

GORBALS IDEAS NEWS

SPRING/SUMMER EDITON

EST. 2018

2026



New Logo - what's your thoughts?

WHATS PB AGAIN? PAGE 9



IT IS YOUR PANTRY

The Gorbals Pantry is more than a place to shop – it's a community resource created for local people, by local people. Offering affordable groceries in a welcoming environment, the Pantry helps households buy essentials whilst while bringing people together. Whether you're looking to save money, meet new people or access practical support, the Pantry is here for you.

A BIG DEAL

We celebrate the Opening of the Gorbals Pantry

Residents, community partners, and local supporters came together on 24 March 2026 to celebrate the official opening of the Gorbals Pantry, a new initiative designed to provide affordable food and support to people across the neighbourhood.

The opening marked an important milestone for the community, with the Pantry offering local residents access to low-cost groceries in a welcoming and dignified environment. More than just a place to shop, the Pantry aims to bring people together, reduce food insecurity, and strengthen community connections.

Made possible through support from the Gorbals Ideas Fund and the dedication of local volunteers and partners, the project demonstrates what can be achieved when communities work together to turn ideas into action.

Speaking at the opening, attendees highlighted the positive difference the Pantry will make for local families and individuals, creating a valuable resource that supports both wellbeing and community resilience.

The Gorbals Pantry is now open and ready to welcome members, providing practical support while helping to build a stronger, more connected Gorbals.

See Page 3 for details on membership, opening times, and location.

GORBALS COMMUNITY PANTRY

FROM COMMUNITY IDEA TO COMMUNITY REALITY



Cath Wallace- Idea generator and local resident

“It’s not a food bank, the Pantry is a space where people have a choice in what they buy. The Pantry offers a dignified shopping experience, where people are valued”.

The Gorbals Community Pantry began as an idea from long-time Gorbals resident and Poverty Truth Community Campaigner, Cath Wallace, who documented the growing impact of the cost-of-living crisis on local families and individuals. Her vision was simple but powerful: create a community pantry that would provide affordable, good-quality food while bringing people together and reducing food waste.

In 2022 more than 300 local people voted to support the proposal through the Gorbals Ideas Fund, demonstrating strong community backing for the project. With continued support from residents, volunteers, community partners and local groups, that vision has now become a reality.

The official opening of the Gorbals Pantry in March 2026 marked an important milestone for the community. Today, the Pantry provides access to affordable groceries in a welcoming and dignified environment, helping members stretch their household budgets while building stronger community connections.

A FANTASTIC START FOR THE GORBALS PANTRY

The official opening of the Gorbals Pantry was a great success, with more than 55 people signing up for membership on the day. Guests enjoyed a celebratory refreshments buffet, everyone received a free food box to take home, and Melissa Gillen, Participatory Budgeting Officer, delivered a speech on behalf of Cath Wallace before Cath officially cut the ribbon to open the Pantry.

A fantastic team of volunteers was on hand throughout the event, supporting members with shopping, signposting services and operating the till. Their new Pantry aprons were a big hit, with many visitors commenting on how professional and welcoming the team looked.

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



Official opening of the pantry

Spring/Summer Editon 2026

GORBALS COMMUNITY PANTRY



GORBALS FOOD PANTRY



TUESDAY

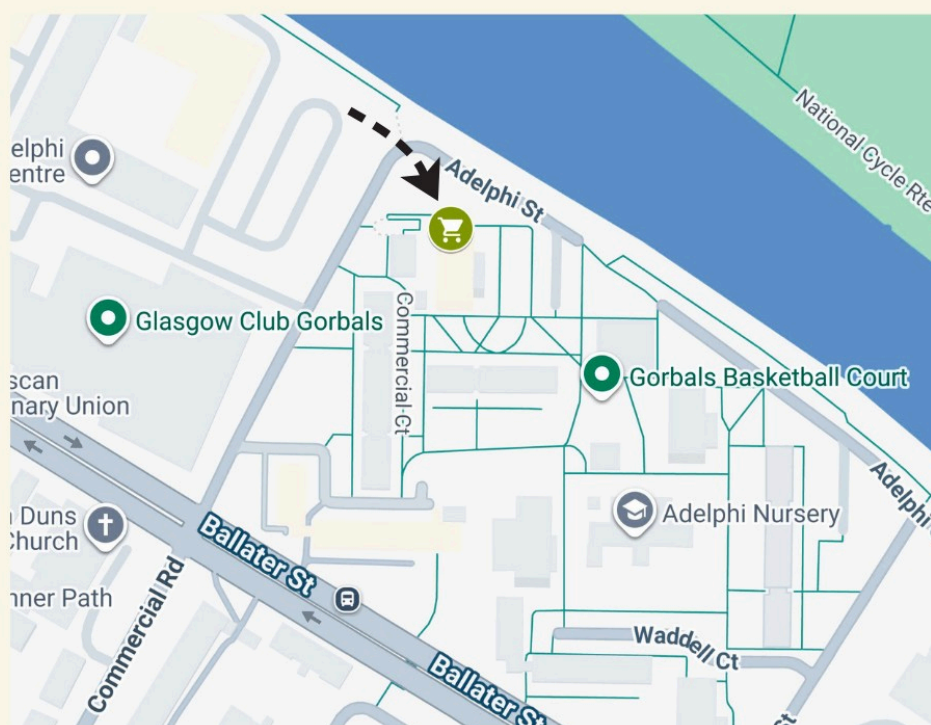
11am -1pm

THURSDAY

5pm -7pm



Affordable food for the Community



12 Commercial Court.

Bottom of the Flats

Pantry membership

£5.00 per year



@gorbalscommunitypantry



0141 429 3900

MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.GORBALSIDEAS.ORG.UK



The Gorbals Community Pantry

Opening Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11am - 1pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	5pm - 7pm
Friday	Closed

One Shop Per Week Policy



YOUR VOTE YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR FUTURE



Over the Christmas period 2025, we launched a new online voting platform, allowing residents to register and vote using a secure one-time passcode.

With over 500 verified votes, this was a huge success for the Gorbals.

COMMUNITY VOTING IN ACTION

Voting took place across the Gorbals, including:

- St Francis Primary School
- Blackfriars Primary School
- Community meals and breakfasts
- TASK
- 187 Crown Street
- Gorbals Library

Everyone who lives in the Gorbals over the age of 8 took part.

We also offered postal and online voting so everyone could get involved.

THE IDEAS YOU CHOSE

- Family Fun for All
- Walking Football
- Northern Soul
- Community Bus
- Community Benches
- Taste of the Gorbals

"I am going to vote for things for young people, lets be honest, they are our future, we need to make sure there are things for them to feel connected to"

Joe 58 Resident



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Following the success of the voting round, we are now working with the community to shape the next stage building on these ideas and continuing to improve the Gorbals together.

Read on to find out more



MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.GORBALSIDEAS.ORG.UK

LOCAL IDEAS

NEW COMMUNITY ACTIVITY – WALKING FOOTBALL FOR HEALTH



Voted for by local residents through the Gorbals Ideas Fund Winter voting event, we were excited to help launch Walking Football in the Gorbals, which will be delivered by local resident, Alex Miller.

Started 13th March

1–2pm

Gorbals Leisure Centre

This group is open to everyone over the age of 16, living in the Gorbals- whether you want to get active, meet new people, or enjoy a friendly game at a slower pace, come along and get involved!

Contact Alex on:

millera353@gmail.com

07715940716 or 0141 429 3900

FAMILY FUN FOR ALL – A BIG SUCCESS

The recent Family Fun for All Open Day was a local idea by Gorbals resident - Danielle Sutherland. Recently she held an open day with the support of the Gorbals Youth Cafe and it was hailed as a great success, with 79 people attending and enjoying a welcoming day of activities, creativity, and connection.

Families from across the community came together to take part in a range of fun-filled sessions, including arts and crafts, games, baking activities, and refreshments.

The event provided a fantastic opportunity for families to spend quality time together, meet new people, and enjoy a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere. Children had the chance to get creative and try new activities, while parents and carers connected with others and learned more about opportunities available within the local community.



Contact Danielle on:

Facebook @familyfunforall

or call 0141 429 3900 for more info

LOCAL IDEAS

NORTHERN SOUL TAKES OFF

Northern Soul, led by local resident Marie Innes, recently showcased its talent at the John Dunn's Church, Gorbals Open Day on the 30th May, bringing energy, music and movement to the event.

The showcase was a huge success, with 48 people signing up on the day, showing strong interest from the community.

The sessions offer a fun and inclusive space where people can come along, try something new and enjoy dancing together - whether they are beginners or already love Northern Soul.

Weekly classes will be starting friday 14th August over at the Glasgow Green Football Centre.

For more information Contact:

Marie Innes
07930 153881
or email
melissa@newgorbalsha.org.uk



Soo'Side Shufflers

Northern Soul

FREE Community Dance Sessions in the Gorbals!

Northern Soul is all about freedom, energy, and expression. No dance experience needed, - just come along, move, and have fun!

Inspired by local resident Marie Innes, these classes bring people together through music, movement, and community spirit.

Starts 14th August 2026

WHERE Glasgow Green Football Centre
28 King's Dr, Glasgow G40 1HB
(Seminar room)

WHEN! Every Friday evening
6pm - 8pm

Enquire Now

Dance • Connect • Belong

What You'll Gain:
Fun & movement
New friendships
Improved wellbeing
A welcoming community space
Everyone Welcome
Over 16's • All abilities • No experience needed

Free to Attend

Contact: Marie Innes
07930 153881
or email
melissa@newgorbalsha.org.uk

WHATS COMING NEXT

TASTE OF THE GORBALS

A new food-focused project coming later this year, celebrating cultural flavours, community cooking and bringing people together through food - watch this space!

COMMUNITY BUS

Plans are underway to introduce a community bus, helping people stay connected and access local services and activities more easily.

There is hope this project will be up and running later this year.

COMMUNITY BENCHES

Community benches have now been sourced, with the next step being placement across the Gorbals.

Residents will have the chance to be involved in conversations about where they should go and how these spaces can be used keep a look out for updates!

WORLD CAFÉ FEATURE

THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES



“When I walked in and saw the tables all decorated like a bistro, it felt like a proper cafe, and the placemats were the event guide, I thought it was great”. Resident, 38

“What a great event. I wrote my points on the table and stuck my post it notes on the map. We need to do this more often, as its good to share ideas about our area”. Tracy, Resident

The previous World Café event, held on 4th December 2025, brought the community together to explore local ideas and highlight the fantastic groups already making a difference.

Using a large community map, people shared their thoughts about space, place, and what matters most to them in the Gorbals.

Many of the ideas discussed during that event have since been delivered - including the projects featured throughout this newsletter.

More importantly, the event:

- Sparked conversations
- Connected people to local spaces
- Brought residents together in a new way

The café-style format encouraged open and relaxed discussions, helping people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and experiences.

WORLD CAFÉ EVENT – AUGUST 2026

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Food and refreshments
- Conversations about space and place
- Sharing ideas and experiences
- Showcasing what has been achieved
- Exploring what comes next for the Gorbals

SHAPING THE NEXT STEPS

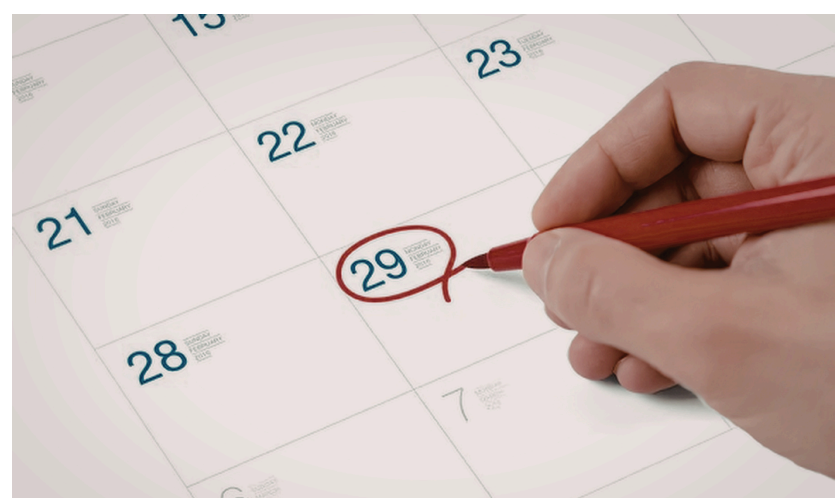
This event will play a key role in shaping:

- Future projects
- Community priorities
- The next voting round

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Whether you joined us before or this is your first time, we'd love to see you there.

VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED
SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2026
12:00 – 3:00PM



DID YOU KNOW!

ABOUT PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

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.



“All the projects featured in this newsletter are a result of Participatory Budgeting in action.”

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

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES



SPRING/SUMMER EDITION



2026



Stuart



Patrick



Shirley



Marie



Trisha



George

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, you can:

Help spread the word about the Gorbals Ideas fund, encourage new ideas from different voices.

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

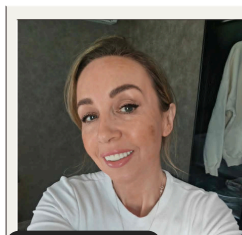
Have you got a few hours to spare each week?

Email us at: info@gorbalsideas.org.uk

Follow us: FB GorbalsIdeasFund

Participatory Budgeting Officer

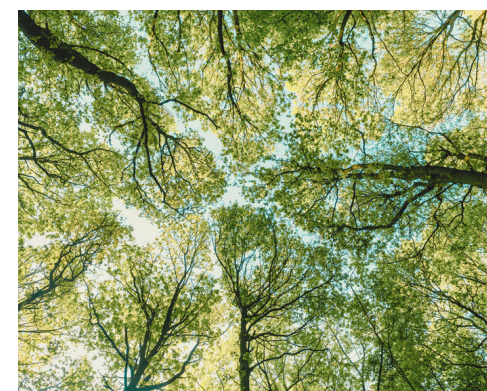
Melissa Gillen, Participatory Budgeting (PB) Officer, coordinates the Gorbals Ideas Fund, managing applications, voting, communications, and the overall delivery of the PB process. She supports local people to create new ideas that will help improve the lives of the Gorbals residents, provides guidance and training for Volunteer Advocates, and builds strong relationships with local groups and organisations. Melissa works alongside Volunteer Advocates to encourage participation, help residents develop community-led projects, identify training opportunities, and provide ongoing support to funded projects. She also helps ensure community priorities are reflected in fair, transparent, and community-led decision-making.



Melissa



Fun Fact



Did you know, there are around 1,400 trees across the Gorbals, helping to create green spaces, improve wellbeing, and bring nature into the heart of the community.

WWW.GORBALSIDES.ORG.UK

What's On!

MONDAYS Gorbals Grows
5:30pm - 7pm
Commercial road/Adelphi street

TUESDAYS Community pantry
11:am - 1pm
12 Commercial court, G5 0SN

THURSDAYS Community pantry
5pm - 7pm
12 Commercial court, G5 0SN

FRIDAYS Gorbals Art Group
10:30am -12:30pm - St Francis Centre
Walking football
1pm - 2pm - Gorbals Leisure Centre
Ballater Street.

Until
Next
time



Gorbals Ideas Fund
c/o New Gorbals Housing Association
200 Crown Street
Glasgow
G5 9AY



0141 429 3900



Gorbalsideasfund



www.gorbalsideas.org.uk



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot