

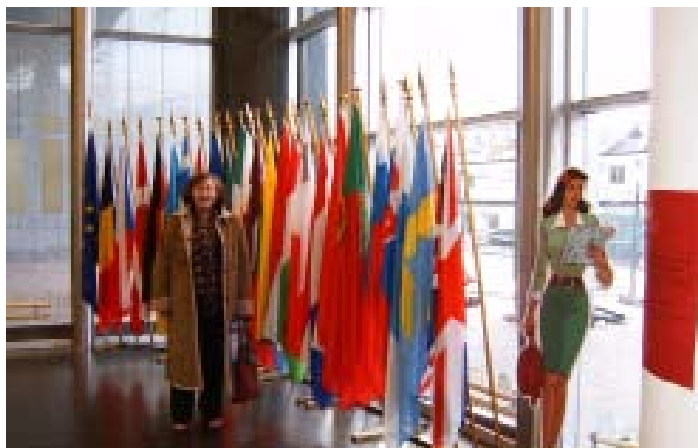
Walkabout Talkabout

Special Spring Issue 2008

Cumbernauld Citizens Blaze a Trail into Europe:

Cumbernauld Citizens began its existence as a tenants association, (Carbrain Tenants Association) became registered and never looked back.

In being inventive, having vision & being able to see the bigger picture for the future in housing, environment and society, they tailored their group to accommodate more for the communities future. Issues that were supposed to be influenced at 'grass roots' level were not at the forefront of regeneration by a long chalk despite Government procrastinating otherwise.



Taking this on board the Cumbernauld Citizens decided to act for the community and see what was taking place further afield. They attended meetings & conventions in regeneration in Warwick, Loughborough and Birmingham. Still not satisfied they moved on into Europe to find out what was happening there.

Now we are the FIRST tenants & residents group at grass roots level to blaze that trail and interact physically with R4R in Europe, have met up with Sorcha Edwards CECODHAS, the European Liaison Committee for Social Housing in their office in Brussels.

We met up with Elspeth Attwooll MEP in the European Parliament who's assistant showed us round the building to the delight of our small party. (Read more page 2.)

Cumbernauld Citizens AGM is on the 29th Feb @ 12 noon in the Kyle Day Centre Kildrum all in the community are welcome. Tea & Coffee provided.



The Cumbernauld Citizens & The Kyle Citizens Community Trust Lottery Awards

The Cumbernauld Groups who work out of the Kyle Road Day Centre in a voluntary capacity for the community won two prestigious awards from the National Lotter, 'Awards for All'. The amount along with a cheque from North Lanarkshire Council brought the grand joint total to more than £20,000. Both Committees are delighted at this windfall as they have worked over the years on minimal handouts. This came at a time when the group sorely needed new equipment making the grants that much sweeter.

Chairperson Rose Bowie said that the new IT equipment for the Cumbernauld Citizens would make their work easier, especially for secretary Mia Crawford who was desperately needing a computer. Ian, John, Andy, and Stewart think the new domestic appliances and cafe` equipment for the Kyle Trust will make the drop-in centre more attractive and encourage more people to participate and drop in for a snack and a relaxed chat.

Improvements in Carbrain



Landscaping improvements brought to the attention of North Lanarkshire Council by Cumbernauld Citizens (Carbrain Tenants Association) are to begin this month according to a letter sent to the residents and the RTO in the area concerned. This work was 1st pointed out to NLC in May 2007. This is another project influenced by our Tenants & Residents group showing that the collective voice can make a difference.



Four committee members met up in the office of CE-CODHAS, The European Liaison Committee for Social Housing.

Sorcha who hails from Dublin was a great hostess plied us with coffee and biscuits and better still discussed social housing, pointing out the need for more. We discussed our need here in Scotland collaborating on figures, need, afford ability and priority realizing that we should all be united with the same gaol in mind of how to house an ever growing population.

We talked about Energy saving and better insulation in homes, how to free up land for building and how to make it cost effective.

The meeting passed too quickly as we had so much of interest in the housing movement in common to talk about

We left feeling we had found what we came to Brussels to discuss and left with a myriad of ideas to take back to Cumbernauld

CECODHAS stated in their EU news of October in Lisbon that they would hold a conference at the Committee of Brussels to address the failure of EU housing markets and the tension between the need for social housing on the one hand and EU competition law.

Also on the agenda for discussion would be the lack of social affordable housing. This surely is also what is happening here in Scotland and we wondered why our Government was not working in the EU.

We now hear since December that Government here are building a bridge into the EU and thought it would have been nice to have been invited along. After all we are already there, the first grass roots housing group to do so. Cumbernauld Citizens meet Elspeth Attwooll MEP

Cumbernauld Citizens visited the European Parliament in Brussels at the end of last year to meet up with a Member of the European Parliament, Ms Elspeth Attwooll and her PA Amy Brown.

Originally nine members of the 'Citizens' committee should have been on the trip but owing to other

commitments and illness the group was whittled down to four.

The Cumbernauld Citizens remained undeterred and conducted their business in Europe regardless of numbers and in their usual assured and open manner.

One of Ms Attwooll's personal assistants Amy Brown met us at the door to the Parliament building signed us in, got us photographed and tagged and introduced our small group to Brussels Parliament. Elspeth joined us for coffee and discussions on housing, environmental issues and social matters and agreed to visit our group in Cumbernauld should we request a visit.

Our group were impressed at the smooth running of affairs in Brussels considering the area the community covers and the numbers of it's ever expanding membership. We were also impressed by the knowledge of the PAs, and asked for help with resources both in cash and human.

We also asked for more information of Europe to take home to the UK, thinking we are in the EU, why not utilise every resource at our command, and discussed liaising with the Scottish Office in Brussels with our idea of exchange of information, ideas in a sharing manner with our European peers with the firm resolve to phone when we returned to the UK.



Andy, Ian, Rose & Ms Attwooll MEP with A. Brown PA in the European Parliament Building Brussels.



Rose, Andy and Ian taking a breather between training & networking in Brussels.



Colour me a Garden' @ Kyle Road

The garden club, 'Colour me a Garden' who work out of and hold their meetings in the Kyle Road Day Centre are taking names of people interested to join up. They meet on a regular weekly basis to discuss gardening methods and use some of their acquired knowledge in the adjacent ground; to the delight of the local residents. This is more than a gardening club as its social activities take up as much time as gardening.

Interested gardening enthusiasts who want to see what it is all about should contact the Chairman John Gibb on 01236 781171

Some pictures & promotions from the Cumbernauld Citizens, Carbrain Seniors, Kyle Trust, and other sister associations of 2007:



February 2007 at the CVS Conference Coatbridge.



Birmingham University in Regeneration



Independent Burns Night in Cumbernauld Village

4/5 Fleming Road Seafar makes headlines once again.

We at the Cumbernauld Citizens were not in the least surprised when 4/5 Fleming Road was brought to our notice once more by the 'Cumbernauld News'

I remember when as a director of CHP that this block of flats came to the then Development Committee for their attention, and that was in 1999.

A survey was carried out, discussions ensued along with collaboration with a town lawyer. Plans were laid on the table but at that time no one took up the initiative to proceed and it was filed away.

Here we are faced again with this offensive building with an aim to demolish it.

We agree the building needs to go, we agree the land could be used more effectively..... but wait a minute, the tenants paid good money to purchase this and in good faith.

Question is. Is this not an asset of the company of CHP, interest paid to the financiers out of the revenue raised by the tenants rents? What will they get back out of this move?

To demolish is a big step and the paramount question is; has anyone asked or informed the tenants? Have the tenants been invited along to see what houses are most needed to occupy that ground?

Once again; what ever happened to consultation at grass roots? Where, when will this illusive element bandied about by Government and the authorities be applied? According to a press release from Cumbernauld HousingPartnership 'Sanctuary Scotland' subsidiary of 'Sanctuary Housing' England are the preferred contractors who may get the work. Talks appear to have taken place already



MSP's Visit to Kyle Road Day Centre



***New Porches Glenacre
Feb- May 2007***

Cumbernauld Citizens Invited to The Hague in Holland.

Mrs. Rose Bowie Chair of the Cumbernauld Citizens was invited to The Hague to meet up with peer groups from all over the European Union. This was a special event facilitated by R4R in Europe (Residents for Regeneration)

to allow all associations a chance to get together learn & teach each other at grass roots community level how to become effective activists in their communities.

R4R say” We can grow stronger with the support and information shared, to make our communities safer, more robust and environmentally friendlier to live in. By building together we can make Europe a better place to live” It started with a barbecue in Scheveningen on the coast with the sun coming out in all its glory to make the day.



It progressed to dining al-fresco.



Out in the local communities in The Hague

Kyle Citizens Community Trust receive Charitable Status

OSCR or the Inland Revenue as we best know it has registered the Kyle Citizens Community Trust as a Charity. This endorsement of the groups credibility and acceptance of the associations constitution add credibility to this active citizens group. This is magnified in the wake of the Lottery Award will propel us forward with added impetus. Come along to the Kyle Road Day Centre in Kildrum and see if there's something there for you..... We have:



Yoga with John at Kyle Road.

The yoga class is at 7.45pm every Wednesday evening in the Kyle Road Day Center Kildrum. Come along and be stimulated or learn how to relax. Beginners and intermediaries welcome.

Dance classes by 'Johan Dance School' are being held in the Kyle Road Day Centre. This will consist of 'Rock & Roll': 'Disco': 'Latin American': 'Ballroom' and 'Social Dance' Every Thursday 6.30 – 9.30 pm One of the 'Trusts' activities printed in the 'Cumbernauld News' District Diary.



Can you cook? Do you want to learn?

We are promoting cookery for beginners here at the Kyle Road. Whether you can or cannot cook come and see what's taking place in these community rooms. Maybe you can lend a hand or just watch.

Phone: 721551 or 739260

Coming soon.....when the new kitchen is installed.



Regular Community meetings last Friday of the month @ noon