

## Glasgow Allotments Forum

**MINUTES. (confirmed) A.G.M. 7pm Wednesday November 5th 2008**

**AGM Woodside Halls, Glenfarg Street, off St Georges Road**

- 1 Present** Eric Dryburgh (Chairman), Liz MacKinley (Vice Chair ) Betty Stewart (Treasurer), Judy Wilkinson(Secretary), Robert Watson (Allotments Office), Representatives from New Victoria Gardens, Merrylee, Kelvinside, Mansewood, High Carntyne, South Western, Hamiltonhill, Barlornock, Springburn, Oatlands, Victoria Park, Berridale, Westthorn, Budhill and Springboig, Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society, The Allotments Regeneration Initiative, Councillor Martha Wardrop.
- 2. Apologies** for Absence  
Joyce Gibson (High Carntyne), Ellen and Alec Hutcheon (Kelvinside), Diana Ritchie (Kelvinside), Councillor Mary Paris, Councillor Danny Alderslowe, Councillor George Roberts
- 3. Approval** of the minutes of the 2007 AGM - proposed Betty Stewart, seconded Judy Wilkinson
- 4. Reports for year 2007-8 attached**  
**Chair:**  
**Treasurer** acceptance: proposed Liz MacKinley, seconded John Fearn  
**Secretary**  
**Allotments Officer**
- 5. Elections**  
Eric Dryburgh was thanked for his chairing of the Forum for the last three years and support for allotments in Glasgow.  
Chair - Liz MacKinley: proposed by Eric Dryburgh, seconded by Chris Wilkinson  
Vice Chair - Eric Dryburgh: proposed by Betty Stewart, seconded by Liz MacKinley
- 6 Appointment of Auditors.** Joyce Gibson and Chris Wilkinson. Agreed that two auditors be appointed but only one need audit books each year.
- 7. AOCB** none
- 8 Date of AGM 2009** - 4th November 2009

## **Chairman's report November 2008.**

It has been a funny season. Summer seemed to end at the end of May. I hope you all managed to make the best of it

GAF has held its usual 6 meetings, and has been busier than in previous years.

Glasgow's Allotment draft Strategy was studied and comments submitted. We await the published version in the near future.

Two sites have changed landlord to Land and Environmental Services, changing their status from Private to Council run sites.

The Incorporation of Gardeners, who funded last year's Newsletter to all Plotolders have kept contact, and further cooperation is being planned.

We have seen the impressive re-establishment of High Carntyne Association on Duchray Park, and the re-opening of the Hamiltonhill site.

A surprise was the emergence of Reidvale Street site. Established by Reidvale Housing Association in response to the desire of the tenants as a use for a piece of ground which would otherwise remain derelict. Membership is restricted to tenants of Reidvale Housing Association.

GAF has had a presence at the Glasgow Show, Glasgow Evergreen, Provan's Lordship Business Day, Pollok Open Day and Linn Park Open Day. It was the latter which seemed to show the greatest interest from potential plotolders.

My thanks to Robert Watson for keeping us up to date with Council matters. To Judy and Betty for their work as Secretary and Treasurer and both for their enthusiasm in arranging the meetings with the Incorporation of Gardeners.

Betty, and Liz are guilty of providing the tea coffee soft drinks and biscuits at our regular meetings. For this they must accept the thanks of us all.

Thank you all for your attendance at our meetings. You are needed if GAF is to maintain an ability to keep a watchful eye on allotment activities in the city.

*Eric Dryburgh November 2008*

## **Treasurer's Report for Financial Year 2007 - 2008.**

<i>Income –</i>	<i>Plant sales</i>	<i>£208</i>	
	<i>Postage stamps</i>	<i>£55.20</i>	
	<i>Bank interest</i>	<i>£ 5.75</i>	<i>Total £268.95</i>

This year, there were no donations from Allotment Associations. And no grants from external funders..

Plant sales were the main source – thanks to those who donated plants and helped to sell them from the GAF Stand at the various Shows & Open Days we attended.

Postage stamps, purchased for mailing the 2007-08 Newsletter and not required thanks to some site secretaries who distributed them without cost, were sold for their cash value.

<i>Expenditure -</i>	<i>Hire of venues</i>	<i>£67.90</i>	
	<i>Cost of Newsletters</i>	<i>£559.95</i>	
	<i>SAGS subscription</i>	<i>£ 75</i>	
	<i>Web domain name</i>	<i>£10</i>	
	<i>Display Boards</i>	<i>£12.36</i>	
	<i>Tax deducted</i>	<i>£1.10</i>	<i>Total £726.31</i>

Venue hire is a necessary cost which increases each year. As a community group we are charged at the discounted rate.

The Newsletter 2007-08 was our main expenditure. This was funded by the grant of £500 given in 2007 by the Incorporation of Gardeners of Glasgow.

Copies of the Newsletter 2008-09 are available at the AGM and will be mailed/emailed with GAF minutes.

*Bank balance at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 was:-*      *£1,140.20.*

*Bank balance at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008:-*      *£682.84.*

Accounts were audited by Chris Wilkinson.

*Betty Stewart November 2008*

## **Secretary's Report 2007/8**

### **Attendance meetings:**

- Average 20 people attended meetings throughout year, and representatives from 18 allotment sites attended one or more meetings.
- Attendance from Councillors Martha Wardrop and George Roberts with active support from Councillors Mary Paris and Danny Alderslowe who have surgeries on Wednesday nights. Councillors Jahangir Hanif, James Scanlon and Dany Alderslowe have been attending the Oatlands meetings.
- Allotments Officer Robert Watson has attended  $\frac{3}{4}$  of meetings.

**Highlights** Newsletter distributed; Draft Allotment Strategy launched; Draft Glasgow City Local Plan published; new site for High Carntyne opened; GAF Web site begun;; Joint seminar with Centre for Built Environment; Glasgow Show; Allotment Open Days; St Mungo Cup and SAGS trophies; attendance at several open days and events; launch Schools gardening pack event;

### **Issues**

- Oatlands –meetings with Reperation and Development officer, Developer, Parks, Oatlands members, GAF and SAGS reps.
- Budget for allotments
- Safety on sites
- Policies and procedure for site inspections etc
- Complaints procedure
- Support team for Allotments officer
- Waste management sites

### **Actions for next year**

- Meeting with Chief Executive re Oatlands
- Meeting with Parks Manger re issues arising in previous year/ implementation Allotments Strategy
- Launch Allotments Strategy Event
- Growing in Glasgow – Spring Event
- Open Days
- Glasgow Show
- Website fully supported

*Judy Wilkinson November 2008*

## ***Allotment Officer's Report***

Land and Environmental Services.

### **Allotments**

2008 has seen Land and Environmental Services receive a similar number of enquiries for an allotment plot to those in 2007. This has resulted in most sites being at full capacity for the first time. As a result of the increased interest, waiting lists are continually growing across the city. Although narrowly, the West End of the City still appears to be the most popular area for potential plottolders. From our records at this time, there are still some vacant plots available in the north of the city. We do not have accurate occupancy/waiting list figures for all private sites.

### **Site Works**

Land and Environmental Services has carried out various improvements to a number of its allotment sites this year. Land and Environmental Services has also given support to Associations applying for funding on a number of projects. The biggest project undertaken this year was the relocation of High Carntyne Allotments. This site was completed in April this year. Following some initial problems with the soil, Land and Environmental Services imported large quantities of a good quality compost, which resulted in most plottolders growing a good standard of produce. There had also been some delays with the water supply and obtaining access to the toilets and community cabin, however, these have now been resolved. The plottolders and site association deserve great credit for the efforts they have made on their new site. Land and Environmental Services installed 4 large raised beds at Julian Avenue Allotments to allow gardening opportunities for wheelchair users. Kelvinside Allotments Association raised most of the funding for this project. Mansewood Allotments have recently had new surfacing laid to improve access to the site. Other site improvements are planned for: Trinley Brae – new fencing, Westthorn – new pathway. Recent applications for Glasgow City Council Area Committee funding have been made by Balornock Community Allotments and Garscube Allotments to improve site security. All allotment associations should be encouraged to make use of Area Committee and other funding streams for site improvements and other potential projects.

### **Allotments Management**

Two private allotment sites, New Victoria Gardens and Merrylee Allotments had previously been operating under lease agreements with Development and Regeneration Services. Following discussions with both Associations and with the agreement of the Plottolders, they are now managed by Land and Environmental Services

### **Environment**

Glasgow City Council has procedures in place to reduce the City's impact on the environment by improving its waste figures by putting in place various recycling initiatives. Most allotment plottolders are active in recycling and usually find a use for materials that would normally be discarded. Land and Environmental Services would encourage and support all sites to adopt a similar approach by composting on site, conserving water and reducing use of taps, segregating waste and helping to reduce the amount of skips and waste being taken to landfill. However, plottolders should become more responsible and reduce the waste they are generating on their plots as large quantities of green waste are being deposited into skips instead of being composted on site. They should also be encouraged to make use of the Council's Waste Transfer Stations and Civic Amenity Sites.

### **Glasgow Allotments Forum**

The strength of Allotment Associations varies across the city. Land and Environmental Services will continue to assist Allotment Associations on matters that they may feel outwith their control. There is also a wealth of information available to Associations and Plottolders through organisations such as SAGS and the Allotments Regeneration Initiative. However, most issues or problems could be addressed and resolved by contacting other Associations and members of the Glasgow Allotments Forum. Land and Environmental Services will continue to support the Glasgow Allotments Forum and encourage all associations to be active members to help the Forum to progress and achieve its aims.

## **Strategy**

Land and Environmental Services launched its Draft Allotments Strategy in March this year. During the consultation period, we received some very positive feedback of support to the Strategy. Following a review of comments from all respondents, we now aim to produce a final Allotments Strategy by Feb/March 2009, which will lead the way forward for our allotments service. Land and Environmental Services require the support and assistance of GAF, allotments associations and ploholders to help achieve the aims of the Strategy.

## **Annual Allotment Fees**

Land and Environmental Services have set allotment fees for the next three years.

2009 £31.50

2010 £32.50

2011 £33.50

## **St Mungo Trophy**

This years trophy was won by Stephen Malcolm, Berridale Allotments. Mr Malcolm is a regular contestant, who has consistently maintained his plot to award winning standard. Second place was won by Mr Alan Murray, Berridale Allotments. Third place went to Mr Max Hartman, Merrylee Allotments. This years trophy was presented at the International Rose Trial Awards, Glasgow City Chambers on 29<sup>th</sup> August. Due to the limited space available, the three prize winners, GAF Chairperson and judges were invited along to the presentation. Hopefully next year we will see all Glasgow's allotment associations supporting this competition.

## **SAGS Trophies**

This year, all allotment associations were invited to compete for three SAGS trophies. The winners were:

Amenity Shield - Merrylee Allotments

Sir Robert Greig Memorial Trophy – Berridale Allotments

Miller Cup – Our Lady of The Annunciation/Merrylee Primary (joint project)

These trophies were presented at The Evergreen Show, Kibble Palace, Glasgow Botanic Gardens on 24th August.

## **Associations**

Allotments and Recycling Officer would like to thank GAF, Allotment Associations and ploholders for their assistance and co-operation over the last year.

*Robert Watson November 2008*

## **Report from The Allotments Regeneration Initiative.**

In early March of this year the activities of the Allotments Regeneration Initiative were suspended as a result of a gap in funding support. The main funding support from the Esme Fairbairn Foundation had reached its conclusion at the beginning of the year and it had been identified that there would be insufficient funds to maintain the network through the early part of the financial year. Thus the Mentor network was given 'Garden Leave' from March.

A separate funding bid had been made jointly by the Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens, Trellis and A.R.I. to the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland during 2007. In the early summer of this year funding was awarded to support the work of the three organisations in Scotland for the next three years. This was also to allow A.R.I. to recruit two new mentors for Scotland. My post as a Mentor became active again in June. The recruitment process for the new mentors is currently taking place.

A separate bid to fund the Mentor network in England and Wales was made to the Local Food Programme and negotiations took place over the year up to October. The outcome was successful and £300,000 was awarded to cover the period from September 2008 to August 2012. The A.R.I. project will continue under the management of the Federation of City Farms. The funding is for working in partnership with Greenspace a national body concerned with issues relating to public parks and open spaces to achieve a set of common aims. The Mentor network was restarted in England and Wales on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Since restarting activities in Scotland I presented a session Based on the A.R.I. Health and Safety pack at the Scottish Allotments annual conference in June. In early October I conducted two workshop sessions at the Federation networking event at Battleby for new allotment groups starting in Scotland. There currently around fifty new groups across Scotland.

*Ian Welsh A.R.I. Mentor Scotland November 2008*