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# GORBALS IDEAS NEWS

## GROUPS SPECIAL EDITION

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EST. 2018

Autumn/Winter 2025

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**Local Ideas 2025 voting stage is live now!** Page 8

**WHAT'S PB? FIND OUT ON PAGE 10**



## *A BIG DEAL*

We celebrate the Groups embracing PB

Welcome to this Special Edition Newsletter, created to celebrate the amazing community-led projects that have come to life through Participatory Budgeting (PB).

PB is a simple but powerful process that puts local people at the heart of decision-making. It allows communities to put forward their own ideas for improving their area, and then vote on which ones receive funding. It's democracy in action, driven by the people who know their neighbourhood the best.

The GIF Team

### ! LOCAL IDEAS VOTING STAGE IS NOW OPEN!

Check out all the ideas on page 8!

Want to vote? Just scan the QR code on that page and have your say.

Thank you to everyone who shared an idea, cast a vote, or volunteered to bring these projects to life.

## CELEBRATING THE GROUPS



“We could not do this without you!”

This edition highlights just a few of the fantastic projects that were made possible thanks to your ideas, your votes, and your energy. From wellbeing initiatives and youth activities to environmental improvements and creative sessions, every project featured here is a testament to the creativity and care within our communities.

# Special Edition

## FUNDED GROUPS

### GORBALS ART GROUP



A few members of the Gorbals Art Group

The Gorbals Art Group meets every Friday from 10:30–12:30 at the St Francis Centre. Free to attend and open to anyone aged 16+ in the Gorbals, the group offers a relaxed, social space to get creative, no experience needed, and materials are provided.

Members heard about the group through local networks and joined for different reasons: to unwind, reconnect with art, or just try something new. One person said,

**“It’s great to have a time that’s set aside especially for you.”**

With 8–10 regular attendees, the group is now forming its own committee and becoming independent, with help from NGHHA Communities team.

**“Another member said, We all help each other, there’s no pressure, just support and creativity.”**

**Meet every Friday at the St Francis centre, 470 Cumberland Street, Gorbals, 10.30-12.30**

### GORBALS GROWS

The idea took root when Gorbals Grows received public backing at a Gorbals Ideas Voting Event in 2022. Starting as a small pilot at Riverside, it has blossomed into a thriving community growing space where residents connect with nature, each other, and themselves. Volunteers joined through emails, local adverts, and community events. With guidance from NGHHA Estates Manager Stewart Furay, the group built raised beds and saw early success with herbs, lettuce, and parsley. Every Monday, neighbours come together to plant, grow, and unwind. It’s more than a garden - it’s a space to slow down, enjoy the outdoors, and boost wellbeing in the heart of the city.

**“I joined a litter picking event here too and it gave me the same feeling that when you care for a place, it starts to belong to you”**



**“It’s not just about growing food, it’s about growing community.”**

Now in its second season, the space is thriving with a wide variety of produce - from potatoes and carrots to tomatoes, cucumbers, and Brussels sprouts. Looking ahead, the group is focusing on sustainability: growing in larger quantities to help partly supply the local pantry, expanding into new areas, and building long-term support. As one supporter put it:

**“What we really need now is continued funding and more community volunteers to help us grow the project for the future.”**

**GORBALS GROWS - RIVERSIDE MEET AT THE CORNER OF COMMERCIAL ROAD AND ADELPHI STREET, MONDAYS 5.30PM**

**MORE INFORMATION AT [WWW.GORBALSIDEAS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.GORBALSIDEAS.ORG.UK)**

## FUNDED GROUPS

### WELLBEING FOR GORBALS - WHERE EVERYONE CAN THRIVE



Following the success of earlier programmes, wellbeing sessions are set to return across the Gorbals from late October 2025, with activities running from Laurieston all the way to the Oatlands. Designed to support personal wellbeing and bring people together, the sessions are open to all- free of charge -and shaped by the needs of the community. Sessions are facilitated by SEAL, with support from the original idea generator Lisa Gillen, who helped spark the vision.

Feedback will be collected after each session to help plan future events at times and locations that work best for residents.

To understand the roots and future hopes for the initiative, Lisa Gillen was asked:

What inspired the idea? How is the project going? And what would help it continue? The wellbeing activist shared:

**“As a wellbeing activist, I felt it was important that the community have access to services that could improve their wellbeing, without the barrier of cost”**

The project has taken some time to get off the ground, but now that it’s happening, it’s going to be a great asset for the community. To help it grow, having the community involved to shape the services would be ideal - people know what they need, and by providing space for those conversations and that involvement, the project could last for a very long time.”

CONTACT SEAL FOR MORE INFO

### GORBALS COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

Launched in 2023, NGE Grassroots Football – formerly known as Gorbals Community Football - has made a strong impact in the local area. Led by Craig Marshall and supported by £9,770 in Gorbals Ideas funding, the project set out to offer affordable, pay-what-you-can football sessions for children and young people.

Focusing on fun, fitness, and inclusion, the sessions gave local kids opportunities to build confidence, develop new skills, and enjoy the game in a relaxed, non-competitive environment.

Although regular sessions are currently on pause, the project remains committed to supporting grassroots football in the community, with plans to build on the success and positive feedback received so far.



MORE INFORMATION AT [WWW.GORBALSIDEAS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.GORBALSIDEAS.ORG.UK)

## FUNDED GROUPS

### SPOTLIGHT ON GIVIN IT LALDIE:

#### Beginner Guitar Courses Bring Music to the Gorbals



This year, Givin It Laldie secured funding through the **Gorbals Ideas Fund Participatory Budgeting** event to run beginner guitar courses. We spoke with Clare McBrien about the project's journey, and heard directly from participants about what the course means to them.

What inspired the idea?

**“We already run guitar evening classes but wanted to create an 8-week beginners course to help newcomers feel welcome and confident,”** Clare explains.

How is it going so far?

**“It’s been brilliant, 19 people have successfully completed the course.”**

What would help the project continue?

**“We need ongoing funding and community support to keep the course running, as there’s strong demand in the Gorbals.”**

## VOICES FROM THE COURSE

**“As a teenager I always wanted to play guitar. Now at almost 68, I am giving it a go. Neil is a fabulous teacher, so patient and encouraging. The group members are lovely and there is a great atmosphere.”**

**“I’d 100% recommend this course to anyone. All the lessons are easy to follow and the materials are great.”**

**“Please continue this course. It’s a wonderful thing you’re doing, and more from the Gorbals community should benefit.”**

**“In my opinion, this is a truly amazing initiative! It has given me the chance to finally pursue my childhood dream of learning guitar, something I’ve wanted for years. I’m incredibly grateful to have found a place here.”**

**“I would highly recommend this course. It’s one of the best learning experiences I’ve had. Thank you so much!”**



[www.givinitlaldie.org.uk](http://www.givinitlaldie.org.uk)

**0141 280 0053**

## FUNDED GROUPS

### Gorbals Pantry- A Community-Led Project, Opening in 2025

A new chapter is about to begin in the Gorbals, thanks to the vision and commitment of local residents. The Gorbals Pantry, set to open in late 2025, is a community-voted idea, designed to provide access to affordable food while tackling food waste and supporting people through the ongoing cost of living crisis. This isn't just another food project, it's the result of years of **grassroots effort** and collaboration, with local people driving the vision forward to help people access food in a dignified manner instead of relying on foodbanks.

Cath Wallace, a long-standing community activist and the originator of the idea, has been at the heart of it from the beginning. As part of her work with the Poverty Truth Community and Nourish Scotland, she visited food banks across the country and saw first-hand how people were often stripped of dignity when asking for help.

**“There was no dignity in how people were treated. But when they paid even a small amount, it made a difference – it gave them ownership. That’s part of what inspired this pantry model.”**

Cath also added, **“After three years of planning, partnership, and perseverance, particularly with strong support from Gorbals Ideas Fund and the New Gorbals Housing Association, the Gorbals Pantry is finally becoming a reality”**

The project is being led by a volunteer Steering Group made up entirely of local residents, who are determined to keep the project rooted in the needs and strengths of the community.



**Opening date coming soon  
to get involved, contact:  
Melissa@newgorbalsha.org.uk  
01414293900**

### COMMUNITY LED IS THE WAY

Another steering group member, Maureen McEnroe, shared how they got involved:

**“I first heard about the pantry idea at a management committee meeting. It felt like something the Gorbals really needed. It gives residents a chance to run something themselves (with guidance), and for local people and businesses to work together to tackle food poverty.”**

But the pantry is about more than just food. It will also offer residents information on a wide range of local services, from health and education to financial advice, creating a real hub for community support.

She also added, **“A lot can bloom from a small seed if it’s tended and nurtured properly,”**

With the doors set to open in 2025, now is the perfect time to get involved, whether that’s volunteering, donating, or simply spreading the word.

Want to be part of the Gorbals Pantry?

This is an idea created by the community, for the community and it needs your support to thrive.

Get in touch today to find out how you can help.....

## FUNDED GROUPS

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# GORBALS G5 CINEMA

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## BIG SCREEN, LOCAL SCENE



### Gorbals Community Cinema Becomes a Local Favourite

What started as a local idea has quickly become a much-loved fixture in the Gorbals calendar - the **Gorbals Community Cinema** is now running monthly and bringing the magic of film right to the heart of our neighbourhood.

Each month, on the last Friday, the Gorbals Parish Church is transformed into a welcoming cinema space where local families and individuals can enjoy an accessible film experience, complete with free food and refreshments. The cinema nights have been a big hit with the community, offering more than just movies - they're a space to gather, relax, and connect.

A huge shout-out goes to **Sean Ewart** from NGHHA, Volunteers Michael Bradley and Cole Cameron whose commitment and persistence helped turn this community idea into reality.

**"I saw the cinema idea had been voted for by local people - it felt unique, and wanted to find out how to support it. After sorting licences and permissions, the next step was finding local people keen to get involved - that's where Cole and Michael came in. So far, we've shown 6 films since March, with 236 people attending in total. It's going really well"** Sean Ewart NGHHA.

We're learning as we go -it's definitely more than just pressing play. Keeping it appealing to local people is key, and we're always open to ideas. Funding from the Gorbals Ideas Fund helps with licensing, venue, and catering -but it's the volunteers who really make it happen.

Cole, **"Sean was a youth worker at Holyrood Secondary, and knew I was interested in film and drama, he asked me if I wanted to get involved"** - something Cole now studies at college.

Cole continued **"The project's been going really well and is even heading to the Citizens Theatre soon. We're hoping to host a local film festival one day, with separate screenings for adults and children."**

Cole says the cinema has helped grow community spirit, while also tackling food poverty and loneliness. Plans are in the works to include films in different languages and involve even more volunteers.

Michael Bradley felt the same and added " a big thank-you goes to the Gorbals Parish Church for generously providing the space!

**Contact info: Sean@newgorbalsha.org.uk 01414293900**

## FUNDED GROUPS

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# GORBALS REPAIR CAFE PILOT

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## DON'T DITCH IT – FIX IT! GORBALS REPAIR CAFÉ EVENT



On April 12th, Crossroads and Gorbals Ideas Fund hosted the first-ever Gorbals Repair Café collaboration event - a community-voted idea that brought the repair concept right into the heart of the community.

Over the day, 25 items came through the door- and 22 were successfully repaired! Fixes included **clothing, bags, toys, clocks, a record player**, and even a **Pinocchio doll**.

One visitor shared:

**"I brought in a wooden clock. My mum gave one to each of her 8 children and mine's not worked for 20 years. It's amazing to have it fixed!"**

Supported by Repair Café Glasgow, they reported the event also offered space on how to build repair skills locally. A great starting point?

**“Textile mending circles - they help build confidence and bring in more fixers over time”.**

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### What's Next?

Plans are already brewing to make the Repair Café a regular event by Spring 2026. Watch this space!

### Got Skills?

If you've got fixing know-how or time to spare and want to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

Let's keep this idea growing!

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# Local Ideas looking for your vote!

### Seasonal Family Fun for All

A family support group offering free or low-cost trips and activities for families facing financial hardship or social isolation. A chance to enjoy time together and build community connections.

**Costs - £9414.00**

### Taste of the Gorbals

A monthly multicultural food-sharing event where residents bring small dishes from their culture to celebrate diversity and shared stories.

Residents can meet, share experiences, and enjoy the flavours of the community together.

**Costs - £7060.00**

### Community Self-Defence Classes

Weekly self-defence sessions for anyone aged 12+, focused on safety awareness, building confidence, and learning practical techniques in a supportive environment.

**Costs - £9540.00**

### Community Transport

A community-run transport service helping residents reach groups, events, and essential services, especially where bus routes are limited. The vehicle may also be used for community hire.

**Costs - £9360.00**

### Walking Football

Regular walking football sessions to support physical activity and improve wellbeing. A friendly way to meet others, stay active, and feel part of the community.

**Costs - £11,00.00**

### Conversation Benches

Designated chat benches across the Gorbals, offering friendly spaces for conversation and connection. A simple way to reduce isolation and bring people together.

**Costs - £12,00.00**

### Northern Soul for the Gorbals

Free weekly Northern Soul dance classes for adults 18+. Open to all abilities - encouraging movement, confidence, and fun in a relaxed social setting.

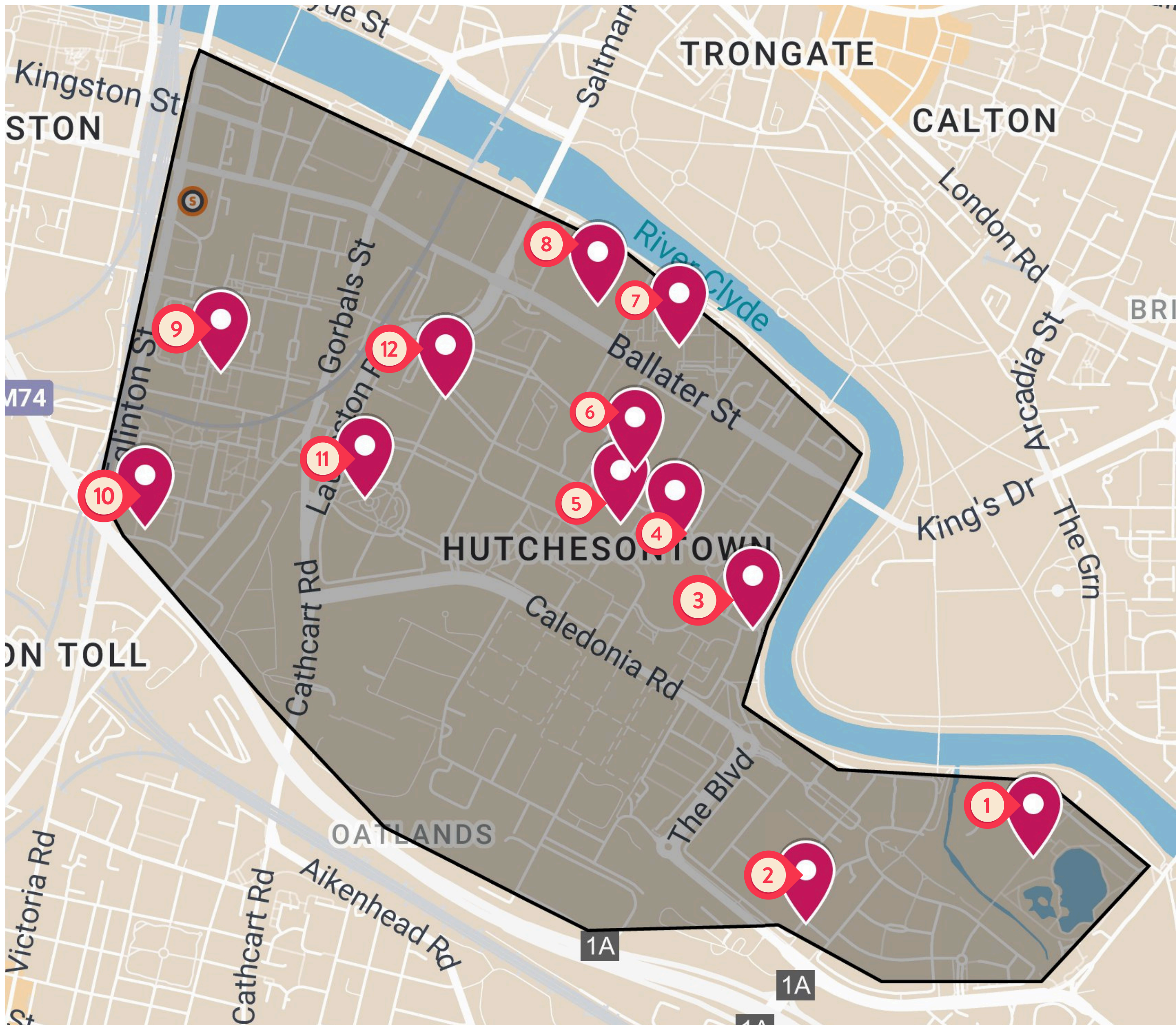
**Costs - £10,940.00**

### Crown Street Camera Collective

An open photography group for all skill levels, using cameras or smartphones to capture local life. Funding would support workshops, meet-ups, and community photo exhibitions.

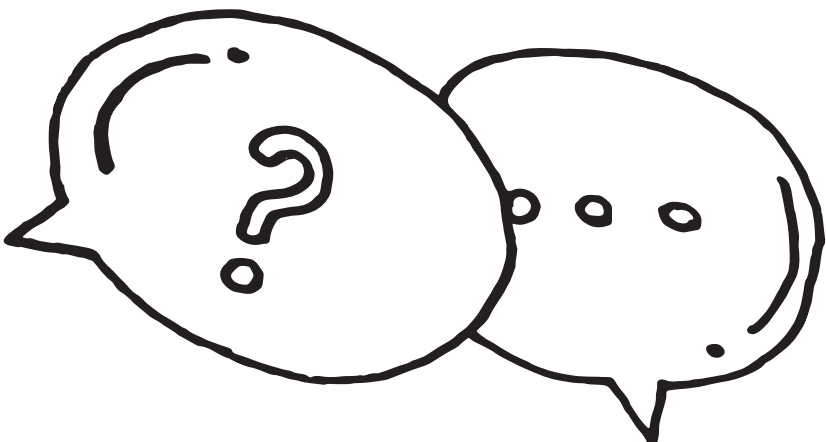
**Costs - £4500.00**

# We're Taking the Gorbals Ideas Fund on the Road!



## INFORMATION

1. Richmond Park - Shawfield Drive
2. Oatlands Community Hub - Newliston Drive
3. 3 Silverfir court - Silverfir Street
4. St Francis Primary School - Old Rutherglen Road
5. St Francis Centre - 407 Cumberland Street
6. St Francis Hall - Community Meal - Sandyfaulds Street
7. Gorbals Youth Cafe - 39 Waddell Court
8. Leisure Centre - Ballater Street
9. Crossroads - Abbotsford Place
10. Devon Street hub - Devon Street
11. Venny playpark - Alexander Crescent
12. Old NGHHA office - 187 Crown Street



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# DID YOU KNOW!

## WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

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### ***PB IS.....***

What is Participatory Budgeting?

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process where local people have a direct say in how public money is spent in their community. It allows residents to propose ideas and vote on which projects should receive funding-putting decision-making power in the hands of the people who know their area best.

Here in the Gorbals, the **Gorbals Ideas Fund** uses PB to support local initiatives that improve wellbeing, build connections, and make the community a better place for everyone.

## What is Participatory Budgeting...?



Photo courtesy of: PB Scotland

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### WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



The public generate ideas on how to spend a public budget



The ideas are pitched to the Community and people vote for their priorities



Votes are then counted and the priorities the community voted for are funded

### HOW IT WORKS

1. Local people submit ideas or projects that could benefit the community.
2. Projects are reviewed to make sure they meet the fund's criteria.
3. A public vote is held – anyone living locally can take part.
4. The projects with the most votes receive funding!

It's a simple way to give the community a direct voice in local change

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# COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES

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## What's a Gorbals Ideas Fund Advocate?

Advocates are local people who care about the community and want to make a difference. You don't need to be an expert - just someone who's passionate about making the Gorbals a better place for everyone.

As an advocate, they can:

Help spread the word about the Gorbals Ideas Fund.

Support people to get involved and vote

Encourage new ideas from different voices

Be part of making sure funding is fair, inclusive, and community-led.



**“It's a great way to meet others, build confidence, and shape real change in your area”**

Have you got a few hours to spare each week?

Email us at: [info@gorbalsideas.org.uk](mailto:info@gorbalsideas.org.uk)

Follow us: FB GorbalsIdeasFund

Or come chat with us at a roadshow!



### FUN FACT

“At its peak in the 1930s, the wider Gorbals district housed around 90,000 people, with population densities of approximately 40,000 people per square kilometre-making it one of the most densely populated areas in Europe at the time.”

<https://pointsofarrival.is.ed.ac.uk>



## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

We'd Love to Hear from You!

Do you have an idea to improve the Gorbals?

Want to get involved in local events or shape future funding decisions?

The Gorbals Ideas Fund is built around your voice – and we want to hear it!

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025



**G5 GORBALS**



**NOV 25 COMMUNITY MEAL**  
5.30pm 7.30pm - St Francis Hall - Sandyfaulds St

**DEC 05 XMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON**  
4.30pm 6.30pm - At the Piazza

**DEC 09 XMASCOMMUNITY MEAL**  
5.30pm 7.30pm - Gorbals Parish Church

**DEC 19 G5 CINEMA**  
5.30pm 7.30pm - St Francis Hall - Sandyfaulds St

Held last Friday of the month

for more info visit us at  
[www.newgorbalsha.org.uk](http://www.newgorbalsha.org.uk)  
[www.gorbalsideas.org.uk](http://www.gorbalsideas.org.uk)

