

Crosshill & Govanhill Community Council

Chair's message AGM 2018

This has been an active year for us on the community council and I personally feel that we have made significant progress in beginning address the challenges that this community faced over the past decade. That is not to say we have seen big changes to the area as of yet, but we have now established many important contacts who we have made aware of the changes the area needs.

Achievements

This past year we have strengthened our relationship with the cleansing service. By setting up cleansing sub group in January we established an active dialogue with the cleansing managers Robert Souter and Brian Roberts and later neighbourhood manager Paul McGrath. Later in the year held a well-attended public meeting on cleansing, at which many issues were passionately raised. These issues were passed on to MSP's and to the head of cleansing service George Gillespie. This has led to us now being actively consulted on the new cleansing action plan for the area by the new neighbourhood manager Darren Lambie.

Continuing work from last year with MSP's we have established the Parliamentary Cross Party Group for Govanhill. Within the Parliamentary Cross Party Group, we have had meetings on both cleansing and the environment and housing and regeneration with various issues being raised to MSP's including pest control, recycling, commercial waste and building insurance.

The community council has also developed a working relationship with the HUB, met with Gordon Smith and now have a developing an understanding of how the HUB operates. We wish to keep working with the HUB and support the HUB to develop a business association for the area. We have met with police and heard from social work regarding the issue of child exploitation. Other issues raised with the police over the past year include double parking in the area, house breakins and school truancy. Over the past year there has been much interest in the area from the press and we have responded to several journalist requests for statement relating to matters in the area. In one instance we did write a complaint to IPSO regarding an article we felt was misleading however our complaint was no upheld. We have raised our profile in the community by taking part in community events such as the Active Life's Stand up to Racism event, Queens Park Church Christmas Tree Festival and the Govanhill Carnival. In line with this we have had a pop-up banner produced, along with giveaway merchandise to publicise ourselves and voted on our new by line 'The Welfare of the Community is Our Cause'. We have also continued to maintain actively involved in other local groups such as the Govanhill

Community Action (GoCA), Southside Partnership and the Govanhill Community Development Trust's Community Conversation. We put in requested this year that the boundaries of our community council be re-looked at to better fit with the locality plan. Our activity in the community has now generated more interest in the community council among the public with people asking how to join and get involved. Thus, I am pleased to say we have recently voted to open-up the community council for elections to fill up empty seats on the community council.

Tasks Ahead

For all that we have achieved this year there is still lots more work to be done. I would suggest this includes improving our social media presents, and to continue building on the work we have already done with cleansing, the Cross Party Group and the HUB. Additionally, we also hope to increase our numbers on the community council by recruiting new members in our upcoming election. I would like to thank members of the community council for all the hard work that they have put in over the past year. This has most definitely been a group effort, with lots of additional meeting and events that members have given up their time for. I would also like to particularly thank our secretary Keith Hawley who has worked tirelessly in his role this year. I hope that the community council choose me to continue in my role as chair for the next year and that we continue to build on the work we have already begun.

This statement was passed with agreed amendments. Proposed: Grant McManus Seconded: Jean Adair

It was noted that The Hub is reduced and not doing enough. Also that The Hub has poor reputation in the community. Also, the community is not aware of area's "thriving place" status.