

# DUNDEE

## PARTNERSHIP

### Minute of the Building Stronger Communities Group held on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019 Menzieshill Community Centre

<b>Present:</b>	Alice Bovill	-	Strathmartine Forum
	Alison Anderson	-	Neighbourhood Services – Environment
	Alison Colgan	-	Dundee Partnership Team
	Andrew Radley	-	Public Health, NHS
	Angus Greenshields	-	Dundee Social Enterprise Network
	David Hilber	-	Menu for Change
	Gary Knox	-	City Development
	Jim Gordon	-	Maryfield Forum
	Kate Treharne	-	Neighbourhood Services – Environment
	Marie Dailly	-	Neighbourhood Services - Communities
	Mike Welsh	-	Neighbourhood Services – Communities
	Christine Humphrey	-	Strathmartine Forum
	Paul Davies	-	Dundee Partnership Team (chair)
	Stella Carrington	-	Lochee Forum
	Wendy Scullin	-	Coldside Forum

<b>Apologies:</b>	Christina Cooper	-	Dundee Voluntary Action
	David MacDougall	-	Maryfield Forum
	Elaine Zwirlein	-	Neighbourhood Services
	Joyce Barclay	-	Health & Social Care Partnership
	Peter Allan	-	Chief Executive's

#### Action

#### 1. Introductions & Apologies

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. Apologies received are listed above.

#### 2. Minute of March Meeting

Agreed as accurate.

#### 3. Matters Arising

- Paul is not aware if the information on private sector housing from Vanessa has been passed on yet. Paul has contacted Vanessa. PAD/VK
- Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) briefing was given at June Chairs Group (more under item 5).
- Paul is unaware if Natalie has forwarded the information to Peter from the ATM company. PA/NM
- There were no responses to Paul or Peter regarding the BSC scorecard last month, it is now due to go to committee this month.
- Alice has still not had any contact regarding a meeting of the transport forum, Paul will chase up John Berry. PAD/JB
- Christine Cooper is unavailable to give the Frailty Update at this meeting but has confirmed she will attend the July meeting with an update.
- Alice did receive the housing survey from Robin and has sent it off, but noted that not all members of the local tenants group received it. They contacted the Tenants Participation Officer at the council & had a hard copy sent out. Paul to check with Robin why the survey wasn't sent out automatically to tenants groups. PAD/RS
- Everything is organised for the World Community Development Conference (WCDC) which begins on Sunday evening, with a good representation of Dundee having tickets. Stella stated that she had requested tickets but had

not heard anything and Marie informed her she should have received a ticket and she would check when back at office.

**MD/SC**

#### **4 Lochee LCPP Update**

Mike gave a presentation on Lochee ward (attached) explaining that Lochee includes the Western Gateway, Menzieshill, Charleston and Lochee. It's contains 23 data zones, of which 13 are in the most deprived 15% in Scotland from SIMD. With 4/5 in Charleston, 6/10 in Lochee and 3/6 in Menzieshill being within the most deprived 20% in Scotland. Lochee is not without its' challenges but there have been a number of achievements too.

Achievements include;

- A focus on outdoor play development
- The great network of community/recovery cafes and hubs
- Holiday programme delivery
- A number of new community organisations starting, creating a good infrastructure of community activity.

The new Menzieshill Community Centre is on track for opening in September. The building user group will visit building next week. Leisure & Culture will manage the library and halls, with a community café and the existing programme of activity to be matched. The Community Garden was one of the first things established at the site.

A new group of local people has been set up, Love Lochee, who are working hard to keep building on improvements across the area. Lochee High Street has been improved by the flowerbeds in planters which local groups or people have adopted and are planting and tending them, including local schools and churches.

There has been lots of interest in green spaces around the ward, with funding in the past few years going into new and improved play facilities, with the most recent being at the Lansdowne multis which will be installed during this summer.

There were 3 successful projects selected in Dundee Decides; new pedestrian lights outside Lidl on South Road, lighting around the Menzieshill Play Trail and Charleston Community Centre is to have a new partition installed in their large hall to allow for them to facilitate more groups.

Bank Street at the back of the High Street shops has been seeded with wildflower seed as that has been seen as a challenge by local people as it was still unfinished and unkempt.

The Local Community Plan was reviewed in February 2019 with the main priorities that are being developed and future priorities agreed to take forward. There are lots of challenges in the area but there is also lot of positive work already being done.

Discussion followed, the main points of which included;

- Paul noticed that a lot of what is in progress is focused on people, as 6 of the 7 priorities do this. Mike confirmed there has been lots of interest and comments from the local community and community groups interested in giving opinions and getting involved which has been very positive.
- Stella says she misses the walkabouts that were carried out previously when they looked at more detail like structure of housing, but as the staff now cover larger or multiple areas they don't have the time to check out common closes in detail for example. Paul agreed to check if this is because Housing look at these things independently, which would explain why there's more of a focus on environmental issues.
  - *Fiona Reekie, Tenancy & Estates Team Leader, responded to Paul's enquiry to say that: walkabouts have never included walks*

**PAD**

*in/through communal closes as this is thought to be very intrusive for residents, plus the Tenancy Officers for each areas should pick up on any issues that exist, meaning the walkabout is not required for this. She did say that previously in the past the old Housing Officer may have done that as part of a walkabout, but it was never meant to be parts of the walkabouts. Equally issues of repairs was often raised but that's not part of their responsibility. The walkabouts have changed in the past 2 years in terms of them previously being twice yearly, but given staffing changes etc. they're now annual*

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

Wendy explained that following a discussion and feedback from all reps/forums it was agreed to change the length and format of the meetings to be quarterly but for a longer period later in the afternoon. The next meeting is agreed for 10<sup>th</sup> September from 3pm to 5pm at Menzieshill Parish Church. The venue will move around the wards. The meetings will now be facilitated by Joanne Kelly.

Wendy also explained that the PEF briefing highlighted that the funding is based on the number of pupils in each school taking up free meals. It must raise attainment and cannot be for capital expenditure. It is at the discretion of each head teacher how they choose to allocate their funds, although it is scrutinised by senior Education staff who question how each project will raise attainment.

There was also discussion around some forums feeling uncomfortable with Active Schools and Leisure & Culture Dundee requesting funding for wages, as they felt pressured into agreeing the funding. Paul confirmed that it's entirely up to each forum to decide on an individual basis what they want to support or decline.

Christine and Alice complained that they were unhappy with the change to the Chairs Group meeting frequency. Alison confirmed that feedback was given from all wards at the Chairs Group and that the majority of areas had requested a quarterly meeting. Paul suggested they raise any issues or queries regarding the changes with Jacqui or Joanne who could consider whether an earlier meeting should be called to discuss this further, and suggested he be copied in to any correspondence.

## **6 Priority Updates**

### **6.1 Environment – Community Gardens**

Kate provided an update on the Community Gardens across Dundee (see attached).

- There are 11 council initiated community gardens (green splashes on the map) and 2 significant third sector led community gardens (red splashes), as well as other smaller ones in schools/gardens around the city.
- Robertson Street gardens, now known as Tay View Community Garden has seen massive success this past year and has won the prize for the best Community Garden in the UK. A lot of time and engagement went into it at the start leading to a great deal of interest and input from the local community and groups, including an Addaction recovery group who have had good involvement.
- Fruit Bowls has been set up in the old bowling green at Lochee Park, with a link up to James Hutton Institute who've brought their fruit into the community. A partnership project with the Landscape Design Team saw a design created and established with the help of capital funding. Work on improving the pavilion was carried out through the Community Payback scheme and day release workers from Castle Huntly which has been very successful. It opened a few weeks ago and has proven very popular with all beds already in use.
- The Menzieshill Community Garden was established beside the new community centre with support of capital funding through City

Development. This has been completed to a very high specification. The community have taken it on, and it is now coming into its 2<sup>nd</sup> season. Some vandalism to the polytunnel has had to be patched up.

- Whorterbank is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most deprived area in Dundee and the Community Garden began as a pilot project. The Tattie Patch, gained interest from everyone in the community and lots of involvement is ongoing. Two weeks ago they held a 'Big Lunch' with their own grown produce. They also held a successful open day earlier this year. A number of the community gardeners feel the garden is a priority and has given them a purpose.
- The Community Gardens are all doing well and bringing lots of interest, involvement and enthusiasm from the communities they serve including Balgarthno Campus, and Arklay Terrace.
- The Fintry Community Garden is starting up, with the pilot beds installed last week for this season, with a view to infrastructure being in place in the next 2 years.
- A poster presentation on the Tay View Community Garden will be given at the WCDC next week and afternoon tours of some of the gardens will also be given to delegates at the conference on the Friday.
- Dr Beverley Searle of Dundee University is working on an application for funding for a 3 year project involving local schoolchildren and the Maxwell Centre and the community garden.

Discussion followed, the main points of which included;

- Feedback across the city is that community gardens are a great success, and they've made a real difference to the communities. It's also good that people who are interested in a bit of gardening but cannot commit to taking on a full allotment are able to take on a single bed.
- Kate was asked what happens with areas with no community gardens. She explained that community involvement and interest is essential and gardens and spaces can be developed as long as there are interest from community members.

## 6.2 Menu for Change

David explained that Menu for Change started 2 years ago to look at reducing the need for foodbanks and ensuring everyone has all the income they are entitled to, either in benefits or supplements to income, therefore not having such a need for emergency food.

This worked well with community centres, particularly in Maxwell Centre where funding has been secured for a Support Worker as they are the biggest referrer in the city.

A report was distributed identifying the 3 recommendations to reduce food insecurity, including;

- 1) Adopt the advice-first principle on food insecurity. There are over 200 referrers to foodbanks in Dundee but not all of them are aware of how the system should work. All referrers should be trained in order to fully understand the process and all advice options available.
- 2) A written process on referrals is required to ensure everyone is aware of all financial advice, support or entitlements available that may not have been accessed. The attached 'What do I do if' leaflet produced by Faith in Community Dundee explains options and gives contacts for support services available across the city.
- 3) Regular networking events are required to ensure everyone knows all the different support agencies available and the services offered. Support services need to increase their presence in different non-stigmatising settings across the city.

A lot of work is being done to ensure people are aware of the Scottish Welfare Fund and all entitlements available but it needs to be advertised more to inform the community how and when it can be accessed.

- They can help people access cash or voucher payments until their next payment is due. It's not a loan and there's no limit on how often it can be accessed.
- It can also support people who are suffering in-work poverty, to ensure any additional benefit to supplement income is being claimed/received.

More advice and support services based in the communities is needed, such as the Support Worker in Maxwell who can link and work with local people into local programmes, such as community gardens.

By involving people with lived experience of food insecurity in this project it has helped bring about change. For example now if an applicant is unsuccessful with the Scottish Welfare Fund they'll receive a text as soon as the decision is made with a contact number for them to phone for more support as opposed to previously waiting for a letter.

Discussion followed, the main points of which included;

- Stella asked if it's really happening and making a difference as local groups are setting up food projects when people can receive bags of food for a small membership fee each week. David confirmed community co-ops and community gardens are great to help reduce outgoings but the priority of this project is ensuring everyone's income is maximised.
- Alice said that in Strathmartine, Asda Kirkton are now giving out fresh food that's nearing the end date to local groups. She also spoke to a young lad last week who is writing a recipe book on innovative ways of being able to cook with very little money or resources.
- Paul felt this report highlights the diversity and complexity of issues and that Menu for Change and other agencies/initiatives are supporting this, with Dundee Money Action also now out in the communities working with local people offering financial support and advice.
- Alice asked how she can access DD1 leaflets as they are now finished in St Marys. Paul suggested the Brooksbank Centre or Connect project may have a supply available just now, but a new batch of leaflets should be being printed soon, and will be distributed across the city.

### **6.3 Health & Social Care - Frailty**

- Christina & Joyce were unavailable to give an update but Christina has confirmed she will attend the July meeting.

CC

## **7. Dundee Community Regeneration Fund**

### **7.1 Grant Applications**

All applications were approved.

### **7.2 Projects Failing to Report**

The following projects have become ineligible for funding due to not having reported on funded activity (older late reports are not listed here, but remain ineligible):

- EE1805, St. Pius Church – Community Café
- L1809, Lochee Community Group – Lochee Community Shop
- L1829, Village of Lochee Community Partnership – Lochee Santa's Grotto
- M1803, Stobswell Forum, Newsletter
- M1809, Maryfield Men's Shed, Running Costs

## **8. Local Community Planning**

Marie provided an brief update;

- Mark MacDonald has been appointed as the new Communities Officer for Strathmarine until 31 March 2020. He started last week at a very busy time with the WCDC coming up and John Hosie leaving, but he has already been getting out and introducing himself to local groups.
- A review of the LCPPs has begun to look at; how they're working, membership, community engagement, involving the wider community and the platform people use, bringing in forum reps and discussing what's

working or what's not. This review will incorporate how LCPPs operate differently and what's best moving forward.

- Potential budgets for participatory budgeting are being looked at for the next 'Dundee Decides' project. The structure is also being planned, including whether it will be for just physical and environmental improvements or broader than that. As part of confirming the budgets, discussions with local forums will be held to determine the interaction with the Community Regeneration Fund.

Alice explained that the LCPP meeting in Strathmartine lasts more than 3 hours because the chair asks all members for feedback and some people then spend a long time giving updates not on the agenda. Marie has said that format of meetings can be looked at as part of the review.

## 9. **AOCB**

- Christine has been asked to enquire why the 202 & 204 buses have been stopped due to DCC withdrawing funding as a number of older people rely on these services. Gary has agreed to take this question to John Berry and will ask him to report back to Paul. **GK**
  - *John Berry responded with 'only Service 202 is not under any threat of cancellation, however Service 204 is being cancelled. A review of the financially supported bus service network was carried out and it was agreed by the Council that there could be a reduction in the on-going financial support given to local bus services. The Council recognises the importance of transport services to elderly and disabled passengers across Dundee and that is why a new Blether Bus route will be introduced in the West End to coincide with the end of the Service 204. The Blether Bus is a hail and ride minibus service, operated with Council minibuses, which can pick up and drop off anywhere along its route. The service is free to use and has operated successfully elsewhere in the city. The Blether Bus will connect users to the Perth Road from where other bus services can take them to the city centre or Ninewells. We will be asking the local community to help us shape the route of the West End Blether Bus.'*
- Stella is unhappy with the Assisted Bin Uplift as they are not taking her garden waste bags with her grey bin and her bin was only half emptied. She'd contacted Janet Wade who confirmed this is an error and they should've collected her garden waste bags. Stella confirmed that following Janet's reply the bags were picked up but the system doesn't seem to be working properly. Paul to alert Janet to the issue so it can be corrected. **PAD**

## 10. **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July, Arthurstone Library, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Arthurstone Terrace.

### **Attachments:**

- Lochee Presentation
- A Menu for Change Report
- Community Gardens Presentation
- What do I do if... leaflet