Chart, pie chart

Description automatically generatedGraphical user interface, text

Description automatically generatedGraphical user interface, application, Teams

Description automatically generatedGovan is a community known for helping people and taking in refugees, but it faces several challenges, one of them being accessible and affordable public transport. Transportation is difficult for low-income families and refugees in Govan as they often live off as little as £40.85 per week, leaving them with only £5.83 to live of per day, as it is costly and with approximately only 42% of households having access to a car, this creates significant difficulties in moving around to access necessities such as healthcare, education, and food. As a result, many residents are forced to walk long distances or take public transport, which can be time-consuming or costly, so as software engineers, we plan to address these issues by developing a website that provides information on food banks and fundraisers, and a carpooling app. This outlines our plan for the website, app, and its benefits to the community of Govan.

Above are statistics that show data regarding the population of Govan and the car ownership percentage.

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generatedWe aim to create a sustainable community, one that is self-sufficient and has the services and resources to meet its community's needs. We believe that transportation is an essential part of creating a sustainable community. Creating a carpooling app called (Govan share) will enable drivers to offer available seats in their cars to users for short and long journeys. This app will make it easier for people to travel inside or outside Govan, especially for refugees and low-income households who cannot afford public transportation. To ensure the safety of users and drivers, we will require drivers to provide personal information, a full driving license, a car registration number, and a disclosure certificate (Scotland’s criminal background check certificate). Users and drivers on the app should never disclose their personal information to each other when sharing lifts. Pickups and drop-offs should always be done in a public space to ensure the user's safety. An additional benefit from this app will be the reduction of cars on the road, which leads to the reduction of the carbon footprint and air pollution as seen in the diagram.

We plan on developing the Govan Share app within our website. Our vision is that Govan share is unique but also similar to the UK’s top carpooling app (Lifts Share) which boasts 50,000 members with each regular members saving up to £1,000 per year by sharing rides. The Govan Share service will be unique to Govan meaning that there will be a greater accessibility of lifts in the Govan area compared to Lift Share, as very little drivers on Lift Share reside in Govan. Both drivers and passengers will save large amounts on their transportation fees each week due to the easily accessible lifts available.

Chart

Description automatically generatedThis graph represents the global market growth of the carpooling industry. Over the next few years, it is expected to grow substantially, these increases give us a good indication that the Govan share app will be popular in the area, as the user base of carpooling apps are growing each year. To ensure that the app reaches as many people as possible, we plan to promote it through online/real world advertisements and our website.

The website will have a unique feature that allows people to create polls and start petitions about issues they feel strongly about which will give the residents a voice, allowing them direct contact with the Council. By raising these issues residents can have more access to goods and services such as halal food and sports facilities. The website will also help the community by providing information on the nearest location of food banks which helps in the reduction of food shortages in the community

A section on the website where people can donate old mobile phones will be available on the website, which will help those who lack the funds to purchase a mobile access to one, this initiative will help overcome the challenge of accessing the website and the Govan share app which is faced by some people in Govan.

Diagram

Description automatically generatedRegarding Wi-Fi access, some poor neighborhoods have set up wireless community networks by setting up mesh networks (a wireless network usually linked by radio nodes or hotspots) that allow people to connect to the internet via a smartphone or a laptop. These grassroot networks have been great equalizers in giving their communities access to services that they lacked before. This is our vision for Govan we believe Mesh networks would successfully increase Wi-Fi accessibility for the poorest communities. This diagram is an example of how mesh networks work.