



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Paul Sweeney MSP, Member of the
Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Region

PAUL SWEENEY MSP

ANNUAL
REPORT
2022/23

“The cost of living crisis is the biggest challenge facing our communities. I will work tirelessly for your interests in our city and in the Scottish Parliament.”

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Last summer, Glaswegians returned to the city's public spaces to enjoy the sunshine – socialising without Covid restrictions for the first time in three years.



I was delighted to attend a number of gala days and local events over the summer months, connecting with fellow Glaswegians and celebrating our city's rich cultural heritage.



The past few years have shown us how important community is, and I will always strive to ensure Glaswegians have free access to the city's public spaces and that Glasgow has a modern, affordable public transport network that serves us all.



OVERDOSE PREVENTION CENTRES BILL



STANDING WITH STRIKING WORKERS

The last year has seen the number of industrial disputes skyrocket as workers fight tooth and nail against pay cuts and to safeguard their terms and conditions.

I see it as my duty as a parliamentarian representing workers to stand on the picket line in solidarity with striking postal workers from the CWU, railway workers from the RMT, dockers from Unite, refuse workers from the GMB, teachers from the EIS, university staff from the UCU and NHS staff.

Workers who are left with no choice other than to take industrial action will always have my full support in their fight against unscrupulous employers.



CHANGING THE LAW TO SAVE LIVES

Last year, I launched the consultation on my proposed Drug Death Prevention (Scotland) Bill. Every year, well over 1,000 people in Scotland die from entirely preventable drug overdoses. The Bill will create regulated spaces called Overdose Prevention Centres. They will ensure people who use drugs are able to consume them in a safe, hygienic environment without fear of accidentally overdosing and crucially professionals are on hand to provide help and support without judgment.

We know that they work, as we have seen in countries like Canada, Australia, the United States and Denmark. The unofficial overdose prevention pilot that I volunteered at in 2020 observed over 900 safe injections and saved 8 lives by reversing overdoses.

I am incredibly grateful to the organisations and individuals who provided feedback on the consultation. I look forward to publishing a report in the near future and continuing the campaign to end preventable drug deaths in Scotland.

SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE BILL



SAVING GLASGOW'S BUILT HERITAGE

Glasgow has some of the finest architecture in the world, but it is increasingly under threat. There's barely a day that goes by where our city is not dealt a hammer blow in the form of a proposed closure or demolition. Our high streets are blighted with litter and vacant units, while vegetation sprouts from numerous historic buildings in the city.

We have had tragic fires that destroyed the Glasgow School of Art, the ABC and Victoria's nightclub leaving Sauchiehall Street a shadow of its former self. I have worked tirelessly to persuade both Glasgow



City Council and the Scottish Government that revitalising the street needs to be a priority. Sadly, this has fallen on deaf ears.

While our city centre decays, our industrial heritage is also in ruins. Two notable closures that have taken place are the Caley Railway Works in Springburn and the McVitie's Factory in Tollcross. Last year, I was honoured to stand with the workers at McVitie's as they fought to keep the factory open. I also ensured that the Caley Works was listed by Historic Environment Scotland meaning it cannot be knocked down. This will hopefully secure the site as a centre of industry in the coming years.

CAMPAIGNING TO RESTORE SPRINGBURN WINTER GARDENS

My involvement with the campaign to restore Springburn Winter Gardens precedes my time in politics. I have been actively attempting to make progress on the restoration for well over 10 years, but time and time again we have been refused funding.

Last year, the UK Government announced that every constituency in the UK could put forward a project that would be eligible for funding as part

of the Levelling Up Fund. A dedicated group of volunteers and I worked tirelessly to develop a comprehensive business plan for the restoration; one that would have seen the space utilised for the benefit of the community.

Inexplicably, our bid was not chosen but I remain as committed as ever to seeing Springburn Winter Gardens restored to its former glory and ensuring that Springburn has a community asset that it can be proud of.

REIDVALE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

The lifting of Covid restrictions has allowed me to resume surgeries and get back out in communities across the north-east of Glasgow.

When constituents alerted me about a plan that would see community-run Reidvale Housing Association merged with another housing association, against the wishes of most tenants, I swung into action to make sure local voices were heard by organising a special public meeting in Dennistoun.

Community Housing Associations are the lifeblood of local communities. There is no desire and no need for a merger with a large corporate housing association that would remove community control.

I will continue to work with tenants to ensure their housing association makes decisions in the best interests of the community they represent.



CAMPAIGNING TO KEEP COMMUNITY ASSETS OPEN

I joined local residents to campaign for the reopening of the Ruchill Community Centre. Successive cuts by Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government have left communities like Ruchill behind, with years of neglect resulting in a massive repair bill for the centre.

Following representations from myself and council colleagues, along with an inspired campaign by the community, we were able to successfully save Ruchill Community Centre from permanent closure and hopefully it will reopen soon.

Our community assets are vitally important and provide a lifeline to thousands of Glaswegians. I will always do my best to ensure they remain open and in the hands of the communities they serve.



"Glasgow is my home and representing our city in the Scottish Parliament is a privilege. I will always put you first." - PAUL SWEENEY MSP

SINCE MY ELECTION

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF YOU NEED HELP OR ADVICE

CONSTITUENT ENQUIRIES RESPONDED TO:



4501

LOCAL EVENTS ATTENDED:



101

WRITTEN QUESTIONS ASKED:



262

DEBATES SPOKEN IN:



209



Paul Sweeney MSP
Brunswick House
51 Wilson Street
Glasgow
G1 1UZ



0131 348 6388



PaulJSweeney.com



paul.sweeney.msp@parliament.scot

KEEP UP TO DATE BY FOLLOWING ME ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@PaulJSweeneyMSP



@PaulJSweeney



@paulsweeneymsp

SCAN WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE FOR LINKS TO MY SOCIAL MEDIA

