

**CPG Govanhill Meeting
Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre
6 Daisy Street, G42 8JL**

Attendance: Anas Sarwar MSP, Annie Wells MSP, Damian Causney, Cheryl McCormick, Keith Hawley, Grant McManus, Elaine Ward, Eunis Jassemi-Zargani

1. **Apologies:** Patrick Harvie MSP, Anne Lear, Land & Regeneration & Mhairi Nesbit.

2. **Update from MSPs**

Annie Wells MSP was happy to chair the CPG meeting.

Annie started off the meeting with detailed feedback of the Govanhill Regeneration Group meeting with Anas Sarwar. Annie felt quite positive about the meeting and had high hopes for future steps and relations between the CPG and the Govanhill Regeneration Group.

Annie went on to say that she met with Child Protection Services on the previous Friday. Some residents are afraid to report any cases due to where they live. This could be reporting a fellow family member, friend or next door neighbour.

Annie then said she was happy to pass on Police details with names, addresses to pass on intelligence.

Annie opened it up to the meeting for anyone to bring forward any intelligence on cases to the police.

Anas and Annie both said the locals felt things were getting better over recent years but agreed more must be done.

Both also agreed that the CPG must continue to be a genuine cross party group. Elaine came in saying she attended the last Regeneration meeting.

Anas went on to say that the majority of casework that comes to the office are mainly from young women. There are some cases in which police handles it well but other times not.

Anas said there were several issues;

1. Housing - Things are slowly getting better in the local community but more needs to be done.
2. Education - Schools have seen standards rising however challenges do remain. He met with the Director of Education from GCC Maureen Mckenna.

Anas believed that the first meeting of the CPG was to take the politics out of Govanhill. The CPG would be an open forum to all who lives and works in the area along with relevant stakeholders. He went on to pay his thanks especially to all involved in getting the CPG organised Patrick Harvie for his support of the CPG. Anas had made contact with all departments in the council for involve with the CPG. The response is mixed with some lacking the will and energy making building relations challenging.

At the last meeting of the Govanhill Regeneration Group that Anas attended, Anas had understood that there would be a formal partnership between the Cross Party Group and the Regeneration Group.

Since that meeting, there has been a real struggle.

3x meetings were had to be rearranged to due to the group and council.

Anas then laid out options that the CPG faces;

1. A joint letter to the relevant contacts from the CPG
2. Have the majority of meetings in Govanhill thus cutting travel time to Edinburgh.
3. Close the CPG and focus on the regeneration group.

Keith asked where is the pressure coming from?

Anas replied that Annemarie had been contacted along with all other departments. Annemarie had sent a reply on block to discuss a meeting about the CPG. Cllr Siddique and Hunter are co-chairs of the Regeneration Group.

Cheryl was happy to draft up a letter to both Cllrs. Both would be warmly welcomed to the cross party group.

Grant asked what the Regeneration Group was exactly?

Anas said it brings together council departments with the council in charge of running the group.

Annie was happy to share the attendees at the last meeting.

Cheryl said that the group might be intimidated from the CPG group given it's a Scottish Parliament group. She went further to say that the group should use the group as a tool.

Anas highlighted that the Regeneration meeting tend to be on a Thursday - a day that all MSPs are in Edinburgh for votes/FMQs.

Keith said there was some suspicions of the group. Some in the local community have said that the group is not achieving much and the access to the group is very limited

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Anas came in saying that the CPG? gives a forum for strategic planning for the local area.

Keith reflected on past activity in the area and said there was of talk of housing etc but it was not in conjunction with locals, something that is needed urgently.

Anas suggested a joint letter?

Cheryl was happy to draft a letter and send it to all departments. Inviting Cllr hunter and Siddique would also be a good step.

Anas noted that invitations were given 2x to all MSPs but no SNP MSP took up the offer to attend and be a member of the CPG.

Cllr Hunter would be more than welcome to join the Cross Party Group and stressed the need to be truly cross party.

Anas noted that there is a Factoring CPG in the Scottish Parliament. Both the Govanhill and Factoring CPGs could work together on certain issues?

Cheryl came on to the development of the local areas saying she has lived in the area for a number of years and said there is a lot of work happening but it appears to be mainly indoors which on the outside, some might think it might be just painters etc that are doing the rooms up and not the external part of the building for repairs.

Annie agreed that some progress had been made.

Keith said that developers had spoken with the community council.

Anas proposed that- a draft letter was to be sent from the group that

- a) Stressing the point, the CPG can be used for strategic outlook
- b) Pay tribute of the work of the Regeneration group.
- c) The CPG is a genuine cross party group.
- d) Can do all meetings apart from the AGM in Govanhill.

Grant was worried that there was a bad attitude to Govanhill from council official.

He felt things like planning were kept fairly basic.

What was the latest on cleansing? Yes, Grants point was about a cleansing manager, who said he wouldn't live in the area

Cheryl said that George Gillespie had be contacted, then transferred to Brian Roberts and Robert Soutar - after several transfers.

Anas questioned whether the Regeneration Group had ever met in Govanhill? Something worth pushing for.

Update from Community Council

Cheryl said that the cleansing group had been set up but no one was in from the cleaning department at GCC.

Keith highlighted there was still plenty of commercial problems.

Anas asked if there was a Govanhill Trade Association?

Annie said that this was talked about at the Regeneration group meeting. Could come into force at around spring 2018.

Grant highlighted that communication like twitter and Facebook were getting better.

Keith stressed that the fire at Victoria Road was devastating. Planning has been a big issue for the local community. The building that had the fire did have a factor, the factor did not have building insurance, there are however, other tenements in Govanhill without factors. Council officials had to take their time to decide whether or not to enter the building.

On other subject, the CC had been updated by Child services regarding child exploit in the local area.

Anas suggested if a hotline for confidentially calling could be used.

Annie stressed the importance of reporting crimes of child exploitation and more and agreed with Anas that a Hotline would be useful and would assure the public.

Keith said people would be worried in reporting fellow family members, friend or neighbours.

Keith went on to Waste Management. He said the team have been fairly good but stressed there's still a number of problem in parts of Govanhill.

Cheryl said there are sometimes a 28-day wait for certain rubbish collection.

There was also a concern that very few people knew about the community hub.

Annie said there was hardly any advertising about the hub.

4. Engagement with Scot Gov and GCC

Topic largely covered already. Eunis + Sophie to liaise.
Eunis, Sophie, and Cheryl will draft up join letter.

Annie stressed the point again of inviting Cllr hunter to the CPG.
A list of invitees should also be formed.

5. Way Forward

Anas suggested if we could write to the local community?
Rules would need to be checked.

AOCB

Anas thanked the Annie for chairing the meeting.

Next meeting

TBC