

# The Loop Newsletter

## 25 October 2024

NRSloop

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## For Action

### Important messages that require action

#### Staff Text Messaging Service

Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability have a staff text messaging service which we use to push out key service information to staff members personal phones. This service allows non pc facing staff to receive information electronically rather than on notice boards or information being passed on by Managers and Supervisors.

Although aimed at non pc facing staff, we would encourage all staff within NRS to sign up allowing all urgent information to be issued as soon as possible. The service will also be used to update staff on:

- Key departmental news
- Job vacancies
- Adverse weather
- Upcoming Health and Wellbeing events

The information issued may also contain links to articles / documents which can be found on the council website.

You can sign up to our text messaging service [here](#).

#### Annual Leave 2024

A gentle reminder to staff that all Annual Leave for 2024 **must be taken no later than 31 January 2025**.

It's important that everyone uses their available holidays before the deadline so that they don't miss out.

Staff who are MyPortal Users should also remember to submit annual leave to cover from 27 December until 31 December (AM) for the closure period.

Specific guidance and arrangements are in place in relation to annual leave carry over, due to sick absence or maternity leave.

There may be exceptional circumstances due to operational or business needs which require limited



exceptions to the above, in which case **prior approval** must be sought from your Manager **preferably no later than Friday 17 January 2025**, to ensure appropriate updates are made to SAP. Any leave not taken or approved for extension by 31 January 2025 (out with sickness absence or maternity leave etc.) **will be forfeited**.



## Managers' Briefings

The following Managers' Briefs have been issued in the last fortnight. A full list of past briefings is available on the intranet using the button on the left.

- Equally Safe at Work
- Shieldhall and Blochairn WUDS Storage Bay (revised)

## For Information

## Service News and Corporate Updates that might affect you

### Timetable Revealed For Transformation of City Centre Public Realm

The timetable for the biggest transformation of Glasgow's public realm in half a century has been unveiled.

In what will be the most significant change to city centre streetscapes since the 1970s pedestrianisation of Buchanan Street, work on the creation of 11 'Avenues' will kick off in early 2025.

Funded through the City Deal and other Government streams, the programme involves the transformation of major thoroughfares including Argyle Street, the Broomielaw and Clyde Street, as well as George Square and surrounding streets.

The reworking of Sauchiehall, Pitt and Cambridge Streets is already nearing completion, but the new phase will see a major acceleration and expansion of the Avenues across the city centre. As well as transforming the look and feel of many key streets, the Avenues will be a catalyst for continuing investment and economic growth, in addition to creating an environment to help increase the city centre residential population.

They will also be critical to Glasgow's Net Zero ambitions by handing over more space to pedestrians and active travel, creating more city centre green spaces and equipping streets to better cope with flood risks with hundreds of new trees improving drainage.

Design work on 14 individual Avenues projects is progressing, with construction work set to begin in early 2025. Notably, this includes the closure of George Square and commencement of works on surrounding streets, as well as the reconfiguration of the eastern end of Argyle Street.

Work on a number of the projects will extend into the later months of 2027, including High Street and Broomielaw/Clyde Street. The George Street to Duke Street Avenue will be completed in 2028.

Throughout the works, the council will have the Get Ready Glasgow information portal, used during major events, in place to keep residents and businesses informed and to provide points of contact for queries and updates. Some of the works will also be in place in the build-up to, and during, the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

The planned works have been welcomed by business leaders, major developers, employers and city-based organisations.

Property developers Moda Group, which is behind the 430 home Holland Park development near Charing Cross, contributed £360,000 towards the Avenues Project along Holland Street and Pitt Street.



# Warning Issued for Fraudulent QR Codes and Fake PCN Text Messages

Staff have been asked to be aware of a parking scam which is being circulated via text message.



Officers have been reminded that they will not be contacted about penalty charge notices through text message and should not click on any related links or provide any personal details. Real PCNs are on physical paper and always include instructions on how to pay or appeal it.

Fake PCN text messages will often claim that a motorist owes fines or penalties for parking. These messages often include links that can steal personal or financial information.

Residents can identify these scams by:

- Checking the sender: official messages from a parking provider or local authority will come from verified sources. Be wary of texts from unknown telephone numbers.
- Looking for unusual URLs: fraudulent links often use suspicious or shortened URLs. Always double-check before clicking on any link.
- Verifying directly: if you receive a text that looks suspicious, do not click on any links. Instead, log into the parking app account you may have, or contact the Council directly to verify the claim.

**NRS  
People**

**Supporting your health and  
wellbeing and wellness at  
work as well as learning and  
personal development**



## Elaine Sheerin Spotlight

The NRS Loop Newsletter caught up with Elaine Sheerin, a Neighbourhood Improvement and Enforcement Officer, about her experience as an allotment holder and what gardening means to her, the community benefits of the gardens and how she also became the Onion Champion of Oatlands Gate.

My experience of being a plot holder and a gardener is that I am a beginner, and I have learned as I have gone along by reading information, watching gardening programmes and asking my other plot holders who are always happy to share their experience of growing vegetables, except when the conversation turns to onions and carrots advice they are both judges in our annual growing competition and it's hush hush and a tightly guarded secret.

I got my plot during Lockdown in late 2021 and it needed a lot of work. My brother helped to get me started and I am now reaping the benefits of a green gym as its physical digging, planting, moving pots, building raised beds and carrying stuff around. Mentally, it's a great green space where I feed my sparrows, blue tit, coal tit, great tit, yellow hammer and robin. I am rewarded by the birds singing most of the day. Plus, uninvited visits from pigeons, jack daw and crows.



The allotment is a different world and a great escape as I live in a flat and I treat the plot as my garden with lots of various flowers for the bees and butterflies and it brings lots of colour and joy to the plot. This year I grew onions, carrots, potatoes, strawberries, blueberries, tomatoes, cucumber, chillies and raspberries and not forgetting my pear and apple tree.

We have at Oatlands Gate Allotments put on a Growing Competition for 3 years now sponsored by UNITE Union. It is open to plot holders, local schools and nurseries to see who can grow the heaviest onion and longest carrot plus a wonky veg category. I came 3rd in my first attempt in the onion competition but last year I took first prize with an onion weighing 3lb 7oz and this year managed to beat that to keep the top spot with a 3lb 10oz onion. I am delighted to hold the title and so lucky to be onion champion 2 years in a row!

Working with the 3 local schools (Blackfriars, Hampden and St. Francis) and 2 nurseries (Adelphi and TASK) they all have their own raised beds in the allotment's community garden and grow onions and carrots as well as learning how to grow these at school and nursery. Blackfriars Primary School were the previous winners of the Unite Shield for the last 2 years for their garden, but this year it was St. Francis Primary School to receive the reward as they were the most improved.

I am lucky as I work in Neighbourhood Improvement Section (NIES) and I get great support and advice from my colleagues and help to organise the competitions. Also, I have great support from Community Payback colleagues and [Food Growing Team](#).

Most importantly, with the support of Oatlands Gate Committee and my colleagues this encourages the schools and pupil's to be involved in growing their own fruit and veg. The more people and pupils growing own fruit and vegetables the better!

If you are interested in signing up for an allotment in Glasgow you can fill in the Allotments waiting list application form on our [Allotments page](#).

## Join us this November

You are invited to [Join us](#) this November for the following Health, Wellbeing, Equality and Diversity training events.

Visit the [website](#) to see the full calendar on offer each month. The page is regularly updated with new content, so please check back often.



Date, Time and Sign Up	Training and Events
<p>Monday 4 November until Sunday 1 December 2024  <a href="#">Sign Up</a></p>	<p><b>Step Together This Autumn</b></p> <p>Don't miss out - 2 weeks left to sign up to 'ditch the desk and walk the walk' this Autumn</p> <p>The council is taking part in this year's national Autumn Step Count Challenge, run by Paths for All.</p> <p>The Challenge will run for 4 weeks, from 4 November 2024 until 1 December 2024 and we are supporting up to 20 teams, of up to 5 members per team, to take part for free!  <a href="#">Sign up</a> your team today!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So why not get a team of five colleagues together and join us for this year's autumn Step Count Challenge starting on Monday 4 November.</li> <li>• It's the perfect opportunity to connect with your colleagues during lunchtime strolls and bond over your favourite places to walk.</li> <li>• Email the <a href="#">Health and Wellbeing</a> mailbox and provide your team names to register.</li> </ul> <p>More information at <a href="#">Step Count Challenge - Paths for All</a>.</p>
<p>Monday 18 November 2024                      10am until 11am                      MS Teams  <a href="#">Sign Up</a></p>	<p><b>Financial Wellbeing Workshop - Cost of Living, Energy and Support</b></p> <p>The 'cost-of-living crisis' is impacting millions of households in the UK. In this workshop, Money Advice Scotland will aim to help participants understand the context of the crisis and how it has affected the price of the energy we use. We will look at some energy saving tips and provide information on the support available if you are struggling with energy debt.</p>

## NRS Roadshows – Coming to Western Depot Monday 4 November

The NRS People Health and Wellbeing Roadshow will be visiting Western depot on Monday 4 November 2024.

We have invited a range of financial and wellbeing services who can provide colleagues with information and support:

- Step Change Debt Advice
- Glasgow Credit Union
- Home Energy Scotland
- SAMH (Scottish Action for Mental Health)
- FASS (Family Addiction Services Scotland)
- Gamblers Anonymous
- Glasgow Council on Alcohol
- Glasgow Life discounted Gym Memberships

As part of the event we also have the PAM Assist Nurse and free incorporate massages available for any staff member who wants to get a health checkup or receive a professional seated massage.

Please let your line manager know if you are interested in attending the event or booking an appointment with the nurse or a free massage.

## Vacancies within NRS

The following job vacancies within NRS have been added to myjobscotland. If you are interested use the button to the left to go through to the job adverts.

MJS Ref	Job Title	Posts Available	Grade
GLA12739	Arborist	1	4
GLA12740	Graduate Technician	1	6
GLA12733	Blacksmith	1	4
GLA12721	Front Loader Operative Labourer	1	3

[myjobscotland](#)

Click here to read more

GLA12734	LES Operative 3 (Winter Gritting)	3	3
GLA12722	Safety Inspector (Roads)	1	3
GLA12745	LES Operative 2 (Streetscene)	6	2
GLA12749	Planner	1	6
GLA12756	Project Officer (Built Heritage, Investment and Development)	1	7
GLA12754	Bereavement Services Supervisor	1	6

## General Interest

## What other teams do and events and activities that you can join

### Celtic Connections

The world's leading folk, roots and world music festival Celtic Connections has unveiled its ambitious, multi-faceted programme for 2025.

The premiere winter festival and international celebration of Celtic music will illuminate stages across Glasgow from Thursday 16 January to Sunday 2 February, eclipsing dark winter nights with a kaleidoscope of internationally renowned music, exciting new performances, unique showcases and one-off collaborations.

Demonstrating why Glasgow is a UNESCO City of Music, the festival, delivered by Glasgow Life, will fill around 25 venues on both sides of the Clyde with around 300 events across 18 days, anticipating around 110,000 visitors and an estimated 1,200 musicians and artists.

Now in its 32nd year and almost five times the size it was when it began in 1994, Celtic Connections continues to push the envelope of artistic programming and ambition.

The festival's 2025 bill spans a myriad of genres, from acoustic, traditional, Americana and orchestral to indie, jazz, blues, experimental and more. The event will welcome artists from various countries around the world, including Australia, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, France, Italy, Nigeria, Spain, Wales, Ireland, Republic of the Congo and many more.

This year will also see the launch of a new under 26s pass, giving young music fans an opportunity to access rolling discounts on a mix of shows and ensuring the magic of the festival continues to be accessible to as wide a range of audiences as possible.

With the refurbishment of the People's Palace currently underway closing the venue, from February, city residents and visitors will still be able to see some of the social history museum's treasures. A pop up exhibition and touring photographic exhibition is planned, showing how Glaswegians of the past lived and worked.

Glasgow's much loved venues, famous for having the "best fans in the world", are set to give artists a welcome warm enough to heat the chilliest of evenings. Iconic locations the length and breadth of Glasgow are involved, including The Old Fruitmarket, Barrowland Ballroom, SWG3, Saint Luke's and Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Celtic Connections will also make history when Peat and Diesel become the first band ever to play at the Emirates Arena in the city's east end.

General tickets for the festival are now on sale at the Celtic Connections [website](#).



## Contact Us

**If you have any information you would like to share through this fortnightly email, please click here to contact the NRS Promotions and Engagement Team**

Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability  
Glasgow City Council  
Eastgate  
727 London Road  
Glasgow  
G40 3AQ