

"Here & Now—the Best of the '80's" Competition

We have 3 pairs of tickets to be won in a competition to see the "HERE & NOW TOUR — the BEST of the '80's" at the SECC on Saturday 10 May. The stars from the '80's (including Rick Astley, Bananarama, Paul Young, ABC, and Cutting Crew) perform their greatest hits that are as fresh now as they were then. To enter just tell us who had hits with these songs. Get your entry to us by 5 pm on Wed 7 May with your name, address & phone number. Good Luck!

1. "Poison Arrow"
2. "Love Of The Common People"
3. "Robert De Niro's Waiting"
4. "Never Gonna Give You Up"
5. "(I Just) Died In Your Arms"
6. "Venus"
7. "Together Forever"
8. "Wherever I lay My Hat"
9. "The Look Of Love"
10. "When I Fall In Love"



Mutual Exchange — Dumfries

WANTED: 1 or 2 bed roomed, Ground or 1st floor house. Easy travelling distance from Glasgow City Centre.

OFFERED: 2 Bed roomed, lower cottage house. On a hill overlooking Dumfries. Built 3 years ago. Back & front door. Back garden. Gas Central Heating. Double Glazing. Near schools & shops. Highly sought after area. CONTACT: 01387 259424.

When Do You Think They'll Notice?



LifeLink (www.lifelink.org.uk) (Tel: 548 1515)



Self harming and thoughts of suicide are more common than you think. Contact Lifelink.

You are not alone.



Useful Phone Numbers

Life Link (Royston Stress Centre)
 Heating/Hot Water Emergencies (James Frew Ltd)
 All Other Emergencies (City Building)
 Blochairn Housing Co-operative (Staff on Call)
 Scottish Power
 Scottish Power (Emergencies)
 Scottish Gas
 Scottish Gas (Escapes)
 City Council (Pest Control)
 City Council (Council Tax)
 City Council (Cleansing)
 Police (Baird Street)/(Community Police)
 CCTV Cameras (StreetWatch)
 Social Work Services Emergencies

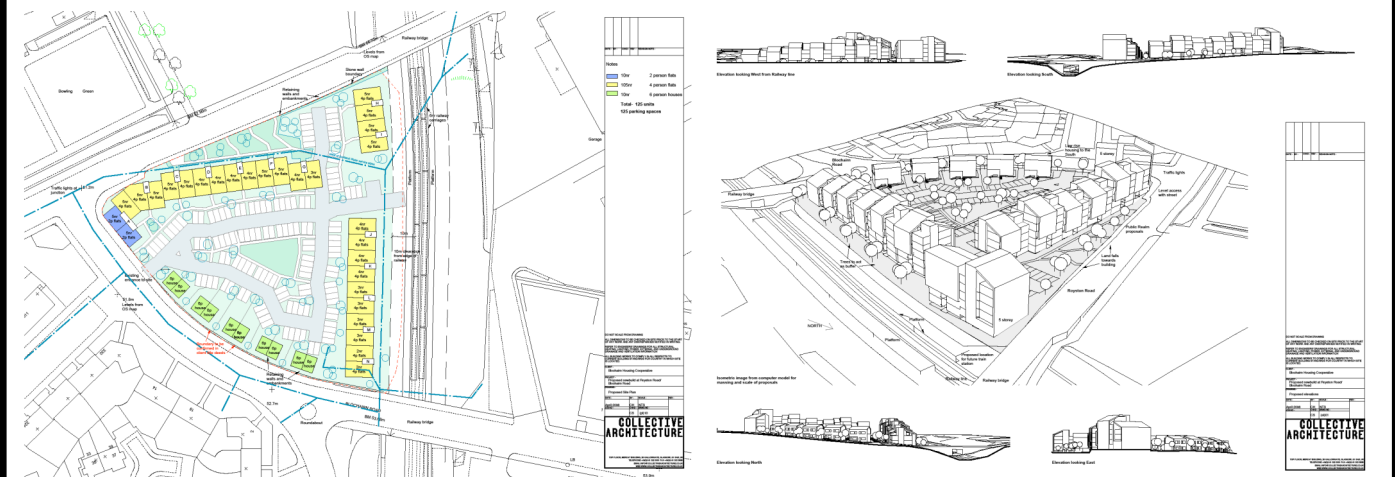
548 1515
 0870 242 5037
 0800 595 595
 07976 569 939
 0845 272 7111
 0845 27 27 999
 0845 609 1122
 0800 111 999
 287 9700
 0845 600 8040
 287 9700
 532 4100/532 4163
 287 9999
 0800 811 505

May 2008

Blochairn Housing Cooperative Newsletter

Blochairn Depot Site

Investigations are going on at the former Roads Depot to find out what needs to be done to prepare for a new build housing development. The District Valuer will value the site and negotiations will begin soon to buy it from Glasgow City Council. Strathclyde Passenger Transport will be asked for an update on the proposed railway platform. If everything goes to plan work could begin next April. It looks as though about 100 houses might be built, with about 30 for sale under shared ownership ("Homestake"). We will help the Council to meet its other priorities on homelessness, for example. A big Thank You goes to Councillor Allan Stewart who has been very supportive and worked hard to make sure that Tarmac finally moved.



Co-operative or Association?



The Rules for Charitable organisations are being checked and it is likely that a move to charitable status will be recommended at this year's Annual General Meeting. One of the changes might be a name change to "Blochairn Housing Association". Look out for more in our next newsletter.

Rangers Reach the UEFA Cup Final!

Rangers made it to the UEFA Cup Final last night, winning 4-2 in a thrilling penalty shoot out. The game was no classic and the Italians, Fiorentina, were the technically superior side. But they couldn't score over two legs or in extra time. Walter Smith and Ally McCoist deserve great credit for building such a resilient team. Well Done! What a result for Scotland—but especially for our great city. For Glasgow to have its two great teams in a European final within five years is fantastic!



Who Did This Guy Think He Was?

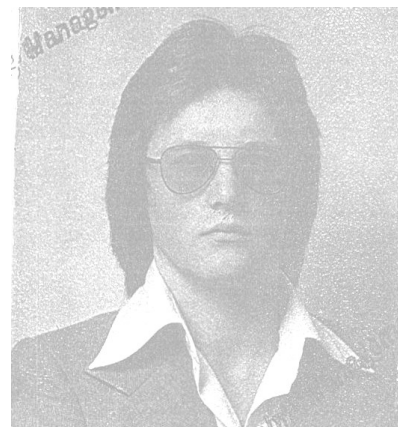
When the Co-operative's Director, Michael Carberry, arrived in 1994 the Co-operative was going through a rough time. He put a personal message in the newsletter called, "Who Does This Guy Think He Is?". It said:

"When the new guy starts to question residents about dogs, stairs, children, gardens, loud music, etc it is fairly natural to think, "Who does this guy think he is?" (or something along those lines). I am no more than someone you have employed to do a job for you. It is my job to do the best for the Blochairn area. I want to see the area improved within the next few years. Not just the houses, but the streets, the backlands and the general environment. I want people to be happy to live here and others to think "that's a great wee place, how do you get a house there?" These goals can be achieved with the help of the local community. There can be no guarantees that every resident will get everything that they want, or even everything that they need. What I can guarantee is that I will do my best, and ensure that the staff do their best, for every resident. That also goes for every housing applicant. What I can also guarantee is that our staff will be as open and honest as possible and will give a straight answer to a straight question. However, we shall respect the confidentiality of every resident and housing applicant. Respect is an important issue. For my part, I have to earn it from you. However, everyone who comes into contact with our office is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect and this will be the case. I come to Blochairn with 20 years experience in housing which I intend to put to good effect. It will take a bit of time but we'll get there. I believe that Blochairn is a great place to live and has tremendous potential. So does Royston as a whole. Along with Blochairn's Management Committee I intend to work with the other groups in the area to ensure that this potential is realised."

His personal profile in 1994 included:

Started at Blochairn: 12 December 1994
 Previous Employers: Reidvale HA (1979–1994); Glasgow District Council (1974–1979)
 Qualifications: M. Phil Degree (1994); Diploma In Housing (1993); SHNC Business Studies (1978)
 Hobbies: Still trying to play amateur football (but getting too old)
 Ambition: To get back to 11st 4lbs. To see an independent Scotland
 Likes: Dealing with people
 Dislikes: Office workers who don't care about the service that they provide
 Heroes: Kenny Dalglish. Steve Biko. Jesus Christ. Mahatma Ghandi.

Michael turned 50 last year. It's not only Blochairn that's changed—maybe he meant get back to 14st 11lbs! Incredibly, he still plays football—admittedly the team is Giffnock Old Crocks!



1978



1995



2007

Who Does He Think He is Now?

So what is this old guy saying now? "Blochairn is still a great place. There's a demand for our houses and people want to live here. There is a real sense of community. We've no graffiti and no vandalism which is partly down to how we involve young people. They are the same as anyone else—treat them with respect and you get the same in return. I am particularly proud of our youth newsletter, the "Wee Issue". I still love my job but it saddens me that our country is so obsessed by home ownership and how renting is seen as somehow inferior. It wasn't always like that. When I started work in Glasgow's Housing Dept in 1974 we had a working class workforce, the majority of whom lived in Council houses, delivering a service to working class people. Council housing was occupied by a whole range of people including professionals, like teachers. We now have a middle class, professional, home owning workforce delivering the service. Policy makers think rented housing is only for certain people and housing associations should just do the government's bidding! There are major issues in our society like poverty, poor health, low educational attainment, etc and it's hard to see just who is fighting to get a fair deal for the people most affected. Too many people seem to be comfortably well off and don't care passionately enough about those who are less well off. The hardest part of my job is dealing with people who haven't got a clue what it is like to live in a housing scheme—people who make decisions that affect other people's lives but are never accountable. Maybe I'm like the guys in that programme "Grumpy Old Men". Maybe I'm getting too old and tired to keep fighting for a better deal for the punters! The next few years should be exciting with the development of the Depot site. We'll make sure we produce another quality housing development that we can all be proud of. We've achieved a lot over the last few years. It has been through the hard work and commitment of our small staff team and our committee members. But it has also been because of the commitment of so many of our residents to making this a better place to live. My thanks go to all of them.



1994



2008



Everton Football Club Competition

Thanks to Everton FC three lucky young people enjoyed a trip to Liverpool on 27 April and saw a thrilling Premier League match between Everton and Aston Villa at Goodison Park. The game finished 2–2 which keeps Everton in 5th place, in line for a UEFA Cup place. Edward Gardner, Joseph McGuire and Ryan McCafferty had a great day— thanks to Everton!

