

STRATHBUNGO NEWS

Volume 1: No 6

Autumn 1996

ROADS DEPT AGREE TO ONE-WAY SYSTEM FOR STRATHBUNGO

Following consultation with the Strathbungo Society committee and its members at two public meetings, Glasgow City Council's Roads & Transportation Department has advised us that the original Route Action proposals for the area have been changed to accommodate a one-way system.

This was the compromise solution most favoured by residents who responded to the Society's poll during the summer.

'I am pleased to confirm that as a result of our discussions, I shall be replacing the proposal to close Regent's Park Square with a proposal to make Regent's Park Square, Marywood Square and Thorncliffe Gardens one way in an eastbound direction and Queen Square, Vennard Gardens and Carswell Gardens one way in a westbound direction,' said Operations Manager Edward Eden.

Mr Eden and his colleague Roderick McDougall outlined Queens' Park Route Action priorities at the Society's AGM in May and discussed local concerns with Strathbungo residents at an ad hoc meeting the following week. The one-way system was one of

several alternatives proposed in a questionnaire distributed in June by the Society to all households in the neighbourhood.

The Committee also conducted a survey in early summer to determine the volume of traffic locally during peak hours.

All Route Action proposals are still subject to detailed consultation although, barring further objections, they could be ready to go ahead in Strathbungo within 6-to-12 months, according to Mr McDougall. The original plans to close Nithsdale Road at Pollok-shaws Road and introduce a roundabout at the 'top' of Moray Place remain in effect.

Responding to concerns from shopkeepers in Victoria Road and residents from Queens Drive, the Roads Department has agreed not to ban right

turns from Queens Drive, as originally proposed, and this should reduce the expected volume of new traffic coming into Pollokshaws Road somewhat although levels could still be higher than at present, Mr McDougall said.

There are no plans as yet for 'sleeping policemen' to be

installed in the Strathbungo one-way system, however. 'In the first instance we are considering a table to raise the street to kerb height at each entrance to Strathbungo, which should be sufficient to discourage speeding,' he says.

SOME LIKE IT HOT!

if you're one of them join us for a
Caribbean Christmas

in the Glass House, Queen's Park
on Friday, December 6th

from 8 p.m. - midnight

with The Glasgow Caribbean Steel Band
calypso - limbo - ceilidh

Bar and tropical snacks!

SPECIAL FUN RAFFLE

in aid of a village
banana plantation

Tickets from any
committee member

£5.00



New Strathbungo Committee Named

Officers and committee members for 1996/97 were confirmed at the Strathbungo Society's AGM in May. They are: *Chairman* **Alex Connell**, 5 Marywood Square; *Secretary* **Liz Brown**, 24 Moray Place; *Treasurer* **Robert Lamont**, 53 Queen Square; **Brian Biggins**, 10 Marywood Square; **Kay Caldwell**, 44 Queen Square; **Mandy Cameron**, 35 Queen Square; **Laura Davie**, 57 Nithsdale Road; **John Devitt**, 50 Marywood Square; **Mike Greenwood**, 39 Moray Place; **Anne Hamilton**, 17 Moray Place; **Malcolm Maddox**, 27 Regent Park Square; **Nigel MacDonald**, 33 Queen Square; **Douglas Ritchie**, 24a Moray Place; **Mary Robert**, 48 Titwood Road; **Sharon Schweps**, 38 Queen Square; **Noreen Thompson**, 6 Marywood Square.



TOUGH ON THE CAUSES OF CRIME!

Police are offering residents in the city's southside detailed advice on how to prevent burglaries. Their newsletter, distributed to Neighbourhood Watch schemes, highlights security weak spots in every house - and gives tips to make them safer.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NUMBERS:

Police:

Emergency 999

Aikenhead Road 532 4900

Craigie Street 423 1113

If you see something suspicious, you can also contact NW Area Co-ordinator Anne Hamilton (423 7319) or your block co-ordinator (each responsible for his/her own street and the corresponding bit of Moray Place):

Jim Allison - 38 Regent Park Square, 423 1435

Bill Borland - 14 Vennard Gardens, 423 3256

Anne Binnie - 21 Queen Square, 423 7835

Sam R Wilson - 27 Carswell Gardens, 632 8312

Alison Paton - 36 Thorncliffe Gardens, 649 4115

Douglas Ritchie - (for Marywood Square) 24a Moray Place, 423 3408.

- Your doors - fit them with two 5-lever mortice deadlocks. Thieves don't like mortice locks as they can't be opened without a key. Even if a burglar gains access to your property by some other means, he won't be able to carry your things out through the door.
- Ground floor windows: fit locks to all ground floor windows, paying particular attention to the rear of the house, especially windows which are sheltered from sight by trees or walls. Three out of ten burglaries happen without force - the thief gaining entry through open windows or doors. Most DIY shops sell inexpensive key operated locks for windows. These are effective because, even if the glass is broken the window won't open. Few thieves can take the time to remove enough glass to gain entry.
- Upstairs windows: fit locks to any windows that can be reached via a drain pipe or flat roof. Drainpipes can be coated with anti-climb paint from a height of eight feet to prevent climbing.
- Sheds. Many people keep tools in the garden shed. Prevent these being used to gain entry to your house by fitting locks to the shed door and window.

Update on Lanes

Strathbungo's Intrepid Planning Committee Convenor Nigel MacDonald fights on in his mission to get our 'orphan' lanes adopted by the city, undaunted by Landwise's decision over the summer to withdraw from the project after running into funding difficulties.

'We've subsequently met with William Frame & Associates, a Glasgow-based surveying practice with extensive experience in civil engineering projects of this type, and they have given us good advice, both as regards the costs we're likely to encounter and avenues of possible financial assistance to explore,' Nigel says.

Projected costs are in excess of £500,000, including professional fees and VAT, to renovate the four cobbled lanes between Nithsdale Road and Vennard Gardens, plus the relevant cross sections at the back of Moray Place and Pollokshaws Road. Because the lanes are located in the conservation area of Strathbungo, they are subject to strict planning regulations and cannot simply be tarmac-ked over. It is thought that the most cost effective solution will be, relaying the setts, where possible,

and replacing them elsewhere with new cobbles.

Because of the architectural significance of the area, Frames have approached Historic Scotland and Scottish Heritage for funding, hoping to offset some of the costs. They expect a reply by the turn of the year although, even if we do get a positive response, work can only start when funds become available - certainly not before mid-to-late 1997.

The lanes in question are private, however, and it is ultimately the responsibility of the owners of the adjacent houses to maintain them. The Council will not 'adopt' them until they are brought up to an acceptable standard, which is obviously going to require a contribution from the owners.

The remainder of lanes in Strathbungo are owned and maintained by the City of Glasgow.



Strathbungo Needs YOU ...

... as a member of the Strathbungo Society. Close to 100 renewed their membership at our AGM in May - now it's the other ones we're after! Committee members & volunteer helpers will be going round the doors in the next week or so to sign up as many people as possible - £1 per household, and we reckon that's the biggest bargain in your family budget. Even more important, when you sign up you are being counted as an active supporter of the community you live in. In our last membership campaign - Autumn 1994 - we signed up just over 300 households out of a possible 700, and that really just represented the folk we found at home when our volunteers called. It is unlikely that any group in Glasgow has a higher percentage of support from its local community, and that gives us real credibility when we talk about the problems and issues facing Strathbungo to the Glasgow City Council and others who can make things happen. So when this handsome gentleman - our very own Brian Biggins - or some other Committee-person rings your bell, please join us!



UNSIGHTLY, UNSAFE UN SOUND!

Can you put an address to the B-listed Strathbungo property where this photograph was taken?

Here's a hint: this is one of 28 windows in two adjacent properties owned by the same commercial letting concern - and not one of them has seen a lick of paint or a dollop of mastic in at least 13 years ... any ideas?

The Strathbungo Society has received complaints from a number of local residents regarding the state of repair of these properties, and no wonder. The problem is not that they are bedsits, per se, but that the owners do not

seem to be prepared to take any responsibility for the health, safety or amenity of the residential surroundings in which they operate a highly lucrative commercial enterprise - except when compelled to do so by the local authority. Problems over the years have ranged from roof-top to rubbish-tip. So what's the answer? We've sent this photo to Glasgow City Council's Planning & Development Department for their comments. Watch this space.

TROPICAL TEMPERATURES FORECAST FOR DECEMBER!

This season's Strath-bungo event is a winter party with a difference! In the tropical climate of the glass house in Queen's Park, amidst rubber plants and banana trees, we will start the festive season off with a roll of a steel drum. Our entertainment will be provided by Glasgow's own Caribbean Steel Band - a troop of musicians from 12 years old to forty-plus! They will have us dancing, singing - and if you've not yet tried limbo dancing, here's your chance.

As usual, good food, good company and a good time with your neighbours for only £5 per person. Numbers are limited at the venue so please buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Just ask any committee member - phone numbers elsewhere in this newsletter.



GAVIN STAMP

Keeping Faith with the Past & Future

'The moment I heard it was on the market, I wanted to live nowhere else,' says Gavin Stamp, who moved to No 1 Moray Place with his family after arriving in Glasgow from London in 1990. Mr Stamp, a lecturer in architectural history at the Mackintosh School of Architecture, thus was retracing the steps of Alexander 'Greek' Thomson who lived at the same address from 1861 until his death in 1875.

The house brought with it a number of problems, however. 'So much had been neglected for so long. Also our immediate predecessors did some pretty awful things without consent - things which I would like to repair but can't afford to.' Mr Stamp identifies these twin problems of lack of money and general negligence as the threats faced by all the older buildings in Strathbungo and indeed Glasgow. 'Obviously things are better now than they were. For a while it seemed like this whole area was constantly under threat from comprehensive redevelopment or proposals for new roads.' But such dangers are never gone for long.

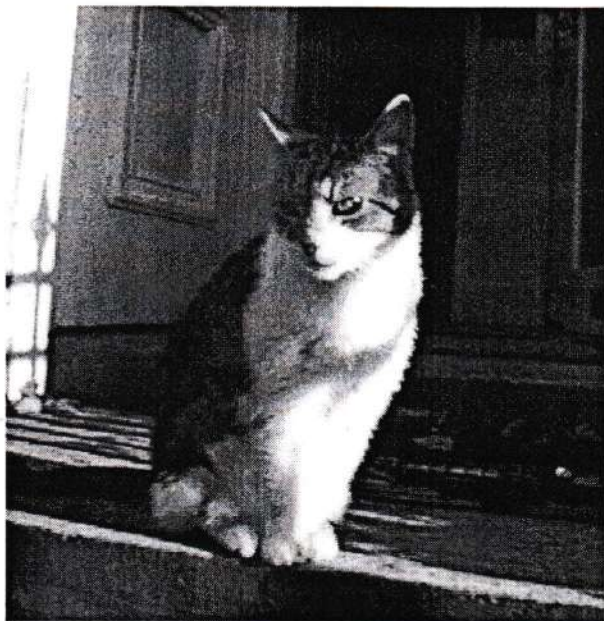
Consequently, Mr Stamp firmly supports the work of monitoring groups such as the Strathbungo Society. He feels, however, that a city-wide organisation is needed. 'I gather that the Glasgow West End Preservation Trust was originally intended to be for the whole of the city but nothing came of that plan. I get sick of the fact that all my colleagues live in the west end, thinking it's the centre of the world. I'm always telling them that this part of the south side is actually rather more complete and intact.' Given this comparative integrity, Mr Stamp believes it is up to the local community to ensure places like Strathbungo are safeguarded. 'We must continue to live here and, as far as possible, look after the buildings.'

Of course, as an eminent architectural historian and

founder of the Alexander Thomson Society, Mr Stamp's concern is guaranteed. What about the rest of us though? Why should we spend so much extra time and money maintaining troublesome old buildings? 'They're beautiful houses,' is the simple reply. Mr Stamp feels we all have a vested interest in helping Strathbungo retain its unique character. 'My neighbours don't live here because of 'Greek' Thomson. They live here because they love their houses and because this is a very good area.' Why, though, should people in the unlisted Gardens be so concerned with preservation as those who live in the listed Squares? 'In the end, that some buildings are listed isn't as important as the fact that most of Strathbungo is a conservation area and all of our stone-built terraces are valuable.'

As terrace dwellers, Mr Stamp believes we owe a responsibility to our neighbours, a responsibility which people in detached properties might not feel so markedly. He is particularly scathing on the issue of replacement windows and the discord caused by such 'improvements.' 'People must remember that architecture is a public art. If an individual chooses to wreck his house, it's not his business alone. Everybody else has to live with it. And nothing is more vulgar and unsightly than plastic windows.' For Gavin Stamp, the worst irony is that the life span of PVC windows is relatively short, whereas timber frames, when properly maintained, will last for centuries.'

Matthew Withey



PAWS FOR THOUGHT

If this rather charming creature looks a bit concerned about her future, here's why: she's a sweet-natured, healthy if fairly elderly grey/brown & white tabby, who's been lost in Strathbungo since at least 1st September. Did she stray or was she deserted? Do you recognise her?

S.N.A.P. Campaign for Young People

Aimed especially at young people the SNAP - *Say No And Phone* - campaign encourages them to say NO when offered drugs, but also to phone Crimestoppers to pass on information about dealers. All calls are anonymous and free.

The thinking behind the campaign - which is backed by all the leading drugs prevention agencies - is that dealers are often known to young buyers. The Crimestoppers scheme makes it

safe and easy for those who don't want to be a part of the drugs scene to help fight back. Anyone who has knowledge of any drug dealing or drug abuse activity in Strathbungo or elsewhere in the area can use one of the following numbers and leave a message on an answering machine.

Gorbals Drug Line:
429 6565

Castlemilk Drug Line:
634 1144.

COMMENTS PLEASE

The Strathbungo News is published quarterly by the Strathbungo Society.

Edited by Kay Caldwell & Sharon Schweps
Designed by Liz MacDonald

Our purpose is to keep you informed of the Society's activities, open up discussion on some of the broader issues concerning the area and provide a forum for expressing your ideas for making Strathbungo better. We welcome your comments and suggestions - please send letters to 38 Queen Square.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND-OR LOSE-A PET?

For a dog, contact the Police at F Division HQ in Aikenhead Road (532 4900). They collect stray dogs at the station and turn them over to the Scottish SPCA (882 1688) at the Cardonald Cat & Dog Home. The shelter will not take dogs directly from the public. After 7 days, unclaimed dogs can be adopted. Contrary to popular belief, they do NOT put animals down except in extreme circumstances and sometimes keep them for months. About 70% are successfully re-homed.

You can take stray cats directly to the Cardonald shelter, but they will not accept cats that are old or otherwise unlikely to be adopted. Cats are also not put down except as a last resort.

If you've lost a pet, go by the shelter or phone 882 1688 to see if it's been turned in.

The Cat Protection League (781 1976) also re-homes stray or unwanted cats and may be

able to match strays with owners.

Put up a card in local shops - newsagents/post offices that run commercial notice boards normally ask a small charge; others may put your card up for free as a public service - local good Samaritans include Evergreen, Barretts, Safeway, the Pet Shop and the PDSA.

You can advertise in the newspaper's lost & found columns, but it will cost you £18 (3 days in the Herald & Evening Times - 552 6255)

Or you can leaflet your neighbours - who knows, you just might get lucky.

But then again you might not, which brings us back to this lovely, well-behaved pussycat who's past the SPCA's sell-by date. Can you reunite her with her owner? Are you willing to give her a home yourself? If so, just ring 424 1896.

Over 120 local residents turned out for the Strathbungo Society AGM in May - many thanks to the Titwood Road Day Centre for allowing us to hold meetings there year round.

