Community reports – Updates by Partnership members.

5 There was heard verbal reports from members of this Partnership on various matters regarding the Pollokshields Ward as follows:-

(1) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) – Station Commander Douglas Millar advised

(a) that there had been a 40% reduction on call outs for SFRS, following the change in legislation in July 2023, resulting in the service only attending unwanted fire alarm signals where there would be a sleeping risk ie hospitals, hospices and student premises etc; and

(b) raised questions and concerns around houses of multiple occupancy.

The Partnership

(i) noted the update;

(ii) requested that information on SFRS report for Special Service Incidents and Unintentional Injury or Harm included a comparison for the same quarter in the previous year, which had been provided for other statistics, which Station Commander Millar noted and would advise at a future meeting if this information could be included;

(iii) highlighted a planning application, reference 24/00072-FUL as the Partnership had concerns about the occupancy and safety of this property.

(2) Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) – John Harkins advised that the HSCP report for the South had been circulated to members advising that

(a) the East Pollokshields Community Oriented Primary Care group continued to meet quarterly to coordinate collaborative activity in response to identified GP practice/community priorities;

(b) Urban Roots continued to deliver therapeutic community garden and growing programmes as part of HSCP/HI commissioned Food for Thought contract;

(c) HSCP continued to support activities across a number of greenspaces and organisations, including Shields Community Garden, The Bowling Green, Pollokshields Quad and Nan Mackay Hall;

(d) a timeline had been agreed for the rebuild of Shields Garden Room for February/March 2024;

(e) the Quit Your Way stop smoking service had been positive and 2 face to face clinics were currently in operation at Pollok Health Centre, 21

Cowglen Road, Glasgow G53 6EQ (Civic Realm Community Room) and Kellock Pharmacy, The Braes Shopping Centre, Dougrie Drive, Castlemilk, Glasgow G45 9AA; and

(f) that links to the health improvement calendar could be accessed at Health-Improvement-training-calendar January-June 2024 and attachments had been provided on drug and alcohol awareness with information on training could be access at https://www.sdftraining.org.uk/glasgow and information on suicide prevention for reference.

The Partnership noted

(i) the update; and

(ii) the suggestion by Mr Bill Lawns that suicide prevention leaflets could be left at receptions within Housing Associations etc as it was more likely that someone would take a leaflet rather than ask for help face to face.

(3) Shawlands and Strathbungo Community Council – Michael Igoe advised

(a) the community council had expressed an interest in its area being included in the extension of the bin hub trial and were currently consulting with residents via social media channels to determine the views of the local community and would feed back to the Council following the completion of its consultation;

(b) the community council wished the area of land behind 32/34 Tassie Street to be included in the Council's Open Space Register to protect it as a greenspace;

(c) that flooding issues persisted in the area and there was concern about a longstanding flooding problem underneath the railway bridge at Kilmarnock Road adjacent to Pollokshaws East station as the road flooded from the footpaths on both sides and restricted the width of the carriageway which would be safely passable and they would urgently like this addressed by the Council; and

(d) the community council raised concerns regarding regular reports of vandalism and graffiti at the unused A-listed Langside Halls building in the heart of the community and that the community council continued to report these issues but requested more be done to protect the building, such as the extension of CCTV coverage.

The Partnership noted

(i) the update;

(ii) that Inspector Thomson confirmed Police Scotland were aware of the vandalism, however CCTV coverage was limited to only a few hours each day; and

(iii) that Bailie MacLeod, on behalf of the Partnership would contact the relevant department to request 24 hour CCTV coverage at the halls and contact Glasgow Life to request larger signage to advise that CCTV was in use as a deterrent.

(4) Southside Housing Association – Pauline Fletcher advised

(a) that the association had held meetings with the Council regarding 2 fire damaged sights;

(b) of a feasibility study carried out at St Andrew's Drive regarding play equipment, traffic management improvements etc and that the association had plans in place and would be seeking funding of around £1.6m to complete the project;

(c) of the issues at the junction of 355 Shields Road and Albert Drive, which had resulted in several accidents and that the association had contacted the Council's Roads Department and Police Scotland to review and change the junction due to irresponsible parking that reduced visibility for drivers, which Inspector Thomson took note of to refer to his colleagues;

(d) that the association were reviewing its factoring services and home owners would be required to seek alternative factors; and

(e) that funding had been received for the holiday Spring Food Programme, which would be held during the 2 week Easter school break.

The Partnership noted the update and agreed that the junction required alternative traffic signals or if necessary physical traffic calming methods.

(5) Pollokshields Community Council – Samina Rashid highlighted ongoing issues with regard to traffic at Haggs Road and cyclists on Shields Road.

(6) Pollokshields Heritage – Ann Laing advised

(a) that the Heritage continued to review all planning applications within the ward and a conveyor continued to highlight issues to the Council's Planning Officers; and

(b) of the recent successful heritage talks, which had resulted in renewed interest for the area.

(7) Craigton Community Council – Mary Williamson advised that she blamed the Council for lack of action within the ward and that it had gone on too long as

funds had been allocated last year but no work carried out, with lack of staff and money being attributed to the delay in projects that remained outstanding.

(8) Police Scotland – Inspector Chris Thomson advised

(a) of upcoming days of action regarding parking issues; and

(b) of the operational changes within Police Scotland, including a reduction in resources and stations and that members were encouraged to put forward comments and concerns via the consultation process, which could be accessed at https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/lpp2023/.

(9) Glasgow Third Sector Interface Network – Bill Lawns advised

(a) of the new temporary bridge now in place and in use at Shields Road, and despite the majority of cyclists who were adhering to the dismount signs during the first few days, a substantial number now continued to ignore these, which remained dangerous for pedestrians, particularly on icy days as there was not enough room for both cyclists and pedestrians;

(b) that previously the bridge had been the responsibility of the Council, however the new bridge had been constructed by Network Rail, who should be held responsible for ensuring the safety of users;

(c) that following the presentation by Glasgow Food Policy Partnership (GFPP), Mr Lawns arranged a more detailed meeting with growing organisations within the ward; and

(d) that after a GFPP presentation on the history and plans for the future of the organisation, Hidden Gardens had offered to host a future meeting as it was felt the ward would benefit from a collective understanding from similar projects within the ward and anyone who wished to join the meetings should contact Mr Lawns.