

Responses to FGW BRIG Statement From Local Elected Members and Community Councils Spring 2012

Ann McKechin MP Many thanks for the information on this new group – more than happy to support your efforts and I look forward to hearing from you further.

Sandra White Constituency MSP The formation of the Byres Road Improvement Group is an excellent idea and I am more than happy to support the group in the future.

- a) I am particularly interested in the creation of a formally constituted Byres Road Business Association. I have already approached various businesses at the foot of Byres Road and Dumbarton Road - they certainly seem keen to set up a formal association.
- b) I look forward to receiving an invitation to FGW BRIG's public launch.

Drew Smith Glasgow List MSP I would be grateful to be kept informed of your initiative.

Councillor Martha Wardrop (Hillhead Ward) Thanks for all your work to support Byres Road.

- a) Problem of overflowing bins and not enough bins to keep the street litter free. There is a need for a repair and investment programme to ensure that all bins provided by the Council are in good condition, fit for purpose and designed in keeping with the conservation area.
- b) Commercial bins are reported as overflowing and causing obstruction to pedestrians. A strategy to support businesses in the storage and management of their bins including recycling facilities which are required by law in early 2013 are required.
- c) Uneven paving and poorly maintained pavements are ongoing concern. Repairs have been completed to some sections in the last three months. There is a desire to have high quality pavement provision similar to what has been achieved in the Merchant City.
- d) The need to improve air quality and prevent vehicle idling is a priority. This requires partnership working by all concerned residents, businesses, public agencies, bus operators, taxi drivers, delivery lorry firms, and car drivers.
- e) Investment in Hillhead Library and Hillhead Subway Station to be connected via poetry, murals, arts and literature promotions. Glasgow Life and SPT could do more to support west end culture especially writers and poets. There is a need to ensure the refurbishment of the Hillhead Library includes a lift so the toilets and upstairs facilities are fully accessible to the public.
- f) Support is needed for Class 1 retail outlets to retain mixed high street shopping experience. There is now an overprovision of Class 3 premises. A strategy to promote good quality independent shops selling household goods and clothing is needed and efforts focused on preventing more coffee shops and take away outlets is required.
- g) Could planters and trees be considered for Vinicombe Street.
- h) Support for restoration of Botanic Gardens Garage has to be kept on the agenda. I am willing to work with Friends of Glasgow West on this.
- i) Retaining stewards at taxi rank and dedicated community policing is also vital as part of efforts to prevent late night anti-social behaviour from pubs and clubs.

Councillor Ken Andrew (Hillhead Ward) This will I'm sure become a very worthwhile group; more than happy to give as much support as I can.

Councillor Christopher Mason (Partick West Ward) I wish you every success. I'll be retired by the time you launch, but I am sure the next batch of Councillors will wish to be involved.

Jim McNeil, Partick Community Council Count Partick Community Council in!

- a) Get potential new GCC Councillors to fix the pavements and road as priority if elected if not already in their election material also make claim forms and register available for trip accidents on broken pavements and potholes.

Jean Charsley Hillhead Community Council I support this group wholeheartedly. We have been making the case for an improvement of Byres Road for years, without much effect. Frankly I am astonished that it won any award at all in its present state.

- a) It seems that the council and our MSPs are thinking of adding pavement poems in places where the footfall is so high that if anyone stops to read them they will cause a major blockage or be trampled underfoot. (This is not an argument against poems in Byres Rd)
 - a. The quality of the streetscape is exceedingly poor:
 - b. Pavement materials and quality
 - c. Poor and excessive signage
 - d. Imbalance of shops / entertainment
 - e. Loss of amenity for residents
 - f. Poor shop fronts
 - g. Rubbish and commercial uplifts
- b) Even the classification as a town centre Tier 2 has had an unprecedented ill effect on Byres Road. Planners appear to think that the instruction that town centres are the suitable places for various kinds of late night entertainment means that they should be granted. The policy does not actually say that. There is to be a study of the health of the shopping area.
- c) Shall be glad to add to the list.

Jill Ferguson Partick Community Council Had your 'vision' / 'idea' forwarded by Jim McNeil

- a) Although I do like it there are a number of other players which it would also help to have on board, eg Community Police & Community Fire Service.
- b) Shop / retail rental costs have a big role to play in influencing stability, choice and diversity. A cap on them in the short term would be a huge hurdle to get over, would make the difference of aiding shaky trade, reducing empty units or more charity shops which as you know are exempt of rentals.
- c) Late night alcohol licensed premises and potential for drunken behaviour lowers the tone of the area.
- d) Ensuring Community Cops regularly engage with pub landlords & bouncers to cut down on excessive drinking especially at weekends
- e) The biodiversity of Hillhead / Byres Road is as much about the people that use, live, work, study and socialise there.

Niall Walker, Dowanhill, Hyndland and Kelvinside Community Council

- a) Byres Road is scruffy and polluted.
- b) Air quality is still deteriorating and is now worse than the city centre. It affects the health of us all.
- c) It ought to be pedestrianised, like the city centre, this makes for a much more pleasant experience.
- d) In Buchanan St (Scotland's most successful retail street) good quality paving adds to the atmosphere.

Maire Kennedy, Dowanhill, Hyndland and Kelvinside Community Council

Most of my points (Class 1 outlets; Paving; Car idling....) are already made by others.

- a) A permanent community (as in the past) would help dramatically to achieve much of the above.
- b) Property would be looked after, and kept in good condition.
- c) Shops that served the resident community would be opened...this is not helped by the high percentage of transient young people living in the area.

Stuart Curran, Dowanhill, Hyndland and Kelvinside Community Council

Create a "special area" people would have more respect for – a much needed "cared for" feel to the place.

- a) Merchant City style paving, and even road paving such as in Wilson Street, is very much required
- b) Quality street furniture.