

# DUNDEE



PARTNERSHIP

**Minute of the Building Stronger Communities Group  
held on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019  
Mitchell Street Centre**

**Present:**

|                   |   |                                      |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Alice Bovill      | - | Strathmartine Forum                  |
| Alison Anderson   | - | Neighbourhood Services - Environment |
| Angie Ballantyne  | - | Dundee Voluntary Action / TSI        |
| David MacDougall  | - | Maryfield Forum                      |
| Gary Knox         | - | City Development                     |
| Joyce Barclay     | - | Health & Social Care Partnership     |
| Paul Davies       | - | Community Planning                   |
| Peter Allan       | - | Chief Executive's (chair)            |
| Stella Carrington | - | Lochee Forum                         |
| Wendy Scullin     | - | Coldside Forum                       |

**In Attendance:**

|               |   |                                      |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Jay Grant     | - | Neighbourhood Services - Environment |
| Vanessa Kelly | - | Neighbourhood Services - Communities |

**Apologies:**

|                    |   |                                      |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Christine Humphrey | - | Strathmartine Forum                  |
| Elaine Zwirlein    | - | Neighbourhood Services               |
| John Hosie         | - | Neighbourhood Services - Communities |
| Robin Shields      | - | Neighbourhood Services - Housing     |
| Ron Neave          | - | North East Forum                     |

**Action**

**1. Introductions & Apologies**

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions was made. Apologies received are listed above.

**2. Minute of February Meeting**

Agreed as accurate.

**3. Matters Arising**

- Literacy & Accessing Services (*item 5.1*)
  - Elaine has discussed a briefing for the Children & Families Executive Board with Paul Clancy
  - Peter has contacted Jackie Close with Sheila's contact details re: new Fairness Commission
- Strategic Housing (*item 5.2*)
  - Paul to check with Robin on the clean-up at Bank Street
    - *City Development / Property have said: It is anticipated that planning permission will be asked for by Hillcrest HA by summer 2019, with work then likely to take place in late 2019 / early 2020. Any works on the Bank Street site in the meantime would therefore need to be temporary in nature. These are also not likely to take place due to the need for major excavations as part of site investigations*
- OPFS Laughter Clubs (*item 8.1*) – Tattie Patch
  - Kate Treharne is working on this, and local children are still being involved in the development of the Tattie Patch

**PAD**

**4. West End LCPP Update**

Vanessa gave a presentation on developments within the West End that focussed on seven issues previously identified;

- Parking. A sub-group of the LCPP has been established and will hold its first meeting soon
- Private Sector Housing. A sub-group of the LCPP is holding its second meeting today
  - The group includes private landlords, Waste Management staff, Private Sector Housing Unit staff, Vanessa, and others
  - A possible aim for the group is to increase the use of factors by private landlords to help improve housing quality
  - Increasing Air BnB use in the area is also on their agenda
- Raising Awareness of Services. Use of IYN West End and Community Spirit's use of social media have both contributed to awareness raising
  - It was noted that the West End has fewer local services for those experiencing deprivation than CRAs
- Improving Assets
  - There has been a major investment in Lochee Park
  - Walkabouts have been held to identify what is needed
  - Dundee Decides improvements have been seen to make a difference
  - New benches, a community fridge, and Eurobin decoration have all contributed positively to the area
- Hidden Poverty
  - Particularly affecting the Polepark and Pentland areas
  - Financial Inclusion services have been brought in to help, and work has also been targeted via schools
- Improving Health
  - Support for dementia and mental health have both been developed
  - Roadshows aimed at reducing falls amongst the elderly have made an impact, reducing the incidence of falls
- Mixed Messages
  - The area seeks to increase the number of visitors to it, but also needs to meet the needs of its residents, which needs a balance to be maintained
  - The V&A has so far had minimal impact on most local businesses in the Ward

Challenges were also identified, including;

- What the future holds for Dundee Decides
- Targeting of resources to where they are needed most
- Northern Links, making it safer for cyclists and pedestrians
- Shrinking budgets

Discussion followed, which included;

- Lochee Forum have also contributed to Lochee Park, e.g. funding adult exercise equipment and a youth shelter
- The Frailty Strategic Planning Group is now chaired by Christina Cooper and they are holding an event on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 9:30 – 3:00, at the Steeple. To register for the event, use this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ageing-well-in-dundee-consultation-event-tickets-58574311342>
  - Angie to send SPG information to Paul for circulation (see attached Draft Action Plan)
- Parking
  - It takes a long time to get into a position to develop action
  - This is also an issue in Maryfield and so sharing information would be appreciated
  - Putting restrictions and charges in place simply relocates the issue
  - Locals see the need for more pedestrian crossings
  - John Berry is the new strategic lead on parking for DCC
  - A residents' parking scheme is still to be consulted on in the West End. It needs to be affordable
  - Suggestion made that community members from across the city could get together to identify issues and suggest solutions
- Private Sector Housing

**AB**

- There are a lot of HMO's in the area, largely catering for ~5,000 students
- Both universities are involved in the Private Sector Housing group
- Action on this is within the Fairness Action Plan
- Vanessa to send copies of meeting minutes to Peter for information
- Noted that incorporating an Air BnB at a property can lead to not needing an HMO licence

**VK**

## **5 Chairs Group – Issues & Information Sharing**

The main discussion at the meeting was around the Gathering which is to be held in Committee Room 1 on the 14<sup>th</sup> May, and focus on increasing the diversity within Forums.

Yusuf Youth Initiative applications were discussed, as most Wards received two YYI applications;

- While some were passed (mostly for community café's), many were also turned down or deferred due to lack of detail on what youth inclusion work would be carried out and where, and vague answers to assessment queries

LACD / Active Schools applications;

- Some Forums felt almost forced into funding these, as without DPCRF these activities will not take place at all
  - Comment made here that Forums could collectively challenge LACD to do something different e.g. find the money themselves to contribute towards the overall project

Pupil Equity Funding was also discussed;

- It is hard to know how this is being spent or whether it can be an alternative to DPCRF – this seems to vary from school to school and project to project
- Peter / Paul to arrange for Education representative to attend the Chairs Group and provide a briefing on PEF

**PA / PAD**

## **6 Priority Updates**

**6.1** Jay gave an update on Green & Open spaces which focussed on three areas of work;

Play Areas

- A variety of works were carried out in Lochee Ward last year
- Two budgets cover play areas, one for repairs and one for refurbishments
- This year, work has been carried out at Lochee Park, and Finlathen Park is high on the 'to do' list, with design work taking place at present
- More information is being received from parents around inclusive play and so a wider range of accessible equipment is being installed, as well as addressing access / egress issues for those in wheelchairs
- There is a constant need to keep pace with changes in areas e.g. schools moving site, new homes being built, etc.

Biodiversity

- Approximately twenty annual meadows around the city need careful management
- Annual bedding displays are being moved towards more sustainable planting. These give year-round interest rather than just over the summer months
- Hundreds of trees have come down in recent years due to storms, etc.
  - Approximately 500 new trees have been planted this year
  - Funding was received from Lochee Forum for around 100 trees
  - Trees are important as they can contribute to reducing air pollution

Environmental Improvements

- Over three years, approximately 120 different projects have been completed. The £4m for these has mostly come from the departmental budget and DPCRF

- An internal group in Neighbourhood Services, including staff from all three departments, meets to identify work that needs to be done

Discussion followed which included;

- The 'boat' has been replaced at Camperdown Park, along with other new equipment
  - The car park there is also due to be worked on by City Development, including the addition of electric car charging points
  - Query regarding whether crowdfunding has been considered for continued funding for the park. This is certainly a possibility for the future, with encouragement of online donations the most likely route
- People welcomed the recent consultation on developments to take place adjacent to the Hilltown multis
- For the next update on this topic, a photographic presentation would be appreciated by group members

## **6.2 Children & Families**

John Lannon was unavailable to provide an update.

## **7. Dundee Community Regeneration Fund: 7.1 Grant Applications**

All applications were approved. They comprised ten for 2018-19 and 37 for 2019-20.

Discussion included;

- Maryfield have deferred an application from LACD
- It is useful to get applicant groups to attend Forum meetings in order to get a better idea what their work comprises and answer any queries directly
- It is okay to share the information on which grants are supported more widely e.g. to local Third Sector Networks, via IYN pages. It is already shared bi-monthly via the DP E-Bulletin

## **7.2 Projects Failing to Report**

The following projects were already ineligible for funding due to not having reported on funded activity from 2017-18 (older late reports are not listed here):

- EE1730 – St. Pius X Church – Community Café
- EEP1707 – Douglas Community Spaces Group – Power in the Shed
- F1706 – Broughty Ferry & District Men's Shed – Shed Development & Start Up
- L1727 – Dundee & Angus Recycling Group CIC – Equipment
- NEY1708 – Mill O'Mains Community Pavilion – Youth Project

## **8. Local Community Planning**

Vanessa gave an update which included;

Strathmartine Communities Officer

- Internal recruitment is to take place soon for a twelve month post

Local Governance Review

- A community engagement event around this topic will take place in the autumn, organised through the Community Regeneration Team. The focus will be on community decision making

World Community Development Conference

- One day passes will be made available to enable more people (including staff) to attend, rather than just issuing three day passes
- Papers are to be presented at the conference that relate to Dundee, including the journey from SIP to the present day. It is hoped to involve community members in some of this
- Anyone interested in attending the conference should contact John Hosie

Discussion followed, which included;

- Strathmartine residents are affected by the uncertainty around their Communities Officer, and the number of changes to the person in post over recent years. This seems set to continue with a relatively short term appointment imminent
- How can support to volunteer groups be maintained given there are now fewer staff in post with this as part of their remit? Concern expressed that remaining staff may not be able to cope with demand

**9. AOCB**

- The ADP have discussion about getting community members involved on their next agenda
- A Third Sector Network has been started up in East End, with 31 agencies taking part in their first meeting. Angie will update this group as the Network develops
- The Third Sector Interface, engagement staff and Community Regeneration staff are meeting to coordinate what they are doing. This should help with efficiency and impact
- DVA's Chief Executive, Christine Lowden, is moving on in June. A new chair for the Board is also being recruited, and so the planned merger with Volunteer Dundee has been delayed
- A topic for the HSCP update in May is needed. Any suggestions should be brought back to this group in April
  - Frailty and work around that was suggested as one possibility
- Concerns were raised over the new £35 charge for collection of garden waste, including how this would be dealt with at tenements

**All**

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April, The Crescent

**Attachments:**

- West End LCPP Presentation
- Frailty SPG Action Plan