

Message from George



As 2021 comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued hard work in keeping Glasgow safe, clean and moving for all Glaswegians and our visitors to the City. This year was particularly challenging due to some major events - UEFA EURO 2020 which was postponed and took place this Summer and COP26 where the City and Service rose to the challenge as always. These events posed many additional challenges due to COVID-19.

Also, during this year, Neighbourhoods and Sustainability (NS) became Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS). This new service was formed by bringing together our colleagues from Development and Regeneration Services (DRS) and latterly City Parking have also been brought back into Glasgow City Council. I welcome all our new colleagues from both services.

This year and 2020 have been the toughest we have faced in recent times. COVID-19 has brought many challenges for the people of Glasgow, our service, and our staff. However, I continue to be proud of the commitment shown by you throughout these challenging times, ensuring essential services are delivered to keep Glasgow safe and moving. I do not take for granted the dedication and commitment you have shown and continue to show during these unprecedented times.

I hope that, sometime soon, we can return to a sense of normality. It is important as we do this, we also capture some of the positives that this new way of working has brought.

Looking forward, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I would especially like to thank all our staff working throughout the festive season providing essential and valuable services to the citizens of Glasgow.

As always, if you would like to make a suggestion directly to me, this can be done by e-mailing; AskGeorge.NRS@glasgow.gov.uk. I welcome any suggestions or comments from you.

Mind the Men

November was Men's Mental Health Awareness month, but mental health is something we all need to be aware of throughout the year.

Ciaran Buchanan, NRS Project Officer is a member of **Mind the Men**, the Glasgow-based men's mental wellbeing and suicide prevention peer support group. He says: *"One in every two men in their lifetime will have some form of mental health struggle. So, you're not alone, there's nothing to be ashamed of, and talking about it really does help. It's given me a bit of perspective on things and helped me to develop some better coping mechanisms."*

Co-founder **Gary MacDonald** explains: *"We meet every Monday night in different locations and online via Zoom. It's about getting guys to talk, breaking down the stigma around mental health and suicide, and reducing suicide which is our main aim here."*

The group is free and open to all men aged 18 and above.

You can find out more (and watch a video featuring both Gary and Ciaran) by visiting the website: www.mindthemen.co.uk or you can email mindthemen@gmail.com.

If you need help now you can find some useful contact information at: <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=26351>



The World comes to Glasgow

For two weeks in November Glasgow's citizens may well have focussed on the inconvenience of travel restrictions, but the eyes of the world were focussed on the happenings at COP26. Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability employees were instrumental in both preparing for the event and in its delivery.

Building Standards colleagues were pivotal in terms of a public safety perspective and getting the preparation work done as a priority to make sure the venues were ready before the start of COP26. They then switched focus to minimising business impact from prioritising this key event for the city.

NRS Planning staff supported the **NRS Sustainability** stand in the Green Zone which generated engagement with agents around place-based regeneration and city centre recovery, and NRS Housing staff supported a major contribution by the City Urbanist Professor Brian Evans to a United Nations symposium on affordable climate-neutral sustainable housing. Both of these contributions were supported by film-making skills from **NRS Promotions and Engagement**.

And, of course, a large number of our staff became COP26 Volunteers, eager to provide participants and media visiting from nations and territories around the world with the famous warm Glasgow welcome.

Thanks and appreciation to all of you.



Glasgow Smart Canal Connection

After years of planning and infrastructure work, the Sighthill Transformational Regeneration Area is beginning to take shape. It is the largest development of its kind outside London and is now the first of five housing sites to be connected to the **Glasgow Smart Canal**, Europe's first dynamic canal system. The re-imagining of 18th century infrastructure has created a new flood mitigation system that will accept surface water run-off, cutting 35,000 tonnes of carbon and unlocking 110 hectares of land for 3,000 new houses to be built in North Glasgow. The £17m project, has been delivered by Glasgow City Council alongside Scottish Water and Scottish Canals through the Glasgow City Deal backed **Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership (MGSDP)**.

Catherine Topley, Chief Executive Officer at Scottish Canals, says:

"By re-imagining Scotland's canals for the modern day we have transformed them into vibrant ribbons of opportunity which not only deliver public value in incredible ways but help provide solutions to some of our biggest challenges, from tackling health inequalities to mitigating against climate change."



Top of the World

Senior Geologist **Andy Fallas**, who works for **NRS Project Management and Design**, in the Geotechnical Section, has won the 2021 Salomon Glencoe Skyline Race, part of the Golden Trail World Series. The route is regarded as one of the finest on the global circuit.

Andy, 41, who is a Carnethy Hill Running Club athlete, said after the race: *"It is good to win, however, it was very difficult on the ridges and I had to take it slowly. It was slippery and a bit dicey. I tried to put in a lot of effort on the less technical sections. Still, it was a good day out!"*



Alloy rollout

As a service, NRS is constantly striving to improve and refine its practices in delivering services to the public. We have adopted the Alloy Digital Asset Management system, transforming our **Cleansing Service** by the introduction of computer tablets in our fleet of refuse collection vehicles.

Shieldhall, Polmadie and Dawsholm depots have started the introduction of Alloy in Domestic Waste collections with over 100 drivers trained. Every driver has received training in Alloy via Teams in small groups and issued with a laminated set of training cards covering all the main steps. Training tablets are then used where drivers can log in to training rounds and practise completing rounds using the system with supervisor support. Training will continue with a planned rollout to all depots early next year.

Supervisors and Managers have been trained in both the In Cab and Back Office system that generates the data and management reports on issues that the drivers raise on their daily collection rounds.

Stevie Scott, Head of Waste Management & Recycling, says: *“Going forward, our frontline staff will be vital in ensuring the city meets its target to increase the level of recycling. Alloy will be a great asset for our staff and will provide them with information on how we are performing as a city but also at a local level.”*



Weeely bins

Electrical goods are a growing waste stream and managing them more sustainably, via collection for repair and re-use, will contribute to implementing the Council's Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30, which is focused on helping Glasgow become a greener city, assisting in the creation of a circular economy and helping to tackle the climate emergency.

NRS Waste Management officers recently teamed up with our Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) contractor, Valpak Ltd, to undertake a 'Power to Do More' campaign at the Shieldhall Recycling Centre. The aim of this weekend event was to collect electrical household goods that could be re-used, and promote the re-use of electrical items, as well as providing support for local re-use charity Starter Packs Glasgow. Donated small mixed electricals were sent for testing to Valpak's sub-contractor and then donated to Starter Packs.

David McCulloch (Group Manager, NRS Waste Management) added: *“There was a great response to our joint event with Valpak. Not only did the event help to minimise the production of waste and maximise the longevity of the materials left by members of the public, but it has also provided welcome support for a local Glasgow charity and their clients.”*



Road safety development

Our **NRS Road Safety Development Team** reports that a new £96k average speed camera system has been installed on Parkhouse Road, Glasgow, to begin enforcement in an effort to reduce casualties on a stretch of the road. The average speed camera system will consist of three linked Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to monitor the average speed of traffic over the section of road between the junction at Whitriggs Road and the junction at Craigflower Road.

The site for the new cameras was identified during the annual safety camera site selection process. Speed surveys found that 74% of traffic on the road was travelling in excess of the 30mph speed limit. Between 2014 and 2018 there had been five speed-related injury collisions, including one which resulted in serious injury.

Councillor Anna Richardson said: *“The introduction of Glasgow's first average speed camera system underlines our commitment to creating a road system where there are no serious or fatal incidents.”*



New year, new bridge start

A bridge link between Govan and Partick is at the centre of the **Govan/Partick Strategic Development Framework** developed by **NRS Planning**. The contract has now been awarded, with works expected to begin on site in January, with project completion towards the end of 2023. This is a **Glasgow City Region** City Deal project, with funding from the Scottish and UK Governments.

The £29.5million project includes the construction of a new pedestrian/cycle bridge over the River Clyde between Water Row in Govan and Pointhouse Quay in Partick, a connection that will re-establish the historic link between the two areas. The bridge will be economically, environmentally and socially important as it will create a link between communities, visitor attractions and institutions of national economic importance, and is a key part of the active travel route between the University of Glasgow's campus at Gilmorehill and the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

Councillor Susan Aitken, Chair of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, said: *"The Govan - Partick Bridge will be transformative for the Clyde waterfront and the city region. It will not only provide an active travel connection between the West End and the South Side of the city, but will directly create new jobs, apprenticeships, training and other opportunities."*



'Ave a new award!

Previous editions of this newsletter have reported on the 'Avenues' project co-ordinated by our **City Centre Regeneration Team**. The Sauchiehall Street Avenue was the opening project and transformed a four-lane city highway into a linear public space with segregated cycle tracks, continuous wide footways, seats and trees. And it is a **winner** in the 'People Friendly Place' category of the **National Urban Design Awards 2021**.

The competition judges commented: *"This project is a replicable model for main streets throughout the UK. It shows how traffic dominated roads can be transformed into places for people, encouraging active travel, supporting businesses and creating relaxing environments for all. The creation of a truly democratic space in the city is especially important."*



Children's Woodland film

In the last edition of the Loop we reported on the project supported by **NRS Parks Development Team** to plant over 17,000 native broadleaved trees in the Cart-Kittoch Community Woodlands. At COP26, the charitable organisation The Lost Woods launched a film documenting the project. It is well worth a watch on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWYthlIDelc>

Seamus Connolly, Group Manager, Parks Development & Bereavement Services commented:

"This was a real team effort by NRS to make this work and ensure the project went ahead with involvement from every primary school. A great climate legacy project."



The vital spark

From bin lorries to pool cars, Glasgow City Council has been investing in Electric Vehicles (EVs) to contribute to its target of being a net-zero carbon city by 2030. And now our trainers at the **NRS Training Centre** at Daldowie have shouldered the burden of qualifying staff to drive the vehicles of the future.

In addition to EV training the Training Officers have been giving instruction to gritter drivers on the new dual fuel gritter fleet.



So long...

It is time to bid a fond farewell to four valued colleagues of our service who will be retiring shortly. Between them they have amassed 117 years of service.

Patrick Flynn, Director of City Development with nearly 11 years;

George Vincent, Divisional Director with almost 38 years;

Emil Laiolo, Group Manager (Transport Services and Development) with 27 years;

and **Stephen McGowan**, Group Manager (Housing Strategy) with 41 years.

Let's all join in bidding them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Health and Wellbeing

According to a **YouGov survey**, over two in five Brits have felt stressed during the festive season, while nearly one in four have struggled with anxiety or depression.

Christmas, often considered 'the most wonderful time of the year' is fast approaching. Under normal circumstances, it's a cherished time of the year full of family, friends and food. While for many, it can be a difficult time of isolation and anxiety. Regardless of your outlook on Christmas, this upcoming festive season will be shrouded in uncertainty due to the ongoing threat of Covid-19.



It helps to talk, if you are struggling and need help contact:

Your GP or call NHS 24 on 111 (Available 24/7)

Breathing Space free on: 0800 83 85 87 (Available 6pm to 2am on weekdays, 24 hours at weekends)

Samaritans free on: 116 123 (Available 24/7)

Employee Assistance Provider, Workplace Options free on: 0800 247 1100.

LGBT helpline: 0800 138 8725.

BME helpline: 0800 288 4950 (Available 24/7)

Call for content

The Promotions and Engagement Team are keen to receive submissions of news items or stories of interest. Our format places a limit of around 150-200 words per submission. It is always helpful to have a photograph to illustrate a submission, together with a quotation from a manager reflecting on the performance or initiative of individuals or teams. If you require support in pulling together a submission, including any photography, please contact Tony Green, Multimedia Officer on 07341884081.

Please submit your contributions to NRSCommunications@glasgow.gov.uk.