

YourCityCouncillor

WARD 21 > North East

Councillor Grant Thoms



Scottish National Party

LOCAL NEWS

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

2011 was a momentous year for some but possibly a difficult time for many as the economy continues to struggle to get back on its feet. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the residents and community groups of the North East Ward who have supported me on issues at the Council (such as stopping the closure of Gadburn School or getting more lamp-post bins in the street).

As I look ahead to next year, I will be standing down as one of your local Councillors in May 2012 but I wish to make my last few months in serving your community as effective and eventful as I possibly can. It has been an honour and pleasure to serve the North East Ward over the past four and half years but there is still a lot more work to do.

Power in your hands

Earlier this year, the Scottish Government published the Christie Commission report which looked at the future delivery of public services in Scotland. Amongst many recommendations, the late Dr Campbell Christie suggested that "A first key objective of reform should be to ensure that our public services are **built around people and communities**, their needs, aspirations, capacities and skills, and work to build up their autonomy and resilience."

I totally agree with that sentiment and have always worked within the North East Ward to not only give communities a greater say in the delivery of local services but to be able to play a part in decision-making and influencing in particular how the Council delivers services to you. I haven't always won my arguments but it is not for the want of trying.

In the coming months the Scottish Government will be asking communities and residents if there are any administrative, legal or technical burdens which stop your organisation from playing a greater role in developing local services or the community in general.

Glasgow Funding

It has been announced that Glasgow will receive £167 million in capital spend as well as £4.14 billion in revenue over the next four years. The next stage is to decide how those monies are used within Glasgow City Council and the priorities which will decide the future of local services. Budget day is likely to be either 2 or 9 February – make a date in the diary.

Dog fouling

Be warned. After constant complaints about dog fouling the Council has directed Glasgow Community & Safety Services to carry out a crackdown on dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs and allow streets and gardens to be left fouled. It's a big fine if you are caught, so please bag it and bin it (any street bin can now be used for dog poo if bagged).

Winter 2011

USEFUL NUMBERS

*Glasgow City Council
Switchboard
0141 287 2000*

*Clean Glasgow
0800 027 7027*

*Noise Control
0141 287 6688*

*Roads and Lighting
Faults (RALF)
0800 373 635*

*Strathclyde Police
0141 532 3000*

*GHA 24-Hour
Customer Service
Centre
0800 479 7979*

*Abandoned Cars
0141 276 0859*

*Pest Control
0845 270 1558*

*LES (bulk collections,
needle uplift, refuse
collection, street sweeping,
waste disposal)
0141 287 9700*

*Councillor Thoms
0141 287 4057*

I would like to start the ball rolling by asking you if there are things which the Council could be doing better to empower your local community or community organisation.

Feel free to write or email me or pop along to a surgery to talk about this more.

Community policing issues

I will be hosting a joint surgery with your community police officers in February at the following venues and dates:

- Tuesday 7th February from 6pm-7pm, Barmulloch Community Church, Quarrywood Road,
- Tuesday 14th February from 6.30pm-7.30pm, Barmulloch Community Centre
- Tuesday 21st February from 6.30pm-7.30pm, Molendinar Community Centre

If you have any issues about anti-social behaviour or policing in your neighbourhood, feel free to come along and raise this with me and the Police. If you need to contact community policing in the meantime, remember you can contact the two police offices in the Ward on 0141 332 (Baird Street) and 0141 332 (Easterhouse) for quick confidential advice

Estate Action Groups

For the past two years I have been privileged to chair the Estate Action Group covering Barmulloch and Balornock East. I have carried out this role more as a tenant of Unity Homes than as a councillor, however, I am pleased to report that the three Estate Action Groups covering Barmulloch & Balornock East; Ruchazie, Craigend & Garthamlock; and Bishoploch, Lochend and Commonhead have been tremendous successes in bringing together Council services, Police, Glasgow Community & Safety Services, housing organisations and local residents to tackle local issues such as neighbourhood clean-ups, anti-social behaviour and road improvements etc. By working at very local levels, I have seen the difference in how these organisations work closely with residents to sort out both minor and serious problems. If you are a resident of any of these areas, you are very welcome to attend meetings and play your part. Please contact me for details of who to contact for more information.

Winter Maintenance

The first bout or two of severe weather has certainly hit Glasgow with style. I don't think there was a single community that wasn't affected by Hurricane BeBe (sorry, can't use any other reference). More importantly, however, did this year's Winter Maintenance plans work out for you on the first snow falls? Were the grit bins in place with salt? Did the priority routes get gritted within hours of snow and frost being predicted? Do you know whether your street is on a priority route?

The Winter Maintenance plans are available online to check and in most libraries to read. If you would like a copy of the Winter Maintenance plan for 2011/12 or have any comment to make on its implementation, please call the customer contact centre on 0141 287 9700.

Saving Gadburn School

Gadburn School is a very special place providing additional supported learning for children who cannot cope with mainstream primary schooling. Many have been disadvantaged in primary provision and Gadburn has provided the answer to their needs. But the Council in its wisdom has decided that these children should be re-integrated into mainstream provision by being incorporated into Barmulloch Primary School.

Barmulloch Primary School is a great wee school with space for Gadburn to be co-located within its premises, however, the integration of the two under one school management is I feel hasty to say the least and possibly detrimental to the needs of some Gadburn pupils. Local elected members from both parties are working with parents of both schools to agree a solution that meets everyone's needs so there will be a special meeting on 12 January 2012 at which the Council's decision to close Gadburn will hopefully be over-turned in favour of an agreed solution.

Round the houses

A quick mention to specific issues around the ward

Alcohol Information Service

Congratulations on the making of your latest film in association with Diversity Films about young people and alcohol. Great to see so many budding young actors in Provanhall and a great way to get the message across about sensible drinking.

GESH

Great to see this disability centre become one of the top-rated delivers of community service in Glasgow. What a difference the team is making to cleaning up the community and assisting vulnerable groups with home decoration and the like. Hats off to Maureen and John!

Monthly Surgery Details

2nd Tuesday at 5.30pm
in Wallacewell Primary School

2nd Tuesday at 6.30pm
in Barmulloch Community Centre

Last Tuesday at 5.30pm in Oakwood Primary School

Last Tuesday at 6.30pm in GESH Family Centre

No surgeries during school and public holidays.