

# LANGSIDE, BATTLEFIELD AND CAMPHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2009

The Council has met 10 times in 2008-9. Throughout this period Evelyn Silber was Chair, James McPherson was Vice Chair, Jan McGhie was Secretary and Alison Macdonald Treasurer. There were 9 community councillors out of a possible maximum of 15. During the year Scott McNair, who joined the Council in 2008, resigned since he moved outside the area. In July 2009 Rosie Davies was appointed Minute Taker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all community councillors for their work and for their efforts to represent the best interests of the area and the views of residents. Councillors Archie Graham, James Dornan and Paul Coleshill all attended Council by rota and we appreciated the dialogue on local issues which took place. The police were represented at a number of meetings by a Community Officer, mostly PC Steven Abbott.

We were saddened to hear of the deaths of former chair, Elizabeth Keith and former Secretary, Gary Kelly.

The Council's public profile was increased through the website – [www.lbccc.org.uk](http://www.lbccc.org.uk) – set up by Jan McGhie, via which we now receive an increasing number of community communications, new small posters developed by Bob Marshall, and by an article in the summer 2009 *Glasgow Magazine*.

Several matters on which the Council had made submissions in 2008 reached satisfactory resolution in 2009; the New Victoria Hospital was completed and opened; the first phase of the development of Langside College was completed; the Go-Ape project in Pollok Park opposed by the Community Council and many other residents and local groups was abandoned by GCC; the White Cart Flood Prevention Scheme progressed and work is now beginning in this area. The area is benefiting from the increased manpower dedicated to community policing. Following up a previous area of concern Rosalyn Barclay visited the house run by ASPIRE in Cathkin Road and reported that the residents had settled in peacefully and there had been no local issues.

The Council submitted detailed comments and objections on several planning issues affecting Sinclair Drive, Tantallon, Mansionhouse and Millbrae Roads, and Battlefield Place. We objected to the planning application in relation to the upper floor of the Church on the Hill, an application turned down by the City Council but against which the applicant appealed. The Council was represented during the Government Office site visit and were pleased that the appeal was rejected.

The Council played an active and effective role in getting the pedestrian crossing in Battlefield Avenue near the Sinclair Drive junction satisfactorily reinstated following its unheralded removal in 2008. Parking is an ongoing area of local discontent. Councillor Graham initiated public consultation on the idea of introducing a residents' parking scheme to limit and control non-resident parking but the majority of respondents opposed this so it will not progress. Areas of double yellow lines were extended, notably on street corners, but friction over the excess of demand over supply of parking space continues.

The Council made two successful grant applications to the Area Committee, receiving £7940 for environmental improvements and planting in the Iser Lane/Camphill Avenue area, relating to the former bluebell wood, and £1649 for the purchase of planters to be installed in Langside Place annually to improve the urban environment of the shops. Both these projects are ongoing; a consultation meeting took place about the planting scheme with local residents and a further meeting is scheduled this month. There is currently no new planting in place but some progress is anticipated this autumn following further consultation. Planters have been obtained but, owing to unforeseen delays and communication issues, will not be installed until spring 2010.

The Council also successfully submitted suggestions for suitable small urban greenspace sites suitable for future investment under City Plan – Res 3.

The development of the Southside Festival in Queen's Park was another welcome development and was initially represented on the working group by Scott McNair.

It was especially pleasing to hear of the formation of the Battlefield Community Project and its concern for the improvement of the area. Several members attended the street party in July.

In March 2009 the Community Council agreed to lead a partnership project as part of a Scottish Government sponsored pilot scheme to evaluate the capacity of community councils to steer local projects. The Council is holding on behalf of the project steering group £15,000 pump-priming funding. Working in partnership with Govanhill/Crosshill, Mount Florida and Shawlands/Strathbungo, the project aims to restore for modern community use the amphitheatre on the former bandstand site in Queen's Park. Evelyn Silber is chairing and Bob Marshall is a member of the steering group. Several councillors assisted in distributing and collecting questionnaires seeking public opinion about the project during the May Southside Festival'; over 700 questionnaires were completed and 94% respondents expressed positive support.

We continued to distribute the Langside Heritage Trail and promoted it at the September 2009 Glasgow City Council Heritage Day. The Chair led two walking tours of the area during Doors Open Day.

During the year the Council received a presentation by Jordan Martindale,, Development Worker in the Good Community Relations Project, charged with increasing ethnic minority participation in local civic structures.

A current issue is the consultation process on the revision of Community Council boundaries; officers of the community council have been in discussion with Shawlands and Strathbungo CC over their proposal that the area between Kilmarnock Road and Tantallon Road should become part of Shawlands and Strathbungo. The Council has come to a view that if this reflects the natural affiliation of local residents then LBCCC should not oppose it, despite its administrative inconvenience to elected members through its crossing of a ward boundary. However, a council wide public consultation will take place before Glasgow City Council takes a decision on this matter.

Members attended a number of seminars and represented the Community Council at presentations and consultative meetings:

Community Reference Group – John Moffat

Langside Area Committee – James McPherson

Planning sub-group – Bob Marshall

Shawlands Town Centre Action Plan – Bob Marshall

Jan McGhie attended the Queen's Garden Party at Holyrood in June 2009 on behalf of the Community Council.

Council regrets the cessation of the Queen's Park Users Group, previously attended by Evelyn Silber and Bob Marshall, and hopes it will be re-instituted.