

# DUNDEE



PARTNERSHIP

**Building Stronger Communities**  
**held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
**Skype Video Call**

<b>Present:</b>	Alice Bovill	-	Strathmartine Forum
	David MacDougall	-	Maryfield Forum
	John Wolstencroft	-	Neighbourhood Services - Housing
	Joyce Barclay	-	Health & Social Care Partnership
	Murray Webster	-	Coldside Forum
	Nicky Maccrimmon	-	Neighbourhood Services - Communities
	Paul Davies	-	Dundee Partnership Team
	Peter Allan	-	Chief Executive's (chair)
	Ron Neave	-	North East Forum
<b>Apologies:</b>	Elaine Zwirlein	-	Neighbourhood Services
	Gary Knox	-	City Development
	John Berry	-	City Development
	Stella Carrington	-	Lochee Forum

## Action

### 1. Apologies & Introductions

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received are noted above.

### 2. Minute of Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Agreed as accurate.

### 3. Matters Arising

Big Funders & National Charities – Paul contacted seven large funders regarding how they deal with applications from large national charities, and received a response from four of these. He outlined the responses, which can be found in the attached document.

- Nicky added that the Scottish Government (SG) Adapt & Thrive programme is currently open, with grants of up to £75k available. The Community Empowerment Team (CET) will be looking at this and engaging with community groups to support applications

Priority Updates - Paul to send reminders to upcoming speakers in advance of meetings.

Rights in Law – While the deadline was the end of January, the Taskforce were willing to take late submissions. To date, no responses sent in from this group

### 4. Priority Updates

#### 4.1 Strategic Housing

John provided the group with an update, which included the following;

A new Strategic Housing Improvement Plan (SHIP) was agreed in November. This is a plan for housing development over five years by DCC and Housing Associations, using grants from the SG for affordable housing. The grants don't cover the full cost of developments so money needs to be borrowed to progress developments.

DCC has the capacity to borrow a further £6m for development of social housing for its own building programme and is looking at additional possible new sites.

Current developments include 20 sites, with ~600 houses being built. Some completions will take us into 2022-23 e.g. 163 at Derby Street, and the ex-Charleston Primary School site where work will be starting soon. Grants going forward likely to be similar to previous year.

There were a low number of completions last year. Covid delays were part of it, but also surface water drainage issues on brownfield sites. City Development are working with Scottish Water on dealing with these. Other issues include; site assembly due to parts being owned by different agencies / private owners, unexpected costs arising on sites, and contractors' availability to work on project. Fortunately, we have not seen contractors going out of business due to covid.

Questions and discussion followed, which included;

What's the situation with current housing stock around homelessness / vacant buildings?

- There have been more homeless presentations during covid and more DCC stock has been made available to rise to the challenge
- DCC aim to be flexible in how properties are made available. Within Housing, a review of the allocations policy is being started and will become public in next 2-3 months. This will include looking at who the priority groups should be
  - The group agreed that involving the public was necessary and that discussing at the Tenants Federation, this group, and LCPPs would be useful
  - Brian Shaw is leading on this and aims to be wide ranging in the consultation. John is to ask Brian to share the plans for engagement with this group
- A request was made for information on homeless numbers and housing stock to be circulated to the group. John to compile and send to Paul for circulation
- Vacant sites have a massive impact on the community so it is worth consulting on why they're not being developed. DCC can use compulsory purchase orders to move things forward (but generally these are not used). It could also be possible to apply pressure on landowners via LCPPs
- The biggest issues with taking developments forward at present are water drainage on brownfield sites and developability within the cost framework allowed by the SG. Gary Knox may be able to provide more information at the next meeting
- The SG wants to tackle dereliction / brownfield sites. Community groups need to let the government know about issues and get them to change what they do with Scottish Water and others to get things moving more quickly
  - Some of solutions on brownfield sites are too expensive, and this is brought up with SG. Scottish Water also have environmental concerns they need to take into account
- Query raised on how / if the SHIP development areas map to CRAs and could we get a copy of the map to share with the group. The SHIP is based on availability of sites, and not mapped at present (Jill Brash's help with this was offered)
  - In past we would have had a strategic housing response relating to CRAs, e.g. Mill O'Mains developments / Area Masterplans
  - City Development are starting a new process around City Centre regeneration, which may feed into SHIP in future years. In the last few years we haven't had new area masterplans, but may see them returning in future via the Local Housing Strategy (John is to review in late 2021 to meet new SG guidance). Peter and John to discuss further

**JW /  
PAD**

**JW**

**GK**

**PA/JW**

#### **4.2 Travel Networks**

John Berry was unavailable for this meeting, but will attend in March to provide an update

**JB**

#### **4.3 Health & Social Care**

Written update supplied which Joyce summarised. Points raised included;

- National Care Review is taking place, with major changes likely to be coming. The IJB is currently part of DCC/NHS but the review makes it likely that reporting will be directly to the SG and for the IJB to have more responsibilities of its own
- Winter Plans are in place to cope with additional demands of the season
- Locality working by the HSCP is growing, matched to LCPP areas, and should lead to better community links too
- Remobilisation Plans – the HSCP are contributing via NHS plans. It would be useful to let more people know about this so they know what is happening more broadly
- HSCP are heavily involved in the vaccination programme
- A Tayside approach is being taken to mental health and wellbeing. A survey looking at how people find mental health services can be found [here](#), and runs to the 11<sup>th</sup> April
- Hospital at Home development. This aims to keep people at home where possible and practical, especially older people. It takes a holistic approach and also facilitates early getting home from hospital
- The Carers Strategy is being refreshed through the Dundee Carers Partnership
- Falls Prevention is a key area of work where a test of change aims for more proactive work to prevent hospitalisation. This includes low level support such as peer support
- A National Social Care Review is taking place and recommendations are welcome. It includes a move towards helping people live their lives rather than just getting the essentials done by staff

Discussion followed, the main points of which included;

- Locality working is based around four areas incorporating two Wards each. Service areas are LCPP based (8). Some staff may cover two service areas, but many are only working in one, and possibly just within a particular neighbourhood. Hopefully this will enable more meaningful engagement with LCPPs
- Mental Health would be a good next topic to cover. Joyce to see who is available to do this

**JB**

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

Alice informed the group that Yvonne Tosh passed away on the 1<sup>st</sup> February from covid. Group members commented on the positive, cheery input Yvonne made over the years to this and several other groups. A letter of condolence will be sent to her partner and daughter.

**PA**

Maryfield

- The Forum are still holding meetings by shared email as some members IT access is not good for video calls. There has also been a lack of applications in recent months.
- A good people's assembly was held on 17<sup>th</sup> February with 30-40 people taking part
- It is proving hard to get discussion with the relevant council officers on Transportation which is stymieing a range of things
- The area also needs support of DCC investment in District Centres. Maryfield groups have brought in several smaller amounts of funding for shopfront upgrades to make the area look better, but have not had recent input from DCC
- For the above two issues, officers have been approached directly, they have been raised at the LCPP and have recently gone via the Convener. While the latter did result in a letter being sent out, it was felt that this did not address the concerns raised and so is back with the Convener to progress
  - The local Communities Officer is sighted on this and Nicky will speak to him to get a full picture of what the local situations are
  - In terms of traffic management in Stobswell, community groups could use a Participation Request to be involved in an Outcome Improvement Process which then requires relevant stakeholders to collaborate and develop a way forward. Nicky to discuss this with the Communities Officer too, so it can be explored with local community groups
- With regard to the use of Albert Street by HGVs, local groups would like to see consideration for use of the Spaces for People Programme to make part of the street one way on a pilot basis. This could then be made permanent, or if it causes

**NM/SF**

**NM/SF**

issues elsewhere, it could easily be reverted. Input from Gary Knox would be useful on this

**GK**

#### Strathmartine

- A People's Assembly will be taking place here too, and Alice will be getting involved in it. It would be useful for discussion points from a recent facilitators workshop to be shared across Wards for those interested in doing this that could not attend the workshop

#### Coldside

- There have been no applications in recent months, but the Forum AGM is planned for the 11<sup>th</sup> March and a number of applications are now in for next month
- Local ideas for District Shopping Centre improvements were looked at around 18 months ago, but at the time that budget was being considered for part of Dundee Decides 2. That did not come to pass, and so the ideas are being revisited
- Two sessions have been held online regarding Spaces for People and the local CET have been consulting with shop owners
- It has been hard to engage relevant officers in relation to resident's parking, and a request made for Peter to take this forward at a higher level
- The local CET are working really well at keeping community members involved

**PA**

#### North East

- There have been issues around consultation in relation to school drop-off and parking restrictions in the run up to an 18-month pilot starting
  - Posters were displayed locally, but the number to call was not working
  - The Community Council were only involved at the last minute and have not received answers to their questions
  - Some concerns over the change in amounts being spent on the project, but this was explained as the original cost being an estimate and actual costs being lower than this
  - It is felt that the pilot may also have unintended consequences such as impacting on early morning grocery deliveries once vehicle movement restrictions are put in place
  - Nicky is aware that the Communities Officer is sighted on this, and reassured the group that if there was a desire to make the change permanent, then a proper public consultation would need to take place first. In the meantime, it could be useful for the Community Council to engage with local people on this matter
  - Nicky and Peter to discuss how to deal with this and prevent similar issues arising in future

**PA /  
NM**

## **6. Community Empowerment**

Nicky provided an update, the main points of which were;

- Community Centres are still closed apart from emergency food provision and a very limited range of other services
- LCPPs and Community Regeneration Forums are continuing as much as possible via online meetings
- The CET is leading on development of new Local Community Plans for this time next year, including engagement work and Citizen's Assemblies
- Citizen Assemblies are being held in all Wards during February. These are independent of DCC, being facilitated locally by CET. People can bring ideas, frustrations, possibilities and opportunities with a view to looking to take these forwards. Communities need to be involved in the production and delivery alongside services and agree a way forward and this can then be part of Local Community Plans. Services need to be responsive too, either voluntarily (preferable) or via Participation Requests
- Ongoing discussions are taking place looking at coming out of lockdown and the next 9-12 months. These will involve communities, stakeholders, and services
- Participation Requests are now being seen as a positive way to get communities and service providers together to work with each other. DCC videos on CAT and Participation Requests can be found [here](#).

Overall, the next few months will be crucial from a Community Empowerment perspective, as Recovery Plans are developed and put in place.

**7. Dundee Partnership Community Regeneration Fund**

**7.1 Grant Applications**

All grant applications were agreed.

A query was raised over the allocation to three West End grants being £1 less than requested. This was due to the total funding request being £3 over the available funds, and so each was reduced by £1.

**8. AOCB**

None raised.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Details to be confirmed, but probably online via Skype

**Attachments**

- Big Funders & National Charities – responses summary