

Couper Institute

From the beginning, our Community Council has been keen to support the Couper Institute, which along with the library, lies at the heart of our community. We know there is significant community interest in the building, demonstrated by:

- Over 100 attendees at our Doors Open Day event in 2024
- Well over 200 attendees at our pre-Christmas family film event
- Results of our recent community survey

We have a number of plans for events involving the Couper:

- A series of film events aimed at adults
- A youth event (funding provided by Area Partnership)
- A further Doors Open Day event in September
- A big band event in November

And we have other aspirations, including a tea-dance during the Cathcart Summer Festival.

However, we are finding it difficult to progress these, because of three main issues:

- Kitchen facilities off the main hall are limited, requiring c£100k to replace
- The sound system and mixing desk have not been PAT tested or serviced
- Many of the lights are not operational.

This is in addition to the more substantial issues with the building, which requires approx £6 million to repair the roof, and £1.2m for rewiring.

Cllr Vallis contacted the CEO of Glasgow Life, Susan Deighan, on our behalf and was advised that there is no capital funding assigned to the Couper. Cllr Vallis is seeking a meeting to discuss the Couper with Ms Deighan.

A sub-group of Community Councillors met recently with David Cook of the Glasgow Preservation Buildings Trust, who advised that the best course of action in the short term was to keep the building in use as much as possible. We are therefore keen to tackle the more short-term issues, and propose to put forward a business case to Glasgow Life, setting out what we can do to support the Couper, and what we would need in return.

Again on the advice of David Cook, we also propose registering with the People Make Glasgow Communities Programme to formally note our interest in the Couper, in hopes that this might secure greater influence.

We invite comments and suggestions on these proposals.

Carolyn Lochhead, Mhairi Taylor, Yla Barrie