

BAILLIESTON COMMUNITY HUB – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (Dec 2023 - Jan 2024)

SUMMARY REPORT

Introduction

The proposed new Community Hub in Baillieston is one of the largest infrastructure projects to impact on the east of the city in recent years and highlights the city's ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of its citizens. It will ensure that the expansion in residential development within the Baillieston, Carmyle and Broomhouse Community Growth Area is complemented by investment in modern, accessible facilities that will encourage residents and visitors alike to experience life-affirming activities in a family-friendly environment.

Located within an enhanced James Lindsay Park, the new build £15 million Hub will contain a new library (relocated from Main Street, Baillieston), gym, dance studios and community spaces. The aim of the Hub is for it to become a focal point where people can meet, participate, learn, relax, all made possible by the construction of light and airy, modern facilities, and the delivery of a programme of cultural, educational, health and well-being activities throughout the year.

Overview on Progress

On 23rd February 2023 the City Council formally approved the allocation of £14.6 million of Baillieston, Carmyle and Broomhouse Community Growth Funding in support of the delivery of the Community Hub. Since that time, Glasgow Life has adopted the lead role in managing design development of the project, including public communications.

By August 2023 Glasgow Life had finalised and issued, to the City Council's design team, a revised strategic design brief which aligns with the approved capital budget announced in February 2023. Since then, the City Council's design team have translated that design brief into a revitalised RIBA Stage 2 design proposal.

Public Engagement Methodology

The Stage 2 design proposal represents a suitable milestone in the evolution of the project to re-engage with the local community before progressing on to more detailed design development. Glasgow Life promoted and facilitated a community engagement exercise during December 2023 and January 2024, inviting local people to view emerging design for the Hub, providing an opportunity for them to offer their comments to the design process and understand the timeline for project development up to and including public opening.

Plans and images of the new Hub have been on display at Baillieston Library (141 Main Street, Baillieston) since Tuesday 19th December 2023 - and will remain so for the foreseeable future so that anyone who was not able to view them over the winter are still able to do so.

Members of the public were able to offer comment on the plans in a number of ways:

1. Using comment cards available at Baillieston Library
2. in person at three sessions staffed by Glasgow Life representatives:
 - Thursday 21st December 2023 (11am-7pm)
 - Thursday 18th January 2024 (4pm-7pm)
 - Saturday 20th January 2024 (10am-2pm)or
3. Online via the Glasgow Life website

Glasgow Life used a variety of methods to publicise the engagement exercise, including:

1. Briefing notes issued to representative organisations eg Area Partnership, Community Councils.
2. Posters displayed in Baillieston Library, Easterhouse Cultural Campus and distributed to local businesses/supermarkets who were asked to display them.
3. Digital posters shared with:
 - Brighter Baillieston
 - Baillieston Noticeboard – social media page
 - Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (Baillieston Area)
 - Primary & Secondary schools
 - Thriving Places Easterhouse
 - Baillieston Community Council
4. Notice handouts were provided with every book issue at Baillieston Library.
5. Information included in the Elected Members Brief on 28 November 2023
6. Glasgow Sport and Glasgow Club digital channels.
7. Glasgow Life Libraries Facebook and Twitter feeds on 12 and 20 December 2023 and 18 January 2024
8. Glasgow Club Facebook post received good engagement - direct shares from Baillieston and Garrowhill Community Councils, and the Baillieston Noticeboard

The Stage 2 plans and images of the new hub will remain on display at Baillieston Library before being replaced by more detailed plans that will form the basis of the pre-planning, public consultation exercise later in the summer. The Stage 2 proposals can also be viewed online within the Glasgow Life website: <https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/venues/baillieston-library>.

Public Engagement - Feedback

The table below contains comments received from members of the public, either in person, or submitted online or using the on-site Comment Cards:

Topic	Public Comment	Glasgow Life Response
Transport Impacts	There is significant concern of the transport impact on the surrounding Bredisholm Rd & Ravenswood Rd from un-authorized pavement mounting/parking of drivers attending the facility and consideration/discussion needs reviewed on how best to manage.	The proposed Community Hub will include provision of off-street parking for cars, motor bikes, bicycles etc in accordance with the requirements set out in the City Development Plan. The scale and appropriateness of this provision will be assessed as part of the forthcoming planning application due for submission in the summer of 2024. Unauthorised parking in neighbouring streets will be subject to existing traffic regulations and enforcement measures.
Access	Critical that public transport bus services (First Bus No.222) is extended to allow elderly to reach new hub.	The city is acutely aware of the need for the new Hub to be accessible as possible, particularly for those without access to a car. Whilst Glasgow Life does not have direct responsibility for the provision of bus services to and from Baillieston, Glasgow Life will liaise with the City Council and bus service partners in order to determine what bus services, routes and frequencies are planned for 2026 when the Hub is due for completion. The existing stop at Martin Crescent – 38A, 38B, 38E, 222, 310 and N2 – is likely to remain as the closest stop to the Hub in James Lindsay Park given that the next stop further east along the Edinburgh – Glasgow Road (Service No 222 only) is no nearer to the Hub and would require the construction of a new footpath and pedestrian crossing point.
	Better public transport for those who find walking a problem. Bus No 310 - only 1 bus per hour	Glasgow Life does not have direct responsibility for the provision of bus services to and from Baillieston, Glasgow Life will liaise with the City Council and bus service partners in order to determine what bus services, routes and frequencies are planned for 2026 when the Hub is due for completion.

	<p>More focus around active travel connection routes across the main roads.</p>	<p>Glasgow's Active Travel Strategy 2022-2031 confirms the city's commitment to the promotion of active travel as part of a wider aspiration for a carbon neutral future. The provision of a city-wide network of car-free cycle lanes forms a key part of this ambitious plan, including adaptations planned along Main Street, Baillieston and Edinburgh-Glasgow Road. Glasgow Life will also liaise with the City Council's transportation team in order to determine how best to provide safe access into James Lindsay Park from the surrounding footpath network.</p>
	<p>Safer active travel from Swinton to park area.</p>	<p>See above</p>
	<p>When integrating the new Hub into the wider park, could you take the opportunity to improve the southern edge of the park along Bredisholm Road. The stretch between the Ravenswood Rd junction and the bend where the road enters the Lowlands development could benefit from several improvements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The poor-quality fence-line on the north side of Bredisholm Road could be removed, the embankment softened / landscaped / integrated with the park, and a new pavement provided to join up with Ravenswood Rd. • The staggered crossroads at Ravenswood Road could be improved, to add a new crossing - ideally between the extended pavement along the north side of Bredisholm Rd and the Morrisons / main street pavement – to provide a safe crossing point for use by children attending school (Primary and Secondary) and adults going to Morrisons. 	<p>It is acknowledged that the provision of a continuous pedestrian footway along the north side of Bredisholm Rd would improve pedestrian accessibility and visual connectivity with the park, however adaptations on this scale would involve significant civil engineering works for which there is currently insufficient budget. Glasgow Life will, in conjunction with the City Council, continue to explore every opportunity to secure additional capital funding in order to deliver a range of enhancements to the content, functionality and attractiveness of James Lindsay Park, which will include the provision of new pedestrian access routes into the park from both Bredisholm Rd and Ravenswood Rd</p>
	<p>Health Centre to remain in the heart of the Baillieston community where it is more accessible</p>	<p>Glasgow Life is unaware of any proposals to close and relocate the existing Health Centre on Muirside Road.</p>

	<p>Will the new Hub be a British Sign Language (BSL) friendly centre. This would allow the deaf community to access it and it would be a more inclusive environment. It would be great to have staff trained in BSL for deaf people visiting.</p>	<p>We recognise the value of being able to provide information in multiple languages, including BSL, however the turnover of staff and cost and time involved means that the training of all staff in BSL is unlikely to be practical at this stage. All our reception points are fitted with individual hearing loops to assist people able to make use of these and through our Equality Diversity and Inclusion forum we have been discussing ways we might adapt a selection of key information in a video format to support those for whom English is not their first language (for example with subtitles and a BSL interpreter). On an ongoing basis, our core e-learning programmes for staff also include Deaf awareness and Deafblind awareness and we've recently issued tips to all staff for engaging with the diverse community members who visit our venues in a welcoming and appropriate way.</p>
Hub Content	<p>This proposal has been a long time coming - please proceed as this is a much-needed public asset for the area.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
	<p>Great to see the proposals include a changing places toilet.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
	<p>Would be better to have a swimming pool in Baillieston.</p>	<p>An assessment of supply and demand for swimming conducted in 2021 concluded that none of the existing stock of pools (eg Tollcross, Easterhouse) would be operating at, or near to capacity in 2029. Other relevant factors taken into consideration include (a) the significant loss of greenspace associated with the addition of a 25m long pool, and (b) the high levels of public subsidy required to sustain pool operation. Taking all evidence into consideration, it is considered that the provision of a swimming pool does not represent best use of available capital and revenue budgets.</p>
	<p>Badminton Space – include a sports hall or multifunctional space to support indoor sports activities such as badminton.</p>	<p>An assessment of supply and demand for sports halls conducted in 2021 showed that the existing sports hall and gymnasium provision within the wider area (eg Tollcross Leisure Centre, Bannerman High, Eastbank Secondary), have plenty of scope to accommodate additional public demand up to and including 2029. As such, the high capital cost and extensive space requirement associated with the construction of a 4-court sports does not represent best use of limited finance.</p>

		Glasgow Life venues offer plenty of opportunities to play badminton either as part of a social, pay-as-you play supervised session, or else as a private court booking. Any individuals wishing to play badminton or book a badminton court can do so online via the following link: https://glasgowclub.org/activities/badminton/
	Multi-Use Games Court (MUGA) – Consideration should be given to allow for formal full size competition netball court including run-offs.	The proposed outdoor games court will support netball, basketball and football in a free-play format. It will be large enough to accommodate a standard sized netball court with safety margins in order to support netball training. Competition netball is typically played indoors in a sports hall environment.
	Love the idea of the gym coming to Baillieston. This is a massive boost to the community if all goes to plan. Bring the community together. Can't wait.	The scale and quality of the health and fitness offer at Baillieston Hub is ambitious. It will mirror that of other successful Glasgow Club gyms in the city and help to encourage and support the adoption of healthy lifestyles.
Park / Greenspace	Positive that overall park is being considered as part of the development.	The proposed location of the Hub within James Lindsay Park provides an opportunity to enhance the greenspace in becoming a visitor destination in its own right. The existing parkland is relatively devoid of interest and so one of the key challenges of the project will be to develop the external environment into an accessible, cohesive, attractive and robust amenity space that will draw the local community into the park and encourage individuals and families to spend quality time enjoying the outdoor space for play, exercise or passive recreation.
	Support retention of the park name – James Lindsay Park	We are unaware of any plans to change the name of James Lindsay Park. The proposed name of the new Community Hub has yet to be decided. There will be an opportunity for public representation in due course. Ultimately the name of the Hub will be ratified by the City Council.
	Desire for the project to “unlock” the wider park for outdoor activities, particularly the far east of the site beyond the north-south tree line.	Whilst the area to the east of the north-south tree line contains habitats for protected species which will require to be safeguarded, greater public accessibility for informal, passive recreation will be encouraged by the provision of footpaths, benches etc. A costed design and funding package still needs to be identified ahead of the forthcoming planning application earmarked for the summer of 2024.
	The provision of paths that can also accommodate occasional vehicles in support of outdoor events / activities e.g. Girl guides/scouts etc would be ideal.	The idea of an outdoor learning space is noted. We will be in a better position to assess whether this functionality can be accommodated within available budgets, once we have developed costed design proposals for the park as a whole.

	Please ensure the park is adequately drained so that it isn't unusable in wetter weather.	All areas of the park that are designed to support public use – eg paths, civic spaces, exercise areas, games court etc – will incorporate suitable drainage.
	Footpath lighting to ensure a safe, accessible environment for the community after dark.	It is acknowledged that lighting of pedestrian routes to and from the Hub will aid accessibility after dark. We will be in a better position to assess whether lighting to key paths can be provided once we have developed costed design proposals for the park as a whole.
	A nice big play / swing park	Subject to budget availability. Advice will be sought from GCC Parks on the most appropriate scale and type of provision in order to avoid unnecessary duplication with existing provision within adjacent housing areas.
	Proposed layout of park looks good	Noted

Please note that once design development has progressed sufficiently to enable the planning application to be submitted (end of RIBA Stage 3 – target date summer 2024), updated plans and images of the proposed new Hub will once again be available for public view and comment as part of the statutory pre-planning public consultation exercise. In the meantime, if there are any questions or comments on the development, we will be happy to provide further information.