

Friends of Glasgow West - Byres Road Improvement Group

Update, 15 October 2012



Byres Road Placemaking Consultation

GCC DRS has just indicated that progress is likely to be delayed by a few weeks. FGW is concerned lest there is a resultant “cooling off” in the considerable enthusiasm this consultation has created in the local community; we’re also concerned that delay may disadvantage other players, eg Glasgow University, who have their own particular planning needs.

FGW has therefore written to GCC to request Deryck Irving’s *Draft Outcomes Report* is made available prior to the *Technical Services* meeting, to allow us to start digesting the contents.

At a more strategic level, we also note with concern that on-going retirement of experienced staff is placing an increasing burden on those who remain, and we are concerned about the effect this will have on the Council in general, and on Development and Regeneration Services in particular.

Some news in brief

Glasgow Air Quality - CARBOTRAF

A report to GCC’s Sustainability & the Environment Development Committee noted Glasgow’s participation in this European project to research ways to reduce traffic-generated air-pollution .

A simultaneous report by the European Environment Agency ranks Glasgow among the bottom 5 European cities for air quality, particularly from airborne particulate matter - with associated risks for human health.

Air Quality Monitoring Areas (AQMAs)

Byres Road / Dumbarton Road, the City Centre, Parkhead Cross and Shawlands Cross all currently fail to meet national air quality standards. We hope the Placemaking Consultation will provide an opportunity to address this problem in the West End.

European Green Capital

Glasgow is bidding to be the first UK city to be awarded this title in 2015 - outcome to be announced mid-2013.

Stalled Spaces Project

This GCC project has won 1st prize in the Community Involvement category at the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning (SAQP)

City Regeneration Developments

Ministerial approval has been given for the Buchanan Quarter Tax Increment Finance Initiative which should enable GCC to progress the Buchanan Galleries expansion scheme.

A Design Competition for a new look for George Square has just been launched.

Shawlands Cross and Waverley Park Consultation Appraisal public consultation has been announced - closing date 2nd November 2012.

Calton Barras Action Plan - GCC has approved 5 year funding to implement this scheme.

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