Item 8

31st August 2022

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership
East Centre Area Partnership

Report by Community Connector, Thriving Places

Springboig and Barlanark

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Progress report Thriving Places Springboig and Barlanark

Purpose of Report:

To update Area Partnership members on progress in relation to the Springboig/Barlanark Thriving Place.

Recommendations:

The Partnership is asked to note the contents of this report and support the above local initiatives where appropriate.

1 Introduction

The thriving Places area covers Springboig, Barlanark, Queenslie, Wellhouse, Budhill, Greenfield and Easthall, but is referred to as Thriving Places Springboig Barlanark. Thriving Places was introduced in these neighbourhoods in 2017 to help improve the quality of life of people who live and work here. Local community members are encouraged to take an active part in decision-making and driving forward the agenda for Thriving Places. This report presents the progress on the work of Thriving Places Springoig Barlanark since January 2022.

2 Keeping the community informed

2.1. Community members were invited to join the 'Information subgroup' and agreed on actions that would help improve access to information. The priority was to design and publish a booklet collating information on community activities taking place in the Thriving Places area. The booklet was co-designed with community members and published online. 300 copies were printed and distributed in community centres and shops. An updated version is due to be published in August 2022.

2.2. Friends of Barlanark and Springboig Greenspaces have worked closely with Thriving Places and Glasgow City Council colleagues to install two community noticeboards in the area. Noticeboards are due to be installed at the entrance to Budhill Square and the entrance to Sandaig Park. These noticeboards will be managed by Friends of Barlanark and Springboig Greenspaces and will be for the purpose of improving access to information about free community activities and engagement opportunities.

3 Thriving Places Survey Findings

3.1. Thriving Places Survey was conducted in March 2022. Survey findings are presented in the attached report 'Thriving Places Springboig Barlanark Survey Findings'. 146 individual responses were recorded from TP Springboig Barlanark area with just under a third of responses coming from the neighbourhoods in Baillieston ward (Wellhouse, Easthall and Queenslie).

3.2. The key themes that emerged through analysis of the survey are:

-the importance of community, belonging and neighbourliness and high satisfaction levels of community members with regards to community spirit;
-difficulties with access to information about what is happening in the local area;
-desire to be more involved in local decision-making;
-the importance of greenspaces being cared for and appreciated;
-the need for better street infrastructure with responses highlighting issues around flooding, lighting and potholes.
-the need for activities for young people and kids
-the importance of feeling safe in own neighbourhoods, with many respondents suggesting more police presence.

3.3. The findings from the survey informed Community Connector's work plan for the 2022/23 year.

4 Community engagement

4.1. Springboig and Barlanark Community Council continues to meet regularly. Meeting times are as follows: every 3rd Monday of the month at 6 pm at Calvay Centre, 16 Calvay Road, Barlanark (in case that day falls on a bank holiday please contact the community council directly to check the meeting date). Meetings are open to the public and the community council can be contacted at: springboigbarlanarkcc@gmail.com

4.2. Friends of Barlanark and Springboig Greenspaces continues meeting monthly at Barlanark Community Centre, every second Tuesday of the month at 6.30 pm. This group is run fully by volunteers and some of their recent work includes organising a litter pick along the length of Hallhill Road, tree planting event in Sandaig Park, arranging the installation of community noticeboards and re-establishing a community garden in Barlanark Community Centre courtyard. Their AGM has been scheduled to take place on 20th of September, more details to be arranged. The group can be contacted at: barlanarkandspringboigfriends@gmail.com

4.3. Budhill Playpark. A series of online and in-person meetings with residents took place to co-produce a design for Budhill Playpark. Working closely with a GCC Landscape technician the final draft has now been approved by community members involved in the working group. Throughout the process, the wider community was regularly contacted with email and social media updates. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. The costs for **Budhill Playpark improvements** come up to £89, 850. As £57,200 is allocated already from 20/21 Children's Outdoor Play budget this leaves a shortfall of £32,650.

4.4. Greenfield Park improvements. A community survey about Greenfield Park was created by Community Connector upon request from local community members who were keen to see improvements to Greenfield Park. A community walkabout was organised as a follow-up to the survey and took place on the 21st of July 2022. It was attended by 12 community members, two GCC officers and facilitated by Community Connector. The group decided to put forward a proposal for consideration under Parks and Open Spaces fund suggesting (1) a dog area/dog run, (2) MUGA and (3) an outdoor gym. Community members are considering setting up a Friends of Greenfield Park group to pursue some of the actions and will arrange for another meeting in September (date to be confirmed) to discuss this option.

4.5. Danny's Park Survey. Community Connector was approached by two community members who asked for a community survey to gather interest around improvements to Danny's Park. The survey received 54 individual responses and 21 of the respondents are interested in developing ideas further. Key suggestions include: tidying up the park and surrounding area; creating a play area; area for dog walkers; an outdoor gym; ensuring that the park is inclusive (with a particular mention of wheelchair users, elderly residents, and neurodiverse children) and safe (with a particular mention of CCTV cameras, and issue of fire setting during Bonfire Night).

5 Seed fund

5.1. Between January 2022 and April 2022 the following spent was recorded under the seed fund: £425 to East End Flat Pack Meals (training and board members recruitment), £406.50 to Greyfriars Youth Project (benches), £600 to Calvay Volunteer Group (mobility scooters), £500 to Budhill and Springboig Allotments (community event costs and promotional materials), £1994.60 (purchase of community noticeboards), £200 to Connect Community Trust (green group community-led project), £500 to Springboig and Barlanark Community Council (printing and marketing costs), £71.89 (workshop materials), £300 (Thriving Places Survey Prizes), £500 (Community Activities brochure printing costs), £500 to Friends of Barlanark and Springboig Greenspaces (group set up costs, printing, stationery), £500 to Easterhouse Baptist Church (ESOL class materials), £270 to Connect Community Trust (litter-picking equipment).

5.2. Seed fund for the year 2022/23 comes to a total of £4,900. To date £500 has been awarded to Friends of Barlanark and Springboig Greenspaces for noticeboard installation costs and £42 was spent on interpreting costs for a community meeting, leaving a total of £4,358 available.

5.3. Local groups are invited to apply for small pots of seed funding for new community projects and activities.

5.4. Seed fund grants are awarded on a rolling basis and to be eligible the groups/initiatives need to either be based in the area covered by Thriving Places and/or benefit the residents of the Thriving Places Springboig Barlanark neighbourhoods. An average seed fund award is £300 and new unconstituted groups are prioritised to help them with start-up costs as they may struggle to access funds elsewhere.

5.5. New groups can also be supported through a variety of bespoke capacity building, support with arranging meetings (online and in-person), becoming constituted, and accessing training and other resources.

6 Recommendations

The Partnership is asked to note the contents of this report and support the above local initiatives where appropriate, including the promotion of the seed fund.