

# **AGM Chairperson's Report**

## **Crosshill and Govanhill Community Council 2018-19**

This has been yet another an active year for us on the community council. I want to start by personally thanking all the members of the community council for the hard work and support that they have contributed over the last years because more so than ever it has very much been a team effort.

### **Achievements**

#### *Cleansing*

Throughout the year we have had numerous meetings with several cleansing managers, all four local councillors, but this frustratingly has had little progress on the actual issues. We did get a deep clean of some of the streets in the area, however this did not yield the results we had hoped for. Additionally, we now have a written cleansing plan from the council, although, we have expressed that we do not feel that the plan is adequate to improve the cleansing situation in the area.

We understand that the community is still deeply frustrated by this issue that continues to plague the area. We would have liked to have had a public meeting on the matter, however, without adequate improvement from the council to report back to the community, this has not yet been possible. Recently we called on the councils' Convener for Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction to meet with us we have still to receive a response and have publicised this in the papers.

#### *Education*

We have continued to raise concerns regarding the lack of school places in the area particularly for primary school children and concerns regarding truancy in the area. We have also suggested that the time period in which children can be registered to a school can be extended so that children are not missing out on a school place due to missing a timeline.

#### *Social Work*

With concern about child welfare in the area being raised we have met with the head of the South West Social Work Services and discussed issues including truancy and education and they have appointed a truancy officer to the area.

We have also started a positive relationship with the workers of the new children's unit that is to be built in the area, with them attending our meeting and plans to have them come regularly.

#### *Police*

While we were disappointed that the police have changed their reporting methods from figures to trends, and did raise this with the police, we have still maintained an active dialogue with the police. We are now only meeting with the police once every two months and have found that this is still sufficient to raise all that we need to with them.

### *Regeneration Group*

We have continued our work with the regeneration group this year and they have now opened up their meetings so that more members of the community council can attend. We hope that going forward we can contribute a greater and more effective influence on the regeneration group and develop stronger relationships with local community groups and organisations from it.

### *Cross Party Group*

The group met to discuss the topics of crime in the area and education. The group is looking to meet again early next year to discuss the cleansing crisis in the area. We are continuing to monitor how useful these sessions are and whether we can effectively influence change at Holyrood level.

### *Business Association*

We have called for a business association to be set up in the area, in order that business in the area can work better with the local community to find solutions to issues in the area. The lead on this was picked up by Govanhill Development Trust who had the first meeting of local businesses earlier in the year. However there has been little progress since then and while we have requested updates, we have yet to receive any response from Govanhill Development Trust.

### *Govanhill Carnival*

Govanhill Carnival had another successful year bring colour, music, dance and smiles to our streets once again. Several Community Councillors turned out to join the parade holding our banner high, talking to residents and providing whistles for the children.

### *International Roma Day*

Several community councillors also attended this year's parade which was followed by fantastic art performances and amazing food at the Queen's Park Parish Church.

## **Membership**

We held elections this year and had interest from 12 people in total however only two people ran in the end and both were elected as new community councillors. Both have played active roles on the community council including one who has taken on the task of minute secretary, although the other member moved from the area and thus, unfortunately, is no longer a community councillor for us.

Unfortunately, this year we have also lost several members from the community council two who moved out of the area, two who retired and one who resigned. While I wish to thank all of those who gave their time to serve on the community council I would particularly like to make a special mention to Jean Adair who served on the community council for 17 years and for the majority of that time also served diligently as our treasurer.

However, this means that going forward more than ever we need to recruit new members to the community council. Some of this work has already started via engaging with other community groups in the area and developing new contacts and potential interest.

## **Tasks Ahead**

### *Cleansing*

This will continue to be the major issue for us to tackle and we hope that we will begin to see Glasgow City Council take more action on this issue.

### *HUB*

We have also agreed that we will now begin to focus on the work that the HUB in the area is doing and ensure that it is operating at its most effectiveness for the community.

### *Enhanced Enforcement Area*

We will be looking into this over the next year to see how well this is operating in the community and if the results being again from it truly match what the community wishes to see.

### *Recruitment*

We will aim to recruit more people to the community council this year and will be also looking to have people on as associate member also. By increasing our numbers we hope that we can greaten our effectiveness in the community.

Overall this as a been another busy year for us on the community council and we look forward to the challenges that the new year will bring us.