



**Minute of the Building Stronger Communities Group
held on Thursday, 24th October 2019
Douglas Community Centre**

Present:

Alice Bovill	-	Strathmartine Forum
Andrew Radley	-	NHS, Public Health
David MacDougall	-	Maryfield Forum
Gary Knox	-	City Development
Jim Gordon	-	Maryfield Forum
John Berry	-	City Development
Marie Dailly	-	Neighbourhood Services - Communities
Paul Davies	-	Dundee Partnership Team (minute)
Peter Allan	-	Chief Executive's (chair)
Ron Neave	-	North East Forum
Stella Carrington	-	Lochee Forum

In Attendance:

Angela Robb	-	Neighbourhood Services – Environment
Christine Miller	-	Neighbourhood Services – Communities

Apologies:

Alison Anderson	-	Neighbourhood Services – Environment
David Gardener	-	Dundee Voluntary Action
Elaine Zwirlein	-	Neighbourhood Services
John Lannon	-	Children & Families
John Wolstencroft	-	Neighbourhood Services - Housing
Joyce Barclay	-	Health & Social Care Partnership
Wendy Scullin	-	Coldside 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 September Meeting

Agreed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

- South Road (*item 3*). Ron has spoken to two Abertay Housing staff about this and will follow up with their new Chief Executive on 29th October. John Wolstencroft still to feed back to Stella
- Parking in Maryfield (*item 5*). Public meeting to discuss this has not yet been held
- Phone box closure (*item 5*). Letter has been sent to BT from DCC (copy was attached with papers for this meeting)
- Walkabouts (*item 8*). Stella has commented on this to Marie and a new proposal for the structure of walkabouts is being developed

JW

4 East End LCPP Update

Christine presented on the achievements and challenges for the East End LCPP. This centred on the five key themes in the Local Community Plan and included;

Fair Work & Enterprise

- Several people being recruited into local posts for work within the community

- Employability support changing to an appointment-based drop-in on a Friday morning

Children & Families

- Holiday family Fun sessions being busy, with around 200 lunches being provided per session
- Local Management Group have held family quiz nights, film showings, games, etc.
- Rainbow House continue to deliver holiday provision
- A new nursery is being built in Douglas

Health, Care & Wellbeing

- Our Place have an application under development for Douglas Park
- All growing beds have been allocated at the new community growing group
- Play area and cycle path improvements have been put in place
- A regular mental health drop-in is being held at RockSolid
- Music is Medicine is delivering in the area, for those in Recovery. This is local at present, delivered by a volunteer with coordination support from RockSolid and the Regeneration Team

Community Safety & Justice

- Quarterly network meetings are held and help to target resources to address local issues
- Fire Safety Academy and mentoring schemes are included in the range of diversionary work in the area. Referrals to these come from the schools
- Legalised graffiti sites have been put in place around the Ward

Building Stronger Communities

- Engagement plans are being taken to a new community group focussed on Douglas & Craigie for discussion. It is possible that the group could become a Community Council or Neighbourhood Representative Structure
- Consultation is underway regarding planned improvements in Finlathen Park
- 27 new parking spaces have been created on Balunie Drive
- A new road crossing has been put in place on Arbroath Road
- The Community Regeneration Forum currently has £22,644 left for Physical and Environmental Improvements (PEI), and £1,311 for Small Grants. The lower limit of £6k for PEI awards is proving to be awkward for some desired items

Future Challenges include;

- Increasing local involvement
- Our Place carrying out work at community centres to help increase footfall
- Targeted engagement
- Building on the learning from Dundee Decides

Discussion that followed Christine's presentation centred around Community Councils (CC) and Neighbourhood Representative Structures (NRS). Points raised included;

- We have four CCs at present
- NRS are 'Dundee only' and are similar to CCs but not nationally recognised. One main difference is that less bureaucracy is attached to NRSs
- CC elections are being held in November
- It is hard to keep member numbers up
- Some CCs / NRSs are trying to recruit younger members via secondary schools
- The CLD Strategy Group could take a look at this area and try to determine whether CCs / NRSs are a route people want to engage through or not. The group will look at what people are being asked to get involved in and report back to this group in future
- The Stobswell Forum organise focused community meetings with appropriate officers present, but generally nothing happens afterwards.

There needs to be actions and budgets assigned so things do get done e.g. around bins, parking, etc.

- There needs to be some reciprocity, or people will participate less. communities also need to be kept informed regardless of whether there is progress or not
 - This will be reflected on at the next Decentralisation Meeting, including how we deliver on commitments given to communities
- We need to be aware of changes in how engagement with DCC can be held

5 **Forum Representatives – Issues & Information Sharing**

Stella informed the group that the Lochee Clock was still not in place. Gary explained that the delay had been caused due to a need for a better power supply to be installed. It has also been hard to coordinate the specialist clock maker with other workers creating the pedestal. Gary to keep Stella informed

GK

6 **Priority Updates**

6.1 **Strategic Housing**

John was unavailable to provide an update. Peter commented that we do require an update on work with private sector housing and that he would follow up on this with John and Colin Craig.

PA

Other discussion points raised included;

- Stobswell Forum have had discussions with the Private Sector Unit and Police Scotland as part of getting controlled entries put in place on some of Dundonald Street
- We need to determine what the 'asks' and associated issues are, in order to help identify what can and can't be done
- Colin Craig has stated elsewhere that there are laws placing requirements on landlords and that his team does try to enforce these, but it is now a whole community issue. We need to identify how best to work with communities

6.2 **Fairness / Financial Inclusion**

Peter provided an update on a number of relevant items:

Challenge Poverty Week took place recently, and a number of positive events were held around the city, with good press coverage. One of these focussed on tackling period poverty and free sanitary products are now available at a number of locations across the city (see map [here](#)).

Living Wage Week starts on the 11th November. Again, a number of events are being planned, involving several different sectors, to promote the Scottish Living Wage

- An Xplore Dundee bus will be covered in Living Wage livery
- DCC have also been nominated for an Outstanding Living Wage Leadership Award
- Jobs in hospitality, retail and care are amongst the lowest paid. One company consulted with its customers and they agreed to a price increase to enable the company to pay all of its staff the Living Wage

ATMs and charges. A £1m [Community Access to Cash Delivery Fund](#) has been set up. Communities can identify an ATM and bid for funds to keep it free of charge to use. Information to be circulated to Communities Officers.

PAD

The Dundee Partnership Forum held on 23rd October presented the findings of the Dundee Drugs Commission and how the ADP plan to respond to this, including early actions required.

- Feedback so far states that this was a good start, but more is needed
- The Recovery Friendly Pledge was also promoted, and it could be useful to ask Robin Falconer to attend this group to talk about it (group agreed; Paul to arrange)

PAD

- Group members who attended also provided some feedback;
 - Event went well with a good mix of people taking part
 - Someone at the event made the point that more citywide services are needed, but community view is for more local services
 - Useful and sobering event, with criticism but also plans
 - No evidence of additional funding to deal with the issue
 - We need to keep this moving e.g. via accountability to the DP Management Group
 - Proof will be seen in six months e.g. is same day prescribing in place?
 - Support needed for those due to be leaving prison pre-release, to minimise the risk of reoffending and substance misuse. The ADP are aware of recent changes within the Scottish Prison Service that have ceased their Prison Throughcare Service and aim to make changes to available support
 - Request for Andrew to cover the misuse of prescription drugs in his presentation to this group next month
 - Handing in of unused prescription drugs could mimic the system seen to be working in Belfast

AR

6.3 Travel Networks

John Berry provided an update which included;

- Engagement with communities by John's team is taking place, but feedback has been lacking on the complex nature of actions / plans
- No large changes have been made to the bus network during the summer months
- The Transport Forum met in early October and now aim to meet three times a year. The meeting minute is to be shared with Paul for circulation to this group
- An electric bike hire scheme is in planning, with a planned Spring 2020 launch

**JB
PAD**

The main part of John's update focussed on the new Transport Act which was passed by the Scottish Government two weeks ago, and is awaiting royal assent. The four main areas were covered;

Low Emission Zones

- Legislation calls for all cities to have one in order to improve air quality in city centres
- We are consulting at present on one for Dundee – see [here](#)
- Lochee Road has not been included in the proposals due to concerns over displacement of traffic to less suitable roads for the volume of traffic

Publicly Owned Bus Companies

- Local authorities are now being allowed to run bus companies
- It is not very likely that DCC will do this, but may take over some smaller local companies in the future
- This option may give communities more of a say in bus routes and increase partnership working

Pavement Parking Ban

- Lots of people do this, but it will be banned
- Most parts of the city will be able to cope with this, but some areas have too little off-street parking
- DCC will identify any areas where on-pavement parking is to be allowed, but this will only be within marked parking locations (painted on the pavement)
- This is likely to come into effect ~February 2021

Workplace Parking Rates

- Businesses are to be asked to pay 'rates' on their car parks at £400, with revenue to be used for sustainability projects (commonly being called a 'parking tax')

- This is likely to get passed on to workers who get free parking at present
- It is optional for Local Authorities to introduce this, and current thoughts for Dundee are to not introduce it

Discussion followed, the main points of which were;

- Is there a planned link between the 'parking tax' and roads development?
- What has happened to the focus on promoting use of public transport / car sharing?
 - It is still happening, but has failed to have the desired impact
- When looking at places to allow parking on pavements, DCC need to take into account visibility for pedestrians
- When the consultation on pavement parking is being planned, the group requested that John comes back to use this group as a sounding board prior to the consultation going live
- Issues also exist with the increasing number of work vehicles being brought home
- There is a possible issue in residential areas where vehicles parked fully on the road will impede access to existing off-road parking
- Will it improve parking near schools?
 - Not too likely as the parking is for short duration, and DCC does not have sufficient enforcement staff – though we do use traffic wardens on a rota basis around schools
 - We need to increase the numbers walking or cycling to school

6.4 Children & Families

John Lannon was unavailable to provide an update.

As the group has not had an update on Children & Families for some time, a decision needs to be made regarding whether to complain about the lack of engagement from Children & Families, or to remove the update from our schedule. Peter to consider the matter and feedback to this group.

PA

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

8. Local Community Planning

Marie provided an update, the main points of which included:

Participatory Budgeting (PB). Community Regeneration Forums have generally not agreed to add their PEI funding to the pot for 2020-21, largely due to a lack of clarity over the available funding. Marie and David Simpson are to prepare a paper on the future of PB and where budgets should come from.

- Alice added that there are issues coming from Tenants Groups too, as they pay into the Housing Revenue Fund, part of which is likely to be used for PB

More work is taking place around Community Engagement, in an effort to widen involvement of community members.

Discussion followed, the main points of which included;

- Discussions on the future of the DPCRf are likely as part of the DCC budget setting. Officers will keep the group informed, and as in previous years Forums may be able to influence the decision
- People on the Forums need to be promoting the fund's availability, not just attending the monthly meetings

- There are a few outstanding Dundee Decides projects
 - Playpark equipment in East End. It has been purchased, and is just awaiting development of the site to enable installation
 - Development of cycle routes has been delayed due to bird nesting
 - Fintry – plans to reduce traffic congestion around Fintry PS weren't detailed enough and so the project has experienced delays while these were developed and taken to Committee. Legal processes have also caused several months of delay, and a mid-2020 completion is now likely

9. AOCB
None raised

10. Date of Next Meeting
Thursday 21st November, Committee Room 2, 14 City Square

Attachments:

- East End LCPP Presentation