

GOVANHILL ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

Environmental Strategy Special Edition

Produced by Govanhill Housing Association

Autumn/Winter 2026



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A New Strategy for Environmental Improvement in Govanhill

This year Govanhill and the surrounding area was dubbed the coolest place to live the UK (and the fifth coolest in the world) by Time Out magazine. These accolades reflect the wealth of creative small businesses, amenities, and community spirit in the area, and while it is good to get positive press, we are very aware of significant environmental issues affecting the daily lives of residents.

Have your say
on making
Govanhill a
cleaner, better
place to live.

More information inside!

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A New Strategy for Environmental Improvement in Govanhill

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These long-standing concerns, in both Govanhill and the area between Victoria Road and Pollockshaws Road, require investment and action at a strategic level.

Addressing these issues requires a coordinated approach that brings together all parts of the community - residents, community organisations, businesses, housing providers, and Glasgow City Council.

Which is why we have come together to develop this draft Environmental Strategy to set out a shared vision

and a series of priorities that aim to improve the local environment, create healthier neighbourhoods and support long-term, sustainable change. The strategy is being developed in collaboration between Govanhill and Southside Housing Associations, Glasgow City Council, Govanhill and Crosshill Community Council and South Seeds.

This edition of the Environmental Newsletter gives an outline of the strategic priorities, what success will look like, and the

action needed to get there.

We will be consulting with tenants, homeowners, factors, other landlords and business owners to make sure these priorities line up with the needs of the community. Please take some time to read this document and fill in the consultation by visiting the online form at the QR code.

Please share this consultation with your friends and neighbours, the more responses we get, the more we know that it is meeting the needs of the community.

Together we can make Govanhill a cleaner, better place to live.

Our Progress so Far

At Govanhill Housing Association, improving the local environment is our number one priority. Our involvement in this strategy is just one part of the work we do to make Govanhill a place people are proud to call home. As the largest housing provider and employer in the area, we work hard to put more than just a roof over people's heads. Day in and day out our staff clear back courts and engage with tenants, homeowners, businesses and the council to keep environmental improvement on the agenda.

The following list gives an idea of some of the work the Association has been doing over the last year to tackle persistent environmental issues. If you would like more information, please contact us or visit our website at www.govanhillha.org.

Over the last year we have

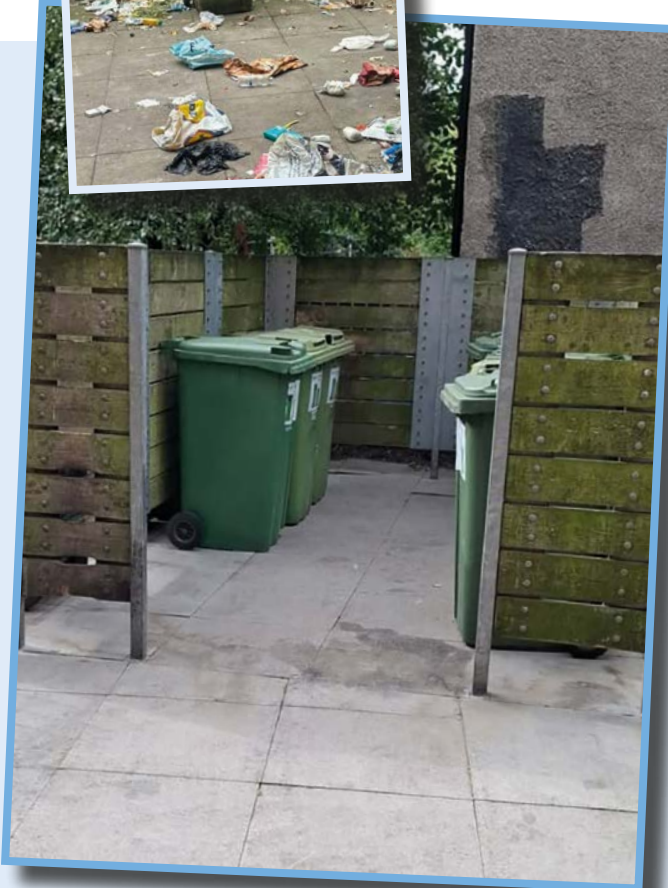
- Employed two new Environmental Assistants to work directly with tenants and residents on pest control and dealing with back court issues.
- Worked with SEPA and local businesses around commercial waste.
- Set up a partnership with the Halliday Foundation who collect usable furniture to re-purpose, to reduce levels of fly tipping from our properties.
- Set up a monthly round table to deal with rat infestation, that brings together Glasgow City Council and other agencies.
- Supported an Environmental Residents Group who continue to meet quarterly to ensure the local environment stays on the agenda.
- Hold monthly environmental walkabouts with members of the Environmental Residents Group and the Community Council.



Left: Before



Below: After



- Engaged our contractors in clearing up lanes and other fly tipping in the area, as well as increasing our grounds maintenance contract with John O Conner.

Draft Environmental Strategy for Govanhill*

Our vision is that everyone who lives in Govanhill can feel proud to call the area home. That everyone who lives here has access to high-quality housing in attractive, safe and appealing neighbourhoods, which meet the needs of our community and where people feel proud to live.

This strategy outlines the priority areas for improvement; some of the actions needed to bring about change, as well as what success might look like.

We appreciate you taking the time to read through the document, and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

*This strategy refers to the entire area as Govanhill as shorthand but it applies to both the G42 7 and G42 8 postcodes, taking in the area adjacent to Govanhill from Victoria Road in the east to Pollockshaws Road in the west, which has many of the same environmental challenges.



PRIORITY 1: Vermin and Infestation



Strategic Objective

Reduce pest infestation across Govanhill by tackling the structural and behavioural causes of infestations, rather than solely responding to complaints.

What Success Will Look Like

- Fewer reports of rats and mice.
- Reduction in bed bug and cockroach infestations.
- Fewer resident complaints relating to pests.
- Increased customer satisfaction among housing association tenants.
- Improved resident understanding of pest prevention and treatment.
- Residents are more aware of how to respond to infestations safely and effectively.

What This Will Include

- Coordinated pest treatment programme, jointly delivered by Glasgow City Council and local housing associations.
- Addressing structural issues, including drainage defects and property disrepair.
- Identifying and sealing vermin access points.
- Reducing food sources and nesting sites.
- Adoption of a proactive pest-proofing approach.
- Engagement with private landlords, factors and commercial businesses.
- Targeted action in non-factored properties.
- Mapping infestation hotspots and identifying links to property ownership, businesses and environmental conditions.
- Awareness campaigns for private landlords and businesses.
- A clear pest control policy for shared and communal areas.
- Easy-to-read, multilingual information and guidance for residents.

PRIORITY 2:

Waste Management



Strategic Objective

Reduce fly-tipping, bin contamination, and waste-related environmental decline through the introduction of bin hubs and improved waste management practices.

What Success Will Look Like

- Increased use and care of backcourt areas.
- Reduction in fly-tipping.
- Reduction in litter.
- Reduction in food waste on streets and public spaces.
- No waste being thrown from windows.
- Fewer missed bin collections.
- Successful implementation of the Bin Hub Programme.

What This Will Include

- Introduction of an enhanced bin collection service.
- Weekly operational meetings involving Glasgow City Council and key partners.
- Roll-out of the Bin Hub Programme.
- Development of a Commercial Business Charter.
- Targeted interventions at repeat offending locations.
- Monitoring and engagement with local businesses and commercial waste contractors.
- Identifying hot spots where on street bins are being used while we await bin hubs.
- Involvement of community organisations and resident groups.
- Enhanced support for blocks experiencing persistent waste issues.
- Improved signage and information.
- Exploration of circular economy and waste reduction initiatives.

PRIORITY 3:

Encouraging Positive Behaviour Change



Strategic Objective

Encourage and empower residents, including children, to make informed choices about waste, energy and environmental issues through trusted, accessible and multilingual engagement.

What Success Will Look Like

- Reduction in bed bug and cockroach infestations.
- Reduction in fly-tipping and littering.
- Reduction in food waste on the streets.
- Increased resident satisfaction with the local environment.
- Stronger community ownership of environmental issues.

What This Will Include

- Multilingual environmental education campaigns.
- Joint educational initiatives delivered by Govanhill Housing Association and Southside Housing Association.
- Partnership working with trusted local organisations and community groups.
- School-based education programmes and projects.
- Resources and activities designed to encourage positive environmental behaviours.

PRIORITY 4:

Enforcement and Accountability



Strategic Objective

Hold landlords, residents and businesses accountable for poor waste management and property standards through a consistent and effective use of enforcement powers.

What Success Will Look Like

- Reduction in fly-tipping and littering.
- Reduction in environmental reports submitted through reporting platforms.
- Increased and more visible enforcement activity.
- Improved application of existing legislation and powers.
- Greater public confidence in enforcement processes.

What This Will Include

- Improved understanding and use of existing legislation.
- Exploring opportunities to strengthen legislation and byelaws where necessary.
- Parking enforcement and action on abandoned vehicles.
- Targeted action relating to commercial businesses.
- Greater scrutiny of private landlords.
- Visible action against repeat offenders.
- Encouraging participation in community clean-up initiatives.

PRIORITY 5:

Physical Improvement

Strategic Objective

Improve Govanhill's housing stock, public spaces and environmental quality through targeted investment and regeneration activity.

What Success Will Look Like

- Increased use of backcourts and communal areas.
- Greater use of green spaces.
- Increased resident satisfaction.
- Improved housing quality and neighbourhood appearance.
- Enhanced public spaces that promote pride in the area.
- Having a cleaner more attractive place to live.
- Residents have a greater sense of pride in the community.

What This Will Include

- Housing association investment programmes across existing stock.
- Prioritising improvements to private rented sector properties through acquisition programmes and landlord engagement.
- Improvements to public infrastructure, including:
 - Street lighting
 - Lanes and backcourts
 - Green spaces
 - Environmental landscaping
 - Community-led environmental improvement projects.



Community Engagement and Participation

Lasting environmental improvement can only be achieved through partnership. We will work alongside residents, businesses, community organisations and public sector partners to identify priorities, shape solutions and deliver positive change together.



We want your views on this strategy!

Please fill out the consultation questionnaire using the link at the QR code opposite! Or alternatively, you can fill out the questionnaire in this newsletter and post it to FREEPOST Better Living. No stamps are required.

Fill out the survey here!



Consultation Questions

Thank you for taking the time to read this strategy. We would appreciate it if you gave us your feedback by answering the following questions.

1. Which of the following best describes your connection to the Wider Govanhill Community?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ Housing Association Tenant | ☐ Landlord | ☐ Employee working in area |
| ☐ Private Tenant | ☐ Business Owner/Operator | ☐ Visitor/Other |
| ☐ Owner Occupier | ☐ Community Organisation | ☐ Don't have local connection |

2. The Environmental Strategy is being delivered through a partnership of local organisations. Do you Agree that this collaborative approach will help achieve better outcomes for the community?

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Strongly Agree | ☐ Agree | ☐ Neutral | ☐ Disagree | ☐ Strongly Disagree |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|

3. The Environmental Strategy focuses on five key priorities:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Vermin and infestation | 4. Enforcement (Changing Behaviours) |
| 2. Waste management | 5. Environmental improvements |
| 3. Education (Changing Behaviours) | |

Do you agree that these are the right priorities for improving the local environment?

☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

4. If you disagree with the five key priorities, what do you think the priorities should be?

5. The Proposed Environmental Strategy aims to create a cleaner, safer, healthier and more attractive community. How important are the following measures of success to you? Select three

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Cleaner streets and public spaces | ☐ Greater pride in the local area |
| ☐ Reduced pest infestations | ☐ Increased community involvement in environmental improvements |
| ☐ Less fly-tipping and illegal dumping | ☐ Improved health and wellbeing for residents |
| ☐ Reduced litter across the area | ☐ Safer neighbourhoods and communal spaces |
| ☐ Better waste management and recycling services | ☐ More responsible waste disposal behaviours |
| ☐ Cleaner and better-maintained backcourts | ☐ Better cooperation between organisations and residents |
| ☐ Better maintained buildings and properties | ☐ Greater accountability for landlords, businesses and residents |
| ☐ Improved environmental education and awareness | |

6. Do you have any additional comments, suggestions, or ideas about the proposed Environmental Strategy? Please share them below.



Get involved!

If you would like to get more involved in improving the environment, there are many ways to get involved.

Join the Environmental Residents Group

who meet every quarter and discuss ways to make Govanhill better in the long term.

All are welcome to their meetings at Samaritan House Community Hall at 79 Coplaw Street from 6-8pm.

2027 ENVIRONMENTAL RESIDENTS GROUP MEETING DATES

- 26th January
- 27th April
- 24th August
- 23rd November

The Govanhill Community Litter pick

takes place monthly on the last Saturday of the month – check out their Facebook for more information.

You can also get involved in your local community council

visit <https://crosshillandgovanhill.org.uk/> for Govanhill and Crosshill and Shawlands & Strathbungo Community Council for Strathbungo – <https://shawlandsstrathbungocc.uk/>



Please Contact Us At: Freepost Better Living

General Enquiries: 0141 636 3636

Web: www.govanhillha.org

Email: checkin@govanhillha.org

Govanhill Housing Association is a Registered Charity No. SC010307

