

Charlie Gordon MSP

SURGERY DETAILS

Couper Institute, 84-86 Clarkston Road,
1st Friday of each month @ 4pm

Castlemilk Library, 100 Castlemilk Drive,
2nd Friday of each month @ 4pm

Tinto Primary School, 57 Hillpark Drive,
3rd Friday of each month @ 4pm
(No surgeries on School Holidays)

Kennishead Community Hall, 10 Kennishead Avenue,
Last Friday of each month @ 4pm

N.B NO SURGERIES ON BANK OR PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Call Charlie on: 0141-632-8645

Email Charlie on: charlie.gordon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Visit Charlie's Website: www.charliegordonmsp.com

Or Write to Charlie at:

Glasgow Cathcart
Constituency Office
Somerville Drive
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Glasgow
G42 9BA

N.B SURGERIES ARE FOR CONSTITUENTS ONLY

Charlie Gordon's Annual Report is distributed to libraries, community centres and schools. Community Councils, plus many other local organisations, also receive a copy. If you or your group would like to be included on the mailing list, please call the number above. An electronic version of this newsletter is available at www.charliegordonmsp.com

For further information on any of the issues in the Annual Report please email Stuart.Donaldson@scottish.parliament.uk

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**Annual Report
2006 - 2007**

Glasgow Cathcart

All Change!



Since Charlie Gordon's last Annual Report there have been significant changes in the Scottish political landscape and a new administration at Holyrood.

Following his successful re-election as Cathcart's MSP, he was appointed Convenor of Scottish Parliament's Audit Committee which is responsible for considering and reporting on any accounts laid before the Parliament and reports published by the Auditor General for Scotland.

In September 2007 Charlie was appointed by the new Leader of the Opposition, Wendy Alexander as the Shadow Minister for Transport. Speaking after his appointment Charlie said "I am pleased with my new role, my past experience of 9 years at Strathclyde Passenger Transport and 19 years in the Railway Industry will stand me in good stead, but above all I'm committed to building world class transport systems to help make Scotland more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable."

Since the publication of his 2005 - 2006 Annual Report, Charlie has spoken in 17 Parliamentary Debates, asked 34 Parliamentary Questions and supported over 50 Parliamentary Motions. In addition he has assisted hundreds of Constituents, who have contacted him either at one of his surgeries, or by email, telephone, letter or through the electronic contact form on his website.

His website, www.charliegordonmsp.com went live two years ago this month and is proving popular with Constituents.

It has information on Charlie's activities as an MSP, from Parliamentary Speeches, Questions and Motions to News and Views, Surgery and Contact Details. The website now has an extensive archive section dating back to November 2005.

Charlie is always looking at ways to make his website more interactive and he welcomes Constituent's input as part of this process.



www.charliegordonmsp.com

Parkview Hotel: The Story do Far...



The Notorious Parkview Hotel

Following a year long campaign Glasgow Cathcart MSP, Charlie Gordon, expressed his anger and disappointment that an Appeal by the owners of the notorious Parkview Hotel is to be delayed until December due to the lack of a Sheriff being available at a planned hearing last September.

Glasgow City Council's Licensing Committee revoked the license of the McKeever Group to operate a House in Multiple Occupancy (HMO) in November 2006, however an Appeal was lodged by the McKeever Group thus allowing them to continue operating until their Appeal was heard. The Appeal has been postponed twice in the past and the latest hearing was delayed due to lack of availability of a Sheriff to review the case. The Sheriff Court of Glasgow and Strathkelvin is now expected to hear the Appeal in December. Speaking after learning of this latest development Charlie Gordon said "This is a scandal and the Sheriff should explain himself."

Charlie has accumulated a database of over 100 people who have approached him in the past year seeking his support for the Parkview and neighbouring Queen's Park Hotel to lose their HMO status. Charlie has attacked this problem on several fronts including writing to every local authority in Scotland seeking details of their use of Parkview, under Freedom of Information legislation. The information was collated and passed to Housing Minister Stewart Maxwell who in turn wrote to each local authority reminding them of their legislative duty to support and house homeless persons within their own boundaries and not "dump" them in Glasgow without any support.

The campaign continues and Charlie, along with many residents in Queen's Park and Crosshill await the decision at the Sheriff Court as to whether Glasgow City Council's original decision stands.



Ministerial Correspondence

Work Begins at new Victoria Hospital

Last November, Charlie was delighted to join then Minister for Health Andy Kerr as he cut the first sod signifying the beginning of construction of the New Victoria Hospital. Cathcart constituents will have already noticed the significant preparatory work that has taken place over the past few months.

With construction of the new state of the art facility beginning this week, which will be one of the biggest Hospitals in the Scotland, the date for completion is in 2009.

Speaking at the event Charlie said "I am pleased work is now underway on what is a massive investment by the NHS in Glasgow Cathcart. I am especially pleased that new resources such as chemotherapy and renal dialysis will be available for the first time in south Glasgow"



Charlie with Andy Kerr MSP

On the Cathcart Jobs Front



The past twelve months has seen some major changes in the businesses that employ thousands of people in the Constituency.

In December 2006 news broke of the proposed merger of Scottish Power and Iberdrola. Charlie Gordon arranged an early meeting with the then Chief Executive Officer of Scottish Power, Philip Bowman and the Chief Executive Officer of Iberdrola, Ignacio Galan at Scottish Power's corporate headquarters in Glasgow. Charlie was determined to make representations on behalf of the 1700 Scottish Power workers in his Cathcart Constituency. Following the meeting he said "Strict Legal and Ethical constraints which apply to any Merger mean guarantees are not available at this stage, but that didn't stop me asking both men if the 1700 jobs at Scottish Power's facility in my Cathcart Constituency would be safe. They seemed relaxed on that issue, so it's a case of "all right so far". I'm not going to play politics with people's jobs. I also asked them to maintain the excellent Community Learning Facility at Cathcart". The merger is now complete and Charlie remains satisfied at the early commitment given to the workforce still stands.

The second change saw the acquisition of Weir Pumps, which has a history in Cathcart stretching over 100 years, by a former employee. Jim McColl, Chairman and Chief Executive of Clyde Blowers confirmed in May that he was acquiring Weir's Pumps for 45 million pounds after Weir Group announced that they were selling that arm of their business. This followed news that Weir Group had entered talks with Swiss based Sulzer to offload the business, however Sulzer pulled out of the deal creating an opportunity for McColl's Clyde Blowers who had previously indicated they were keen to take over the highly profitable Weir Pumps.

The announcement was welcomed by the 700 strong workforce who were potentially facing redundancy. Charlie welcomed the 11th hour development and wished the new owners well.

Eating Healthily: King's Park Style



Charlie with King's Park Pupils

In January this year, Charlie was delighted to join King's Park Secondary School Head Teacher Margaret Barr together with Staff and Pupils who organised an event to promote Healthy Eating through the School's nutrition action group.

Charlie later highlighted the event during a speech in the Scottish Parliament noting that "...purely in the line of duty, I had to taste all sorts of delicious dishes prepared by pupils". The event was a great success and proved that eating a healthy nutritionally balanced meal can be quick and simple.

More information on this and other activities at the School can be found on its website: www.kingspark-sec.glasgow.sch.uk

Free Hospital Visitor Transport Service Launched

In August Charlie welcomed the rolling out of a new free transport service for people who want to visit family or friends in any of Glasgow's hospitals. If you have a loved one in hospital simply call 0845 128 4027 between 1pm and 4pm (Monday to Thursday) and 1pm and 3.30pm (Friday) and the staff will arrange for you to be collected at home and transported to the hospital. Following your visit you will be driven back home.

Further information can be found online at www.nhsggc.org.uk or by calling the number above.

