

## Context Briefing 4 Media analysis

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## Context Briefing 4

### Media analysis

#### Introduction

In this briefing we present the findings of an analysis of media coverage in four sample GoWell areas. With an aim of providing further interpretation and understanding of GoWell survey findings, the analysis captures change, key developments and notable events in the areas as reported in the media. The analysis and synthesis of media coverage of the areas has also provided a rich source of local intelligence about these areas in a comprehensive way.

The chapter is presented as four short reports, one for each of the GoWell areas included in the analysis, with media coverage discussed under the topic headings of:

1. *Housing*
2. *Neighbourhood* sport and leisure activities and events, arts and culture, crime, transport, environment and schools/education
3. *Community* groups and activities, community empowerment, employment and ethnicity
4. *Health*

#### Methodology

In 2013, we undertook a search and analysis of media coverage in four GoWell areas namely, Red Road and surrounding areas; Sighthill and surrounding area, Shawbridge corridor; and Scotstoun and surrounding areas.

Media reports and articles relating to the four GoWell areas were identified using the Nexis database<sup>1</sup>. Our search was limited to media reports published between March 2007 and March 2012 in the following Scottish newspapers:

- Daily Record
- Sunday Mail
- Evening Times
- The Glaswegian
- The Herald
- The Scotsman
- Scotland on Sunday
- Sunday Herald

On completion of the search for media articles and reports in the named newspaper within the five-year search period, identified articles were reviewed for relevance and inclusion and exclusion criteria.

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<sup>1</sup> Nexis database: <http://www.lexisnexis.co.uk/en-uk/products/nexis.page>

Articles were included if they related to issues of housing, sport and leisure, arts and culture, physical environment, crime, education, community activities and groups, transport, employment, ethnicity and health in each area. Articles were excluded if they related to the results of sporting events (e.g. football, rugby scores) and the achievements of individual residents. Reports of GoWell survey findings were also excluded from the analysis. Figure 1 shows the percentage of articles by theme for each of the four areas studied.

All included articles were coded, reviewed and synthesised and the results presented in a narrative form under the four main themes of housing, neighbourhoods, community and health for each GoWell area of interest.

The breakdown of retrieved articles (by percentage) by each theme is available. Full references for all articles presented and discussed are available on request.

Figure 1: Percentage of articles by theme for each geographical area.



Produced using Piktochart: [www.piktochart.com](http://www.piktochart.com)

## Red Road and surrounding areas

### Housing

The primary focus of the articles is the progress of the regeneration projects and investments in Red Road and the surrounding areas.

From positive beginnings in early 2007, criticism develops during 2008 over the extended length of time it is estimated it will take to demolish the Red Road tower blocks, with the new completion date announced as 2016. In March 2010, it is announced that two of the tower blocks will be demolished simultaneously. Other notable reports include:

- In early 2007, new city-wide investment plans worth £1.5 billion for areas including Sighthill and Red Road to replace high-rise tower blocks with low-rise housing.
- Controversy in late 2011, when the Scottish Government announces that it is to cut its GHA funding for regeneration by £122 million.
- Agreement on the transfer of ownership of 3,000 homes from GHA to North GHA in the Red Road site and the surrounding areas.

### Neighbourhoods

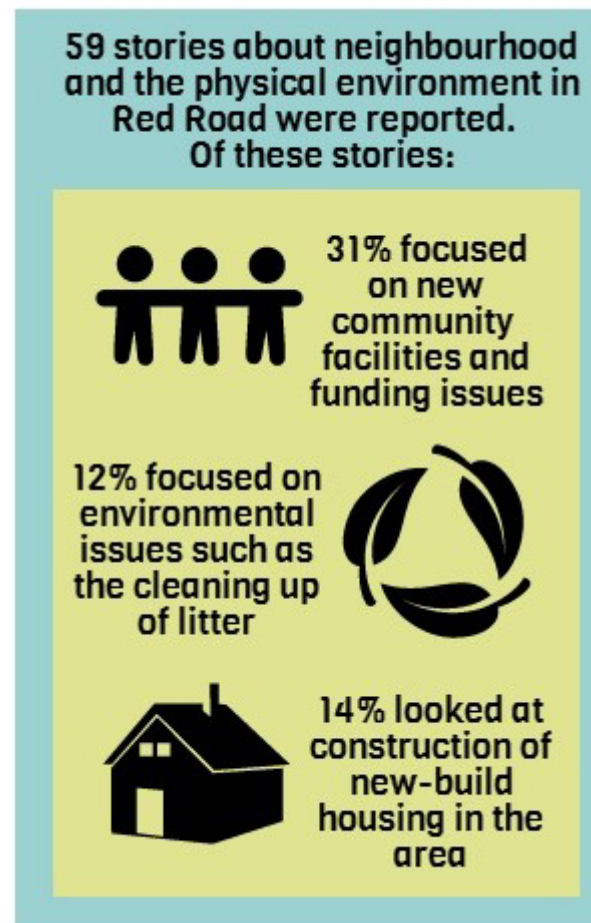
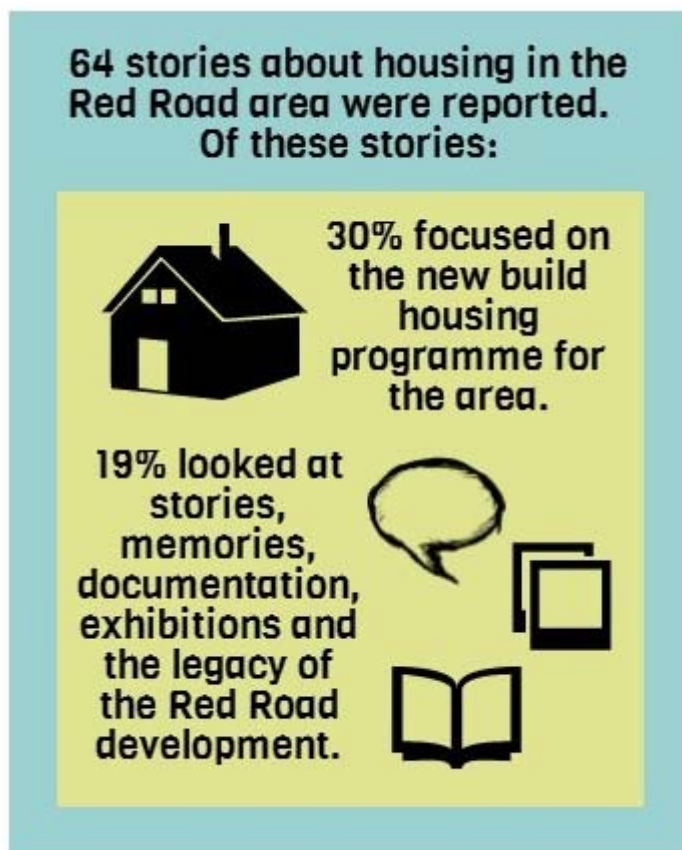
#### *Neighbourhood facilities and events*

Key developments in the neighbourhood over the period relate to (i) sports and leisure facilities and (ii) arts and culture.

In 2007, the new £5.6 million 'Petershill Park Leisure Centre' was opened to the public, with a wide range of sport and recreation facilities available. The new centre is praised by some as 'exceptional', while others criticise its highly-priced entry tickets and expensive pitch hiring costs. The new sports centre has allowed for increased provision of free sports days and coaching sessions for young people.

- Other sports-related activities in the area include:
  - The launch of the skills development programme 'Operation Reclaim', the North Glasgow Healthy Living Community annual 'Fun in the Park' day and, Asda's Robroyston 'Sporting Chances' campaign.
- In 2007, the communities in Barmulloch and Robroyston raised £120,000 towards their own new games pitch, and in 2008, a new play area within Springburn's Balgrayhill area was completed.

Figure 2: Housing, neighbourhood and physical environment in Red Road and surrounding area.



In relation to arts and culture centred on the Red Road tower blocks:

- In 2007, the film 'Red Road', filmed at the tower blocks, is positively received by journalists, with the sequel beginning production in Glasgow in 2010.
- A number of on-site exhibitions are launched to showcase the history of the Red Road flats including:
  - A documentary archiving the history of the tower blocks through using residents' own accounts.
  - An exhibition in 2010 at Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art titled 'Multi-Story'
  - A book titled 'This Road is Red' is shortlisted for the Newton First Book award and the Saltire Society First Book of the Year award.

### *Neighbourhood crime*

Several types of neighbourhood crime occurred in the area during the period:

Violent crime, including:

- Fights, the use of weapons in attacks, drive-by shootings and knife stabbings. Although not always confirmed, many of these attacks are stated as gang-related or related to so-called 'crime families'.
- An unprovoked attack on a Palestinian man in 2008 by a resident of Barmulloch.
- The imprisonment of a teenager from Barmulloch for attempted rape in 2008.

Property crime:

- Two elderly sisters suffer a house burglary in 2011 and in early 2012, a thief is reported to have attacked a local shop assistant in Red Road.

Drug seizures:

- The seizure of Class A substances worth £12.5 million from industrial units, the seizure of heroin worth £200,000 from a home in Balornock and the arrest of a man from Balornock for possession of firearms and drugs.

Crime involving young people and antisocial behaviour:

- A children's home in Balornock attracts over 400 police attendances in a year (2007) due to antisocial behaviour, assaults and children going missing.



In an attempt to reduce these high crime rates and in reply to calls by locals for a stronger police response to violence in the area, a number of crime prevention programmes are now running in the area:

- 'Operation Reclaim' and the 'Community Initiative to Reduce Violence', were aimed specifically at minimising gang violence, resulting in crime rates in the Red Road area falling by 39% during 2005-06. Also, in 2009, violent crime, graffiti and gang-related fighting fell by 81% in some areas. It is also reported that gang-related violent crime among young people engaged with the programme had reduced by almost 50%.
- Between 2010 and 2011, the alcohol licences of many local shops were suspended or changed in response to under-age drinking problems and antisocial behaviour.
- Neighbours of a family from Balornock whom the community repeatedly complained about were evicted.

### *Neighbourhood physical environment*

Key reports in the neighbourhood in relation to neighbourhood services and the physical environment include:

- Controversy over the proposed closure of 23 post office branches within the Glasgow area in 2007, including four North Glasgow branches.
  - This encourages community action in the form of a petition and in March 2008 Glasgow City Council announces its intentions to purchase some of the threatened branches.
- In 2009, Glasgow City Council announces its intentions to make £60 million worth of budget cuts during 2010/11, resulting in the closure of the Red Road Recreation Centre.
- Funding is awarded to several Glasgow neighbourhoods including:
  - £73,000 awarded to Barmulloch residents for the planning of a new community hall.
  - £71,000 to Balornock residents to allow for the finalisation of designs for a new community centre.

### *Neighbourhood transport*

Local transport issues and facilities reported principally focused on:

- The announcement by First Buses in early 2007 of new bus links for communities in Glasgow's North East.
- The expansion of the free community bus service provided to North East communities by the North Area Transport Association in 2010 following investment by North Glasgow Housing Association.
- A campaign to get a new train station for Robroyston in 2010 and 2011.

## *Schools and education*

The main education new articles refers to the debate over GCCs intended closure and relocation of several schools across the city in 2009, with Sighthill Primary School and St Gilbert's Primary School being closed, and pupils from St Gilbert's and Barmulloch Primary School being relocated. This resulted in a series of protests by parents against the proposals including a 24 hour protest outside the GCC offices, and lock-ins at schools. However, despite these concerns and protests, in April 2009, the closure of six primary schools and nurseries in Glasgow's North East was confirmed.

- In late 2010, it was announced that the 'additional-support-for-learning' school Gadburn Primary, was to be closed, and again despite protests, in 2011, the decision was taken to close the school. However, with the support of the Education Secretary, it was announced that the decision had been referred to Holyrood for reconsideration.

A number of achievements by local schools in the Red Road and surrounding areas are also highlighted including:

- Springburn Academy was highly commended in a government HMI report in 2008, and All Saints Secondary School had success in reaching the Scottish national average for Higher passes.
- Bonnybroom Nursery was rated as one of the best nurseries in Scotland in 2010.
- Balornock Primary School was in the running to win the 'Scottish Education Award Global Citizenship' award and were winners of the 'Molendinar Awards'.
- St Catherine's Primary was awarded nine 'excellent' ratings as part of 'GCC's Health Promoting Schools' review in 2009.

## **Community**

A small number of community activities and events took place in the Red Road and surrounding areas over the period including:

- The annual Robroyston Community Council community litter clean-up and fun day, and the Balornock East Residents' Association annual 'family fun day' in June 2011.

Local residents and groups were also recognised in the annual Glasgow Community Champions Awards including:

- The pupils of Royston Primary School who rejuvenated a derelict site in memory of a school pupil, and the 'Beat Route Music Group' from Balornock.

- Awards winners in 2010 included two young people, who volunteered with 'Depot Arts' and a group of All Saints Secondary pupils who petitioned the Scottish Government regarding the sale of cheap alcohol; and in 2011, the 'Caldercuilt Youth Forum', which provides a safe environment for young people to engage in positive activities.

## **Ethnicity**

A number of key incidents and activities in relation to issues of ethnicity are highlighted within the Red Road area and surrounding areas during the five-year period. The main topics relate to the forced deportations and the triple suicide of three asylum seekers living in the area.

- The removal of a Pakistani family from their home in Red Road for deportation in June 2007, resulting in a protest against dawn raids by fellow asylum seekers and Red Road residents.
- The deaths of an asylum-seeking family in March 2010 after they jumped from the fifteenth floor of their Red Road home, which resulted in debate by politicians and charities and local protests.
- In advance of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, athletes from Eritrea, some of whom were living in Red Road, may be allowed to compete on behalf of Scotland.
- An individual identified as part of an Islamic terrorist group, was unsuccessful in his bid to remain in his Petershill home in 2009.

St Roch's Secondary School and All Saints Secondary School now have an ethnically diverse school population, with 34 languages being spoken by pupils at St Roch's and 18 different nationalities represented at All Saints school.

## **Health**

There are two primary main health reports in the area during the period:

- The introduction of a new school policy to restrict the ability of pupils to purchase their lunches off-campus ('Glasgow's Big Eat In') supports the reduction of the consumption of unhealthy food bought from local vendors.
- Funding of £14.4 million has been raised by the public towards a new Marie Curie Stobhill Hospice.

## Sighthill and surrounding areas

### Housing

Key developments in relation to housing in Sighthill and surrounding areas in the period refer predominately to a debate between GHA and Sighthill residents who oppose the proposed demolition of all the tower blocks at the Pinkston site.

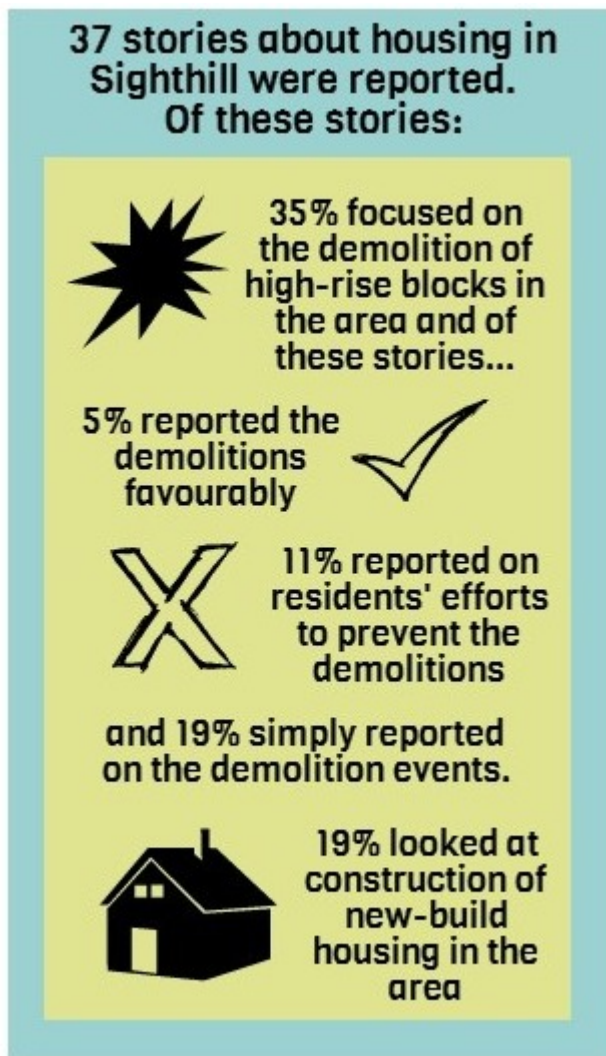
- GHA reported that 80% of local Sighthill residents surveyed were in favour of the intended demolition of all ten tower blocks and 100 flats in the area.
- However, the Pinkston Drive Tenants Association claims that local residents do not want demolition, but refurbishment of their homes, in order to avoid detrimental damage to the neighbourhood and to preserve the community spirit among residents.
- Despite these protests, in October 2007, GHA announces it will demolish five of the tower blocks, located on the Fountainwell side of Sighthill.

The Pinkston Tenants Association continue however to challenge the proposed demolition of the Pinkston tower blocks and in February 2009, the association forms its own local community council in order to promote their cause and local concerns. Success for the community association comes in mid-2009 with an agreement reached with GHA for the refurbishment of two Pinkston tower blocks, rather than their demolition.

Other housing issues were also highlighted, including:

- Home owners of high rise flats identified for demolition stated they had to wait longer to receive alternative accommodation.
- Local residents voiced annoyance in 2010 at GHA's intentions to extend the concierge service provided for high-rise flats to also include low-rise flats. Residents stated that this will impact on service quality.

Figure 3: Housing, neighbourhood and physical environment in Sighthill.



## Neighbourhoods

### *Neighbourhood facilities and events*

Neighbourhood developments mainly related to sports and leisure facilities and arts and culture.

Firstly in relation to sports and leisure facilities developments included:

- In 2010, it was announced that a new £2.2 million water-sports activity centre was to be constructed on the edge of the Clyde River at the Pinkston Basin, on the site of the old Pinkston Power Station.
  - The facility has been funded by the Big Lottery and The Gannochy Trust, and expects 24,000 visitors annually. Around 350 local young people will benefit from training. However, high entry prices are criticised.
  - This new facility will complement existing sports facilities on the Clyde, including a new large-scale playground called 'Forgotten Island' at Yorkhill Quay.

Local arts and cultural activities took place in the area:

- In October 2010, a torch-lit procession, called 'Illuminating Links', took place to celebrate the rejuvenation of the River Clyde's canal, which featured large lanterns displaying Glasgow landmarks, including Sighthill cemetery.
- The Sighthill 'One Stop Shop' community centre played host to an art exhibition entitled 'Touch the Sky', as part of a wider 'Sighthill Stories' project.
- Rejuvenation of the 'Sighthill Stone Circle' in Sighthill Park by the Glasgow Parks Astronomy Department.

### *Neighbourhood crime*

Several types of crime occurred in the area during the period, including:

Violent crime:

- In 2010, the conviction of a man for culpable homicide after an attack on a cleaner in Pinkston Drive.
- The conviction in 2007 of a man for the murder of an asylum seeker in Sighthill.
- A number of incidences of gang-related violent crime, including the arrest of a five-man gang after the murder of a 25 year old in Royston, the murder of a major gang-related criminal in Robroyston in 2010, and the stabbing of a 27 year old on Fountainwell Road in Sighthill.

#### Drugs possession and trafficking offences:

- In 2008, a pensioner living in the Sighthill area was found guilty of having stored and supplied £20,000 worth of heroin.
- In 2012, police raided six Glasgow addresses, one of which was in Sighthill, and arrested a Somali drugs gang who were selling cocaine in Glasgow.

#### Theft, property crime and arson:

- In 2007, a Sighthill Post Office was robbed by an armed individual, who stole £50,000 through pretending to be a potential buyer of the business.
- The theft of a mobile phone from a thirteen year old, and the robbery of a sixty-eight year old while she waited in her car.
- In 2008, suspicion was raised that the fire at the Sighthill Social Club was started deliberately and vandalism is blamed for the failure of dry risers that delayed fire fighters from putting out a fire in Pinkston Drive.

#### Organised crime and security firms:

- In 2008, police raids are carried out on several construction sites, including two owned by GHA in the Sighthill area, where two individuals were arrested for immigration offences. Subsequently GHA announces its intention to review security at all its construction sites.

#### *Neighbourhood physical environment*

Key developments in the neighbourhood environment in the Sighthill and the surrounding areas include:

- The loss of the local Sighthill community centre, locally known as the "One Stop Shop", in March 2011 due to fire.
  - Residents' then raise concerns about the replacement of the Centre following the loss of the services of a recently established eye clinic; and a well equipped community cafe and kitchen.
- In response to high levels of litter and graffiti in the Sighthill area, one local resident took positive action and inspired the local community to organise small-scale clean up teams for the area around the high rise flats.
- The areas of Speirs Wharf and Pinkston Basin are now linked via a new canal system called 'Speirs Lock', following activity by the local Canal Regeneration Partnership.

## **Schools and education**

In relation to the education in the area and the activities of local school a number of developments were reported.

Two local secondary schools received positive and improved HMIE reports, namely Saint Roch's Secondary School and Springburn Academy. With Saint Roch's making 'significant' improvement in several areas compared with its 2006 review. However, in 2009, it is announced that Sighthill Primary School is to close, with pupils being moved to Royston Primary School, prompting protests by parents.

A variety of alternative approaches towards providing education also occurred during the period, including:

- The 'McKever Incentive Challenge', adopted by St Roch's Secondary School, which offers rewards for improved pupil behaviour.
- St Kevin's Primary School (Sighthill) is encouraging healthy eating through participation in the 'Glasgow's Children's Orchard' project,
- The River Clyde is to be used as a site for educational lessons, with the 'Classroom on the Clyde' (a boat-based classroom) providing access to new resources discussing the history and development of the area.



## **Community**

A small number of community activities and events took place in Sighthill and surrounding areas during the period including:

- In 2009, plans to establish Scotland's first micro-bank in the Sighthill area of Glasgow were put on hold after local residents voiced concerns that they would forfeit their benefits if they received a loan. Consequently, the bank was reported to be petitioning the Department of Work and Pensions, while the Scottish Secretary announced his intentions to present the case to Westminster.
- In 2009, it was announced that the Sighthill Library was to close due to GCC budget cuts.
- The winners of the 2010 Glasgow Community Champion Awards included the 'Springburn Alive and Kicking Team', who support local elderly and disabled residents.
- The 'St Rollox Asylum Support Centre', was praised by the local MP who said that the centre was a good example of "communities coming together to help one another".
- In early 2011, 'KATS' (Kids and Adults Together in Sighthill) ran an open day to encourage locals to visit the centre and learn about the services available.
- In 2012, SPT announced that they would fund a new bus service for residents of Sighthill and the Trongate to the city centre, operated by the local community group, the North Area Transport Association, for an initial period.

## **Ethnicity**

In respect of issues of ethnicity within the Sighthill area, the following developments and events occurred:

- In 2007, police reported that 34 crimes relating to racism took place in the Sighthill area during 2005-06, with anti-racist groups claiming that this figure significantly under-represented the reality.
- Despite these reports, in 2007, it was reported that the general consensus and mood among Sighthill residents had become more positive towards asylum seekers living in the area.
- A number of local projects were continuing to promote harmony among the diverse community members of Sighthill and the surrounding area, including an interactive drama by the RSAMD called 'Awkward Spaces', focused on trying to encourage pupils to imagine what life is like as an asylum seeker.

## Shawbridge Corridor

### Housing

The primary focus of news articles in relation to housing issues was the demolition of high rise flats within in the Pollokshaws and Shawbridge areas.

In early 2008 concerns were raised around the ability for GHA to deliver 3,000 new homes to re-house those displaced by the demolition of four high rise blocks in Shawbridge. Despite this, in July 2008, two 23-storey high rise tower blocks in Shawbridge were demolished, with the two remaining tower blocks demolished in 2009. The sites of the first two tower blocks are to be the location for 80 new GHA homes.

Other key housing developments occurred including:

- In early 2010, it was reported that Shawbridge is to receive an investment of £11 million to help create an 'urban village', through the construction of 93 new homes, with unanimous local community support for the plans.
- Seventy-three luxury apartments and penthouses will be constructed in Higgs Gate, adjacent to Pollok Park, with further apartments in the Shawlands area of Parkside.
- New 'affordable, modern and sustainable' homes in the Shawlands area were completed in April 2011, having been built in collaboration between Govanhill Housing Association, GHA and GCC.

### Neighbourhoods

#### *Neighbourhood facilities and events*

Key developments in the neighbourhood over the period related to sports and leisure facilities and arts and culture.

In relation to sports and leisure facilities, the following proposals and local investments occurred:

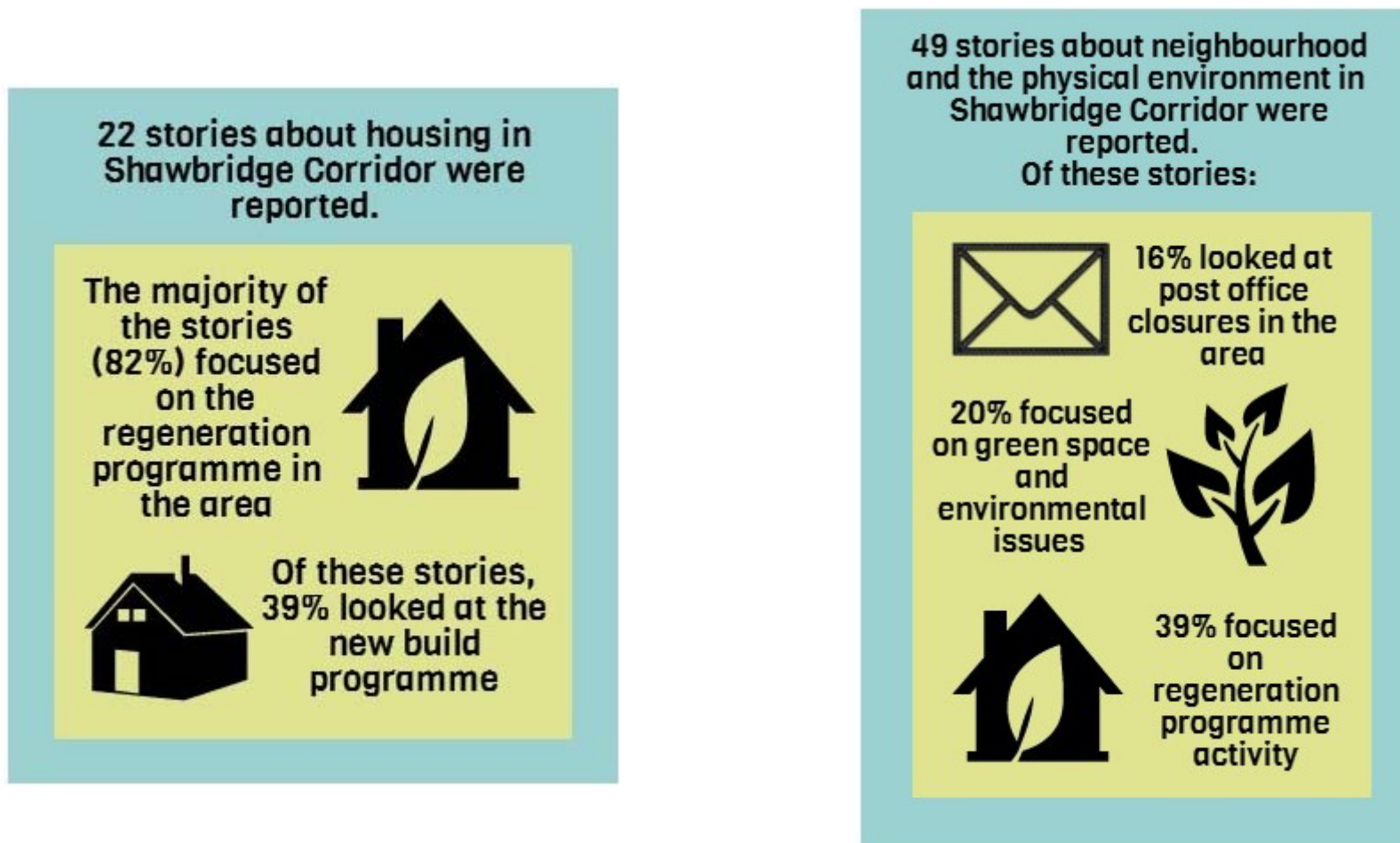
- Beginning in early 2008, opposing arguments for a new 'Go Ape Adventure Park' in the North Wood area of Pollok Park were presented.
  - Opposition arguments include the felling of trees within Pollok Park and parts of the park becoming inaccessible for the public. However it was argued by GCC that the development was in line with a recent 'green spaces' strategy for Glasgow which responds to demands from the public for more facilities within public parks.

- In 2008, an investment of £155,000 from GCC enabled work to begin on redeveloping Auldhouse Park, and a £60,000 investment from GHA in 2010 for a new play park on Ashtree Road, Pollokshaws.
- In 2009, a new five-a-side indoor football pitch was opened on Shawbridge Street.
- In 2011 of Pollokshields West train station was converted into a 'cycle hire centre', and a new Scottish Ballet centre was created on a derelict site in Pollokshields.

Community arts and cultural events and festivals centred in the Shawbridge Corridor occurred:

- The annual 'Pollok Family Day', at Pollok Country Park was attended by over 40,000 people in 2010.
- The community organised, led and ran the 'Southside Festival', attended by over 30,000 visitors.
  - The festival came under threat in 2011 when GCC reduced their funding due to indications that the festival was now sufficiently funded following a successful 2010 event, a claim refuted by the organisers.
- On a smaller scale, the annual Newlands Community Gala, and the Strathbungo festival, 'Bungo in the Back Lanes' also took place.

Figure 4: Housing, neighbourhood and physical environment in Shawbridge Corridor.



Produced using Piktochart: [www.piktochart.com](http://www.piktochart.com)

## *Neighbourhood crime*

Several types of crime occurred in the area during the period.

Theft, property crime and arson:

- In 2007, a bookmaker on Pollokshaws Road was robbed twice.
- There were a number of thefts from older people where the perpetrator posed in some official capacity to enter the individual's home.
- Other thefts included a robbery of 71 year old woman's handbag, a woman attacked and £1,000 stolen from her on Pollokshaws Road and in 2011, a 30 year old male bus passenger was robbed by two men armed with a bladed weapon, also on Pollokshaws Road.
- Thefts from home residences also took place in the area:
  - In 2009, four men, entered, attacked and robbed a man at home with his children in Pollokshaws. Also, a break-in in Pollokshields where six men pushed a mother to the ground while her four children were at home; nothing was stolen.
- There was an attempted robbery of the Halifax Bank on Pollokshaws Road in August 2007, and in 2008, there was an armed robbery of £16,000 from a security guard in Shawlands Arcade. In addition, there was a robbery of £100,000 and an attack on a security guard at the Pollokshaws Road branch of the Bank of Scotland by two individuals with a weapon. In 2009, £10,000 was stolen from a security guard at a supermarket in Pollokshaws.
- A branch of the KFC restaurant chain in Pollokshaws was robbed of £1,000 in 2010, and in 2011, a shop in Shawlands was robbed of a five-figure sum.

Violent crime, murder and sexual assault:

- In 2007, a 22 year old man was attacked by five people armed with snooker cues, and a group of four teenagers were attacked by a man armed with an axe in a Pollokshaws tower block lift, in late 2010.
- In 2008, the body of a woman who had been sexually assaulted was discovered in Queen's Park. In 2009, the body of a man was discovered outside of St Bride's Primary School, and the body of a 17 year old man was found in Pollok Park in 2007, following a late-night disturbance.
- Two family-related murders also occurred in Pollokshaws; one involved a 19 year old woman who murdered her mother in 2009, and a 29 year old man who murdered his father in their home in 2010.
- The sexual assault of two women, one on Pollokshaws Road and one in Queen's Park, by a 21 year old male in late 2006.

Drug possession and trafficking:

- In 2010, a 37 year old man was jailed for supplying cocaine from his Pollokshaws home, a 26 year old man was found with £1,500 worth of cocaine on his person, and £110,000 worth of the drug at his home, and in 2011, a 27 year old man from Pollokshaws was imprisoned for supplying cocaine.

Ethnically-motivated crime:

- In 2009, a man who sent police emails threatening to bomb a Glasgow mosque and murder a Muslim every day until all Scottish mosques were closed avoided prison after being charged with non-terrorism-related offences.
- In 2010, a 26 year old man took his own life after being imprisoned for setting fire to an Islamic Relief Centre in Pollokshaws.

A number of crime-prevention initiatives were featured in the news. These include the Shawlands Nite Zone initiative, the Pollokshaws-based 'Domestic Abuse Taskforce' and the installation of new security cameras.

### *Neighbourhood physical environment*

Developments in relation to neighbourhood services and the physical environment over the period relate to:

- Controversy over the proposed closure of the local post office branch on Shawbridge Street, Pollokshaws.
  - The negative impact of the closure on local residents was raised, and a campaign and petition opposed to the plans was launched.
  - A positive response by GCC was announced to try and buy over some of those post office branches identified for closure, possibly offering post office services within library buildings.
- In 2010 and 2011 trees were felled due to fungal disease in Pollok Park, and Auldhouse Park. However, local opposition was raised after 33 of the trees were deemed 'entirely healthy'.
- A number of local gardening initiatives were working in the local area during the period including 'Glasgow Guerrilla Gardening', the Pollokshaws Residents Social Group development of 'The Oasis at Shawholm Crescent' and the 'Greenspaces Group' for Leslie Street.

## *Neighbourhood transport*

Local transport issues and facilities reported principally focused on:

- The closure for a month of Pollokshaws East train station in 2008 due to the discovery of an old mine.
- The closure Kennishead train station, located at the south end of Pollok Park in 2012.

## **Schools and education**

The main developments in relation to education in Pollokshaws/Shawbridge refer to the proposed closure of Shawbridge Nursery, and Pollokshields Nursery in 2009. It was however reported at the same time, that a decision had been made to save Shawbridge Nursery, Nithsdale Road Nursery, and the autism school at Ruchill Primary, with the construction of two new local primary schools announced in 2011.

- In 2008, refurbishment efforts were being driven by pupils at St Conval's Primary School in Pollokshaws, with invitations sent to MSPs and education chiefs to attend tours of the school, to highlight the conditions of the building. Education chiefs subsequently announce they are reviewing potential costs for investment in the school.

## **Community**

A number of key developments in the neighbourhood occurred in relation to community action and the success of local groups in Shawbridge and surrounding areas during the period. These include:

- The community response to the proposals for a Go Ape course in Pollok Park.
  - In advance of a formal decision being reached in early 2008, members of the public held a protest meeting against the plans in Pollokshaws Burgh Hall, with over 700 attending.
  - The MSP for Govan and Deputy First Minister also came out in support of the protests stating that she had a duty to represent her voters' concerns.
  - Despite these protests, in March 2008 the council approved the 'Go Ape' plans.
- The Glasgow Community Champion Awards winners from the Pollokshaws/Shawbridge area included 'The Arden Chillout Centre', local resident, Harry McColl for his contribution to a number of local community groups, and a local police officer (deceased).

## **Employment**

In relation to employment-related issues in the Shawbridge and surrounding areas, two main developments occurred during the period:

- In 2009 the closure and redundancy of eight out of 23 staff at the Pollokshaws branch of Artisan Furniture Ltd.
- The decline of an arcade in Shawlands was believed to be contributing to a revival of businesses in the local area.
- Large local firms, held recruitment days at their Glasgow branches in 2010, namely Arnold Clark and Kwit-Fit.

## **Health**

There are two primary main health reports in the area during the period:

- In 2009 the 'New Victoria Hospital' opened, with the new facility enabling residents to receive treatment locally, with a focus on provision of day surgery services.
- Four children from Pollokshaws Day Nursery and one pupil from Shawlands Academy tested positive for swine flu in 2009.



## **Scotstoun and surrounding areas**

### **Housing**

A number of key housing developments over the period occurred in Scotstoun and surrounding areas.

In relation to the provision of new homes and housing investments:

- Fifty new homes, located near to the old power station site in Yoker, were completed as part of a project to create 194 new homes, and permission was granted for a further 240 flats and townhouses, in a large scale re-development as part of the Clyde Riverfront project, which will see 500 new homes being constructed as part of a new community in Yoker.
- In late 2010, it was reported that 22 new homes are to be built at Halley Place, in Yoker, which will form part of a GHA scheme for re-housing those displaced by the demolition of high-rise flats within the area.
- The Pleian Street Residents Action Group successfully won a campaign in 2010 to have a derelict block of flats on the street demolished.
- Thevenue Housing Association in collaboration with Crossreach invest £3.8 million in redeveloping Elmbank House, an old orphanage located near to Victoria Park in Scotstoun, into 13 new properties available for rent, as well as a 17-bed residential rehabilitation unit.

### **Neighbourhood**

#### *Neighbourhood facilities and events*

Key developments in the neighbourhood over the period related to sports and leisure facilities in Scotstoun neighbourhoods, especially in relation to facilities and sporting events at the Scotstoun Leisure Centre and Sports Stadium.

As part of the bid for the Commonwealth Games in 2014, in 2007 Glasgow City hosted the Commonwealth Games voting committee who visited Scotstoun Stadium as part of their tour. However, in March 2008 it was reported that cost of upgrading the Stadium in preparation for the Games and other sports events, had increased above the initial estimates, with the total project now costing in excess of £20 million, with the majority to be spent on improving the stadium itself, swimming pool and the athletics track. By late 2009, the stadium is announced as complete, having cost £18 million. Following the official opening of the Stadium, it is announced the Stadium will be the home of Glasgow Warriors rugby club and the Glasgow Athletics Association.

A number of international and national sporting events took place at the Scotstoun Stadium during the period, including:

- The Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships, and the Badminton World Championships in 2009, and the World Powerlifting Championships in 2011. Also held during 2007 were Glasgow's Tennis International competition and 'Festival of Tennis' event.
- A number of school sporting events were held, including in 2010 the 'Glasgow Secondary Schools Athletics Track and Field Finals' the 'Primary and Secondary Youth Games' and the Bank of Scotland's 'National School Sport Week'.

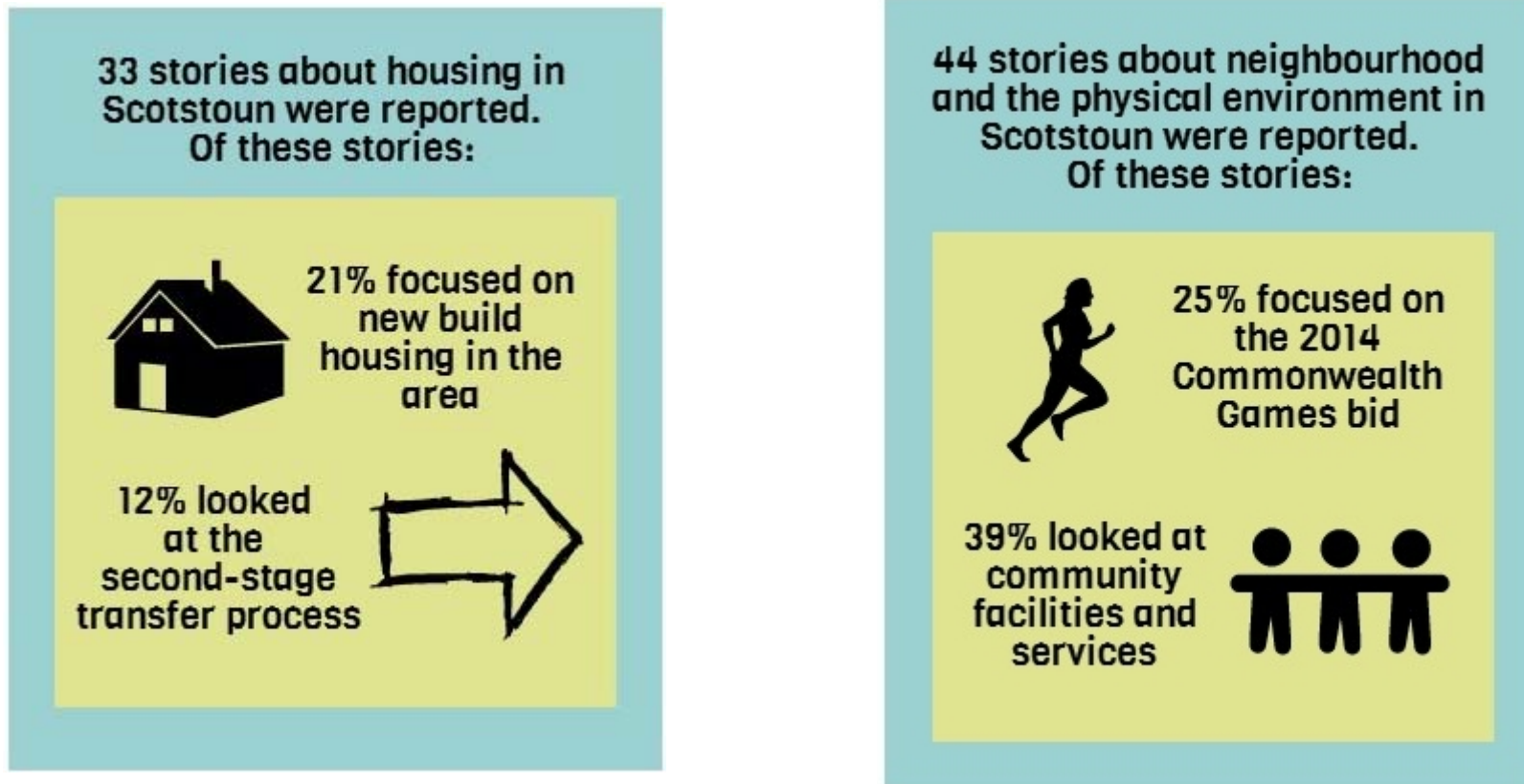
There were also investments in other sports and play facilities in the Scotstoun area:

- In 2009, homes at Halley Place benefited from an investment of £800,000 for a new playpark and a teenager-oriented multi-use sports court, a £250,000 upgrade to four tennis courts located at Drumchapel Park and Knightswood Park, and funding from Glasgow Life for new goal posts at the Rottenrow Hockey Club.

Arts and cultural activities in Scotstoun and surrounding areas included:

- In 2006 and 2007, a new festival celebrating Indian music, held in Victoria Park, the annual fun day in Knightswood Park, and a local exhibition in 2008 about the infamous 1971 workers' protest at the John Brown and Scotstoun shipyards on the Clyde.

Figure 5: Housing, neighbourhood and physical environment in Scotstoun and surrounding area.



## *Neighbourhood crime*

Several types of crime occurred in the area during the period.

Violent crime, serious assault and murder:

- A 24 year old babysitter was arrested after the rib of a premature baby was broken, a 14 year old was repeatedly stabbed by a 16 year old, an 18 year old female was assaulted in Yoker by a group of ten individuals, a 47 year old male died after a gang attack in Larchfield Avenue, Scotstoun.
- In relation to attempted murder or murder a number of incidences occurred including, in 2010, a 20 year old hospitalised after having been stabbed multiple times on Queen Victoria Drive, Scotstoun, and in 2011, a man appeared in court on charges of attempted murder of five women whom he had attacked between 1980 and 2009 in the area.
- The murder of a 35 year old man found stabbed to death at the home of a known drug-dealer on Pleas Street in 2008, and the arrest and sentencing of a 28 year old man from Scotstoun in early 2008, for the murder of his four month old child.

Sexual assault:

- A nurse from Scotstoun was found to have downloaded over 12,000 indecent images.
- A number of cases of direct sexual assault, involving the accused ranging in age from six to 56, and victims ranging in age from 11 to 49 years old.
- An incidence of race-related sexual assault in 2007 of an Algerian asylum seeking mother.

Drug possession and trafficking offences:

- Two individuals were arrested who were involved in a drugs trafficking network from a flat in Scotstoun Street, and two 41 year old men were arrested in 2011 for drug-related offences.
- One drugs-related story of importance in the local area and across Glasgow was reported in early 2010. The former leader of Glasgow City Council, Steven Purcell, had been involved in drug taking with a major drug dealer at 'The Boundary' pub in Yoker.

Theft and vandalism:

- A number of forms of theft and robbery occurred including cases of individuals being robbed within their own homes, a number of incidents which targeted elderly people, robberies of bookmakers and other commercial properties, and a small number of reported incidents of thieves armed with weapons.
- The sentencing in 2007 of an individual who led a group that carried out co-ordinated graffiti activity on commuter trains in Perth, Motherwell, Airdrie and Yoker, and two young men aged 18 and 19 arrested for painting slogans on several trains at the Yoker depot.

- Vandalism of the Alderman Road Community Gardens in Knightswood; and damage to cabling at the BAE Systems' shipyard in Scotstoun.

There were a number of police and community responses to crime in the area:

- As part of an operation focused on drug-related crime, police search 104 people and make 30 arrests for drug possession within Drumchapel, Yoker and Scotstoun.
- 'Pro-active policing operations' in order to target known individuals, the use of police dogs alongside officers on patrol, two new mobile police offices to help raise community awareness against violence and police presence in areas.
- Crime prevention campaigns focused on reducing gang-related violence including the 'Violence Reduction Task Force' and 'Includem'.
- A number of local neighbourhood watch areas in Scotstoun, Yoker and Knightswood, formed ties with the 'Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches'.
- Scottish Refugee Council piloted monthly 'police surgeries'.

#### *Neighbourhood physical environment*

Developments in relation to neighbourhood services and the natural and physical environment over the period relate to:

- In 2007, a number of local environmental care activities took place, including a clean up of the River Kelvin by 30 Royal Navy crew members, the Nature Walk, near to Victoria Park was tidied by 60 young people from the 'Scotstoun Woodies', and a clean-up of Kingsway Court by the Dumbarton Road Corridor Environmental Trust in collaboration with 20 local resident African women.
- A £1.5 million community centre known as the 'Heart of Scotstoun' was opened in 2011, run by a community co-operative.
- Permission was granted to build a new 24-hour Tesco supermarket and student flats on Beith Street. This generated created strong community opposition and debate.
- In 2011 a site was identified in Drumchapel for a new police station, water pipes servicing the Scotstoun area were upgraded and £2.5 billion was invested by BT in 2011 to establish new high-speed fibre optic internet access.

## *Neighbourhood transport*

Local transport issues and facilities principally focused on:

- The closure of the Renfrew-Yoker ferry service, with proposals in 2007 to replace the service with a footbridge.
  - In 2008, SPT announced that they were not going ahead with the installation of a footbridge, but would instead replace the ferries. However, in 2010 it was announced that the ferry service would close, despite protests and a petition.
  - A number of commercial alternatives to the ferry service were then proposed including, an amphibious bus, a smaller inflatable vessel; and a new service provided by the current operating company Clydelink.
- In 2011, ScotRail announced an investment of £1.7 million for the improvement of railway station services, including Scotstounhill.
- In 2011, Scotstoun benefited from investments by First Bus Company and the Scottish Government to purchase 34 new buses.

## **Community**

There were a number of key developments in the neighbourhood in relation to community action and the success of local groups in Scotstoun and surrounding areas:

- In 2010, employees of the BAE shipyards at Govan and Scotstoun volunteered and raised over £72,000 to support the Big Build project of a new Marie Curie hospice at Stobhill Hospital.
- Other local fundraising initiatives included the efforts of the Scotstoun dance studio, DancePoint, who raised £204,000 through performances at various events for a number of charities.
- The Glasgow Community Champion Award winners and nominees from Scotstoun and surrounding areas included: the Drumchapel Table Tennis Club, the Kingsway Court Health and Wellbeing Centre, the Yoker Resource Centre and the janitor of Scotstoun Primary School. Other notable awards to local individuals and groups included:
  - In 2008, the Knightswood Youth Theatre was awarded a Philip Lawrence Award for its work bringing young people together.
  - Two women from Scotstoun jointly shared the 'Scotswoman of the Year Award' in 2008 for their work enhancing the community spirit among asylum seekers living in the Kingsway Court flats.
  - A successful petition was raised by young people attending the Yoker Community Centre to have a music 'royalties' bill dropped.

- The involvement of 50 local young people at 'A RIGHT Blether' meeting, led by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People.

## **Ethnicity**

A number of stories on the topic of ethnicity were reported from the Sighthill area:

- A mother and her three daughters, living in Scotstoun, were arrested and detained in 2007, pending their deportation back to Pakistan.
  - However following protests from locals and a successful legal challenge the family were released. Subsequently, the family were detained for a second time later in 2007 and deported in early 2008.

A number of efforts to support the integration of asylum seekers into the Scotstoun area were also reported:

- These included two women, living in the Kingsway Court flats, locally known as Auntie Jean and Auntie Noreen, who took on the task of trying to help asylum seekers to integrate into the local community (Scotswomen of the year, see above).

## **Schools and education**

Key developments in local schools and education included:

- The proposed closure of Yoker Primary School and Scotstoun Primary School in 2009 due to their 'poor' condition.
- However in 2010, GCC announced that it was investing in two new school campuses in Yoker, following the amalgamation of three local primary schools.

A number of contemporary and alternative education initiatives took place in local schools:

- Environmental awareness and classes in 2010 as part of the 'Clyde in the Classroom' programme and an awareness of and a stance against racism through involvement in 'Show Racism the Red Card' football campaign.
- A workshop in 2010, provided by BAE Systems aimed at encouraging an interest in engineering among nine to 15 year olds, and a finance education programme run by Yoker Credit Union.

A number of sports and culture stories were reported, especially in relation to young people:

- Culture and Sport Glasgow invested £10,000 towards new table tennis tables and training at primary schools in the Scotstoun area.
- In 2007, Yoker Primary School pupils took part in a week 'science of music' event, and Scotstoun Primary School and Bankhead Primary School, Knightswood, participated in the Scottish Opera arts event, 'Passport to Paris'.
- A number of local schools were highlighted for their achievements:
  - In 2011 Yoker Primary School was shortlisted position for a 'Scottish Education Award for Excellence'.
  - An employee at Garscadden Primary School was the winner of the Glasgow Community Champion Award due to her efforts as co-ordinator of 'Sense over Sectarianism' in Glasgow schools.

## Health

Key developments in the neighbourhood in relation to health and health services included:

- The debate over the proposed closure of the St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, Clydebank, which was to be replaced with 90 new beds at the privately managed Blawarthill Hospital in Scotstoun.
  - These plans resulted in a protest petition with 10,000 signatures.
  - In 2009, the NHS Health Board announced that the hospice would remain open for another three years before closure, but it was continuing to pursue plans for redevelopment of the Blawarthill site.
  - However in 2011, the agreement for the redevelopment of the site collapsed and consequently, in early 2011 the NHS Board confirmed they were to continue funding the St Margaret of Scotland Hospice.
- In early 2009, a new health centre on Pleas Street, Yoker was opened.





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