Item 9

19th September 2023

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership
Southside Central Area Partnership

Report by Community Connector, Thriving Places

Govanhill

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Progress Report: Thriving Places Govanhill

Purpose of Report:
To update Area Partnership members on progress in relation to Thriving Places Govanhill from the period of 24 March 2023 – 31 August 2023

Community Connector

The contract for the most recent current Community Connector ended on the 31 August 2023. The Community Connector had been in the role since mid-November 2022 (2 days per week minimum funded by GCC, with approximately one date per week provided in kind by Govanhill Community Development Trust - GCDT). GCDT's Sustainable Communities Coordinator has also worked on some aspects of locality planning.

For the rest of 2023-24, GCDT's Sustainable Communities Co-ordinator will work three days per week to oversee the completion of the Govanhill Locality Plan and a part-time Community Connector (2.5 days per week) will be recruited to carry out the communications tasks of the role and some community engagement activity.

There is an ambition and need to host and organise more face-to-face community-led engagement and activities throughout the remainder of the Thriving Places project in Govanhill to end of March 2024.

Thriving Places Govanhill Locality Plan – Priorities

April 2023 to August 2023

The Community Connector has continued to work with the Locality Planning Officer, GCDT's Sustainable Communities Co-ordinator, the Environment & Waste Working Group and the Thriving Places board on the Govanhill Locality Plan.

The aim remains to create an overview document mapping out each strand in an easy-read document. We will then provide more detailed appendices by strand/action plan with short, medium and longer term outcomes as well as detailing lead agencies, appropriate working groups and issues raised by the community. We have also commissioned a Community Profile, appended to our locality plan, which will provide a statistical benchmark and baseline for our neighbourhood. This has been provided for information in Appendix 1.

The following strands remain the key priorities;

1. Environment & waste
2. Housing
3. Cohesion (celebration of diversity)

Environment & Waste Strand - Working Group

The Community Connector hosted the second meeting (first face-to-face) of this group on 9th June with representatives from Glasgow City Council Neighbourhood Services (environment & waste), Govanhill Housing Association, residents and local organisations engaged in environment initiatives (e.g. Greater Govanhill Magazine and South Seeds).

The Working Group discussed the development of an Environment Action Plan and agreed to focus on the following immediate issues:

- Proper disposal of waste/recycling - education & awareness, fining residents – not an effective solution
- Lack of reporting of waste to GCC via MyGlasgow app
    - Not enough people are reporting via the app (issues with app - previously residents could report by phone, complaints when people report by app and the app is slow to update/change of nearest cleansing depot from Polmadie to Shieldhall taking longer to tackle reports)
- Fly-tipping/litter on street /businesses on Victoria Rd - residents/landlords/private HAs/businesses/other shops/restaurants
    - Lack of reporting to GCC
    - Need to take away barriers – QR codes/different languages on phone, need to change behaviours
    - People from other areas also dumping waste in Govanhill
- Infestation (bird-feeding/rats @ Govanhill Park for example)
- Need for increased engagement with neighbours, setting up residents' groups
- Changes to GCC services/introduction of private lane strategy & toolkit 2020/2021– in the past GCC uplifted lane/back court waste – now GCC do not pick up /residents' responsibility to clear lanes https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/lanetoolkit

The next meeting of the Environment Strand Working Group will take place on Wednesday 6th September. The group will consider the above issues and map out these into short-term measurable outcomes in an Action Plan, utilising the Clean Glasgow Programme methodology 4 Es – Engagement, Education, Enhancement, Enforcement (public health community enforcement) (https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CouncillorsandcommitteesviewSelectedDocument.asp?c=P62AFQDNDXZ3T12UNT) , detailing how these will be achieved, working in partnership with Environment Working Group representatives from GCC, Govanhill Housing Association (GhHA), private lanes' groups, local residents, residents' groups private landlords, local shops and businesses and also Crosshill & Govanhill Community Council who will also be in attendance (tying in with a Crosshill & Govanhill Community Council public meeting on waste & the environment on 28 September).

The Action Plan will include an environment audit (utilising the Place Standard Tool).

Thriving Places Board

The Thriving Places Board had not met for over a year until 18th April 2023.
The Community Connector attended and provided an update report on the Govanhill Locality Plan and 2nd Govanhill heritage mural. Organisation of meetings has passed to Brian McQuillan, GCC Community Empowerment Services, following the retirement of Gordon Smith, City Property. The Locality Planning Officer has set up the next Thriving Places Board meeting for the 14th of September. An update on Thriving Places Govanhill, the Govanhill Locality Plan, the 2nd Govanhill heritage mural and recruitment of the Communications Community Connector role will be provided by GCDT's Sustainable Communities Co-ordinator.

2nd Govanhill Heritage Mural

A revised mock-up of a proposed second heritage mural was presented to the Thriving Places Board on 18.4.23 and well-received. A small number of minor changes were suggested to ensure representation of the different communities in Govanhill. A suggestion was also made to improve the space directly in front of the mural wall on Hollybrook St. This locus has experienced fly tipping, with suggestions of raised beds, benches and activities for children installed in a fenced-off area. A similar arrangement worked well with a recent mural celebrating 50 years of Govan Housing Association.

Consultation subsequently took place with Hollybrook St tenants (in conjunction with GhHA's Tenant Participation officer) and community consultation participants, with overall approval of the design. A finalised version of the mural was then submitted and approved by Govanhill Housing Association's Property & Development Sub-Committee with an update report to the mural funder, Scotland Loves Local.

Since then, a decision has been made to put the current mural project on hold to incorporate Govanhill Association's 50th anniversary. The final mural design will incorporate elements of the community design agreed to date with additional elements alluding to the last 50 years of Govanhill's history, alongside that of Govanhill Housing Association's history in Govanhill. The mural project will continue to be progressed with the various groups already engaged in the project, including the Thriving Places board, Thriving Places community consultation groups, residents, and Govanhill Housing Association Committees.

Thriving Places - Communications
Govanhill Community Action Group (GoCA)

Face-to-face meetings of Govanhill Community Action have been hosted by the Community Connector on 4 May and 1 June (April, July and August - no meetings held due to school holiday periods). The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7th September.

GoCA meetings continue to be well-attended – usually 20-30 members from a wide range of local organisations. Most have commented on the value of GoCA meetings as an opportunity to learn from other organisations, share information, network and set up working relationships and/or partnerships.

Presentations

- Govanhill Community Police - Q&A on local issues (parking, lack reporting to 101, bike theft, need to increase community engagement e.g. at local events, working with local schools, waste & environment, fly tipping, vandalism, private landlords)
- Employability Services support available in Govanhill
- Partnership opportunities e.g. HSCP/Thistle Foundation
- Community Connector providing support to organisations such as the Scottish Child Law Centre with a community survey to support a free child law legal advice community clinic in Govanhill – (next step – set up community breakfasts to gather further survey findings)

Communications

Thriving Places funded staff share information with the community in the following ways:

- Daily posting of information relevant to the local community on the Thriving Places Facebook page as well as sharing on various local Govanhill groups
- Co-ordination of content gathering from local organisations to update the 5 noticeboards around Govanhill each month
- creation of the monthly Govanhill newsletter (mailing list of 350+)
- updating govanhill.info website
- acting as a central information hub, disseminating information from local organisations to the mailing lists e.g. funding/job/ partnership opportunities…
- Attending and providing Thriving Places updates at Crosshill & Govanhill Community Council.
- Govanhill Services Directory - to be reviewed/updated (to include key/ contact information for GCC waste services for example)
- Liveable Neighbourhoods & Govanhill (Atkins tranche 1) – provide support and disseminate information to Govanhill community. Follow-up required (to feed into Locality Plan)

Participatory Budgeting

A second round of the Thriving Govanhill Fund will be launched in late September. This will see the participatory budgeting of around £16,000, provided by the HSCP, by the local community to support a range of health and wellbeing initiatives. Our previous participatory budgeting exercise had telephone voting participation from over 400 residents and we are anticipating a similar response.

Development/ Seed Funding

£300 of the £4900 currently spent.

New community directory will cost in the region of £1800 and the remaining funding will be used through the remainder with community meetings and engagement events over the next year.

APPENDIX 1

Govanhill Community Profile