

GOVANHILL ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

Produced by Govanhill Housing Association

Autumn/Winter 2025



Join our Environmental Residents Group

The Association has established an environmental residents' group which meets every quarter to discuss ways we can work together to improve our local environment. Whether you are an Association tenant, private owner or private tenant you are welcome to come along, share your ideas and get involved.

Dates for your diary!

Environmental Meetings

The environmental residents group meets **quarterly** in the **Samaritan House Community Hall 79 Coplaw Street** from **6-8pm**.

These are the dates for 2026!

- 27th January
- 28th April
- 25th August
- 24th November

Crosshill and Govanhill Community Council Meetings

These meetings take place monthly, on the **second Monday of the month** at **7pm** the **Daisy Street Community Centre**.

Meetings are announced on their facebook at www.facebook.com/cgcommcouncil

Govanhill Community Litter-pick

Community litter-picks take place on the **last Saturday** of every month. For more details you can find them on Facebook, search for **Govanhill Litter Pick**, they are also @govanhill_litterpick/ on Instagram.

Translations and Videos



Welcome to Govanhill's Environmental Newsletter

This newsletter was produced by Govanhill Housing Association to raise awareness of all the work going on within the community to improve the local environment. Residents, the Association and other agencies are all working hard to deal with but ultimately the responsibility for Govanhill lies with all of us.

This newsletter will give an overview of Govanhill Housing Association's Environmental Action Plan, share a few success stories and offer ways that you can get involved in improving the local environment.

We welcome feedback about this newsletter! If you would like to get in touch, please contact us at checkin@govanhillha.org



Environmental Action Plan

To ensure that we take a strategic approach to improving the environment in Govanhill the Association has approved an Environmental Action plan.

This plan was developed in consultation with

the Govanhill Environmental Residents Group which meets quarterly. This plan outlines the actions the Association will take under each following action areas.

This action plan focuses on the following areas:

ENFORCEMENT: What are we doing to deal with environmental offenders?

ACTION: Develop process to deal with repeat offenders and means to escalate when tenants and factored owners fail to keep their close in a satisfactory condition by not disposing of rubbish or maintaining back court.

INTERVENTION AND MONITORING

ACTION: Housing staff will have an action plan in place for their patches to monitor what work needs to be done. They will also organise close meetings.

Carry out walkabouts, including senior staff. Report and remove graffiti.

Hold monthly meetings with close cleaning and grounds maintenance contractors.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

ACTION: Produce videos in multiple community languages that can be shown to tenants at sign up outlining their responsibilities.

Work with schools.

Ensure obligations are made clear when tenants take on a tenancy with the Association by putting the information in sign up packs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

ACTION: Organise regular litter picks and encourage volunteer involvement.

Organise tenant events to make sure obligations are made clear.

PARTNERSHIP WORK WITH GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL

ACTION: Work with Glasgow City Council to ensure correct green/blue bin ratios and work with them to improve household use of bins and on street bins.

Work with Glasgow City Council to review services, such as the Rapid Response team. Work with GCC on persistent issues such as dog fouling and bird feeding.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

ACTION: Share our action plan widely with local groups and registered tenant organisations.



What's the Deal with our Lanes?

According to Glasgow City Council's Private Lanes Strategy – Lanes are the responsibility of all the adjoining Residents/Landlords and Businesses.

No items should be left in lanes; access is required by Glasgow City Council and essential services and should be always kept clear.

As part of Govanhill Housing Association's commitment to improving the environment we carry out work in some of these areas, which includes removing fly tipping and general upkeep. Thus far, this work has been carried out at no cost to Govanhill residents.

The photos below show before and after these areas have been cleared.



Need Tools? Why Buy When you can Borrow with the Southside Tool Library

The Southside Tool Library is a library of more than just tools, they have carpet cleaners, vacuums, folding chairs, sewing machines, e-bikes, dehumidifiers, heaters, a bike repair stand, as well as a huge variety of power and hand tools for your home and garden.

They are open every Wednesday 3-7pm and Saturday 10am-2pm at South Seeds,

514 Victoria Road.

Membership is free if you receive benefits or are a full-time student. View the whole inventory of things you can borrow and become a member at

www.southsidetoollibrary.org. You can also call us during our opening hours on **0141 636 3959**.



KINGARTH LANE

People Powered Environmental Success Story

When Katie Macmillan moved into her flat on Kingarth Lane in 2019, it was one of the worst lanes in Govanhill. Fly tipping was a regular occurrence, with photos of the lane regularly making their way into the Evening Times, now it has planters, a noticeboard and has hosted community meals. We spoke to Katie to find out how residents managed to transform one of Govanhill's worst lanes

'When I moved in the lane there were all sorts of things like mattresses and toilets dumped there regularly. Although some of this was coming in from inside the community, it soon became clear that this was a well-known spot for people to come and dump things. It was surprising how little you would spot people leaving things, compared to how much rubbish there actually was.

Working at home during covid, it was horrible seeing this sort of cesspit underneath your window, and I cared about where I live.

Getting people together initially was difficult, I was worried about being 'that annoying neighbour' who was trying to get



people to do stuff, and I didn't want to be seen as unnecessarily moany. Fortunately, Nick from the block along got involved and set up an

email address, and then myself, him and another woman Dervila got together to set up as a constituted community group. Once we had done this, we connected with the neighbourhood officer, who supported us to apply for grants from Glasgow City Council to install gates at either end of the lane.

We had to make the case that the gates were necessary. We did have support from the council to clear the lanes, but this only happened once they had got to a point where waste had built up to a point where it was a public health issue, which was horrible for us, and it was horrible for the refuse collectors who had to come and do the work. We knew that we needed a more permanent solution, and that installing gates.

At first planning permission was denied, as it was seen as blocking a public thoroughway. So, this took a while to get sorted. Eventually it was approved after we made our case to the relevant people at Glasgow City Council.

We now have had the gates put in and they have made a massive difference. We have also had engagement from community groups and we're extremely grateful to Kin Kitchen, who got funding for a yearlong lane regeneration project which was delivered in collaboration with residents and with support from other organisations like Glasgow Trades Collective and Milk. This project included organising events where residents would come along and take part in litter picking, lane maintenance, herb garden planter installations and community meals.

Katie's tips for transforming your lane

- Try not to be disheartened! There are lots of people who do have pride in their community, they might just be shy.
- Don't worry about being that nagging neighbour!
- If you can be brave enough to step up, then do! Make connections with your neighbours and other people, this will help.
- Action inspires more action – just do it!
- There are lots of community groups out there who will help you.

These events were intended to bring the community together, so we made sure the posters were in different languages, and we had activities for children and families.

Although funding for these events has come to an end, we still have a WhatsApp group and aim to meet up monthly for litter picking and checking in on the lane, and we have lots of ideas about other events to run in the future.

Sunflower Seeds are a Problem for Drains – Put them in the Bin!

The husks of sunflower seeds, when discarded in large quantities, can block drains which is becoming an issue in Govanhill.

If you eat Sunflower Seeds, instead of discarding the used husks on the street, please put them in a bag or tissue, and put them in the bin.



Environmental Issues – Who is Responsible?

At Govanhill Housing Association we will always work with other agencies to improve the environment where we can.

The table below outlines who is responsible for what part of the local environment, including where to report your concerns.

ISSUE:		
<h2>Dog Fouling</h2> <h3>Public roads and paths</h3> <p>Who is responsible?: All residents and Glasgow City Council.</p> <h3>Backcourt Areas</h3> <p>Who is responsible?: If a Govanhill Association Tenant is repeatedly allowing dog fouling in a shared back court we will take appropriate action.</p>	<div><h4>WHO DO I CONTACT?</h4><p>Glasgow City Council – Public Health</p><p>Govanhill H.A</p></div> 	
ISSUE:		
<h2>Fly tipping-Dumping items illegally on the street.</h2> <p>Who is responsible?: All residents and Glasgow City Council</p> <p>The responsibility for issues such as fly tipping lies with the Environmental Task Force at Glasgow City Council.</p> <h3>Bulk – non Govanhill Factored properties</h3> <p>Who is responsible?: Residents are required to pay for bulk uplifts, items should be reported directly to GCC.</p> <h3>Govanhill HA Back Courts</h3> <p>Who is responsible?: The Association will remove bulk items from back courts factored by the Association, as part of the grounds service.</p>		
<h4>WHO DO I CONTACT?</h4> <p>Issues can be reported anonymously by any member of the public through the My Glasgow App or on 0141 287 2000.</p>		

ISSUE:

Graffiti

Govanhill Housing Association Property

Who is responsible?: The Association aims to remove offensive graffiti (e.g., sectarian, racist, obscenities etc) within 24 hours of notification.

Street Graffiti

Who is responsible?: All other types of graffiti reported to Glasgow City Council.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

Govanhill H.A

Report graffiti on the My Glasgow App.



ISSUE:

Vandalism

Who is responsible?: Govanhill Housing Association and Glasgow City Council

Vandalism to an Association property will be considered a breach of tenancy and will actively seek to recover the costs of the repair work. Any act of vandalism that is carried out on property not owned by Govanhill Housing Association should be reported to the relevant department of Glasgow City Council.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

Vandalism can be reported at <https://glasgow.gov.uk/> or via the My Glasgow App.

ISSUE:

Bins and Bin Collection

Who is responsible?: Glasgow City Council is responsible for bin collection. This includes if your bin is missed during collection. Residents may be responsible for putting bins out for collection and ensuring that all rubbish is placed in the correct bin and only in the bins provided, not anywhere else.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

Report missed collections on the My Glasgow App or **0141 287 2000**.

ISSUE:

Double Parking and Abandoned Vehicles

Who is responsible?: If you notice an abandoned vehicle, or a car illegally parked, then this should be reported to GCC. You will be asked to provide as much information about the vehicle as possible.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

Abandoned Vehicles Helpline at Glasgow City Council Website.



ISSUE:

Bin areas



Who is responsible?: Residents

Residents are reminded to keep this area neat and tidy, please ensure all black bags are tied securely and deposited into the appropriate bin.

Residents are encouraged to report street flytipping via the Glasgow App

**Download
MyGlasgow App
here!**



Grounds Maintenance and Close Cleaning: What Can You Expect from our Contractors?

One of the main ways we look after Govanhill is through our ground maintenance and close cleaning contracts. When we hire a company to work on behalf of the Association, we specify what work we want them to do, and the standard we want them to achieve.

We have published a full overview of what is expected of our Grounds Maintenance and Close Cleaning service, which is available on our website.

If you are a tenant of the Association or a Factored Owner, it is likely that you will receive some or all these services. If you are a private tenant or live in a non-factored close, this may differ.

This article summarises some of the main areas within these contracts and answers some frequently asked questions.

Please note that this applies only to addresses owned and factored by Govanhill Housing Association.

Close Cleaning: what does it include?

Weekly Services

Brush and wash all close, common and basement areas, floors, stairs, landings and half landings. Brush out front and rear entrance paths. Lifts (where applicable) to be cleaned on a weekly basis.

Monthly Services

Walls to be wiped down/dusted. Ceilings to be dusted including cornicing. Thoroughly clean down windows to the close, common and basement areas where applicable, cleaning regime to include internal and external faces of frames, glazed panes, side screens, deadlights,

sills etc. Wipe down all handrails, balustrades to the close, common and basement areas where applicable.

Litter/ Needles/ Sharps

Please be aware the contractor will remove general litter in the close.

Refuse bags left outside residents' doors are still the responsibility of tenants/owners to remove into the bin area.

The Association will be notified of problematic addresses where this work is required on a regular basis, and we will take appropriate action.

Grounds Maintenance: What is Included?

All our properties have a dedicated Estate and Environmental service carried out by John O'Connor Grounds Maintenance Ltd. The service is provided throughout the year with both a Summer and Winter service and ongoing estate services carried out as required to our stock. Full details of what is included can be found on our website:

Govanhillha.org/documentlibrary

Some examples of what is included:

Removal of litter/ debris from bin areas. Cleaning bin stores. Removal of bulk items from the backcourt. Garden maintenance from April to October, including removing weeds from paths and garden areas, trimming grass including borders, hand weeding shrub beds, hedge maintenance, Moss removal, bush and tree maintenance from November to March which includes inspecting all trees, re-firming loose trees and removing weed growth.