

Cathcart and District Community Council

Chair's Annual Report 23-24

Introduction

I am pleased to present the annual report for 2023-24. Our second full year of operation since reinstating the Community Council has seen some fantastic achievements and reflects amazing efforts by people across our community. I am sorry that due to a work commitment, I cannot be there in person to present this report, and I thank our Vice Chair Louisa Maddison for doing so.

Key events

- We continued our efforts to protect the Couper Library, meeting Alana Ward, Head of Libraries and Communities at Glasgow Life, in May. Alana reassured us that there are no imminent budget threats to the library, and that visitor numbers are strong.
- We secured funding support from Scotrail to site a mural at Cathcart Station, and appointed two artists following a thorough shortlisting process. We are now awaiting final permissions from Scotrail and Network Rail.
- We held our first ever Window Wanderland, with over 100 people taking part
- We launched our Micro Talks series as part of our aim to increase footfall at the Couper Library - this has been a hugely popular event, spearheaded by the ever-energetic Tommy Petillo
- We kept up our work to replace the pitch at Merrylee Primary, which is used by OLA and many other groups. Led by Ross Taylor, we met Council representatives alongside Parent Council members and are now seeking a funding source to replace the pitch.
- We continued supporting Friends of Linn Park to reopen the Linn Park Snuff Mill entrance, and were delighted that they succeeded in securing the necessary funding, in part through our Area Partnership representative Mhairi Taylor arguing strongly for this project
- We campaigned for Scotrail to restore the Cathcart circle service to four times an hour, and were pleased when this occurred in May
- We worked with neighbouring Community Councils to hold a hustings prior to the election
- We worked with our new MP to urge the Ministry for Transport to award the necessary funding to improve Cathcart Station's accessibility
- We held the first ever Cathcart District Festival, with nineteen events taking place across August.
- We ran a very successful Doors Open Day event at the Couper Institute, attracting around 140 visitors, as part of our efforts to protect and revive this important venue. Thanks to Yla Barrie and Yvonne McCann for their excellent efforts in this endeavour.
- We funded a leaflet informing parents of the car-free zone's operating times. This was designed by children at Fun Lodge after-school club and was distributed to all P1 children at OLA and Merrylee, and to children at Limetree nursery school.

I would like to thank all of the Community Councillors who have participated in this exciting year. In particular, I would like to welcome Yla Barrie and Ross Taylor, who were elected during the year. I also offer thanks to Kenny Boyle, who stands down at this AGM and has been a capable and reliable member of the Community Council for the last two years. And I

thank local resident Sally Packer, who has led many of this year's events, most notably Window Wanderland.

I would also like to thank all of the current office-bearers. Louisa Maddison, as both Vice-Chair and Planning Lead, plays a key role in keeping our community informed of planning developments. Lynn Thomson is a diligent Treasurer and also makes a huge contribution to our community through regular litter-picks. Mhairi Taylor devotes many hours to ensuring our community benefits from our Area Partnership, and Steven McCann acts as both Licensing Lead and unofficial technical guru in running the online element of our meetings.

My thanks also to Audrey Cameron, who acted as our secretary for part of this year. I hope we can fill this essential role soon, and would urge anyone possessed of strong administrative skills to get in touch.

Thanks, too, to Derrick Watson and all the team at Cathcart Baptist Church, for whom nothing is too much trouble. We send our thoughts and good wishes to one of the team at the church, Cara Wightman, whose family has been deeply affected by illness this year.

And finally, thanks to all of the residents of Cathcart, Muirend and Merrylee who have taken part in the Community Council's activities, whether by attending meetings in person or online, engaging with us on social media, attending events or in any other way. The people of this community are its greatest asset, and I am very proud to play a small part in helping make it even better. I have no doubt the Community Council will go on to even bigger and better achievements in the coming year.

Carolyn Lochhead
Chair, October 2024