

06 Oct 2004

Mr Stephen Lyden
200 Kinfauns Drive
Drumchapel
Glasgow G15 7UA
23th September 2004

Dear Sir,

First of all may I Congratulate you and your Committee, you asked for views regarding the state of Culture in our society. RE the Clydebank Post on the 21st September 2004.

In my opinion, this is a novel way of canvassing "The Grass Roots" again Congratulations to you and your committee, but as quoted on the internet you asked for short sharp opinions so here goes.

1st First of all, in my opinion the amateur dramatic society are being severely hindered by Glasgow District Council decision to imposed community center letting charges for all groups. This decision was proposed by culture and leisure services to a sub group of Glasgow City Council who implemented these proposals without full consent of all nominated councilors. Is this Legal ? My area Drumchapel is a designated S.I.P. Area no concession was considered for an area of deprivation. Talking to Representatives from other areas there is no concession of any sort. This a major concern for leaders of amateur dramatic throughout the culture community remembering S.I.P. are the poorest of the poor.

2nd The voice of community based groups does not seem to be heard, even though we have in the past screamed out loud for help, but our screams seem to fall on deaf ears, IE Margaret Curran was asked what possibly assistance was available to offset community center letting charges at a P.R.M. Meeting in Greenock 2001 by myself and the full body of the conference endorsing the question but still no answer or no visible help has been made available.

3rd As a culture commission, they will be no need for me to explain to you how diversify the arts are in Scotland. So why is the minister for sport and culture and arts, all the one person, surely the diversity of arts and cultural movement justifies a minister with sole responsibility (Frank McAveeny) good man that he is, having sport –arts-culture must be near to burn out with all the good work that he has achieved.

4th After investigating your committee on the internet I was a bit concerned to discover that there was only one representative from the west of Scotland (Good man that he is) but perhaps your committee may want to consider the working Volunteers in the arts as a potential representative to speak for the volunteer sector the 3rd force.

In conclusion “the grass roots” need support financially or to have the chance to have an input in some of the decision making process.

I would appreciate it if I were informed of any seminars to be held in the Glasgow area and to be put on your mailing list.

Yours sincerely
Mr Stephen Lyden
(Chairman)
Drummy Tech