties in stopping the erosion of our 100 year old lanes. A recent inspection revealed that many lanes have been badly neglected and are now muddy,

ruted and in some parts, impossible on foot. The City Council is still unable to help but one group of residents in the Danes/Verona/ Norse/ Dunglass block have recently banded together and laid their lanes with gravel at no great cost. A spokesman for the group told us "We considered various coverings including tarmac but ran into difficulties with drainage and costs. Gravel has its drawbacks but for less than £30 per household, everyone seems pleased with the result and the area no longer looks abandoned." Good to see community spirit alive and well. Any residents considering a like move should contact the SCARA treasurer.

Missing Trees

In September last year we met with representatives from the appropriate services to express our concern over the gradual disappearance of our street trees. We are happy to report that they shared our concern and are looking into the possibility of planting semi-mature Alders on sites that will not cause inconvenience to residents.

PIRATES AHOY

The old Skull and Crossbones will be flying in the lanes on

SATURDAY the 19th August at 2pm

Courtesy of the lanes charity committee. Pirates of all ages will be welcome aboard to raise funds for kids with Cystic Fibrosis. There will be planks to walk, Davy Jones Locker, Tombola, buried treasure to find, a Spanish Galleon, a beautiful Mermaid competition and a Long John Silver or two. Eye patches will be compulsory. Come aboard in Dunglass or Verona at Norse Road Lane.

Bag it Bin It

From recent reports it appears that dog fouling is again becoming a problem in the area due to the actions of a small number of irresponsible dog owners. Our community police officers have been informed and will be keeping an eye open for offenders - as should all caring residents.

Keeping In Touch

We are keen to encourage feedback, thoughts, concerns and suggestions from everyone. Letters/enquiries to the committee should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary (SCARA) and delivered to 66 Queen Victoria Drive, 1376 Dumbarton Road; 39 Dunglass Avenue or 34 Vancouver Road.

Shrinking Committee

Sadly, over the last few months our hard working committee has lost four valued members through ill-health or re-location leaving something of a skeleton staff to carry on the good work. Its demise would be a blow that it may never recover from and will certainly have to be addressed at the 2007 AGM. Meanwhile the burden could be shared by making greater use of the association's website at www.theavenues.co.uk and email address at msherdan@btconnect.com. In this way residents can voice their opinions concerning, for example, planning applications for Scotstoun Leisure Centre, the siting of recycling bins and the occurrence of crime and vandalism in the area. It would also enable residents to participate in committee work without having to leave their homes. You would be able to register your views on such matters through your own local organisation and thereby have an influence in controlling future developments. Writing or phoning individually is one thing but when an approach is made under the banner of a residents' association there is a much better chance of receiving attention. Your association's committee, which has now dwindled to four members, has regular meetings, both locally and at the City Chambers, with Councillors and other officials and also with senior Police Officers but this can only have any credibility, or even continue, if there is some degree of support from local residents. If you really want the Association to continue and are willing to assist in any way please email msherdan@btconnect.com now or contact any committee member listed overleaf. We are aware that the website is both primitive and out of date but perhaps, when we have a more realistically sized committee, we may have time to develop it properly. In the meantime, it works, and so does our email so get in touch - now.

Scotstoun Stadium Parking



Councillor Jean McFadden convened a public meeting at Scotstoun School on June 29th to discuss parking arrangements at major events held in the stadium. Some 50 houses were represented on the night. The meeting was addressed by Robert Booth, director of Land Services and by Ian Hooper the deputy director of Culture & Leisure. Mr Hooper outlined the current proposals to develop the stadium and conceded that so many objections had been received to the original plan and to the subsequent revised version that the application would now require to be dealt with by the Scottish Executive. Alternatively the City Council could revise the plans again in an effort to reduce the number of objections. To this end Mr Booth proposed residents parking permits which, if displayed, would allow only residents to park in the avenues on event days. Each house would be issued

with a free permit for every car registered at that address. A 'Visitor' permit would be available for friends, coming into the area on event days but a one off charge of £10 would be made for this in keeping with similar systems elsewhere. The scheme, which would only come into force on a limited number of days per year depending on the event and the number of cars expected, would be controlled by wardens and signs in the avenues.

The proposal was put to a vote which was carried by a large majority. Fuller details can be found on the SCARA website.

STREET SIGNS

Efforts to have the numerous damaged street signs in the area rectified have at last paid off. Word from Building Control is that they will be repaired or replaced within the next few weeks.

Lanes Charity Event

The Pirates fund raiser held in one of the lanes in August proved to be another success for the good folk involved, raising some £3,500 for Cystic Fibrosis. This brings their total going to charity up to £15,000 over the last 5 years. Congratulations to the Charity Committee who ask us to thank every one who contributed to make it a real fun day.

DEC. 06

Development of the Scotstoun Stadium

As residents are aware, Glasgow City Council has previously submitted two applications for the development of Scotstoun Leisure Centre with a view to creating a larger sports stadium. On each of these occasions, the Committee circulated letters of objection for individual residents to use in objecting to the application, if they saw fit. So many objections were raised that both applications were withdrawn. We now hear that the City Council has made a third application for planning permission to develop the stadium. We are aware that these proposals take on board many of the objections which were previously raised (see Parking report) but without doubt locating a major sports stadium on our doorstep is likely to cause considerable inconvenience, particularly on major event days. Clearly, it is a matter for individual residents to decide whether or not they wish to object to this latest application. The Committee has decided not to circulate any letters of objection but if any residents want the Association to adopt a particular policy in relation to this issue, and are willing to contribute to the relative spadework, then they should advise the Committee by email to msheridan@btconnect.com

Community Patrols Under Pressure

The recently formed Community Patrols which were quite prominent in the area for some time have become victims of their own success. Impressed by their efforts the City Council has now extended their coverage from the original 7 Wards to all 69 Wards with NO INCREASE in manpower. Naturally they have all but disappeared from our area. Residents should report any and every instance of vandalism or disruption to the Association and certainly to the Police in order that any upsurge in crime is apparent.

Vandalism & The Leisure Centre

The Committee recently met with Clr McFadden, officials from Leisure Services, The Community Patrol Service along with Superintendent Corrigan & Sergeant Johnstone from Partick Police Office to discuss vandalism in the area. Main concern expressed was the trouble caused by youths leaving the Leisure Centre and damaging property and cars in the Avenues. In one instance in March, several 999 calls regarding a gang of youths damaging cars appeared to meet with no response from the Police. Mr Corrigan's explanation did nothing at allay the fears of the Committee that the area was undermanned. Mr Corrigan denied that this was the case stating that plain clothed officers were patrolling the area and that several arrests had been made and a local Off Sales had been warned for supplying to under-age persons. Mr Beattie, the

Community Patrol Supervisor, pointed out that most of the trouble makers were from areas other than Scotstoun. Clr McFadden agreed to look into the possibility of CCTV at the main gate of the Centre to monitor the surrounding area. Various other related subjects were discussed and the meeting ended with Clr McFadden agreeing to keep the Association informed of any developments.

Recycling Bins – The Latest

The City Council is intent in introducing recycling bins in our area but the collection lorries are too big to enter our narrow lanes meaning we would have to wheel the bins into the Avenues for emptying. To find a solution the Committee recently met with Clr Jean McFadden and Ewan Hill the Recycling Manager who explained that plans for a suitable lorry were in hand but it would not be in use until 2008 at the earliest. In the meantime, he suggested that the existing central collecting point located in the Leisure Centre car park be augmented by further communal bins located in the Avenues. These would be for the collection of paper, plastic bottles and drinks cans on a monthly basis. The problem is finding a suitable site in the Avenues. A previous attempt to place them in Duncan Avenue and Ormiston Avenue adjacent to the school playing field met with stiff resistance from the residents there, according to a poll carried out. The main reasons given being the possibility of unsightly overflow, vandalism and the fact that this is a 'Conservation Area'. We are all aware of the importance of recycling so the Committee agreed to canvas every household for their views on the subject. Please take time to fill in the questionnaire delivered with this newsletter and return it promptly to any committee member.

Boys Brigade Centenary

Congratulations to our local BB on their Centenary Year. The BB, the Girl Guides and their junior groups meet in Scotstoun Church Hall on various evenings. For more info. Contact:

Mr. R. Campbell (BB Capt.) on 563 3216 or
Mrs R. Bermingham (Guider) on 07879 624065

If you wish to help in any way or need information please contact any of the following:-

Mike Sheridan, 66 Queen Victoria Dr. 959 5721
John Hannah, 39 Dunglass Avenue 954 7708
Neil Brown, 34 Vancouver Road 563 7913
John Clark, 56 Norse Road 954 5838
or log on to www.theavenues.co.uk.....

Merry Christmas and a Good New Year to All.....



THE AVENUES



Scotstoun Conservation Area Residents Association Newsletter – April 2007

The AGM will be held in SCOTSTOUN SCHOOL, Duncan Avenue on Wednesday the 25th APRIL 2007 from 7pm till 9pm. All residents are invited to attend to ensure the continuance of the Association in its present form.

As reported in our December Newsletter the present Committee is under considerable pressure having been reduced in ranks by retiring members. We would hope that interested parties with the wellbeing of the area at heart might join us - if only to share their opinions on local matters which arise.

STADIUM GETS GREEN LIGHT !

The City Council has been given the go-ahead by the Scottish Executive for the £15 million up-grade of the Scotstoun Stadium. This will see its designated seating capacity rise from a modest 609 to 4785. Temporary seating could raise this to almost 8000 according to one report. The new plan provides for 440 on-site parking spaces, half of which would normally be used by patrons of the existing Leisure Centre.

The original proposal attracted a massive 775 objections from local residents worried that such an increase would lead to even more disruption and parking problems on event days. (A recent UK Schools event attracting 1200 spectators left Danes Drive & adjacent avenues clogged with traffic.) In June 2006 at a meeting organized by Cllr Jean McFadden, residents were given an assurance that on event days a scheme to prohibit spectators from parking in our avenues would be enforced. The problem appeared to have been resolved. However, in December 2006 the Council notified all 775 objectors that the Stadium plan had been 'withdrawn', leading them to believe that the project had been abandoned. Not so - for on January 5th 2007 notice of a new application was published in the Evening Times buried amongst 37 others. This, due to the devious timing over the Festive Season, met with only 89 objections giving the impression that the other 686 objectors were happy with the revised plan. All prior objections were binned and the new proposal contains no commitment to a resident's parking scheme. It should be noted that the new application was being prepared prior to the misleading 'withdrawn' notice which contained no mention of it. When asked why the Department in question replied that it was not 'legally' obliged to do so. Morals, it would appear, have no place in matters civic. Several residents did take the matter to the Scottish

Executive (to no effect) and at least one has complained to the Ombudsman. Time alone will tell whether our fears were justified.

STREET SIGN SUCCESS

Efforts to have our numerous dilapidated street signs rectified resulted in 9 new ones being installed last year.

COMMUNITY PATROLS – Good News

Back in December we reported the apparent disappearance of our few Community Patrol Officers due to the expansion of their operational area to cover the whole city. The good news is that we have not been forgotten. The original 12 man team has been increased to 40 with 20 more in training. In addition they will be backed up by 20 Enforcement Officers who will have the authority to impose on-the-spot fines for offences such as graffiti, vandalism, fly-tipping and, not least, dog fouling. We should be seeing a lot more of them from now on but real Police Officers would be even more comforting.

NEW CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

Council efforts to clean up the City sees the formation of the *Clean Glasgow Action Team* dedicated to making the community a safer, cleaner, better place to live. Fuller details should be circulated to all households shortly. Let's hope they achieve something and don't become just another so called "initiative".

RECYCLING QUESTIONNAIRE

Our December survey got a dismal response. Only 51 replies out of 650 households doesn't indicate too much enthusiasm for the subject. Maybe it was the wrong time of year to ask, what with Xmas shopping and a turkey to stuff. Anyway – the results have been collated and sent off. General response was that if it comes to pass it should be voluntary and collected from the lanes in domestic size bins.

APRIL 07

FINANCES

Our Treasurer reports a healthy balance, as his report will show at the AGM. Many thanks to all those who donated last year. For the coming year he suggests a donation of £2 will suffice. Cheques made out to 'S.C.A.R.A.' with your address on the back can be sent to John Hannah at 39 Dunglass Ave. G14 9EJ or, better yet, handed over at the AGM

20's PLENTY

The new speed limit is very welcome, particularly as a safeguard for our kids, but as residents let us all set a good example to others by keeping well within that.

MORE PARKING PROBLEMS

With the latest parking restrictions on Dumbarton Road, the avenues in that area are becoming choc-a-bloc at night. Sadly not a lot can be done about that. Where 'on street' parking is tolerated it is impossible to stipulate who can park where unless they are causing an obstruction or parked within 10 metres of a junction. The Association would be happy to hear any suggestions from residents.

THE-LANES

Many of our back lanes have fallen on hard times and are quite unsightly, detracting from the appearance and value of adjacent homes. We all tend to keep a tidy garden as it reflects directly on us but ignore the lanes. You'd be surprised what can be achieved with a hoe, some weed killer and a little effort. You may even find some neighbours joining in the fun. Major upgrades are expensive but much can be done at low cost if neighbours get together. Contact SCARA for more information. Whilst on the subject, complaints of bin lorries damaging the lanes will only lead to them being kept out. You would then have to drag your bin out to the street front. Think about it?

VICTORIA PARK PLAYGROUP

The Playgroup would like to thank everyone who responded to their appeal ensuring that they can keep going for another session. If you can help or need information contact Sharon on 07870 422 415.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Scotstoun School, the venue for our AGM, was built to replace the original school in Methil Street which by 1895 had become overcrowded. It was opened on April 12th 1901 at a cost of £14,000 to accommodate 1280 pupils. The present roll is only 350 which will be a blessed relief to the hard working staff.

ACTIVISTS

Our thanks to all those residents who helped with the delivery of newsletters and circulars throughout the year. We don't have anyone from Ormiston & Lennox Avenues so contact us if you can help for 1 or 2 hours per year.

SCOTSTOUN GOES SCI-FI

The Lanes Charity Committee, following on the success of last year, are holding a Futurama Fete in aid of the Maggie Centre on Sat. 25th August in the usual lanes at 2pm. Look out for Dr. Who, Luke Skywalker & The Jedi Knights. Have fun but beware of UFO's.

THE AVENUES

Our bi-annual newsletter (now in its fourth year) has proved popular with residents as a source of information. We would like to hear from anyone who might care to contribute, be it topical, historical or even hysterical.

If you have just moved into the area let us know what you think of it, or if you are about to move out - tell us why. Perhaps you have a good idea which you want to share or just a moan about missing "the good old days". Budding poets are also welcome but we don't do Greek Tragedies.

Sadly, our editor is an old fuddy-duddy who thinks E-mails will disrupt his social life. We're working on him but , meanwhile, letters, articles, etc. marked " The Avenues" can be left at any of the following drop-off points :-

- 39 Dunglass Avenue
- 24 Vancouver Road
- 66 Queen Victoria Drive

All articles/letters are subject to editing.
No politics or religion, please

Next issue is due out in September 2007.

This space could be yours.



THE AVENUES



Scotstoun Conservation Area Residents Association Newsletter - October 2007

Ombudsman Now Involved

We hear that at least two residents have contacted the Ombudsman about the dubious methods used by the City Council to push through plans for the new stadium at the Leisure Centre. (As reported in our April 2007 newsletter) This will see the present 900 seat stand replaced by two seating 5,000 with a total stadium capacity of some 8,000. The new plan allows for approximately 440 on-site parking places. You don't need a calculator to see that if only half the spectators come by car with four to each car (?) that would need 1,000 parking places not including the regular Leisure Centre users who may well have to park elsewhere. Yet the Traffic Impact Assessment carried out by the Council inferred that there would be no overspill into the adjacent avenues. *The same Council*, said one of the residents, *would not permit a supermarket to open without adequate parking provision. Why then was this application treated differently?* Interestingly, we note that the rigmarole to be gone through to get to the Ombudsman would certainly deter the average person. We'll keep you posted as to the outcome.

Popular 'Jannie'.

Good to know that the popular janitor at Scotstoun School, Amos Parker, is tops with the kids there. They voted him the 'Best Jannie' in a competition run by Radio Clyde earlier this year. Amos has been a Janitor (or should we say *concierge*) for some 21 years, with 15 of those at Scotstoun. Well done Amos!

Zig-Zags

The Zig-Zag lines at the school gates are there to protect the kids. Surprisingly some drivers still flaunt them despite the obvious yellow banners. We hear that offenders can now be fined £60 and even the offending car impounded. Drivers take heed!

The Maggie Centre

June Mitchell in Verona Avenue tells us that the Lanes Charity Fete in August raised a total of £2,700 for the Centre. She thanks all who worked hard arranging it and all who attended and made it such a success on a fine summer day. Well done June & Co. What's in store for next summer?

Free Help Available for Elderly

If you're over 65 and find difficulty in doing wee things around the house; like hanging curtains and fitting light bulbs etc you could get help from the **Handypersons Unit** run by the City Council. Give them a ring on the phone at **0800 587 2239**. A similar service for the over 60's is run by the **Parks Department** for grass and hedge trimming. Call them on telephone number **287 5064**.

Going Green ?

With the advent of DIY wind turbines for domestic use the following may be of interest to you. Full information is available on the Scottish Government website but it is currently under review in an effort to simplify matters and will not be completed until the end of 2007 at the earliest. Currently one should apply to the Council Planning Department who will certainly consider the location of the generator and, most importantly, the noise factor which may affect others. The Conservation status of our area would also be taken into account.

Red Card For Fouling

Sadly, there are still too many instances of dogs fouling the lanes & avenues. Responsible owners are equally disturbed by the actions of an inconsiderate few so please think twice before you let 'Fido' off the leash and do always carry a plastic bag or two. Incidentally we hear from Cllr Hendry that the 'dog bins' on the nature trail will now be emptied on a more regular basis.

Pearls of wisdom

1. It's bad luck to be superstitious
2. The world is full of apathy, but so what?
3. Talk is cheap – until lawyers get involved.
4. If money could talk it would say goodbye.
5. Marriage is the chief cause of divorce.
6. He who laughs last, thinks slowest

(philosophy from an anonymous resident.)

OCT 07

Did You Know ?

Victoria Park, once part of Scotstoun Estate, was opened in July 1887 by the then Provost of Partick, Sir Andrew MacLean. It was while the park was being landscaped that some fine examples of fossilized trees were discovered at a spot called Tinker's Wood. Estimated to be 350 million years old, the fossils are now protected by a purpose built pavilion. Well worth a visit.

Moving House ?

The Scottish Parliament has been wrestling for several years to simplify the house selling procedure under which each interested party normally obtains their own survey report. The following procedure has been suggested but is yet to be ratified. Viz:

1. The seller appoints a selling agent and completes a Property Sale Questionnaire (PSQ) giving full details of the property including any known faults.
2. The agent arranges a Single Survey Report giving the surveyor a copy PSQ.
3. The surveyor's report is confirmed by the seller, signed and passed to the agent.
4. The agent advertises the property and makes the PSQ and survey report (now called a Purchaser's Information Pack- PIP) available to prospective purchasers.
5. Interested parties make their offers and the seller accepts one of these
6. The surveyor provides the successful purchaser's lender a copy of the Single Survey report.
7. The sale is concluded through the normal conveyancing process.

Failure to provide a PIP when selling appears to make you liable to a penalty of £500 which, by coincidence, is the approximate cost of providing a PIP. The purchaser's lender may still require the purchaser to obtain a separate survey report. Whether this will improve matters remains to be seen but any comments (in writing) may be made through our Secretary. at 66 Queen Victoria Dr. or by email to msherdan@btconnect.com

[The above item is extracted from a fuller article now on our website at www.theavenues.co.uk]

Activists

Again we must thank those residents who, hail, rain or shine, ensure that you get your News-letter promptly and to your very door. If you'd like to help contact John Hannah on 954 770

Our 'Ancient' Association

Back in the mists of time an association was formed to promote and protect the interests of the local owner/occupiers in this part of Scotstoun. It was known, unsurprisingly, as The Scotstoun and District Owner/Occupiers Association.

In June 1987 the neighbourhood was designated as a Conservation Area by the District Council. This put certain responsibilities onto the residents in order to preserve those existing features which make up the area's special character.

More recently the name was changed to the present Scotstoun Conservation Area Residents Association (SCARA) in order to more clearly define the area covered and to avoid confusion with the much more recently formed Scotstoun Residents Association which covers the GHA factored property in the Earl Street and Scotstounhill areas.

The Conservation Area boundary runs west on Dumbarton Road from the round-about, north on Queen Victoria Drive, east on Danes Drive to the bridge including the older terraced houses in Upland Road and Northland Drive. From the bridge it goes south along the nature trail back to the round-about. It does not include the newer built homes within that area but perhaps this is something we should be looking at for the future.

Your Newsletter

Your SCARA newsletter, 'The Avenues', has been going well for some years now, kept alive by a small but dedicated band of residents. We are happy to print your views & opinions provided they are not extreme. Perhaps your job is such that you could pass on advice or good ideas to other residents or maybe you have a good DIY or gardening tip which you can pass on or information which is not common knowledge. If so, drop a brief note to 'The Avenues' at any of the following addresses. We'll be glad to hear from you. Viz:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Mike Sheridan - | 66 Queen Victoria Drive |
| John Hannah - | 39 Dunglass Avenue |
| Neil Brown - | 34 Vancouver Road |
| John Clark | 56 Norse Road |

See our website at www.theavenues.co.uk

Letters to the Editor

Dear sir,

I was going to write a vitriolic letter regarding the apparent apathy prevalent in society these days - but I couldn't be bothered. So, there !

'Irate', Norse Road

Next issue is due out in April 2008.



THE AVENUES



06-7-08
+ PRIOR

Scotstoun Conservation Area Residents Association Newsletter – March 2008

The Association AGM will be held in SCOTSTOUN SCHOOL, Duncan Avenue on WEDNESDAY the 2nd APRIL 2008 from 7pm till 9pm. All residents are strongly urged to attend to ensure the continuance of the Association in its' present form.

SKELETON STAFF ?

As reported in our newsletters during 2007 the present Committee is under considerable pressure having been reduced in ranks by members retiring through ill-health or re-location leaving something of a skeleton staff to carry on the good work Sadly, the response to date has been, to say the least, poor but it is hoped that interested residents with the wellbeing of the area at heart would step forward at the AGM if only to share their opinions on local matters which arise. The Committee meets for an hour on the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of school holidays so it's no great imposition Over the years the Association has achieved much for the benefit of the area but if it were to fold it will be very difficult to resurrect. Can we really afford to let this happen? Do give it some thought and support the AGM.

FLOODED PAVEMENTS.

Efforts to have the problem of rainwater collecting at the lane exits and forming big puddles across the pavements have run up against a stone wall. According to the Council officials who met with the Committee to examine the problem the puddles are caused by excess rainwater draining from the lanes (our problem) and not by rainwater draining from the roadway (their problem). We could really do with clarifying responsibility for the lanes which historically are private but they do afford access for essential services and emergencies. Let's hope the AGM sees a strong Committee formed to take this further.

AVENUE TREES FOR THE CHOP

We hear that more of our "forest giants" are shortly to be felled for safety reasons and other old stumps removed. This would be an excellent chance for the Parks department to take up their own suggestion and replace them with semi-mature Alder trees which are more suited to the area. The Committee has written suggesting this be done in future by way of conservation.

ALCOHOL AND KIDS

We fully support our local police in their efforts to stamp out under-age drinking but it is obvious that they are constrained by lack of manpower. A recent "vodka party" in one of our lanes involving a group of rowdy school-age girls highlights the problem when it took over 50 minutes for officers to respond to calls from residents. We have no doubt that they had other priorities but the youngsters were left at risk and an opportunity to establish how and from where the alcohol had been obtained was missed. The good news is that an Anti-Social Behaviour Task Force will be hitting our area for the next few months and that locally there have been two prosecutions for selling & obtaining alcohol for kids.

COMMUNITY PATROLS

Enquiries are being made to find out what happened to our Council funded Community Patrols who have simply disappeared from our avenues. No substitute for a police officer but they were proving successful.

SCOTSTOUN SCHOOL RAILINGS.

Welcome news! The Parents Council of the school, concerned at the dilapidated condition of the perimeter railings, have been seeking some solution to the problem which also reflects badly on the whole area. We hear from Councillor Hendry that the West Regeneration Agency may undertake the task as part of a training programme.

FINANCES.

As you will see from the Accounts available at the AGM, subscriptions fell to £58 from a healthy £302 for 2006/07. This is some £200 short of the cost of running the Association. Despite this the Treasurer is keeping the subs/donations at the same £2 per household in the hope that there will be a better response this coming year. Cheques payable to SCARA at the AGM or to the Treasurer John Hannah at 39 Dunglass Avenue. G14 9EJ.

MARCH 08

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Worth The Effort!

Dear Sir.

Since becoming a Councillor last year I have learned to appreciate the good work undertaken by Residents Associations across the city in identifying local issues and bringing them forward to the Council.

As a resident of the Scotstoun Conservation Area I am aware of the important role played by our local Association in such matters and in keeping us all informed through your regular newsletters. In particular I note the Committees' hard work in identifying the potential parking problems from the Scotstoun Stadium project and in helping to obtain the Twenty's Plenty scheme along with the many other issues which go un-noticed.

I am saddened to hear that the Association may fold due to lack of a full committee. Hopefully residents reading this will make an effort attend the A.G.M. and, where possible, offer their support.

*Councillor Graeme Hendry
Ormiston Avenue*

Danger In Isolation

Dear Neighbour.

Just how much time do you spend in your local community? Probably not very much. Many of us spend most of our day elsewhere such as work, being educated or – if you're lucky - weekends at the "but an' ben". That's all fair enough but even when at home we have the distractions of TV, computers, and telephones leaving little time for social contact with our neighbours. There is a danger that this isolation leads us to assume that someone else will always act when planning nightmares threaten our homes or speeding cars use the avenues as rat-runs threatening our safety. Perhaps we should make a conscious effort to find a little time for the community in which we make our home. We are very fortunate to live in such a rural setting so close to the city centre.
From a concerned resident.)

Limping Along

Our Association limps along on the worn out limbs of a constitution written in a bygone age. Although we have informally updated the name we still have to address the issues of membership, annual subscription and, most importantly, the objectives of the Association. The previous focus on 'owner/occupiers' should now give way to 'residents' and the annual subs fixed by the present constitution at 2/6d (that's 12.5p for or younger readers) revised in keeping with 21st century overheads.

You are invited to contribute your thoughts on this at the AGM but it would help if suggestions were emailed to msheridan@btconnect.com prior to then.
M. Sheridan, Hon. Secretary

ROMAN HOLIDAY

We hear that the annual Charity Event held in Dunglass Lane North will take on a Roman theme this year. Expect legions of 'Spartacus' and 'Gladiator' impersonators (Kirk Douglas & Russell Crowe are busy elsewhere). Togas are a must but beware of racing chariots and hungry lions. Starts at 2pm on Saturday 16th of August and don't forget to bring the kids.

RECYCLING

Good news! We are told that domestic recycling bins for paper and glass will come into use in our area within the next few months. It would seem that a suitable vehicle that will negotiate the narrow lanes has been acquired at long last.

HEAVY TRAFFIC

Despite complaints from residents a recent survey carried out by Land Services to monitor traffic levels in Vancouver Road came to the conclusion that it did not merit any action. ???

CONSERVATION

We have a limited quantity of a recent booklet on conservation published by the City Council which will be available to residents at the A.G.M. Find out just what Conservation means to you and your home.

WWW.THEAVENUES.CO.UK

The SCARA website, admittedly, is pretty dull by modern standards but, at least, it exists and provides the community with the means to share ideas & information from the comfort of their own homes. Perhaps if we had a stronger committee we could find the time and the right person to develop it into a useful tool.

OMISSIONS

Lack of space has forced us to hold over several articles. These will be included in any subsequent newsletter. (The Editor)

CONTACTS

Secretary – Mike Sheridan
66 Queen Victoria Drive
Treasurer – John Hannah
39 Dunglass Avenue,

**Do not forget the A.G.M. on Wednesday, April 2nd at 7p.m. in Scotstoun School.
Enter by Duncan Avenue.**