

Cash boost for library

Additional funding from the City's capital programme looks set to be a real boost for McDonald Road Library. **Spurtle** spoke to Librarians Jim Thompson and Ewan McCormick just as they were preparing a formal report for the Hopetoun Steering Committee.

The promise of a one-off £200,000 will spark off the upgrading of the Library building and the services provided. The cash, though welcome, is not enough to make everything possible. But it does put in place an initial 2-year programme to identify what best use to make of the funds, with the aim of long-term and significant improvement.

High on the list of priorities is accessibility, and freeing-up space to be put to better use – a lift looms large

(and expensive!). More basically, toilets and baby-changing space now comes standard – but not here, yet. And before any of this can be contemplated – roof repairs are essential.

Little of this will be achievable without attracting additional funding from sources outwith the Council. This could be by Lottery grants or by bringing onboard private enterprises who also have a stake in the neighbourhood. The first year of the programme will be taken up with consultation and planning. By year two the first effects should be seen.

As part of the plan is to make the Library much more of a focus for the community rapidly expanding around it, it is intended to consult local people – so watch this space.

Contacts

Updated 1st August 1999

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Alan McIntosh 556 4848

Broughton Place Residents Association
Judith Hallam 556 4595

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
Allan Wilson 554 9144

Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5271

Cllr Lazarowicz 529 3283
Broughton Ward
Surgery on Wednesdays at Drummond Community High School from 6 to 7pm (during school terms)

Cllr David Guest New Town
558 8823 or 529 4268

Malcolm Chisholm MP and MSP 555 3636
Surgery on Saturdays at Drummond Community High School at 1pm.

BROUGHTON **Spurtle** aims to:

- provide a contact point for local people who want to get together and change things
- help local action groups publicise their work
- make connections between "the news" and people's own lives in Broughton
- and generally stir things up a bit!

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time.

PHONE – 556 7727 or 556 0903
FAX – 557 6752

BROUGHTON Spurtle is now on the World Wide Web on <http://www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk>

BROUGHTON Spurtle is printed on recycled paper

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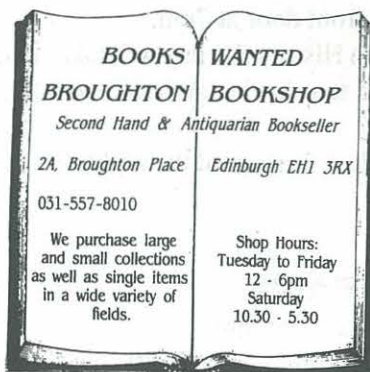
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BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 62

August 1999

Broughton **Spurtle** is
free
and completely
independent

Patience runs out at Sovereign Court

Carol Fox and her wee daughter were amongst the first to move into the new houses at Sovereign Court. One of Barratt's selling points was a play area for children: "Two years later, our children still don't have a play area, and the timescale changes every time we ask about it".

The company's show house occupies the McDonald Road site for the play area. Sovereign Court residents suspect they'd like to keep it as their base while nearby housing projects are built. Other complaints concern an unfinished parking area, a general lack of information from Barratt, and management fees that rise without explanation. Feelings came to the boil when over 70 residents packed a meeting with representatives of Barratt, the management factor and the City Council's planning department at the end of June. Residents weren't satisfied by answers on the night, or in letters received since.

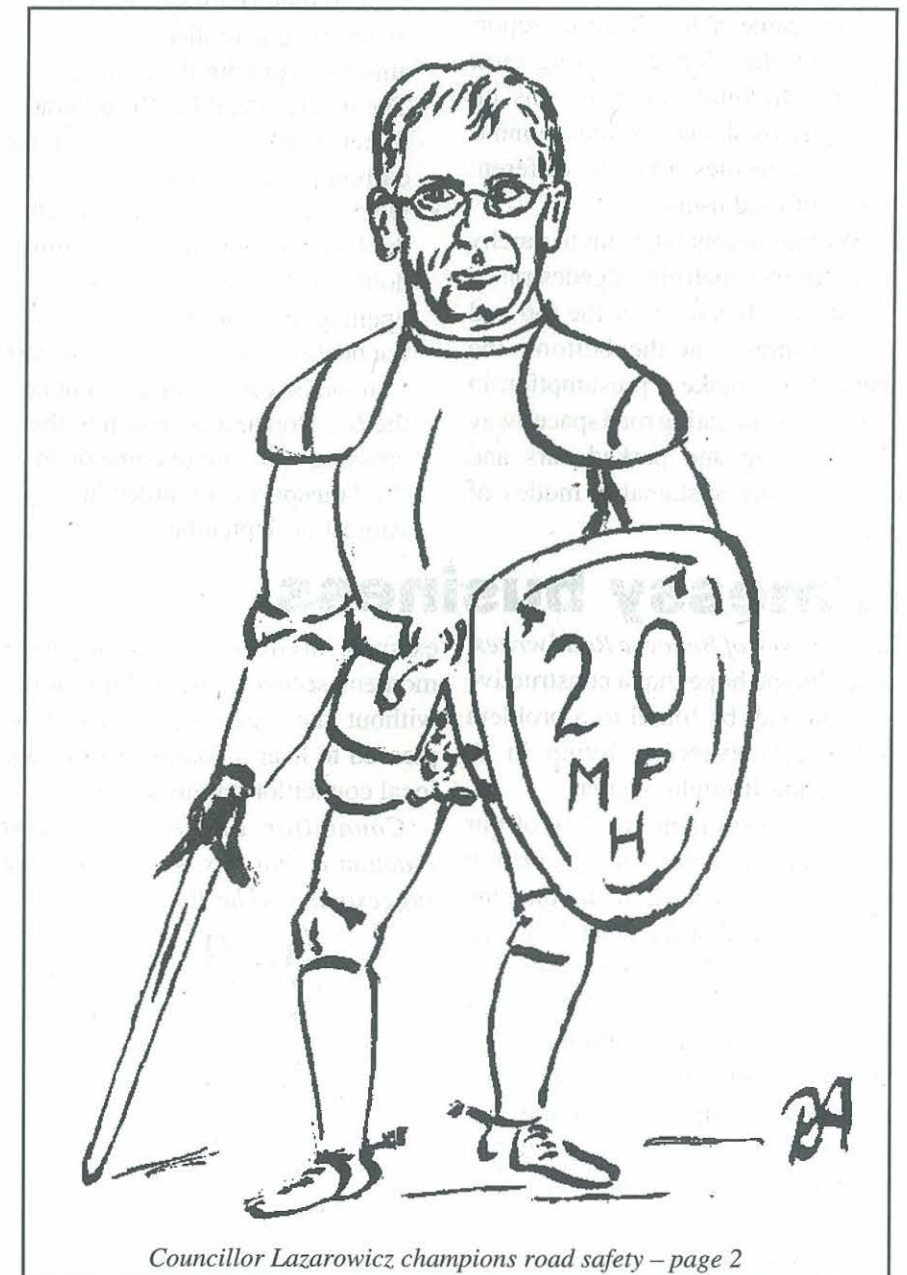
"We feel very disappointed with the attitudes of Barratt and Peverel Management Services," says Carol Fox. "We've paid a lot for our properties and are not happy with the service we've received. We're thankful the Council is now involved."

Local councillor Mark Lazarowicz will convene a meeting to set up a residents association on 4th August. By then this **Spurtle** will be at the printer, so we'll report the outcome in our next issue. Meanwhile, you can contact Carol Fox on 558 3923.

Besides Sovereign Court, Barratt have nearly completed Kingspark

round the corner, are building at Blandfield and just across Leith Walk, and now seek planning permission for 40 flats behind Capital Copiers at 107 McDonald Road (where workshops' lease expires next year). Staff in the

McDonald Road office have sold £30 million worth of homes in the last 18 months, celebrating good commissions as a result. Sovereign Court residents may wish there were bonuses on after-sales service too!



Councillor Lazarowicz champions road safety – page 2

Good news on traffic



July brought good news for road users in Edinburgh, particularly pedestrians. First came the official announcement that the City Council is determined to press ahead as quickly as possible with around 300 traffic-calming schemes, pedestrian crossings and 20mph zones. Only a fraction of the money is available at the moment, but the Council will give high priority to finding the rest.

Then came a leaked draft report outlining the Council's long-term strategy. In future all decisions on allocating road space should honour clearcut priorities given to different groups of road users:

"Within the context of this hierarchy of road users which places pedestrians, cyclists and bus users at the top and car commuters at the bottom, the Council will make a presumption in favour of reallocating road space away from moving and parked cars and towards more sustainable modes of transport."

A messy business

David Aitken of Bellevue Road writes: I write in the hope that a constructive solution may be found to a problem that affects everyone living in or visiting the Broughton area.

The problem is the fouling of our pavements and streets by dogs, mainly with collar and lead, with someone holding the end of that lead. I assume those individuals are no happier at finding a deposit at their front gate or stair entry than I am. I am not a dog owner but my son is, and when my wife and I are dog-sitting we find it is no big problem to have a plastic bag with us when the dog sits to the call of nature.

Containers for depositing the plastic bags could be placed strategically: for

The howls of "anti-car!" were predictable. But it's more a case of redressing the balance: Edinburgh's streets have been organised around the demands of the car for far too long. We hope the Council has the political will to stick to those good intentions and find the money to put them into practice.

Local progress

The convenor of the City's Transport Committee, Mark Lazarowicz, is also our local councillor. *Spartle* asked him for recent progress on Broughton issues:

- Europcar in East London Street have been sent a letter pointing out that it's a criminal offence to block the pedestrian way. After a short-lived improvement, they're back to their old ways; a Council official is due to discuss enforcement with the police.
- The traffic island for Broughton Street is "likely to go ahead in the current financial year".
- Double yellow lines for some of the East Claremont Street humps; double yellow lines from the opening to Huntingdon Place to the health centre; and lines in East London Street to stop parking at the bus stop and approach to the crossing – all due to come up at the Transport Committee in August or September.

example, in Green Street, which at the moment seems to be a dogs' toilet without the amenities. I would be pleased to hear a comment from our local councillor on this subject.

Councillor Lazarowicz's first reaction is that this is an interesting suggestion, and he'll look into it.



Don't blame me. I can only 'GO' where I'm led!

In last month's *Spartle*, Simon Challoner of East Claremont Street floated the idea of blocking off the street at the Broughton Primary School end. Since then local residents with children have told him they welcome the idea, particularly because it would cut down the traffic around the school.

Alice Lauder of Bellevue Gardens wrote to wish him luck in his plans to curb the traffic in our area. But: "Where would the displaced traffic go? Would it disappear because it could not be bothered with all the route changes? This is possible because, as I use these streets every day, I feel that there is not so much traffic in Annandale Street now because of the speed bumps". Or will the traffic be dispersed into other less suitable streets? "Your suggestion would have to be investigated thoroughly."

Redbraes struggles on

Redbraes residents' petition about their neglected local park is on its way to our local councillor. Meanwhile, Ann Donohoe of Redbraes Place tells *Spartle* they haven't cracked the street cleaning problem yet. They get some service by phoning Rapid Response, but the regular "once a week" clean the Council quotes just doesn't seem to happen. It makes her wonder if Rapid Response has only been made possible by taking staff and vehicles off regular routes.

After trying several avenues, Ann got action on their street drains by phoning CLARENCE. But the Giant Hogweed in their back greens is now 14 feet high: she suspects the lack of action on this could be due to a dispute over responsibility between the Parks and Housing Departments.

Spartle team for this issue:

Tim Puntis, David Aitken, Ken McKay, Norma McKendrick, Richard Love, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Jane Coville, and Alan McIntosh.

**Phone Spartle
556 0903 / 7727
or fax 557 6752**

Your MSPs – cut out and keep



Malcolm Chisholm (Labour) 348 5908, e-mail Malcolm.Chisholm.msp@scottish.parliament.uk (constituency 555 3636, fax 555 3737).

Equal Opportunities & Health and Community Care Committees; also highlights interest in housing, education and transport.



James Douglas-Hamilton (Tory) 348 5660, fax 348 5936, e-mail james.douglas-hamilton.msp@scottish.parliament.uk Group Whip. Standards Committee.



Robin Harper (Green) 348 5927, fax 348 5972 (constituency 478 7895, fax 478 7893) e-mail RobinHarper.msp@scottish.parliament.uk. Transport and Environment Committee.



Fiona Hyslop (SNP) 348 5920, fax 348 5716, e-mail Fiona.Hyslop.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Social Inclusion, Housing and Voluntary Sector Committee. Shadow Minister of Housing and Social Justice; highlights interest in housing, poverty, equality issues, voluntary sector, social policy and community issues.



Kenny MacAskill (SNP) 348 5721, pager 01523 523 523 no. 665 343, fax 348 5735, e-mail kenny.macaskill.msp@scottish.parliament.uk Standards & Transport and Environment Committees (SNP Parliamentary Spokesman on T. and E.).



Margo MacDonald (SNP) 348 5714, fax 348 5716, e-mail margo.macdonald.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

European & Enterprise and Life Long Learning Committees. Special interest in PFI debate.



David McLetchie (Tory) 348 5659, fax 5935, e-mail David.McLetchie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk Group Leader.



David Steel (LibDem) 348 5308, fax 348 5301 "As Presiding Officer I cannot get involved in political campaigns."

Malcolm Chisholm already has a surgery (1pm, Saturday, Drummond Community High). The three SNP members will let us know as soon as theirs are organised. You can also write to any MSP at Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.

The next full sessions of the Scottish Parliament are on 1st September at 2.30pm, and 2nd September at 9.30am and 2.30pm. Before that, The European Committee meets on 18th August, and the Social Inclusion, Housing and Voluntary Sector Committee on 23rd August.

To enquire about meetings or book seats, phone 348 5411. Parliament's website: www.scottish.parliament.uk

Events in August

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 8th – 30th August

BROUGHTON VENUES

The Bellevue Gallery, Drummond Community Theatre, Café Graffiti, Reality X, The Palladium, Edinburgh Printmakers' Gallery, Theatre East End (St Paul's and St George's, York Place)

Broughton History Society presents:

BROUGHTON – A VILLAGE IN THE CITY

13–24 August (not Sundays) 12–6pm

at Venue 114: Theatre East End

St Paul's and St George's Church, York Place Admission Free

Reproductions of old prints and paintings; maps chronicling the development of the New Town which eventually enveloped Broughton; more recent photographs from various archives and local people are brought together to show the changing face of Broughton.

"CABER CAPER"

Summer Festival Saturday, 21st August 12–5pm

Scotland Yard Adventure Centre

Stalls – musicians – children's entertainers – food.

HISTORY WALK

Monday, 23rd August

Meet in the playground of Drummond Community High School near the front door at 7pm.

Members of Broughton History Society will take small groups on a conducted tour lasting an hour and a bit.

Free – All welcome.

Phone 556 0903 – or just turn up on the night.

HOPETOUN'S PARTY IN THE PARK

Saturday, 28th August from 2pm

Entertainment – refreshments. An afternoon for everyone! (Look out for posters with details)