

Jordanhill Community Council

Chairperson's Report, October 2017-September 2018

This session has been dominated by the campaign organised by JCC and local residents against the proposals made by Cala Homes (West) for the development. Our objective throughout was to emphasise to all parties that JCC is not anti-development but felt that the 'over-development of the site which was proposed did not take into account the strains that would be placed on the existing traffic pattern within Jordanhill, the lack of obvious additional schools provision, and a public transport system that had been reduced significantly since the original application, resulting in 'approval in principle subject to conditions' had been made by GCC planning committee. An additional consideration was that the proposals took no account of providing any 'Community Benefit'. This was despite the site owner's, Strathclyde University, long stated public position of high regard for the Jordanhill Community.

Our campaign consisted of mobilising support from residents to submit their own individual representations against the Cala proposals, submitting closely reasoned representations against the proposals on behalf of JCC and compiling a detailed Community Value Document for the principal parties involved, Cala Homes (West), Strathclyde University, and Glasgow City Council. In the hope that it would be possible to engage with the parties prior to a formal meeting of GCC Planning Application Committee, JCC petitioned the Court of Session in Edinburgh for a Judicial Review of the original planning committee decision, which was considered to have been overtaken by subsequent events. In order to make this course of action financially feasible, we applied for, and were granted, a protected expenses order. All these steps were enthusiastically supported by well-attended meetings of local residents; votes for the actions proposed were supported fully by financial contributions from residents. Our legal bills were substantial but JCC, which has had the final responsibility, has been able to meet all commitments to date.

Our 'David and Goliath' action at the Court of Session in November 2017 was unsuccessful. Those of us who were present at the two day hearing considered that our case had been well put and that we received a fair hearing. My own view in retrospect was that JCC was bound to translate the very strong local feeling in the legal action taken. Had we not done so, we should not have represented our constituents adequately.

The final act in the long running saga was the public hearing of GCC Planning Committee to consider the two applications submitted by Cala Homes (West). Despite the large number of representations received from Jordanhill residents, the Planning Applications Committee had made little or no effort to provide a room of adequate size to accommodate those who wished to attend. I was surprised at the relative lack of interest the Committee appeared to have for the Jordanhill case. All three of the ward elected representatives spoke strongly on our behalf as did our nominated witnesses. Sadly, none of the arguments put forward by our side found favour and the development will go ahead essentially as it was proposed.

We now need to accept the situation and move on. With this in mind, Robert McKay and I have had two preliminary meetings with Cala and a meeting with JCC is tentatively proposed in the near future.

I have focussed on one campaign in this report. There are others which are on-going; no doubt they will preoccupy us at future meetings.

In conclusion, I believe that Jordanhill will never be quite the same after this series of events, even though the outcome was not the one hoped for. A positive outcome is an interest in establishing community-based facilities along the lines suggested in the Community Value project. I hope very much that the plans now being made will come to fruition.

Lastly, I must thank the cooperation and support provided by our Partners, Jordanhill School Educational Trust and by JOSS –JCC could not have pursued the campaign without you. Thank you too to all those residents who gave freely of their time to organise and fund-raise. The Campus Sub-Committee could not have existed without you.

John Winfield

Chairperson JCC

01 October 2018