

Message from George



Welcome to April's edition of our bi-monthly service newsletter. In this edition we are focussing particularly on some of the roles Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability staff are playing in this period of recovery. Glasgow's response to the Climate Emergency we declared three years ago is to work towards the target of becoming a carbon-neutral city by 2030. NRS managers and staff are setting an outstanding example through innovating and working with communities to reduce our carbon footprint whilst making better lives for ourselves. I continue to be proud of you, for what you are achieving is quite amazing.

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.

Recovering Well

Back in pre-pandemic May 2019, the City Council declared a Climate Emergency and set a target for Glasgow to become a net zero carbon city by 2030. The pandemic is not yet over, but our recovery is under way, and much of this recovery is being led by **Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability** services.

Glasgow still aims to be one of the most sustainable cities in Europe, and to achieve carbon neutrality by the year 2030.

Gillian Dick, NRS Spatial Planning Manager – Research and Development, Development Plan Group, says *“Glasgow has excellent credentials as a ‘green’ city which aspires to become ever more sustainable. We already have a wide range of ‘green’ initiatives with more in the pipeline”.*

Research Hub

Scientists, researchers and policy officers are to begin work on a large-scale programme that will support Glasgow's transformation into a thriving, climate resilient city. Staff on the **Sustainability and Planning** teams at NRS are playing a key role in the council's contribution to the research.

University of Glasgow researchers will work in partnership with the council to create transformation projects across the city and embed sustainability into the wider socio-political system.

The GALLANT project has received £10 million from the Natural Environment Research Council.

The innovative programme to create a sustainable, healthy urban environment will help regenerate the River Clyde region which faces significant social, economic and environmental challenges, and will provide learning that will help other cities in their missions to adopting green solutions.



Gillian Dick, who has been joined on the project's Executive Board by colleague **Duncan Booker, COP26 Stakeholder Manager**, says *"Our involvement with this initiative supports the work being carried out to inform our City Development Plan, Open Space Strategy, Trees and Woodland Strategy and our Climate Plan."*

"The collaborative research will support our push to take a 'place-based' approach using nature-based solutions to deliver a climate adaptive city. It also links into the work that we are also starting to focus on and collaborate with Scottish Land Commission and Community Land Scotland on understanding how we can unlock vacant and derelict land."

"We're delighted to work with partners to support this important project for the city. GALLANT will help to make sure that Glasgow is ready and resilient for a changing climate. It will help the city to address the challenges of our industrial past and to improve the quality of life for the people of Glasgow".

Setting the Pace

Addressing the challenges of our industrial past and improving the quality of life for the people of Glasgow is also a focus for **NRS Housing**.

Glasgow is pre-eminent in the planning, design and delivery of affordable, carbon-neutral, sustainable housing, a situation recognised by the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**, who commissioned a film on Glasgow's social housing experience which was shown to UN delegates at COP26.



Written and produced by **Brian Evans**, the **City Urbanist**, directed and edited by **Tony Green, NRS Promotions and Engagement**, and supported by **NRS Housing**, **'Living in Glasgow'** shows how Glasgow's growing reputation for social and affordable housing has come to prominence in the first two decades of the 21st century and how Glasgow has now embarked on an ambitious programme of decarbonisation that puts people and place at the centre of the process to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. The film will shortly be available on the council's YouTube channel.

Joining-up Transport

In 2018, 33% of Glasgow's CO2 emissions came from the transport sector. Addressing this is obviously a major issue for the city and again **Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability** is playing a leading role.

Transport investment options that will play a key role in tackling climate change, reducing inequalities and improving health and wellbeing have been set out in the Scottish Government's second [Strategic Transport Projects Review](#) (STPR2) - with the development of a [Clyde Metro](#) one of the stand-out recommendations.



Playing its part in the lead up to this major announcement has been work of the council-led Metro Feasibility Study project team - tasked by Glasgow City Region with looking at a Metro opportunity.

The multi-disciplinary project team is headed up by **NRS Divisional Director, Harjinder Gharyal**, and includes council staff with expertise across a breadth of specialisms as well as representatives from the NHS and Glasgow Airport. The appraisal work being undertaken by the team seeks to complement the work of Transport Scotland, whilst also tying in with other strategic work ongoing around transport planning.

Harjinder said: *"This announcement is hugely significant in terms of moving forward the development of an integrated Metro system for Glasgow and the wider region. It also highlights the excellent work of the project team, many coming from NRS, who worked exceptionally hard and built excellent relationships with a broad range of stakeholders to*

progress the case for a Metro and specifically highlighting the transformational opportunities it can offer”.

Clyde Metro represents a multi-billion investment which, when complete, could better connect over 1.5 million people to employment, education, and health services in and around Glasgow City Region. The system would also help to deliver environmental benefits and improve public transport journey times and reliability, making sustainable travel options more attractive.

The [STPR2 draft recommendations](#) which include Clyde Metro, are now subject to a [consultation](#) which closes on 15 April 2022. Meantime, STPR2 recommends that Transport Scotland continues to work with the council, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and other regional partners on developing the business cases and delivery plan for Clyde Metro.

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Planting Trees

As part of the council's drive to achieve 'Net Zero by 2030', **NRS Parks Development** team have been pursuing a programme of tree planting across the city. The Loop has reported on the likes of the Children's Woodland planting of 20,000 broadleaved trees.

It is most appropriate, then, that Glasgow has been recognised and named as a Champion City for The **Queen's Green Canopy**, a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

In recognition of the award, **NRS Parks Development** will intensify their promotion of tree planting throughout the city. This programme has already commenced with the team supporting tree planting events in Kings Park and Victoria Park.

Stephen Egan, Head of Parks and Streetscene said: *“We are delighted to be named as a champion city for the Queens Green Canopy initiative and the recent tree planting events have been a huge success, with nearly 2,000 native trees planted. We will continue to work with our local groups and communities in the years ahead to increase our canopy cover and contribute to the climate emergency.”*



Pond Health Check

Spring has arrived! Birds are collecting nesting material. Flowers are peeping through soil. It's also when amphibians are most active during breeding season (March to May) with frogs and toads making their way to ponds: usually those they were spawned in. Sometimes females find themselves with many male suitors ending up as a ball of frogs!

Glasgow's many ponds and lochs are highlighted in Glasgow's **Local Biodiversity Action** because wetlands are important biodiversity habitat. Freshwater and wetland habitat make up only 3% of the UK's land surface but support around 10% of its species (State of Nature report 2013). Actions in Glasgow for wetlands include creation, management, protection and monitoring. With this in mind, **NRS Conservation Team, Countryside Rangers and Clyde Amphibian Reptile Group (CARG)** have teamed up again this year to do spawn surveys in Glasgow and Clyde area, with the first count during March/April. Surveys are important records because they will show amphibian numbers increasing or declining for reasons such as ponds drying up, habitat loss, chemicals, disease and predation.

CARG arranged and delivered two free training days to volunteers from universities and members of the public during February in preparation for March/April surveys. To get involved, contact clydeargsecretary@gmail.com or www.clydearg.webnode.com

Lots of frog and toad spawn indicates a healthy pond.

Women Of Influence

The Planner

Gillian Dick, NRS Spatial Planning Manager – Research and Development, has been selected by a panel of judges from 'The Planner' magazine as one of the publication's 'Women of Influence for 2022.'

Every year the publication publishes the names of the most influential women in and around planning, as nominated by its readers. This is the fourth year the list has been produced, with a formal nomination and judging process.

In his letter of congratulations to Gillian, the editor wrote: *"You have been assessed against criteria intended to determine influence in a number of professional spheres, as well as support provided to colleagues and the community. We believe that the final list is representative of the women whose commitment to support colleagues and the community, creativity, inclusivity and diversity, and achievement has most affected the planning profession."*

The citation stated that: *"Gillian is a true inspiration, who relentlessly injects optimism into the planning system, advocating for climate action through plans and policy"*.

Gillian leads the Horizon 2020 Connecting Nature project, where Glasgow is one of the front runner cities with its exemplar Open Space strategy and delivery plan.

Gillian said: *"I wouldn't be able to do what I do without the collaboration and support of other women across the council family. The great thing about International Women's Day is that it allows us all to reflect on the contributions of women within our spaces and places and challenges us to think about gender bias in our own environments."*



The Architect

Emma Morton, an architect in **NRS Planning - City Development Plan Group**, has been selected as a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Race to Zero Campaign – Transition Plan Working Group.

Emma was selected as a result of her background in environmental design and her new role leading on how Net Zero will be embedded in the new City Development Plan.

Emma has a PhD in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering - focusing on Building Energy Performance and has written a thesis titled 'Defining Zero Carbon and Framing Environmental Legislation.'

Race to Zero is a global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth. It mobilizes a coalition of leading net zero initiatives, representing 1,049 cities, 67 regions, 5,235 businesses, 441 of the biggest investors, and 1,039 Higher Education Institutions.

These 'real economy' actors join 120 countries in the [largest ever alliance](#) committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest. Collectively these actors now cover nearly 25% global CO2 emissions and over 50% GDP.

Emma said: *"I'm delighted and honoured to be appointed to this position and be part of the consultation that will strengthen the Race to Zero Criteria ahead of COP27. The process has been enlightening and insightful. The intelligence gained will allow us to embed the process into our City Development Plan and policies."*

