

# **NORTH KELVIN MEADOW CAMPAIGN**

## **P r e s s   R e l e a s e**

### **LOCAL COMMUNITY FIGHTS BACK AS GCC SLAPS EVICTION NOTICE ON NORTH KELVIN MEADOW**

#### **BOB DORIS MSP LENDS HIS SUPPORT**

Glasgow, 24 July 2009:

**MSP BOB DORIS HAS VOICED HIS SUPPORT FOR A CAMPAIGN BY LOCAL RESIDENTS IN MARYHILL TO SAVE THE NORTH KELVIN MEADOW – A COMMUNITY-RUN GREEN SPACE BETWEEN CLOUSTON STREET AND KELBOURNE STREET IN GLASGOW G20 – AFTER GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL (GCC) SLAPPED AN EVICTION NOTICE ON THE LAND.**

GCC posted a 14-day eviction notice on the North Kelvin Meadow – home to raised-bed allotments, a fruit garden and composting facilities – on 15 July. Subsequently, Glasgow Region MSP Bob Doris, along with Councillor Billy McAllister, has come out in support of the North Kelvin Meadow Campaign.

Bob Doris MSP said: "Whilst there may be disagreement about the eventual future of Clouston Street playing fields, it is clear that the North Kelvin Meadow Campaign is attempting to play a positive role within the community. I hope health and safety concerns from the Council can be resolved. If an understanding can be reached with the Council to allow the North Kelvin Meadow to continue, even if only in the short term, then this would be a positive step. I have also asked for the Council to work with the North Kelvin Meadow to look at alternative sites should the housing development go ahead."

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Meanwhile, over 100 local residents showed their support for the Meadow, which has received funding from the 02 'It's Your Community' fund and Shell, by turning out for a Meadow 'Big Lunch' event (part of the nationwide Eden Project) on Sunday, 21 July. An online and paper petition protesting against GCC's plans to sell the land to a property developer for an estimated £10 million has attracted over 500 signatories, including well known local authors Louise Welsh, Zoë Strachan and Alasdair Gray.

Douglas Peacock, chairman of the North Kelvin Meadow Campaign, said: "The land was vacant for 25 plus years, and then the local community got together and started restoring it by cleaning up the litter, planting flowers, growing vegetables in raised beds, and putting a door on a disused shed to stop it being used as a drinking and drugs den, which was the case before. Instead of applauding this initiative, GCC has given the local community a 14-day eviction notice. That's not just wrong; it's a cruel thing to do to this community. Instead, the Council should accept our invitation to sit down and work out what's best for this land."

The Council has cited health and safety issues as a reason for evicting the community group. But local resident Fiona Rintoul says that doesn't stack up: "GCC didn't look after the land which is why the local residents took over. Before the Campaign cleaned up the Meadow, GCC had let it become a rubbish dump which was both an eyesore and a health hazard. The shed, which has now been cleaned out and secured by the Campaign, was a drugs den full of used needles. It's ludicrous for GCC to start citing health and safety now."

-ends-

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## Notes for editors:

The **NORTH KELVIN MEADOW CAMPAIGN** was launched on 13 October 2008 after Glasgow City Councillor, Jim McKechnie, rejected out-of-hand the results of a survey conducted in August 2008 by Douglas Peacock, chairman of the **NORTH KELVIN MEADOW CAMPAIGN**. The survey showed local residents overwhelmingly supported the creation of a green space on the former Clouston Street pitches and opposed the Council's plan to sell the land to a property developer for the construction of 115 flats.

Since its launch the **NORTH KELVIN MEADOW CAMPAIGN** has worked to transform the former pitches, which have been disused for over two decades, into a multi-use community green space comprising allotments, an orchard and a wild meadow. Members of the local community have come together to clear the land of rubbish, repair and paint fences, and install composting facilities and raised-bed allotments.

The petition can be found at: [www.gopetition.com/online/28274.html](http://www.gopetition.com/online/28274.html)

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