**GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 3 JUNE 2024**

Held in the Board Room, Elderpark Workspace at 7 p.m.

Present: Esme Clark, Danny O’Neill, Hannah Salome, Reinhild Gorniack, John Foster, Marie Davidson, Robert Preston, Gina Preston, Gordon MacKay, Annie Morgan, Andre Videla, Cllr Imran Alam, Cllr Dornan,

Apologies:, Marie Davidson, Betty Ross, Ruby Kelly, Cllr Ricky Bell, Cllr Dan Hutchison, Chris Stephens, Humza Yusaf MSP (who has not attended since November 2016)

Minute taker: John Foster

1. MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING  
   These were moved as correct by Hannah Salome and Gordon Mackay.

2 MATTERS ARISING

1. **Cleansing, environment, litter crisis and drains crisis**

Issues were raised in particular by our Secretary and by Annie Morgan. Esme reported receiving as a householder a letter from Cleansing indicating the new bin colours and content regulations and the instruction that householders themselves must affix labels of the appropriate colour (black for paper; grey for plastics and cans (with a wider range of plastic types allowed than before); and blue for food waste. It was noted there would be four week wait for grey stickers. Esme felt that this introduced quite unnecessary levels of complication which would militant against widespread response. Cllr Alam said he would investigate and indicated that as far he knew there had been no consultation with councillors. Annie Morgan reported problems misuse with the introduction of street based black bins in parts of Elderpark – exampling babies’ used nappies lying open in one of the bins outside the soon-to-be opened community grocers shop. She voiced fears about the introduction of ‘hubs’ in terms of potentially similar misuse and stressed the full community consultation would be essential. Annie also suggested that the Community Council invite a representative from the community-based partnership responsible for cleansing in Renfrewshire.

It was NOTED that letters to the two Housing Association Executives, as agreed at the last meeting, had been written but the relevant correspondence with our Secretary had been delayed in the post, despite first class stamps, by over six days. One we had a response we would also write to relevant officials in the City Council.

1. **Closure of Bank of Scotland**

Gordon Mackay further reported on his investigations regarding the legal responsibilities of banks to provide banking services that matched the needs of local communities. He had now identified a Working Paper being produced by the Financial Conduct Authority under the terms of Financial Services and Markets Act 2023 that was intended as the basis for legislation by government to ensure that the entire population was within one mile of a free to use cash machine. Gordon noted that the ‘free to use’ cash machine on the back wall of the chemists facing the shopping centre carpark had been removed in the past month and there were now big queues at Morrisons’ cash machine (only available when the shop was open).

Chris Stephens MP was maintaining his initiative, led locally by Alastair Shaw, to secure a cash hub in the subway, a meeting had been held and discussions were continuing with Barclays Bank

It was AGREED that we should publicise our local campaign in the Glasgow press in order to link up with other campaigns in the city. It was also important to raise with those responsible for the City Plan and the development of the Partick-Govan bridge because of its specific intention to expedite economic investment and growth on the Govan side of the river. The lack of both banks and cash machines would be major disincentives. The meeting felt that in immediate circumstance it was probably not sensible to place too much weight on the possibility of initiatives by the informal/community sector such as the Credit Union.

**c) Elder Park Library: Reopening and Provision of Café**

Councillors present reiterated their understanding that the Library would reopen in June. It would, however, not contain a café (although kitchen facilities were available). There was no clear indication as to whom, within Glasgow Life, had taken the decision, it seems, at a very late stage. There was some feeling that local voluntary provision might be possible and also be cheaper.

It was AGREED to write to Glasgow Life and the Council Chief Executive deploring what seemed to be a breach of trust on the question of the café – a decision taken without consultation.

**d) Community Notice Board in the Shopping Centre**

It was AGREED to raise with the Shopping Centre administration the willingness of the Community Council to meet the financial costs of increasing the size of the existing noticeboard and to provide adequate lighting.

**e) £1 million Infrastructure Improvement Fund**

A very considerable range of projects had been put forward by voluntary organisations in the Greater Govan Area. Bidding had now closed (12 May). Residents will be eligible to vote between 12 August and 29 August on which proposals should be implemented.

**f) Show People’s access to their site**

Subsequent to the discussion at the April Community Council it was felt that the City Council might be taking a more realistic and constructive approach in recent discussions. Councillors were ASKED to liaise with Council officers to ensure that progress was made.

3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING 25 APRIL

While attendance was a bit disappointing (probably partly a consequence of a very partial Royal Mail distribution of our newsletter: only one in two of those attending the CC meeting had received copies) it was felt that the meeting as a whole was worthwhile and useful. Hannah was congratulated on both the organisation and her own presentation.

Hannah stressed the expanding community-focus of the Ferett and the significance of Karen Goodwin’s research on housing and homelessness. She also stressed the seriousness of problems in Govan – especially in Central Govan – including fear among newcomers of speaking out and also the need for more translators to ensure that issues were raised. Homelessness was growing more acute. So was criminal and anti-social behaviour. It was important that Housing Associations faced up to their responsibilities.

In terms of future meetings it was felt that the convenience and ambience of the PI Café had helped the success of the meeting.

Subsequently it was agreed that the Pearce Institute Café would provide an excellent venue for the Community Council itself and it was AGREED to check with Betty Ross availability on a Monday evening in the coming year.

4. SECRETARY’S REPORT

**Future of the Lyceum**

Our Secretary reported on progress in establishing a Community Development Trust by the Central Govan Action Plan on behalf of the Lyceum Preservation Trust. The Trust was now registered with OSCAR and required signatures from local residents. The objective was to attract into Govan visitors from across Scotland and beyond. The meeting expressed its thanks to Esme for helping to take the initiative on this front.

**Mary Barbour statue**

Esme congratulated all those who had taken the initiative in erecting the statue. Three times in the last month the statue had provided the focus point for those campaigning for women’s rights and working class rights in general: for Waspi Women on pensions, for Equal Pay and against cuts of jobs in education. It was also noted that BAE functionaries had attempted to associate themselves with the statute. This was felt to be wholly inappropriate given Mary Barbour’s stance against militarism and war. It was felt that when Mary’s 150th anniversary came up in 2025 we should support any moves to name the bridge, the Mary Barbour Bridge. The Bridge was now expected to open in November.

5. CHAIR’S REPORT: PROBLEMS WITH THE NEW SUBWAY CARRIAGES

1.The ride quality of the new trains is atrocious. Far worse than the old trains. The carriages swing violently from side to side, especially when the trains are accelerating. This makes for a very unpleasant journey. It is astonishing that the new trains are less comfortable than trains that are over 40 years old.

2. The ride quality isn't helped by the seats on the new trains. Unlike the old carriages the seats are completely unpadded. They are a flat bench style, covered only by thin fabric. It's like sitting on a plank, with your back against another plank.

3. The carriage seat layout is poor. The old seats were shaped into pairs of seats with vertical poles separating the seats in the middle of the carriage. The seats now consist of a long flat bench and the poles have gone. This means that passengers are far more likely to sprawl over more than one seat.

4. There are no longer overhead hand grips above the doors or on either side of the doors. When the trains are busy passengers tend to congregate at the doors. Now they have nothing to hold onto, unless they are near the vertical handrails on either side of the door. This is a health and safety issue.

5. Similarly, there are no longer poles or vertical hand rails in the middle of the carriage so passengers can only hold onto the overhead handrail, which doesn't suit everyone.

6. To make matters worse, the overhead handrail in the middle of the carriage is too low, at least a couple of inches lower than the old handgrips. If you stand straight up from your seat, you hit your head off the handrail.

7. There are bound to be teething problems with new trains but there are constant delays and breakdowns, and often only one circle is operating. When this happens communication is terrible. This morning at Govan passengers waited 15 minutes on the platform with not a single tannoy announcement explaining what was happening. Similarly, the trains are often kept waiting at stations for several minutes with no announcement from the driver explaining the delay.

8. When announcements are made, either by the station staff or the driver, they are often inaudible or unintelligible, especially inside the trains. This is another health and safety issue. In the event of an emergency, it is essential that passengers can hear announcements. It would appear that no one in the Subway ever checks that the tannoys can be heard by passengers on the platforms or on the trains.

9. Most journeys now take longer than they did previously. A journey between Govan and St Enoch's or Buchanan Street that previously took 12 or 15 minutes now often takes between 15 and 20 minutes, and sometimes even longer.

10. The real time arrival information has disappeared from the electronic display boards. Now they only show the train frequency, for instance every 4 minutes or 8 minutes. Since passengers travelling between Govan and the city centre can use either circle this is a major problem. You can no longer tell whether the trains on either circle are due in one minute or ten minutes.

11. The service frequency at rush hour appears to be reduced at times. Instead of the previous 4 minute service at peak hours this is now often down to 6 or 8 minutes. When this happens it also means that the trains are more overcrowded.

12. This isn't a new problem but there has been no WiFi in the stations for about 4 years now, which is very poor in this day and age.

On the plus side, the new trains are quieter, brighter, and the ability to move between carriages is very useful. In general, however, there has been a massive deterioration in the service.

6. VICE CHAIR’s REPORT

Hannah drew our attention to an event on Friday 17 May at 12.30 with music and food to celebrate cultural diversity at Park Villa, 337 Langlands Rd,

7. TREASURER’S REPORT

Reinhild reported that a cheque had been sent to Forward Print covering the cost of printing the Spring Govan Letter.

8. COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS

**Councillor Dornan** reported on a new initiative by SPT to place real time notice boards for all buses leaving Govan bus station.

**Councillor Hutchison** noted the motion before the City Council on Thursday to establish a firework control zone and establish instead a publicly run firework display (in line with what was Govan CC policy).

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**a) Air fryers**

Community adoption of Air Fryers: C. Edugie Robertson from Glasgow Life reported on the project to develop the adoption of Air Fryers by local community organisations including Community Councils. Air fryers used 50 percent less power and provided better nutrition. She hoped that the Community Council might support an application for the funding of training.

**b) Protection of community space in Elderpark**

Annie Morgan raised the problems raised for community spaces in the Elderpark area – specifically the Moogetty gardens – in face the building of two blocks of flats and associated parking. These are likely to knock out access, possibly more, unless the community comes together to resist. Annie hoped that once she had brought together a group of stake-holders the Community Council would send a representative.

**9. NEXT MEETING MONDAY 3 JUNE at 7 p.m. in Elderpark Workspace**