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Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2005

Dear Friend,

**You are cordially invited to ‘Sold Down the River?’our forthcoming conference on 26<sup>th</sup> August, in Partick Burgh Halls – details and a booking form are enclosed.**

Speakers so far confirmed are Paul McLaughlin (Friends of Thornwood Community Park), Rosie Kane ( Jam 74 Motorway Group), and Sandra White MSP ( speaking on Third Party Rights of Appeal). In addition, speakers have also been invited from ‘Save our Homes’ Sighthill Action Group, together with people speaking on their personal experiences from Govan, Shettleston and Maryhill.

John McAllion will also be sharing his insights from Dundee, and will be facilitating one of the workshops as will Chik Collins from Paisley and Kim who is currently doing research on the Housing Stock Transfer. We also hope to have a speaker contributing to the Harbour Development discussion from another community affected by similar issues, and are inviting someone from Cardiff’s Tiger Bay area to talk to the Conference about the impact on their Community.

**Obviously we want to make sure that everyone who wants to come – can come, and we will do our best to offer whatever support is needed.** Please let us know on the Booking Form if you require any extra support or have any special needs to enable you to participate fully on the day. We have organised a Creche for younger children and will cover reasonable after-school costs of older children – please let us know as soon as possible if that applies to you, so that we have an idea of numbers, as that affects the number of Creche workers needed. If you have difficulty getting after-school care, please let us know that and we’ll try to help. Lunch will also be provided, so if you have any particular dietary needs or are vegetarian or vegan, let us know that on the form as well.

**The Conference is free to individuals and unfunded or low funded groups and organisations.** Being a low-funded organisation ourselves, we are asking others (i.e. those who can afford it), to pay £ 10.00 per person to help towards the costs of the day. Of course, anyone who wants to make a larger contribution is welcome to do so.

**Most of all though, we want all those who struggle to be heard, and those who want to support others in that struggle to come along on the day. We are asking for bookings to be made by Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> if possible. If you know of people who might want to come – then please let them know too. If you need to know anything else- just phone us.**

**Best Wishes, from all at WestGAP.**

## Booking Form - Sold Down the River?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organisation \_\_\_\_\_  
(if appropriate)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
(if you have/use them)

### Requirements (Please Tick)

Lunch  Vegetarian  Vegan

Other dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Crèche  Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_ Age(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare Costs \_\_\_\_\_ Details \_\_\_\_\_

**If you require any form of additional support to enable you to fully participate in this event (e.g. because of disability, other carer's responsibilities or a particular difficulty), please give details below and we will do our best to meet your needs.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
This conference is free to individuals, community groups, community councils and other low funded organisations. The cost to medium/large organisations is a minimum of £10 per person as a contribution towards the basic costs of the day. If this applies, please state below whether payment is enclosed or to follow along with details of the amount

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount £ \_\_\_\_\_

# Sold Down The River?



*A Conference looking at the truth behind  
'Community Consultation' and what to do  
about it*

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 10-3pm**

**Partick Burgh Halls**

(Burgh Hall St. - near Partick Subway)



**WestGAP** is an Anti-Poverty community group run by and for people in the West of Glasgow who have first hand experience of poverty. We have been based in our Community Advice and Resource Centre for over five years now and work locally, city-wide and nationally.

Our aim is to encourage people to work together to improve lives and to bring about practical change by empowering ourselves and each other. We do this in many ways - we support people to get together on poverty related issues, are active in a number of groups and anti-poverty campaigns, raise awareness of poverty issues, run a very busy advice and information service providing Welfare Rights and Money Advice and offer practical support to local groups who can use our Centre and its facilities for meetings etc.

We are a 'from the ground-up' organisation and are actively against all forms of discrimination and are committed to equality for all members of the community.



**West Glasgow Against Poverty**

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a Recognised Scottish Charity No SC 030367

## **Programme Summary**

### **Morning Session**

9.30 - 10.00	Tea/Coffee
10.00 - 10.15	Welcome from WestGAP & Update from Govan
10.15 - 12.00	Speakers & Discussions Friends of Thornwood Community Park The Harbour Development Personal Experiences - Shettleson and Maryhill Sighthill 'Save Our Homes'

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1200 - 12.45 Lunch

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### **Afternoon Session**

12.45 - 12.50	Welcome back to the Afternoon Programme
12.50 - 1.20	Speakers Jam 74 Motorway Campaign Third Party Right of Appeal
1.20 - 1.50	Group Discussions Peaceful Protest/Civil Liberties Community Planning Housing Issues & The Stock Transfer Lessons to be Learned
1.50 - 2.30	Feedback and Discussion
2.30 - 3.00	Where we go next

Tea and Coffee available all day.

Please bring along photos, leaflets etc. for our information sharing area

'Sold Down the River?' is one of a planned series conferences, each hosted by a different community, on issues that are important to people who feel left out of decision making in their own area. The first, in Govan, last November, focused on 'Poverty and Deprivation in Working Class Communities'; this follow-on conference takes the theme of so-called consultation as our main issue.

As community activists and anti-poverty campaigners, we meet a lot of others in the same struggle - go to a lot of meetings and conferences and hear the same thing over and over.....'Not more consultants.....' Not another so-called 'consultation'.....', 'They've already made their mind anyway, it's a waste of time talking to them.....Over and over we hear the voices of people who feel they are being ignored or used, and the frustrations of community groups who know what's needed but are excluded from the process because their views don't fit with those in power.

We intend that the day will create a chance to share those experiences and differences and to learn from each other. In particular, we want to hold the ways in which people and groups are excluded from the 'consultation process' up to the light so that we all know what to watch out for, and to share the insights of people who've been there, as to what works and what doesn't. We also welcome those who actually want to hear and to offer their support in the struggle to be heard.

Some of the issues being discussed are 'done deals' (and some aren't!), but those involved have a lot of knowledge to share about what and what not to do next time. And there will be many more 'next times', not least in the new 'Community Planning' process. If you don't know what that is, come along and find out about that too - and about your rights if you decide to protest, and other 'essentials'. This will all be drawn together later - not in another glossy conference report, but in a practical booklet that can actually be used.