

Schools update:

The majority of public consultation meetings for the various schools around Glasgow have now been held with the deadline to submit oppositions only days away on Wednesday the 18th. Many of the schools have submitted the paperwork as required for the official channels; however, there are plans for other actions currently underway, many of which will be implemented over the next few weeks and the Easter holidays. Decisions on which schools are to be closed will be made on the 23rd of April.

Campaigners are also reaching out to other schools to offer support and resources in an effort to save as many schools as possible. The communities are supporting each other through sharing experiences and information and attending each other's meetings/actions in a show of solidarity. The communities are also drawing on the skills and knowledge of campaigners who fought against the wave of school closures 13 years ago in Glasgow and the more recent campaigns in Edinburgh. Supporters also include campaigners from schools who are to receive the extra students.



Aside from the already pressing threat to the children's standard of education, the collaboration within and between communities has been instrumental in showing that this issue, once seen as isolated and affecting only students, parents and school staff, is really a political matter which affects huge sections of the working class throughout Glasgow.

In addition to the upheaval caused to the student's lives and the damaging affect it will have on the parents' ability to find suitable work, loss of smaller local businesses, an increase in traffic and a reduction in an already limited number of parking spaces for residents in and around the schools are some of the effects the closures will have on the communities. Armed with these and other realities, the campaigners are looking for support from local residents and independent businesses who will also feel the effect of the closures in their day to day lives.

GCC is well aware of the inconvenience the schools closures will cause to local residents and the detrimental effect it will have on the local economy. However, at no point have or will the residents and businesses be consulted. With this in mind, campaigners are taking matters into their own hands and the issue out of the schools and onto the streets.

Local groups are always looking for people to help so, if you can, please find out if your local school or nursery is being threatened with closure.

There may be more than one. Information on the campaigns and suggested actions can be found on:-

www.burghangel.wordpress.com

Dates for your diary :-

Wednesday 1 April

* **Northwest Public Meeting** 7 pm at Shakespeare St Youth Club

* **St Gilbert's Primary School** will be forming a human chain around the school on the 1st of April when school gets out at 3pm.

Thursday 2 April Citywide day of action - demos at every threatened school and nursery
Lobby of EIS Committee meeting 5 pm, 34 West George St

Friday 17 April Lobby of Labour Group Executive

23rd April 2009 - Full meeting of Glasgow City Council to confirm decision

Council meetings open to public, although notification to City Chambers of attendance in advance may be required for access to be granted.

► Council leaves workers in lurch over pay. ►

Hundreds of Council workers, working for the Council's Building Services (which was recently transferred to a Limited Liability Partnership), were to be transferred to work for private firm Connaught. After a dispute over the amount the private firm was liable to pay in pensions for the staff, the deal fell through at the eleventh hour, leaving hundreds of workers in the lurch. Workers have waged a campaign to get their employers, Glasgow City Council, and the GHA, to take responsibility for payment of their wages