

Strathbungo Society
Minutes of AGM
Held at Queen's Park Parish Church Hall
7.00pm Monday 6th June 2005

1. Welcome

Kevin Kane (Chair) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. There were 36 people present. The minutes of the previous AGM were proposed for acceptance by Stephen Lamb and seconded by Andrew Greg. There were no amendments.

2. Chair's Report

A full copy of the chair's report is filed with the minute.

The Chair highlighted some of the biggest events in the year, in particularly the resident-led campaign on the estate management of the railway line along Moray Place. Residents had been successful in ensuring replanting took place with sympathetic species provided by the nurseries of GCC with funding from the Glasgow Tree Lover's Society. Also, the Society organised its first architectural walk and moved the Back Lanes Pilot to the tender stage.

The Society had also delivered another programme of community events, with the ever-popular Bungo in the Back Lanes, Bungo at the Bells and the Bungo Coffee Break. Scotland's liveliest community newspaper, the Strathbungo News, has continued to be published under a new editor, Laura Jones. The website [www. strathbungo.co.uk](http://www.strathbungo.co.uk) has also been redesigned and the new notice board feature has proved popular with residents. Kevin also pointed out the success of the Friends of Strathbungo giving scheme that has seen a steady growth in assured income for the Society helping to provide a sustainable base for the Society's activities, especially the publication of the Strathbungo News...

The Chair took the opportunity to commend Society members for volunteering their time, expertise and enthusiasm to the community and urged attendees to consider getting involved in the Society, perhaps by taking up a committee post or helping with the forthcoming Bungo in the Back Lanes event.

Finally, after five years, Kevin announced his intention to step down as Chair. He also announced that Joanna Murphy was standing down as Treasurer after 3 years of "sterling" work that included implementation of the "Friends of "giving scheme and improving the sustainability of events. On behalf of the Society, he thanked Joanna for her unstinting and diligent work.

3. Treasurer's Report

A full annual financial statement is filed with the minute. Joanna referred to the printed balance sheet distributed before the meeting. She also added that in a collection at Bungo at the Bells £1,500 had been raised by residents for the Tsunami Appeal.

In response to a question as to where the majority of the money for the Back Lanes pilot had come from, Joanna stated that it had come from the Government's Landfill Tax body, Entrust. This prompted further questions as to whether there was a time limit on the grant and if it could be spent elsewhere. Joanna stated that there was no time limit but that the Committee had agreed that if the project did not make sufficient progress over the coming year it would look at returning the funds. It was noted that the money can only be used for the Back Lanes scheme as laid out in our original application.

4. Sub Group Reports

Back Lanes Pilot: Stephen Lamb stated that the project had moved onto tender stage but had subsequently stalled due to higher than anticipated costs. Recent discussions have

focussed on reducing these costs through engineering and specification alterations and locating recycled materials such as granite sets for the pilot scheme.

In response to questions from the floor, Stephen stated that there would be nothing to prevent utility companies, once the pilot was completed, from digging up the roads and not replacing the sets correctly. He said he would be writing to all utilities once there was a date for the commencement of works to encourage them to do any upgrading in advance.

Another resident asked where the pilot was taking place. Stephen Lamb clarified that the area the society had received funding for was the back of Moray Place between Queen Square and Marywood Square.

Another question was raised with regards to the state of the roads in the surrounding area and what would occur if not all residents on that street were prepared to pay. Kevin Kane emphasised that there would be a discussion with residents before any work began and if a realistic price could be agreed (or more funding found), then the Society would return the money.

Communications Group: Laura Jones briefly discussed the year's events for the website and newsletter. The website has seen a successful redesign and had generated more traffic since the railway estate management issue took off. The new notice board had begun to make the website more of a community forum.

The newsletter had seen two editors over the past year and is a big task to produce regularly. She appealed for assistance from all residents to make it the heart of the community's communications structure. In particular it needs more original content, advertisers, distributors and artist to contribute photographs or illustrations.

Events: Joanna thanked Joe for all his hard work to make Bungo at the Bells another success and requested volunteers for Bungo in the Back Lanes and future Coffee Breaks.

5. Election of Committee Members

The office bearers were elected as follows:

	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Secretary , Laura Jones	Kevin Kane	Stephen Lamb
Treasurer , Paul Barclay	Kevin Kane	Joanna Murphy

There were no volunteers for the post of chair, so Kevin Kane will remain as acting chair.

6. Guest Speakers: Making Strathbungo A "Greener" Place

Gary Beacham and Willy from, Environmental Protection Services, Glasgow City Council spoke to the meeting on recycling in the area. The guests outlined the Council's current recycling schemes, the presence of 93,000 blue recycling bins in homes and the introduction of a new and popular scheme in Govanhill.

Many residents asked about access to recycling banks, particularly as the banks at Morrisons were currently closed. Gary announced that the banks at Morrisons were re-opening with upgraded facilities, although there would be no more textiles recycling and still no plastic recycling facility. However, he urged residents to write to the supermarket to request textile, book and shoe banks. The Kildrostan St recycling centre now has new, smaller bins that are emptied more frequently and can recycle newspapers, cans, plastic bottles and glass.

There remains a problem with access to the lanes as the recycling truck was larger than our usual refuse collection lorries, so residents were asked to suggest places where additional, small recycling centres could be situated. Gary suggested a new facility at either end of Nithsdale Road. No planning permission is required for these.

A resident questioned the economics of recycling and the available markets both here and overseas. The speakers said this was limited to what companies would pay to re-use, hence the lack of recycling of shrink-wrapping and the like. He also stressed that the benefits of shipping recycling overseas has been over-stated and is also environmentally counter-productive.

More general refuse collection issues were raised, particularly the disappearance of the council-provided black bags. Willy said he would raise the issue with Alan Sinclair, the head of EPS.

Residents were also keen to encourage the recycling of garden waste. It was suggested that a resident might invest in a shredder that could be shared throughout the community. There were also queries about the waste management in Queen's Park pond and the lack of litter collection in the park over the summer months. Willy said the park management team was addressing these issues. However, he did know litter was collected overnight but Glasgow did suffer from a citywide throwaway mentality that meant it had a larger litter problem than some other cities.

A resident also raised a specific concern about the rubbish dumped outside a local pizza and kebab shop. Gary said this would be investigated.

Finally, the speakers mentioned the need for greater publicity and information on recycling schemes. Currently plans for tenement recycling schemes are held up while waiting for Scottish Executive funding but they are keen to get such a project underway.

The speakers will also provide an information stall at Bungo in the Back Lanes so residents can find out more.

7. Councillor Malcolm Cunning

Councillor Cunning first responded to the question of the lighter refuse vans for the area and said he'd believed we had one exclusively for use in Strathbungo from the start of the year. He would seek to clarify this. He commended the residents for the real success of the trees campaign.

Joanna Murphy asked the councillor what was being done to tackle the problem of Slovakian Romany families living in cramped conditions in the area. Malcolm said that the Social Work Dept. were co-ordinating activities with the police and multi-ethnic agencies in the area. He believes a 'gangmaster' is exploiting these people and employing them at the chicken factory in Broxburn at low wages until they qualify for state aid. He said there were particular translation issues that made the process slow.

A resident requested that the area be put forward for the "20's plenty" scheme. Other residents mentioned particular problems with traffic management in the area, particularly for emergency access and the rat running problem on and behind Moray Place.

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.