

STRATHBUNGO Newsws



Spring 2006

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TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT: HAVE YOUR SAY

Shortly after publication of our last issue, representatives from the Strathbungo Society met with Robert Booth, director of Land Services for Glasgow City Council to discuss the area's traffic management problem.

"What we have sought to do is to provide our view of traffic and access issues that the neighbourhood faces and communicate these to the Department," said Strathbungo Society chairman, Kevin Kane. The aim is to consult with the wider community, possibly by way of a public meeting organised by the Strathbungo Society, to come to an agreed view of any works that may be required. Nothing is planned before the start of the next financial year but we'd love to hear your views. You can contact us directly, via the website or telephone. Alternatively, simply fill in the tick boxes below to indicate whether you support each proposal.

Discussion also touched on emergency access and recycling difficulties. We received a very positive response to our back lanes pilot proposal and hope to bring more news on that in our annual AGM.

We're keen that, as a community, we do the best we can to improve the situation for ourselves. With this in mind, please see our article regarding hedges and garden maintenance. If all the residents of Strathbungo took the time to manage overgrown hedges we could make a vast improvement to pedestrian access on the narrow pavements in the Squares.

Finally, the Society has been mindful throughout that it cannot be the sole representatives of the community. We need to know what you think. Please don't feel restricted to the answers suggested below. You might have better, more radical proposals. One resident has written up a radical idea for wholesale restructuring of some local streets to aid emergency vehicle access in this issue. Do you like it or loathe it?

You can let us know by letter, e-mail, a phone call, or visit our website: www.strathbungo.co.uk

In a draft discussion document between the Council and the society, the points being considered are:



20's plenty scheme

We had an unprecedented response to this issue from local residents. However, the advisory nature of the signage needs to be balanced with the visual impact of the number / position of road signs, road markings and any hard engineering.

- I support this. I disagree
 I am not concerned about this issue.

Road signage upgrading

The Society insisted that general upgrading is required, within an attempt to reduce any redundant signage. In particular, at No. 10 Moray Place the addition of a give-way road marking plus a painted road arrow to indicate the left turn and the refurbishment of "for

access only" signage at Moray Place lane at Regent Park Square to deter through traffic to Nithsdale Rd. roundabout.

- I support this. I disagree
 I am not concerned about this issue.

Proposed installation of conservation-standard lamps and white lighting

- I support this. I disagree
 I am not concerned about this issue.

Painted bays at Nithsdale Road

We feel there is a need for the upgrading of Nithsdale Road to include resurfacing, repair to the planters at the roundabout, introduction of painted bays and new road markings.

- I support this. I disagree
 I am not concerned about this issue.

Problems at the junction of Nithsdale Road / Nithsdale Street and back lanes

Residents have complained that 1 Moray Place, Samuel Dows and environs suffers from fly parking, loading and high traffic from the Back Lanes into Nithsdale Road. Double yellow lines or similar clear road markings are required here

and at all junctions where the Squares and Gardens meet Moray Place.

- I support this. I disagree
 I am not concerned about this issue.

Moray Place one-way restriction (between numbers 1 to 10)

This restriction is being ignored and a number of potentially dangerous incidents have occurred (including its use by a No. 38 City Sprinter bus!). Altering the road kerb line at the junction could frustrate this.

- I support this. I disagree
 I am not concerned about this issue.

Closure of lanes at Regent Park Square and Nithsdale Road

Substantial amounts of through traffic use the lanes to access Nithsdale Road. To restrict this, the society suggested some lane closures. They are not extensive. "The aim is to allow resident and service access, while restricting rat running." says Kane.

- I support this. I disagree
 I am not concerned about this issue.

Return completed forms to Laura Jones, Editor, G/L 33 Nithsdale Rd, Glasgow G41 2AL or drop it in at the Coffee Break on 18th March. See back page for details.

A WAY FORWARD FOR FIREFIGHTING?

Over the last few years and most recently at Christmas, fire crews have had difficulty in accessing Strathbungo. Luckily, these fires were minor and were able to be extinguished using hand-held equipment. However, the fire brigade have highlighted that they are unable to guarantee access for major fires. The City Council are looking for us as a community to agree a strategy that allows fire access while minimising the reduction in parking spaces.

These sketches highlight the existing conditions in Marywood Sq and Regent Park Sq, demonstrating that there is just enough room for cars and vans but reduced access for wider vehicles and fire engines.

There is no easy solution to these problems, but two options are outlined which will address fire engine access, while minimising the reduction in parking spaces.

The temporary option that could be adopted instantly, and at little cost, would entail one side of each street to start parking on the pavement. This would increase the road width to approx 3.5m

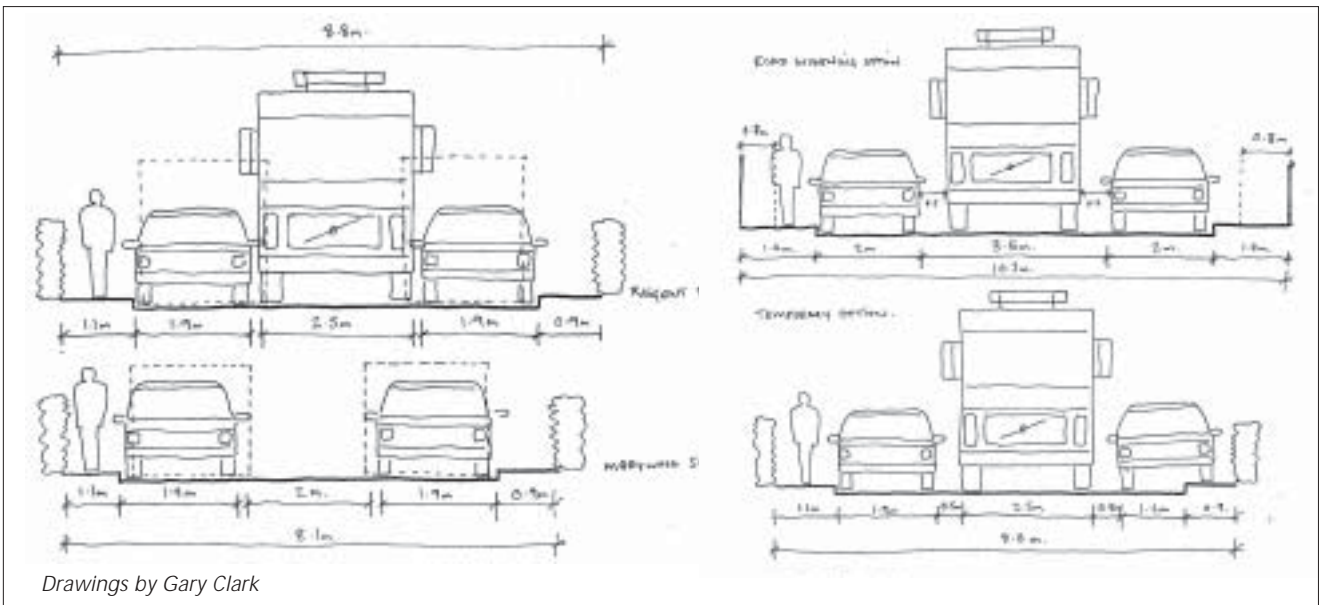
which would then allow access. This option would mean losing 12-14 of the 80 or so spaces per street and restricting pedestrian access. Parking bays could be painted on the street to ensure cars are parked efficiently.

A longer-term solution would require the square's roads to be widened by 1.6-2.2m. As well as being costly and disruptive, a 1m wide (3ft) strip of land would have to be given by all households to create a new footpath.

This option however has a number of advantages:

- It provides 3.5m wide roads for fire and removal van access.
- It provides wider footpaths.
- It does not reduce the amount of parking spaces.

Raised crossings could be added to enhance pedestrian safety and reduce traffic speeds. See www.strathbungo.co.uk to put forward alternative suggestions to the society. The Society plans to hold a public meeting with the City Council to agree the way forward. Clearly, we need to act soon and together if we are to avoid the risk of fatal fires within our community.



CAMPHILL AVENUE RESIDENTS SHOW THE WAY

Residents of Camphill Avenue in Langside are regenerating their woodland and its historic iron fencing.

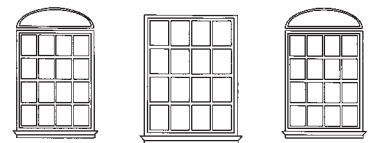
Three years ago, members of the Strathbungo Society were invited to speak to the newly-formed Camphill Avenue Residents Association (CARA) about the work to upgrade the Back Lanes and the staging of community events. Since then, CARA has held a Camphill 'Olympics' in Queens Park, a summer street party and a Winter Ceilidh.

Their most important project was to upgrade the deteriorating railings around the overgrown former pleasure gardens. Despite the area not benefiting from conservation area status, residents have been able to access over £45,000 of public funding and matched it with contributions from residents via their factors. The result? Regenerated urban woodland, a woodland walkway and the restoration of the existing, badly corroded Art Nouveau railings.

RESTORING STRATHBUNGO'S RAILINGS

The Council offers up to 50% of the capital cost to reinstate historic railings in conservation areas. Surely an opportunity exists to bring residents together reinstate historic railings. What were Strathbungo's original railings like? We'll tell you all you need to know in the next issue. Meanwhile, if you and your neighbours are interested in investigating this opportunity further, contact the Society via the Editor or the website, www.strathbungo.co.uk

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HEDGING, YOUR BEST

Pedestrians, particularly those with small children or prams to push, have been fighting a losing battle with the greenery shrouding Strathbungo's pavements.

Simply by taking hedges in hand, residents can increase the space available to pedestrians, improve the appearance of the neighbourhood, and grow healthier hedges.

You should trim evergreen hedges in late spring and again in late summer (though if you have a yew hedge, it only needs a summer trim). This promotes dense, bushy growth, which is essential because new shoots seldom break from older wood.

Hedge trimmers and shears are fine for more formal evergreen hedges, but they tear hedges with larger, glossy leaves, leaving the hedge looking ragged. A better choice for such hedges is to use secateurs and cut back to within the hedge canopy to disguise the cut. The same applies to holly hedges.

Deciduous hedges also require two trimmings a year, though you should do so when they are dormant and in midsummer. You can use trimmers or shears on this type of hedge.

If you have a hedge that you wish to renovate, do so over two years. The first year, cut one side back almost to the main stem and trim the other side as normal. This will promote strong growth on the side you cut back hard, while not taxing the plant too much. The next year, cut back the other side hard, while trimming the new growth on the opposite side as normal.

Hedges of all types benefit from an annual feed and mulch in the spring. This promotes strong, even growth.

If you're having difficulty maintaining your hedge, contact Laura Mackay on 0141 423 0182 and we'll arrange for a team of volunteers to take your hedge in hand in return for a donation to the Society



BIN AND GONE?

Midge-raking, the opening of bin bags put out for collections, is experiencing a revival in Strathbungo.

This activity is not just a nuisance, causing litter to spread, but can lead to problems with identity theft and fraud. Here's what you can do to help:

Be careful what you throw out. Anything with your name and address or other personal details should be burnt or shredded.

Recycle where possible. The council's big green recycling bins take glass; the blue recycling bins take high-quality plastics, tins and paper.

If you produce an unusual amount of rubbish (but that's not too bulky), you can arrange for a special one-off collection by calling the depot on 429 4532.

Any bulky items should be left outside the front of your property before 11 am on Tuesday. Try not to put items out too far in advance as neatly arranged piles do tend to be disturbed. If your items are not collected, call 287 9700

If you want to get your bin back, make sure it has the number painted on it and your lane gate also bears the total number of bins that belong there.

NEW BUSINESS

Strathbungo's retail regeneration has continued into 2006 with the opening of two new businesses in Nithsdale Road.

1901 Bar And Brasserie is a familiar name in the area as they have kindly provided the bar at Bungo In The Back Lanes for the last seven years. The bar in Nithsdale Road is their third site, following the opening of their deli in Shawlands last year. They have big plans for the future of the former Fotheringay and Horseshoe Bar and have generously offered to host Strathbungo Society meetings on the third Monday of each month.

Maxine Paton Hair Design opened shortly before Christmas and has been buzzing with activity ever since. There's also a great little beauty salon downstairs, Source, which is offering readers of the Strathbungo News a 50% discount this month when they introduce a friend.

We wish both ventures good luck!

SOURCE 
BEAUTY | NAILS | HOLISTICS

@ Maxine Paton Hair & Beauty Salon

14 Nithsdale Road, Glasgow G41 2AN.

Telephone 0141 424 3518

Introduce a friend and you'll both receive 50% off any chosen treatment with this voucher.

Offer Ends 31st March

Remedy 
delicatessen cafe

731 Pollokshaws Rd - 423 9181

We offer a fine selection of Continental cheeses and meats as well a large variety of produce from sauces and casseroles to biscuits and hand wrapped panetone.

Fresh meals and local quality products available every day to sit-in or take away.

Spring Special

Easter & Mother's Day hampers are made to order and given individual presentation - choose your own contents or give us a price and we do it for you.

Party Platters, for home or work, are also made to order - 48 hours notice please.

Open every day, late on Thursday and Friday.

TALKBACK

The Strathbungo Society welcomes letters of up to 200 words - send them to 'Laura Jones, G/L 33 Nithsdale Rd, Glasgow G41 2AE' or email letters@strathbungo.co.uk.

To The Editor

How about a campaign to the council to clean up Queen Sq, We are trailing muck from the steets to our houses as they are not lifting what they sweep. I have seen cleaner farm roads.

M Hunter, Queen Square

To The Editor

The roads in the area are in quite a mess from the winter, and presumably can never be properly cleaned because of parked cars. Is there a possibility that the Council might take the opportunity afforded by the January closures for water repairs to give

each of the Squares and Avenues a good clean before allowing traffic back in?

As a council tax payer, it seems wrong that we miss out on this part of the services for which we pay, and this would appear to be an ideal opportunity (with a little bit of inter-agency co-operation).

Graham McLaughlin

Editor - We are aware the Council did indeed take this excellent opportunity when Marywood Square and Nithsdale Rd were closed. We hope that by following the simple tips on hedge maintenance and refuse collection these streets will be kept in good order for some time to come.

To The Editor

Did I read somewhere that a group of people in Strathbungo who are self-employed/work from home meet up sometimes?

Pauline Banks

Editor - There was, indeed, a home workers group but it seems to have lain dormant for some time. Does it still exist? Or do you want to set one up? If so, let us know and we'll advertise it, for free, via this newsletter and the website.



If you live in the Gardens - Vennard, Thorncliffe or Carswell - and are looking for something a bit different, then the Strathbungo Society Committee has an opportunity. It wants to recruit some new Gardens members.

The Strathbungo Society Committee meets on the third Monday of the month at 7.30pm. It provides an overview of the work of various sub-groups (eg Back Lanes Pilot, Communications (Newsletter and website) and Events) and it's important that the Committee reflects issues right across the neighbourhood.

So if you're interested in getting a bit more involved and you live in the Gardens, then contact the Secretary, Laura Jones at (0141 433 9238) and let her know. It's a great way to get involved and meet new folk as well.

The BUNGO Coffee Break

Sat 18 March
11am - 1pm

**Queens Park
Church of Scotland
180 Queens Drive**

SAVE THE DATE

**Strathbungo Society AGM -
Monday 5th June 2006**

**Bungo In The Back Lanes -
Saturday 17th June 2006**

STRATHBUNGO News

Published by
The Strathbungo Society;

Edited by Laura Jones

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Design & Layout by Liz Macdonald.

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of general interest to:

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Glasgow G41 2AE**

or email news@strathbungo.co.uk

SPRING STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY

A new year, a new venue. The new 1901 Bar on Nithsdale Rd has agreed to provide a regular venue for Strathbungo Society meetings. This gives us our first permanent home for years and we hope this will mean more people can attend meetings.

The dates to jot down on your Strathbungo calendar are:



20th March

17th April

15th May

19th June (TBC)

17th July (TBC)

21st August

18th September

16th October

20th November

18th December

All are welcome to turn up on the evening; meetings commence from 7.30pm.

However, if you're attending to discuss a specific issue, or would like an agenda or previous minutes in advance, contact the Secretary: Laura Jones, G/L, 33 Nithsdale Rd, G41 2AL, 0141 433 9238, laura.jones.01@redbeemedia.com.