

## THE BUSINESS PLAN – NOW WE WAIT!

On December 8th last year we presented our Business Plan to the Council's Development and Regeneration Services Director, Steve Inch, two of his officers, local elected Councillors Anne-Marie Miller, Danny Alderslowe, Jahangir Hanif, and James Scanlon, MSP Frank McAveety, and an Historic Scotland official. Our team, comprising Board members, Friends of the Baths, EKOS (our consultants), Nord Architecture and two of our children's group spent nearly two hours delivering the fully costed Business Plan and social case for the new Healthy Living Centre we are proposing. Details of the plan are available for PDF download on our website at <http://govanhillbaths.com/> and more information about the presentation is available upon request.

Essentially this is now a scheme in two phases. The first, costing £8.5M, will include the conversion of all of the present building to include the three pools, a sauna suite, a fully equipped gymnasium, a multi-purpose community hall, a health suite, music rooms, a healthy eating café and a roof garden. This we hope to complete for opening in March 2011. The second phase will include a new build of three stories at the "back" of the baths costing £4M which will be developed as funds are acquired. It will include a theatre/cinema, business and retail spaces and a nursery school/afterschool care suite. The plan makes a clear bid both to the Council and the Scottish Government to make a substantial contribution of some £4M to the capital cost.



*Congratulations to shop volunteer Bernadette O'Donnell, winner of Castlemilk Housing Association's Good Neighbour Award*

The impact of the closure of the baths socially and from a health point of view has clearly been dramatic and the Business Plan makes the social and community case very clear. Steve Inch indicated that his department would be consulting with Culture and Sport and then would discuss the matter with local elected officials and with MSP Frank McAveety sometime this month. Thereafter, a decision would be made about the next step. He also indicated that two other groups, a builder and a "cultural" group were also interested in the building but they were being "kept at arms length" as the Trust's plans were being given clear priority. We were interested to note the interest of such a local "cultural" group since it was one about which we were not aware and is clearly not in the public domain. Thanks to all those supporters who wrote so eloquently and with passion to Steve Inch and Councillors and MSPs, urging them to ensure that this Project goes ahead.

## THE SCARF RESEARCH PROJECT

### Healthy Living and the Impact of Closure: Reaction to the closure of Govanhill Baths by the Black and Minority Ethnic Community

The study, funded by the Scottish Action Research Fund, will be formally launched by the Minister of Health MSP Nicola Sturgeon

on Monday 19th January. Details have been sent out to all those on our mailing list so if you are reading this you will probably know of it. 14 members of the BME community were responsible for the data collection and its analysis.

**Conclusions of the study:** Some 185 members of the BME community were interviewed and questioned by our researchers about the Baths closure, their health and recreational needs, and whether they would use the new facility. Four Glasgow City Council departments also contributed via interviews. Overwhelmingly the results showed that the BME community itself believed that the closure of the baths had had a deleterious effect both on the community and to many individuals. In broad summary it became clear that highly significant proportions of the BME community had stopped swimming and physical activity altogether or had restricted such activities because of cost, distance to travel, nature of facilities, religious considerations and fear. Even more significant was the clear indication that the absence of the baths had removed an arena of social discourse and relationships as a vehicle for social cohesion. A recurring



*Shop volunteer Sobia Rasool with locals at the Trust's Christmas Soup Kitchen*

theme throughout the study was the sense of depression felt about the existence of what was seen as a derelict building sitting in the community for so many years. This appeared to have a serious impact on people's sense of wellbeing recognition and pride in the community. Crucially respondents repeatedly made the connection between health, fitness and recreation and the potential role of such a facility to enhance that linkage positively and diminish perceived levels of poor mental and physical wellbeing as well as enhancing the improvement of community relations.

The Report also suggests the development of an "Equality Action Plan" that takes account of the fact that merely informing marginalised groups of inequalities will be insufficient. Action needs to be planned and implemented for changing structures at political and related levels on a collaborative basis. It was for these reasons that we engaged the Community Researchers in a process that allowed them to understand their actual role within "Learning Partnerships" with the Trust and we hope will extend to collaboration with the Local Authority.

**Recommendations of the study:** Funding; Amongst its recommendations the study confirms the Local Authority, Voluntary Sector and Scottish Government concerns in respect of people's health in urban contexts with regard to access to healthy living, sports, fitness, social and recreational activities that promote necessary community interaction. It calls for both the Scottish Government and the Local Authority to provide financial means in support of the Govanhill Baths capital project to re-open the baths as a Healthy Living Centre.

Race Equality Duty; The matters in question are related to the law and we point out that local authority, government and local initiatives should demonstrate on an evidence basis how they have taken and are taking full and effective account of the

Commission for Racial Equality's (now Commission for Equality and Human Rights) Formal Report on Regeneration and the Race Equality Duty (2007) and its recommendations.

Wider Consultation Needed; We are concerned that only Culture and Sport and Development and Regenerational Services will make the recommendation to the Council about this Project and the proposed Centre. The Report recommends that issues raised in this study are not simply those related to Sport and Culture or Development and Regeneration Services. It makes clear that all relevant local authority departments should take full account of the function and significance of the provision of healthy living, sports, fitness, social interaction and recreational facilities in their mission statements. Not only for BME but also for all members of the community.

The full Report will be posted on the website on 19th January and we welcome any comments you would want to make about it. If you have ideas for further research do get in touch also via [info@govanhillbaths.com](mailto:info@govanhillbaths.com)

## **BURNS NIGHT CEILIDH SATURDAY 24th JANUARY**

Our first Ceilidh! It is on Sunday 24 January at Langside Halls from 7pm until midnight and costs £10.00 (£8.00 concession). There will be a Burns Supper prepared by our resident and most excellent chef, piping in the haggis...grand raffle and auction! The very special Reel McCoy band will be playing and "calling". Proceeds towards the Govanhill Baths Community Trust. We will be delighted to see our Friends and supporters. For tickets stop into our Charity Shop at 73 Calder Street or contact us at [info@govanhillbaths.com](mailto:info@govanhillbaths.com)

## **NEW CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY PRACTICE AND CHARITY SHOP**

**Centre for Community Practice:** In December we acquired premises to develop our new Centre for Community Practice and we are now busy renovating them. It is the shop that used to belong to one of our key supporters and stands diagonally opposite the baths in Calder Street. It will be the office base for the Trust and a resource centre for issues and ideas connected with the proposed new Healthy Living Centre. The Centre is in collaboration with Strathclyde University and our sponsors NORD Architecture and apart from developing courses, offering consultancy and training it will further develop research in the areas relevant to the Centre. These include issues related to; health, sport, recreation, fitness and obesity, architecture and the built environment, equality and discrimination studies including migration, and sectarianism. Broadly we want to examine and progress all matters associated with "regeneration". If you wish to be involved in this Centre do please get in touch. Whether it be in doing a course, research, helping in the planning of what we do or even helping to renovate the premises then do get in touch at [info@govanhillbaths.com](mailto:info@govanhillbaths.com) or 0141 423 8705 , 10pm – 5pm.

**Charity Shop:** The premises in Calder Street have proved far too small given the demand for our goods and the amount of stock donated by the community. We are well advanced now in acquiring new and larger premises in Victoria Road and by the next edition hope to report that we have moved in! We always need good quality stock. If you have anything (apart from furniture) that you are getting rid of then take it along to 73 Calder Street where our shop manager will be delighted to receive it.

**Soup Kitchen and Christmas Parcels:** On 21st December our shop volunteers and manager organized soup at the shop and

gave out Christmas parcels donated by local retailers. Nearly 100 people came along and clearly appreciated the efforts that had been made by the Trust to provide a hot meal! That there is still a need for such a facility in Glasgow in 2008 is an indicator of the levels of poverty that exist in the area. Following the model



*Community researchers Tanya, Inga, Nathan and Shadear with director Donny McFadden*

developed.

of the highly developed "Food Pantries" in the USA (a highly sophisticated scheme of providing for those in need supported by many of the main national food retailers) we will be exploring how this relatively small voluntary effort can be

## **ART AND REGENERATION TEAM – FORMAL LAUNCH, WEDNESDAY 4th FEBRUARY, SOUTH SIDE STUDIOS, WESTMORELAND STREET GOVANHILL - 5pm until 7pm**

The Art and Regeneration Team have been most recently active in developing plans for "signage" around the baths so as to make clear to the community that plans are progressing. Look out for the 'Govanhill Baths Open Air Gallery' coming soon. We are also in the process of making funding applications for a range of projects linked to the Baths including a youth film project, a sound walk, an artist-in-residence, a publication on the steamie, and more. As well as seeking funding for bigger projects we would like to support smaller projects that don't need much funding just advice, marketing or organisation.

We are keen to hear ideas from local people about what kind of art, music, drama, film, poetry or other creative projects they would like to see in the area. To find out more come along to our launch. There will be light refreshments provided. We are looking for ideas and opinions on our plans. Above all we want to engage the community in our art and regeneration programme. Anyone can join the team.

## **FRIENDS OF GOVANHILL BATHS AND "MEMBERSHIP"**

The group grows from strength to strength with 20 people regularly attending our fortnightly meetings.

We rely on the Friends for voluntary activities and assistance/advice I all we do. If you want to make a contribution to this Project this is the place to start!

In particular we are calling for new members to become Friends by making a financial contribution. Any amount will be welcome but best of all is a regular monthly amount via direct debit. The application form can be downloaded from our website, we hope you can help!

**The next Friends meeting is on Tuesday 27th January at the Daisy Street Neighbourhood Centre in Govanhill from 7pm. Normally meetings last for between an hour and an hour and a half.**