STRATHBUNGO NEWS

The Strathbungo Society
A quarterly newsletter

AUTUMN 2025

THE STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY AGM

4th November 2025, 7.30pm @ Queen's Park Church Hall, 170 Queen's Drive

Come and hear what we're up to, have your say, partake of refreshments, join in!

Tuesday 4th November @ 7.30pm - It's that time of year again, when The Society welcomes you to our AGM at **Queens Park Church Hall**. Whether new to the neighbourhood or a seasoned regular, come and hear about the latest goings on in Strathbungo, the work of the Society, our events, and the challenges we face.

As always, roads and bins guarantee a good turnout, and this is true this year more than any other; there are changes afoot, the like of which we haven't seen since we got our one-way system many years ago.

The council plans a residents' parking permit scheme, a huge reduction in parking spaces (parking on one side only) and on-street bin hubs. Frustratingly, the council's consultation was due in August, but is overdue and still not available as we go to press. Who knows if it will appear in time for the AGM?

Regardless, the Society will explain what we do know at the AGM, present the results of our own community survey that we conducted in the summer, and suggest alternative approaches. You can't afford to miss it.

For more info, see the parking article over the page.

Meanwhile, we continue with our other work, including organising those big events like Bungo at the Bells on Hogmanay, Window Wanderland in March, and the grand day out that is Bungo in the Back Lanes in June.

We are always looking for new blood to help us out and welcome anyone who can lend a hand; useful skills include event organising and planning, newsletter production, website and social media skills, planning expertise, ideas for new events, historical research and general hard labour (well, litter picking, putting up gazebos & the like).

You can contribute as much or as little as you like. And if you want to delve deeper, join the committee or put yourself up for one of the elected posts.

The Society has been going for well over 50 years now, but has continuously evolved with the times. It goes wherever its members feel like taking it, so if you want us to go somewhere new, come and join us with your ideas.

Refreshments will be available on the night. See you there!

PARKING AND BINS

What we know so far

Councillor Jon Molyneux was the first to warn us of what is coming our way. The council faces three issues in Strathbungo, namely the need to implement the pavement parking legislation, the desire to expand use of controlled parking schemes, and the difficulties collecting refuse in Strathbungo. They are planning wholesale changes to our roads to deal with these issues.

Pavement parking

We can be our own worst enemy sometimes, and the pavement parking legislation is long overdue. It's fascinating how we get so used to it, we barely notice when we are walking in main roads because cars have taken over our pavements, blocked gates, dropped kerbs and obscured sightlines at junctions. But Strathbungo poses special problems, with pavements already too narrow even before anyone parks on them. It's no wonder most Strathbungo residents walk in the roadway. Yet park off the pavements, and fire engines and refuse lorries get stuck. The council's solution is to reduce parking to marked bays on one side of the road, halving parking spaces overnight. But this will also result in wider roads and higher speeds, inches from that narrow pavement you are walking along. All to make you feel safer. Is there a better way?

Resident's parking scheme

Expansion of these schemes is council policy, and we are unlikely to avert this. Changes to pricing mean a permit will cost around £80, but will increase significantly for second and subsequent, or more polluting, vehicles. While some car owners will oppose this, others welcome the pressure it places on excessive car ownership. And if we decline a scheme, we may be inundated by cars from adjoining areas.

However combining a permit scheme with a 50% reduction in spaces would be unacceptable to most. It raises issues for car sharers, your visitors and workers, etc, and will likely result in a massive increase in the conversion of front gardens to parking in the Gardens, something that raises major aesthetic and environmental concerns for others.

Street bin hubs

The council has particular issue accessing the lanes between Nithsdale Road and Queens Square, and are considering on-street bin hubs there instead. After a cleaner sustained a significant injury in a lane, they are obliged to look at alternatives. We're not sure if bins could work or what the alternatives are, but give it some thought before the AGM.

Engagement

After initial reluctance and subsequent pressure from Cllr Molyneux, two council planners agreed to meet Society representatives and give us a sneak preview of their plans. We took the opportunity to explain some of the specific issues facing Strathbungo and asked them to look at other approaches. However, we are yet to see the final proposal.

So what next?

The Society undertook a survey in the summer, with 200 responses, and we will present the results at the AGM, and then on Bungoblog. One possible solution is a "Home Zone", for which a legal framework exists, whereby pedestrians have priority in the roadway, while cars can park in marked bays on the pavements, gateways excepted. This would lead to fewer spaces lost, yet prevent blocking of gates, maintain low vehicle speeds, and give legal backing to what is the normal behaviour round here anyway; walking in the road.

The council seem reluctant to consider this on safety grounds, but we believe this is safer than their alternative proposal. We suspect we may have a battle on our hands.

Do you support our approach? Do you have concerns, such as around disability issues? We are keen to hear from you, either way, so come to the AGM or get in touch.

AM I REALLY IN LOVE WITH MY CAR?

Fiona MacKinnon describes an alternative approach

Letting go of the apparent free and easy feeling of owning a car might seem impossible. We can tell you it's not a decision we regret.

We have used our car to visit family in the north of Scotland, for holidays, the big shop or trips to Polmadie to unburden ourselves of stuff. A few years ago, the car started to be unreliable. The last straw was a scary breakdown on the Kingston Bridge.

Months of investigating electric cars left us undecided, concerned about cost and with no driveway, how to charge it safely. Final realisation? The car sat doing nothing most of the time but still cost us money.

Sometimes maths will help make your decision, so we counted up the real cost of owning and running our car. A shocking total! Just the basics of fuel, servicing, insurance and tax are hefty.

Next, we calculated how much it would cost to NOT have a car. We knew roughly how many times we drove long-distance for holidays or visiting family and friends, how often we made a trip for a "big shop", and added those times when a car really is a must.

Access to a car (or a van) only when you need it meant joining Co-Wheels for local trips for a couple of hours to do shopping, and then a standard hire car for a two-week holiday. It may seem expensive at first, but is actually cheaper than owning a car. So the car went.

One of the unexpected benefits is the lifting of a mental burden about your car. Where is it parked? Has a wing mirror been pinged off? It is also undoubtedly environmentally better not to have a personal car, which should give you a warm glow.

Public transport can be a tough sell to car owners. Good news for those who've not been on a bus for years, you no longer need a paper timetable or have the right change! Everything can be done on your phone. Apps for bus and train offer a route and online tickets in seconds. Also check out the various discount schemes or even get free transport - for under 22s or over 60s, for example.

Once you do your initial searching for how to get from A to B, it becomes second nature to know which bus goes where and get live updates. Same with trains.

I am not starry-eyed about public transport. There will be cancellations and delays or annoying not-spots where you can't quite get there easily. We don't regret getting rid of the car but are lucky to live in a very well-connected area with loads of public transport options, and we save money.

Remember you don't have to renounce cars entirely. You can always rent one for an hour or a week when you need it. A bonus – you will get fitter!

EV CHARGING

Louise Brimelow has news

Our streets also pose a problem for charging electric vehicles. In the absence of locally accessible and affordable public charging points, some residents are now charging their vehicles on the street with cables crossing the pavement.

Last December, the Department for Transport introduced grants to help with "cross pavement charging solutions". However, these raise issues including liability for accidents, responsibility for maintenance, impact on utilities below the pavement, standards for the work and the potential for disputes if neighbours park over their charging points. The good news is that a Scotland-wide working group, which includes Transport Scotland and staff from all local authorities, is due to issue guidance at the end of November.

While it is not clear how quickly Glasgow City Council will put in place procedures to implement this, in theory, a cross-Scotland framework should enable those who have been charging their EV with cables across the pavement to put in the appropriate infrastructure to make that safe. With private overnight electricity tariffs a tenth of the price of some public charge points, it should also make EVs more affordable to the 40% of Scottish households with no access to off-street parking. Watch this space.

TITWOOD ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Planning application now live

Westpoint Homes' planning application for the old Crossmyloof Resource Centre went live on Glasgow's planning portal on 22 September (www.glasgow.gov.uk/onlineplanning, search for Titwood Road). Below are excerpts from the documents, including the Titwood Road elevation and a site plan.

They propose three blocks on the site, the two larger being of six storeys, while the block closer to Carswell Gardens is reduced to four. The blocks are positioned to avoid the Shieldhall Tunnel, which passes directly beneath the site (purple on the plan).

The previously proposed active travel route through the site is not included in the plans, but could easily be accommodated, according to the developer. However, feedback from Carswell Gardens residents has been guarded due to security & nuisance concerns, and their support is important for the project to move forward.

Westpoint are also the developer of the old Arnold Clark servicing centre on Nithsdale Drive. The plans by Page/Park include a payment of £92k to the council in lieu of missing on-site facilities, and the Society will be pursuing the council to identify where this will be spent - one hopes it will be used locally.

BYE BYE BUNGO - TIME FOR TABACS

A new chapter begins

After more than a decade as a much-loved gathering spot in Strathbungo, The Bungo is set for a fresh start. The bar-café and restaurant, a staple of Nithsdale Road since its opening in 2011, has recently changed hands, with the new owners planning a full renovation to breathe new life into this familiar neighbourhood favourite.

From its early days, locals have known it for its welcoming atmosphere; weekend brunches, relaxed dinners, quiz nights and home to the Strathbungo Society's monthly meetings. It has long been a place where families, young professionals, visitors and dogs can all feel at home.

The recent sale marks the end of an era for its founding management, but it comes with exciting potential. New owner, Marco Lazzurri, who owns many city centre bars and restaurants, including The Last Bookstore, Saints of Ingram and Lucky Strike, will name this new bar Tabacs; the Spanish version of Tabac. He has already started refurbishment of the bar to make it feel more modern and open-plan.

For Strathbungo, The Bungo has been more than just a place to eat and drink—it's been part of the social fabric. But renovation also offers opportunity: updated décor, Spanish-inspired menus, and a new energy can draw in more people and hopefully Tabacs will mean as much to the community. What happens to our committee meetings, and the Bungo's popular Bungo in the Back Lanes bar remains to be seen.

GUERILLA GARDENING

Imelda Devlin plans a host of golden daffodils

At a recent Strathbungo Society meeting, we agreed to allocate some funding to brighten up this patch of grass on Nithsdale Road, regardless of actual ownership or responsibility.

So before autumn turns to winter and the ground becomes too hard to work, an enthusiastic bunch of volunteers is getting together for a flurry of planting daffodil bulbs for a springtime burst of colour.

Longer term, we will look at funding the stonework repairs (any volunteers?) and consider how best to landscape the ground: small shrubs, perennials and herbs could offer a low-maintenance solution for year-round interest.

Imelda is co-ordinating through the Strathbungo WhatsApp Eco Group. Want to be involved? Use the QR code to join.

She is also planning the next BrighterBungo clean up - it's on Sat 1st November, 11am.

Strathbungo made its own contribution to Glasgow's Doors Open Days Festival this year.

The owners of 1 Moray Place (1859-60) and the Double Villa in Langside (1856-57) generously allowed very rare opportunities to visit their homes to mark the 150th anniversary of Thomson's death. Timed tickets sold out within 24 hours of availability to enthusiasts from across southern Scotland and northern England.

At 1 Moray Place, Thomson's own home, visitors included Thomson fans, practising architects and students, and locals with memories of when Dr Kennedy had his GP surgery there. Helping Andrew and Charlotte manage the non-stop flow was a team of knowledgeable friends, Dominic d'Angelo, chair of the Alexander Thomson Society, and two excellent volunteers from Glasgow Doors Open Days itself. We hope these successful events will encourage others to join in in future years.

Also sold out were two guided tours by Andrew Downie of Bygone Bungo, introducing visitors to the history of Strathbungo, its Victorian development, and some of the curious local residents, from the inventor of the waxed cotton jacket, through Charles Rennie Mackintosh, to James Bond's "Q". Thanks to support from Cameron and Laura from South Glasgow Heritage & Environment Trust (SGHET).

We plan further walks in the spring - follow SGHET or BygoneBungo on Bluesky or Facebook for updates.

Remember Network Rail's promise that the depot opposite Moray Place was only temporary while electrification is completed? How the site would be restored, the wall rebuilt? Well, it's still there, noisy at night, and ugly, and now being used for track renewal at Pollokshields West.

After complaints, NR recently replied "We understand the activity has caused some disruption...The works involve several departments along with external contractors, and are part of a series of snagging tasks required to finalise the project.

"...a number of these works are now complete, and the site is scheduled to be fully demobilised at the end of this month [September]. We've reminded all teams to be mindful of noise levels and to minimise disturbance wherever possible. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we complete these final stages."

Well, it's October now, and we have been notified of another month's work. Who knows?

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Would you like to get involved? Please reach out if you have a story idea or creative piece to feature in our next issue.

If you're interested in contributing, please send your story to news@strathbungo.co.uk with your name and contact information.

Advertising enquiries welcome.