

Strathbungo Society
Minutes of AGM
Held at Queen's Park Parish Church Hall
7.30pm Monday 21st May 2007

1. Welcome

Scott Mackay (Chair) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. There were xx people present.

2. Chair's Report

Scott introduced himself to those present at this, the end of his first year as chair. He outlined the aims of the Society and its commitment to community involvement, improving the physical environment and protecting, enhancing and improving the area for all who live there. He felt the Strathbungo Society made Strathbungo a better place to live, in two important ways:

a) Community spirit

He mentioned our two big events of the last year, Bungo At The bells and Bungo In The Back Lanes that had both proved successful, BATBL in spite of the appalling weather and BITBL partly because of the fantastic sunshine.

b) Practical challenges

The Society has made big steps forward in the past year. Our treasurer, Lynne, has enabled the society to go forward with getting charitable status, which means we can make the money raised by the society go further. Secondly, the website has been completely redesigned in the last year to make it easier to update and more flexible. There are also areas where the Society wishes it could have done more. Environmental improvements in particular have proved frustrating, with difficulties progressing the back lanes pilot project, traffic management problems with the closure of the Titwood Rd Bridge and recurring problems with parking and waste collection. However, the society has worked hard to keep communicating with the City Council and has had particular successes when commenting on and objecting to planning applications on behalf of residents, most notable in preventing the erection of outdoor smoking areas on Nithsdale Rd.

Finally, Scott thanked the committee and all the other volunteers who give up their time and energy for the society and asked for more volunteers, in whatever capacity, to think about coming forward over the coming year.

He reminded those present that the committee held meetings on the third Tuesday of every month (except July and August) at Mulberry St from 7.30pm. All are welcome to come along. He also announced that Laura Moodie had decided to stand down from the post of Secretary in order to concentrate her efforts on impending motherhood and editing the newsletter.

3. Guest Speakers

Andrena Stamper.

Andrena introduced herself as the South East Glasgow area co-ordinator for Glasgow Community and Safety Services. She said that her main aim was to keep the communities and environments in her region (which stretches from Pollokshields to Carmunock) looking good, for example through the recent Clean Glasgow campaign (which dealt with fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling) and other environmental and safety issues.

The organisation seeks to help residents in a number of ways from physically removing graffiti, for example, to helping community groups set up cleaning campaigns or providing mediation with private landlords.

Residents voiced their safety concerns in relation to speeding traffic on our narrow roads. While Ms Stamper does help to provide road safety training and information, the issue of speeding is more generally dealt with by the police. Her main concerns were with home safety, for example fire guards, child gates and smoke alarms.

A Queen Square resident asked about help for cutting down dangerous trees. In particular, some lombarded poplar trees on Queen Square and the damage they were doing to the pavement. Stephen Lamb pointed out that there were similar problems at 5-7 Moray Place but ownership of the trees is often unclear.

The chair pointed out recent hedge and tree cutting carried out by the society in the area and the improvements that had made to pedestrian access. He asked what else we, as residents, could do to improve the area. Ms Stamper emphasised that it was important to educate people about their responsibilities to the community. Landlords, for example, should make sure tenants are informed about bulk uplift services, the right bin days and how to dispose of waste correctly. Owners, meanwhile, need to be prompt in taking their wheelie bins in and out, about organising bulk uplift and reporting problems to the relevant authorities.

Finally, residents asked about instigating a 20's plenty scheme in the area. SM pointed out that there had been consultation on this but there was not enough support to proceed. He suggested we undertake wider consultation. Ian Stark and others also pointed out that 20's plenty was not enforceable and therefore rarely adhered to. Unsafe/inconsiderate driving is more of a problem than speed and the measures required to address this, including hard landscaping, are difficult to implement in a conservation area.

Scott agreed that Ms Stamper's details should be put on the website and in the next newsletter to ensure people can contact her.

Ms Stamper and Alan Sinclair both distributed cards containing useful contact numbers to deal with common problems - from bulk uplift to policing.

Alan Sinclair

Alan Sinclair spoke to the society about the difficulties faced by the cleansing department in the local area, particularly with regard to getting access to the back lanes. The vehicle usually used by them to access the lanes has been in for repair for the last 2 months, making a difficult job even more complex.

The poor surface and limited access makes collecting wheelie bins extremely difficult for cleansing staff. There have also been problems with street cleaning as the amount of on-road parking has made it impossible to sweep gutters and channels.

He also outlined changes to the bulk uplift scheme. Only those resident in tenements will continue to have bulk uplift on appointed days. Other residents should instead arrange bulk uplift (of six items or less) by appointment, calling the council to arrange a day for collection and putting the items in their front gardens for collection. The aim is to keep as much bulk refuse out of the lanes as possible. He also said that those employing tradesmen should ensure that they take any refuse away with them for disposal.

Finally, he emphasised that the cleansing department was attempting to introduce more stick to the carrot and stick approach to waste collection.

Scott requested clarification of bulk uplift. Alan emphasised that they do take most items but refrigerators have to be disposed of by the council due to potentially hazardous waste chemicals. Anyone getting rid of such items should call the council.

A resident who has lived in the area for some time said she was disappointed black bags were no longer available for free and that often rubbish was put out into the lanes in unsuitable or flimsy bin liners. Alan Sinclair agreed that residents should have been given free black bags for the period when the usual waste collection truck was not available. If the vehicle is out of

commission again, residents are urged to call the cleansing department and ask to be provided with more robust refuse sacks.

The chair asked if more money or resources would help him to do the job. Alan Sinclair said that the main problem was the quality of the road surface in the lanes and limited vehicle availability. He did not feel that lack of funds was a major factor.

A resident who had recently called to arrange bulk uplift commented that the service was slow. She had been given a date 3 weeks after her call to arrange uplift (admittedly part of this time was over a bank holiday weekend). Mr Sinclair said the service did slow down over bank holidays but said the usually residents could expect a 10-day wait for collection.

A resident of Vennard Gardens raised his concerns over the lack of regular recycling collections. Their recycling boxes should have been collected 4 times this year and so far had only been collected twice. Mr Sinclair said that a different depot in Shieldhall dealt with their collection. He acknowledged that they had been having problems recently but were getting back on track. He did acknowledge that being a month late for collections was unacceptable to residents.

4. Sub Group Reports

Back Lanes Pilot:

Communications Group:

Environment:

5. Treasurer's Report

A full annual financial statement is filed with the minute. Lynne referred to the printed balance sheet distributed before the meeting.

Unlike in the last year, during which the society had accrued a deficit, this year the Society had a surplus of 800.

Lynne has pushed forward the campaign to give the Society charitable status. On corresponding with the OSCR it has been decided to propose the following changes to the Society's constitution:

Objects

- 1. To advance citizenship and develop the community by encouraging all members of the community, including families, children, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and the elderly to interact with the aim of improving the community both by bringing the community together and by promoting the provision, maintenance or improvement of public amenities within or in the vicinity of the Strathbungo area.; and**
- 2. To promote the conservation of local architectural and environmental heritage, including the maintenance and improvement of the built and natural environment.**

Dissolution

In the event of the society being dissolved, any assets or funds remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities of the society shall not be transferred to members but shall be dispersed as follows:

- 1. If sufficient members are present at a properly constituted meeting, the meeting may only vote for dispersal to one of the sources noted below, A, or B**
- 2. If insufficient members are not present or a properly constituted meeting cannot be held, dispersal shall be by giving the groups listed the option to**

accept the funds, property or goods of the Society in the order A then B.

- A. Another society or group whose constitution includes the conservation of the Strathbungo Heritage and which is a recognised charity.**
- B. Another body with similar charitable objects to that of the Strathbungo Society.**

Charitable status ensures the society can make the most of any donations by reclaiming tax.

The changes to the constitution were put forward to Society members to vote on:

Do you, the society, accept the proposed changes to the Strathbungo Society constitution as outlined by the OSCR?

For : 21 Against: 0

The constitutional changes were therefore carried and the constitution will be amended.

6. Election of Committee Office bearers

The office bearers were elected as follows:

	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Chair , Scott Mackay	Laura Moodie	Stephen Lamb
Secretary , Elaine Dearie	Scott Mackay	Laura Moodie
Treasurer , Lynne Flower	Scott Mackay	Laura Moodie
Vice-chair , Karen Brown	Scott Mackay	Stephen Lamb

Scott felt the committee would benefit from the presence of a vice-chair as he is not always able to attend meetings. Karen Brown volunteered for the post.

8. Thanks and Close

The Chair thanked all those present for attending the AGM, in particular to the guest speakers, brought the meeting to a close and invited everyone present to partake of light refreshment.