

## **Notes from the Lochee Community Planning Partnership Cafe Conversation**

**Held on 11th November 2025 in Menzieshill Community Hub**

Present and Apologies- Appendix one

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Michelle Harrow, Locality Chair, and Mike Welsh, Communities Officer for the Lochee Ward welcomed everyone. Mike explained that the concept of the Cafe Conversation was to discuss examples of practice that met the needs of the community, identified outstanding issues and articulated potential action to meet these needs or aspirations.

Michelle provided some context by outlining how the Local Community Plan (LCP) had been updated based on points raised at the last cafe conversation in February 2025. She outlined the key action points and what had been undertaken since.

In addition, Mike outlined the successes in the LCP annual report. He pointed out that the new LCP will run from 2027-2032 and one of the key aims of the cafe conversations is to gather information about what communities identify as their key priorities.

### **Input by young people**

As context to the discussion young people involved in a leadership initiative supported by the CLD Youth team provided a report based on their own research with other young people living in Lochee as follows;

What is working well in your community-

Youth Clubs and holiday provisions, Food hubs, Pride and activist events, Safe area (somewhere to hang out), Free bus travel, Community buildings, People in the Community.

What is not working well in the community-

Drug and alcohol misuse, Lack of community wardens on main and isolated streets- in general safety. Also, Public and school transport, Lack of streetlights, Wildlife upkeep and maintenance.

What would you change in the community-

Safety precautions, Free Wi-Fi spots, more family friendly bathrooms, Free public bathrooms, More Lighting, more traffic lights with crossings, more bins, Increase the number of community wardens.

## **Discussions around Outcomes**

### **Cost of Living**

**Examples of good practice-** cooking clubs, Food larders and community cafes, Family Teatime provision, Christmas events (free of charge), Promotion of access to benefit advice and support, Youth work food provision, Holiday Provision- young people and families.

**What's Missing-** Removing stigma, introduce "Money Matters" to teach young people financial resilience, Access to gym facilities that are safe and welcoming, Food provision and support outwith "office Hours", Bulk meal preparation in communities to reduce food waste, connection with Minority groups.

**Potential Actions-** Food larders to investigate operating in the evening or at weekends

### **Mental Health and Isolation**

**Examples of good practice-** Andy's man's club, men's groups, Change centre, Advice services in communities, Social groups and classes, Lochee creative well-being group, and lots more

**What's missing-**Gap in provision for people aged 16-20, Lack of evening and weekend provision, Food provision in the evenings and weekends, Women's clubs (like Andy's man's club), School doesn't feel safe and doesn't work for everyone, Older people's digital inclusion, Youth provision limited in Charleston and Lochee, need a focus on 18 plus age group, free wi-fi areas, Retelling stories to multiple people when accessing services.

**Potential Actions- Women's group to be established in the central Lochee area, Provision in evenings to be considered by Community centres, Friendship group to trial digital learning courses,**

### **Resilient Families**

**Examples of good practice-** cooking groups, Wee night in- Charleston Matters, Family groups throughout Lochee ward, Make and Mend knitting/sewing/ crochet,

**What's Missing-** Holistic society approach to well-being, Poor parenting- support skill development, training etc, Life Hacks, House care classes, cooking on a budget classes, create good social/ support networks in communities, Intergenerational work.

**Potential Actions- Lochee United- cooking and budgeting for adults to be trialed in 2026,**

### **Lochee High Street and the Built environment**

**Examples of good practice-** Artwork in Lochee is fantastic, the memorials and planters are fab.

**What's missing-** Need artwork on walls in Menzieshill CH, Evening spaces for young people, More variety of shops on High St, Security in High Street and near Lochee Larder- community warden patrols, Don't feel safe here, Planter maintenance and getting volunteers involved in adopting a planter, Parking spaces, More street art in Lochee, need an evening cafe in Charleston for healthy food, identify empty premises that can be used out of hours, Something for teenagers in Lochee High Street, Poor lighting in Dudhope park to allow access to facilities there after 4pm, Shops,

**Potential Actions- Lochee Residents & Tenants Assoc to undertake further street art projects, New urban drainage to be installed which will open up development sites in Lochee High St, Lochee Larder to undertake an adopt a planter scheme,**

## **Green & Open Spaces**

**Examples of good practice-** Cycle path (Lochee to South Road & Tesco to tech park), Investment in play spaces, Allotments, lots of great trees, Play parks, Lucky with the standard of parks in Lochee.

**What's Missing-** Green spaces not maintained, more weeding on roads and pathways, poor lighting making people feel unsafe, St Marys lane car park- Can this be used as a play area?, Vacant land gathering rubbish, leaves not collected creates slippery paths, not enough dog poo bins, Wild gardens are in the wrong places.

**Potential Actions-** resident led improvements or maintenance? New friends of green space groups to be formed eg Balgarthno stones

## **Substance misuse recovery**

**Areas of good practice-** Recovery Cafe at Menziesshill church, Men's groups in Charleston and Lochee, Hillcrest Futures at Burnside court, Men group in Lochee, Change centre.

**What's Missing-** Women's recovery groups, Support when people whilst they are under the influence (in Crises), Improved links with mental health workers, joined up approach around people with addiction, more recovery-based projects, community centre open doors. When are we going to view substance misuse and mental health together.

**Potential Actions-** Men's recovery groups to be sustained, A women's recovery group to be trialed in central Lochee

## **Community Safety**

**Areas of good practice-** Links for Police with traders and Schools, Community Police more visible and present more, Crimestoppers- fearless project

**What's Missing-** Streetlights beside Tesco and MUGA in South Road, where to report concerns or how to get things changed? Challenging misogynistic and difficult behaviour, Knowing how and when to report issues, Security and safety around Lochee High St and Whorterbank shops on late nights, work around racial inclusion, Youth work with those aged 16-26, lack of community police, poor street lighting, safer streets- better and more streets lights to allow us to see where we are going.

**Potential Actions-** Two new streetlights to be installed on the footpath next to South Rd Tesco,

It was agreed to gather the material created and mold this into actions for inclusion within the developing Local Community plan.

#### Appendix one

Present- Councillor Wendy Scullin, Councillor Roisin Smith, Claire Ramsay, Mike Welsh, Mark Wilson, Dr Daisy Nwauzuzu, Sharon Preston, Shelly Szpak, Jane Duthie, Kiera O'Rourke, Kim Meek, Karen Ritchie, Wendy Reid, Blair Brown, Elspeth Burns-Chater, Gary Brady, Mark Spence, Stuart Cochrane, Sam Hunter, Dave MacGregor, Lucy Wakefield, Stuart Paton, Clare Martin, Carmel Thompson, Jennifer Inglis, Charlotte Sutherland, Jenna Auld, Heather Henry, Kelechi Raphael, Duncan Falconer, Micheel Harrow

Apologies- Councillor Lee Mills, Angela Foote, Ali Curren, Dr Kevin McConville, Jay Grant, Nicky Taylor, Michael Rumgay.