

# Charlie Gordon MSP Glasgow Cathcart

# Surgeries Calendar



## 2007

**Couper Institute**  
84-86 Clarkston Road  
G44 3DA  
1st Friday of each month

**Tinto Primary School**  
57 Hillpark Drive  
G43 2BA  
3rd Friday of each month

**Public Holiday**  
No Surgery

All surgeries are held at 4pm.  
Surgeries for constituents only.

**Castlemilk Library**  
100 Castlemilk Drive  
G45 9TN  
2nd Friday of each month

**Kennishead Community Hall**  
10 Kennishead Avenue  
G46 8PR  
Last Friday of each month

### January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30	31			

### February

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### March

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### April

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### June

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### July

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### August

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### September

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### October

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### November

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25	26	27	28	29	30	

### December

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

For further information on any of this month's issues please email [Stuart.Donaldson@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Stuart.Donaldson@scottish.parliament.uk)

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# Charlie Gordon MSP Newsletter

Glasgow Cathcart

SUMMER 2007

## Gordon Re-Elected as MSP

In the early hours of Friday May 2nd Charlie Gordon was re-elected as the Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Glasgow Cathcart Constituency. The following week, Charlie took the affirmation in the Parliament's Debating Chamber formalising his election.



Charlie Gordon MSP is sworn in.

"I'm grateful to the people of Cathcart Constituency for re-electing me as their MSP; it's a great honour".

"But I'm angry about the high volume of spoiled ballot papers and about the delays caused by electronic counting of votes. Lessons must be learned for the future." said Charlie.



Charlie Gordon MSP Convenes the Audit Committee

Charlie has since been elected as Convenor of the Scottish Parliament's Audit Committee which is responsible for considering and reporting on any accounts laid before the Parliament and any other documents concerning financial control, accounting and auditing in relation to public expenditure. The committee is currently considering its future work programme, but is expected to scrutinise several major public transport initiatives such as the Edinburgh Airport Rail Link.

Since the first sitting of the third session of the Scottish Parliament, Charlie has spoken in three Parliamentary Debates covering Council Tax, Public Transport and Bridge Tolls. He has also asked 3 Parliamentary Questions on Homelessness Accommodation, Completion of the M74 and Prescription Charges. Charlie has also re-joined two Cross Party Groups; Glasgow Crossrail and Carers.

In the constituency Charlie has assisted over 100 constituents on issues such as housing, social work, education and justice since his re-election in May. Constituents can contact Charlie in several ways including by post, email, telephone, by attending a surgery or via his website. Full details on how to contact Charlie can be found on the back page. In addition to this Charlie continues to meet with community groups and organisations.

He is also continuing his campaign against local authorities who are placing homeless clients in the Parkview Hotel, in his constituency, without Social Work support and in contravention of existing legislation. More details on this issue can be found inside this edition of the Newsletter.



Charlie Gordon MSP in his Constituency Office

[www.charliegordonmsp.com](http://www.charliegordonmsp.com)

## Gordon Demands Action Against Breaches Of Homeless Legislation

Glasgow Cathcart MSP Charlie Gordon has condemned a court delay which allows the controversial "Parkview Hotel", in reality a House in Multiple Occupancy (HMO) for homeless people from outwith Glasgow, to continue operating in his constituency.

In November 2006, Glasgow City Council's Licensing Committee, in response to objections from Charlie Gordon, Strathclyde Police and local residents, refused to renew Parkview's HMO License. But Parkview's owners appealed the decision and are allowed to continue to trade pending the appeal. But the court has postponed the appeal from May 2007 to September 2007; prompting Charlie's further concern: "I am bitterly disappointed local people continue to suffer. Court delays are undermining the Council's decision and, indeed, bringing the law into disrepute."

Local Police have attended several serious incidents on each of several evenings recently which apparently involved Parkview residents breaching the peace and fighting, whilst under the influence of drink or drugs.

As part of his continued campaign Charlie wrote to Housing Minister, Stewart Maxwell MSP, enclosing evidence of the routine placing of homeless people from far beyond Glasgow in the Parkview Hotel, in his Constituency. Under Freedom of Information legislation, Charlie had written to all of Scotland's Local Authorities requesting information on whether they use the Hotel. The results were startling and confirmed his view that existing laws were being ignored.

Charlie has asked the Minister to consider whether the placing of such clients by Local Authorities as far away as Stirling, Argyll and the Highlands, usually without professional support, is in fact in breach of Homelessness Legislation. "Local residents, most of whom are my constituents, are having their quality of life ruined by Parkview's clients. It's got to stop; that's why my campaign continues" he said.



The Parkview Hotel



The Evidence

## Gordon Condemns Nursery Vandals



St Martin's after the attack

Charlie Gordon has praised Glasgow City Council for fast-tracking the opening of a new school to re-house a nursery that was wrecked by vandals. St Martin's Day Nursery was due to move into the campus of Castlemilk's brand new John Paul II Primary School at the end of June, but after vandals damaged the nursery so badly that it had to close, Charlie contacted Ronnie O'Connor, Glasgow City Council's Executive Director of Education, Training and Young People, to inquire what could be done to re-open it.

Ronnie had identified a possible decant to another school, but his preferred option was for the City Council's contractor, City Building, to get the new John Paul II school ready to open - 1 month early.

By working round the clock, that is precisely what they did. John Paul II Primary School was handed over to the Education Department on Friday 1st June and they promptly invited St Martin's Day Nursery to move in at their earliest convenience. "hats off to all concerned for this happy ending to the story" said Charlie.

## The Road To Completion



Charlie goes Head to Head with Transport Minister, Stewart Stevenson

In his first speech of the new session of the Scottish Parliament, Charlie Gordon MSP called on newly appointed Minister for Transport, Stewart Stevenson, to authorise the completion of the M74 motorway. Charlie has consistently argued the case for the completion of the motorway and has the support of many organisations such as the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce in his campaign.

Following the debate which took place on 31st May, he lodged a Parliamentary Question on the issue to the Minister. On 11th June Charlie received confirmation that the Executive will not overturn the Parliament's commitment to authorise the completion of the M74 motorway, often described as the "missing link". In his answer the Minister for Transport Stewart Stevenson said the contract for the work should be awarded in the late Summer or early Autumn of 2007.

Charlie Gordon MSP said "I am pleased the SNP Executive have not bowed to pressure from the Green Party and put a halt to this economically vital project. However, I will not rest easy until the contracts have been awarded and to that end I will be monitoring progress closely."

## ...AND AROUND AND ABOUT



Charlie with Billy at Lesser Hampden

In May Charlie Gordon warmly congratulated Queen's Park Football Club Head Coach Billy Stark in securing the club's promotion to the Scottish Second Division. Queen's Park, which is the oldest Football Club in Scotland, play at Hampden Park in the heart of the Glasgow Cathcart constituency.

Charlie later said "I congratulate all those involved at Queens in what was a terrific season for the club. I share in the delight of the Club's loyal fans and I wish Billy and the Team my very best wishes for the coming season". Billy has since signed a three year contract with the Spiders, much to the delight of players and supporters alike.

**DATELINE 6th FEBRUARY...**Charlie meets with members of Mount Florida Befriending Project...**DATELINE 13th FEBRUARY...**Charlie attends the Bridge Project's AGM...**DATELINE 2nd MARCH...**Charlie meets with Senior Representatives of Scottish Enterprise...**DATELINE 5th MARCH...**Charlie meets with Acting Chief Executive of Glasgow Housing Association...**DATELINE 9th MARCH...**Charlie meets with local students to discuss the work of the Public Petitions Committee...**DATELINE 12th MARCH...**Charlie attends Florida Avenue Neighbourhood Watch meeting and confirms securing funds for CCTV and new street lighting...**DATELINE 16th MARCH...**Charlie attends the handover of the UEFA Cup...**DEADLINE 22nd MARCH...**Charlie attends Crosshill/Govanhill Community Council...**DATELINE 2nd MAY...**Charlie attends Castlemilk High School Mock Election...**DATELINE 26th MAY...** Charlie attends official opening of St Bartholomew's Primary School...**DATELINE 20th JUNE...**Charlie attends Scottish Power Energy People event...**DATELINE 20th JUNE...**Charlie welcomes Tinto Primary School to the Scottish Parliament...**DATELINE 25th JUNE...**Charlie attends prizegiving event at Castlemilk High School...**DATELINE 29th JUNE...**Charlie meets with Principal of Langside College to discuss developments at College...**6th JULY...**Charlie attends retirement party of Rev John Miller of Castlemilk East Parish Church and his wife Jeely Piece co-founder Mary.