

DUNDEE

PARTNERSHIP

Building Stronger Communities held on Thursday, 18th March 2021 Skype Video Call

Present:	Alice Bovill	-	Strathmartine Forum
	Alison Anderson	-	Neighbourhood Services – Environment
	Alison Colgan	-	Dundee Partnership Team
	Elaine Pratt	-	Neighbourhood Services – Communities
	Emily Kernahan	-	Hillcrest Homes
	Gary Knox	-	City Development
	John Berry	-	City Development
	John Wolstencroft	-	Neighbourhood Services - Housing
	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
Apologies:	David MacDougall	-	Maryfield Forum
	Elaine Zwirlein	-	Neighbourhood Services
	Joyce Barclay	-	Health & Social Care Partnership

Action

1. Apologies & Introductions

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

2. Minute of Thursday 18th February 2021

Agreed as accurate with one amendment to specify the date Yvonne Tosh passed away.

3. Matters Arising

- Several points arose at the last meeting on the quality / effectiveness of engagement. These were covered in the Community Empowerment agenda item
- John W has asked Bryan Shaw to add this group into his consultation strategy on vacant housing
- Gary updated the group on brownfield sites. There is a working group with Scottish Water that meets once a month to discuss sites coming forward. This helps to identify issues and is putting new processes in place that will resolve issues around surface water drainage
- John W and Peter are still to discuss Area Masterplans' place in future Local Housing Strategies

PA/JW

4. Priority Updates

4.1 Coldside LCPP & Local Community Plan

Elaine talked to the presentation (see attached). The main points included;

- An overview of the Community Empowerment Team role and the typical work it undertook pre-covid
- The impact on communities, which include the ability to participate in decision making processes, involvement in delivering local services, and management of local assets
- The response to covid that took place, starting with emergency food provision for the most vulnerable enabled by the 'disappearance of red tape'. Local community members were involved alongside a range of agencies
- Some positives have been identified, with green spaces becoming much better used and people making more effort to support their neighbours

- Next steps, including using information gained from surveys and engagement to plan local actions and build on the positives that came out of covid
- A big issue that has been highlighted by the pandemic is that of poor mental health

Discussion followed, which included;

- The work in Coldside on food provision has been very important and involved several agencies. As a city, we are looking to provide a high quality, dignified approach to food provision going forward
- Work needs to be carried out to continue the appreciation of our green spaces. This was the biggest positive seen in responses to Engage Dundee

4.2 Environment – Green & Open Spaces

Alison gave an overview of what has been taking place over the past year in relation to green & open spaces. The main points are outlined below;

- The local food growing strategy was approved during summer 2020. Information will be put on the website soon. This was required to satisfy Part 9 of the Community Empowerment Act
- Camperdown Growing Hub are to receive nearly £1m from the Capital Grant Fund to build at the old nursery site at Camperdown. They are working with Camperdown Growers group and looking at a Community a=Asset Transfer once it has been built. Plans include a multi-functional community space, potting shed, and refurbished poly-tunnels
- The Green Health Partnership has been undertaking online classes and promotional work, and have put a nature prescription together (see [here](#)). To add to this, there are now 380 prescribers for Green Health Prescriptions and two years funding has been agreed to continue the project
- The Green Space Team have been putting into practice all sorts of ideas on getting people involved in their green spaces e.g. bird feeders at sheltered housing, a lockdown gardening channel, wildlife walks online, butterfly surveys, etc.
- Grass cutting in 2020 was left until June – and people liked this. This led to 27 areas designated to be left as biodiversity areas; consultation on this was carried out in mid-Jan with 550 responses
- Play areas have been invested in with more planned for the coming months
- Sports pitches are bookable for U16s at present, and hopefully opening up for adults in May

Discussion followed, which included;

Was there a mixed response to uncut areas? What about in cemeteries?

- Initially looks like a lot of people are behind the ideas, but we do need to manage a balance and expectations. Long grass needs to be kept free of weeds
- There isn't any longer grass identified in cemeteries. Some naturalised grass areas within them have been in place for a number of years already

The group look forward to receiving updates on progress at Camperdown. Alison indicated that Jay Grant and/or Viola Marx could attend to give future updates

Are efforts being made to link food growing and food provision?

- Yes. Alison has had a conversation with Jackie Close about this and a mapping project is being carried out by City Development as part of the sustainable food plan

4.3 Travel Networks

John B provided an update the main points of which included;

- Taxis are operating at levels that are just 10% of what was seen 18 months ago
- Far reaching changes were made to the bus service network in January this year, accepting that numbers will be lower than before. There are 30% less buses on the roads compared to 18 months ago. Routes are generally still covered, but less frequently (~50% longer wait times)
- As part of a national policy, free bus travel for everyone under 22 is likely to be in place by end of this year, and this is likely to bring about increased use

- Community Minibuses. The Blether Bus, Out & About Service, and Shopper Service were all halted in lockdown and have not returned. In the summer we need to work out how to bring them back as we return to normality
- Spaces for People. This was a big project in 2020. The Scottish Government gave funding to Local Authorities to create road space for physical distancing – more for cyclists and pedestrians (Dundee received £500k). This led to 20mph zones in Fintry, West End, Broughty Ferry & Douglas. Some roads were closed to traffic, notably the Esplanade. Union Street was also dressed up to make it more attractive to pedestrians, and it may become permanently pedestrianised
 - £2m extra was also bid for and received leading to improvements of footways and the green circular. All this was done with minimal consultation due to time constraints for spending the funds
 - Some consultation on district centres was carried out via Annie Marrs and the UNESCO City of Design Team who spoke to local traders and residents. This has enabled advanced plans for Coldside and Stobswell to be put in place. No time to spend all of the money though
 - Union Street pedestrianisation – initially businesses were not happy, but have been won over
- School Streets – is going ahead. All approvals are in place for the summer term at Fintry PS. This needs to be advertised as it is an effective ban on cars around school start / end times
- Parking – charges have been suspended for 6 out of the last 12 months. Patterns of travel and parking have changed. Tackling resident parking issues in various areas hasn't been possible but will restart ASAP - likely the second half of 2021. There will be changed patterns of road use which will need to be taken into account
- Electric bikes – a positive project, and we are aiming to reach it out right across the city so that everyone can make use of them. Lots of people are currently using them for leisure purposes rather than commuting

Discussion followed which included;

- Rerouting of Fintry buses – is there still one down Forfar Road?
- - Yes. Local routes are the 32 & 33. Some go up Forfar Road via Morgan Academy and some go along Glenconnor Drive (about half of each)
- School Streets – There needs to be more consultation so that local people are aware of implications e.g.
 - Potential issues over food deliveries from online shopping need addressed
 - Permits – are these per car / per house?
 - Access to Finmill Centre & Library as start times same as schools
 - All questions were submitted by the Community Council, but no response received to date. These need to be answered before implementation
 - John B indicated that the wider community and school community supported this and almost all councillors supported this at Committee
 - It was queried whether the submitted questions were seen by Committee members
 - The usual process with regard to objections means that councillors should have had sight of them
 - John B and his team will look at answering questions prior to implementation via engagement with the community **JB**
 - Peter stated that a practical commitment to this is needed. Information on the implications needs to be worked on with communities
 - John B agreed that if there is not enough time to consult properly, then the programme would be delayed until after the summer. He will keep Fintry Community Council up to date on progress, and is also working via LCPP **JB**
- There was also a query about the cost of project as its cost is ~£5k less than was agreed through Dundee Decides
- In other areas, queries will also arise, e.g. in Strathmartine there is a one way street at one of the schools. Would whole road be closed? There are also extensive ongoing building works on another street. Closing some streets will lead to parents using other small streets to get as close as possible

- John B indicated that each school and the surrounding roads would need to be looked at individually
- School Streets needs general discussion across the city as there will be issues at all of the sites. Local residents need to be made aware and engaged with in all pilot areas
- Bus Route Changes - Alice highlighted a local campaign after changes resulted in no bus coming down St. Kilda Road. The community view was listened to and the route reinstated by Xplore Dundee. This has been positive for local residents
- Peter informed the group that a new Mainstreaming Equalities Report is being put together. Transportation & Access is a part of this, and so it would be useful to know about the likely return of Blether Bus, etc. and when this might take place. Peter and John B to discuss this and Demand Responsive Transport in general
- John B and Nicola Mitchell (DVVA, Older People's Officer) have been in conversation regarding getting the Dundee Transport Forum meeting again. This is likely to be online, but definitely involving communities and third sector as prior to the pandemic
- John B stated that resources for engagement are limited, but his team are keen to respond better in future

PA /
JB

5. Forum Representatives – Issues & Information Sharing

Ron – Learned about the early retirement of the Resource Assistant in Finmill Centre just prior to him leaving. He and the LMG would have liked to have had opportunity to communicate with him prior to him finishing.

- Nicky responded that several staff in community centres have been waiting to get their figures for pension, etc. and then leaving quickly once they have got these through due to having annual leave entitlement to take. He will know from tomorrow definite leavers and will publish that list
- Some concern was expressed over the potential lack of staff in certain posts e.g. permanent admin / RA posts, but Nicky informed the group that CBSS do have a plan in place for community centres as they reopen

NM

Murray – Requested discussion on payment of the Living Wage to all staff funded via DPCRF. Covered under 7.2 below

Alice – Informed the group that most of the Big Lottery funding received by St. Mary's Community Facility is for staffing (~£61k of the £77k received in total over three years)

6. Community Empowerment

Nicky provided an update, the main points of which are below

District Shopping Centres & Spaces for People - There is a mixed bag of knowledge on what's happening and levels of community involvement. Nicky has spoken to Communities Officers, and there are differences across city. A meeting is planned with Marie Dailly, Gregor Hamilton, Peter Allan and Gary Knox on this topic next week. It is acknowledged that community engagement is hard, and needs to be focussed in order to do the best we can.

The Dundee Partnership, via the CLD Strategy Group agreed an Engagement & Participation Framework just prior to lockdown. Its content is being finalised for sharing and can be discussed soon. It will be helpful in guiding services on how to engage, and communities in knowing what to expect. It will also be useful for Community Councils (CC) / Neighbourhood Representative Structures (NRS), etc.

Community Empowerment Team;

- Food poverty work is ongoing
- The Scottish Government 'Road Map to Recovery' that came out on Tuesday lets us plan exit from lockdown, although dates are all indicative. Groups are looking at planning this out and the results will be shared when possible
- Local teams are speaking with LMGs, CCs, & NRSs and using local knowledge, information from Citizens Assemblies, etc. on identifying priorities. These will feed into the wider process in developing new Local Community Plans. LCPPs should sign off on these by the November cycle of meetings

- Engagement focus is currently on quick and easy wins (3-6 months) plus longer term items to go into Local Community Plans. Focus groups and discussions with Partner agencies are being held. A big online consultation will take place too, based on Place Standard but tweaked to be more People focussed (this will be undertaken after the elections)

Festive Funding – A Working Group is looking at this year’s process already.

Discussion followed which included;

John B asked whether there is a clear list of which groups are operating in which parts of the city? This would allow officers to engage more easily

- Nicky offered to pull this together as it would be widely useful. CC’s are particularly important within this as we have a legal requirement to consult with them

NM

7. Dundee Partnership Community Regeneration Fund

7.1 Grant Applications

All grant applications were agreed.

7.2 Encouraging Payment of the Living Wage

Living Wage – Coldside Regeneration Forum had one applicant group not paying the Living Wage to its staff and asked that this be looked into for allocations across the city.

Alison looked at additional costs and found that there was just the one organisation in this situation, but it had applied in all CRAs. If the Living Wage was to be paid, it would create shortfalls as follows; East End £92*, the application was deferred in Lochee, £46 in Maryfield, North East £91, Strathmartine £113*, Coldside have agreed increase the award so that the Living Wage can be paid

* These are at maximum amounts for area funding (and so DPCRf cannot meet the shortfall)

Peter asked the group whether we should be introducing into our guidance that we will only support applications where LW is being paid? There was agreement from community representatives and the group in general.

Alison to contact forums re: increasing the awards to cover the additional costs where this is possible.

AC

It was noted that recognition as a ‘Living Wage Grant Fund’ is also possible, and so we could work to get DPCRf recognised as such. The group agreed this would be good to do.

8. AOCB

John W – Asked the group to complete, and encourage friends, family and colleagues to complete, a survey on the need and demand for housing in Tayside and Fife (HNDA). The survey can be found [here](#).

SURF are holding a Scottish Election Question Time event on the 15th April. More information and the Zoom registration link can be found [here](#).

External Funding is available from a number of places. Below are some useful links that may help local organisations to support their activities;

- SCVO’s [Funding Scotland](#) page can be used to search for funding
- Big Lottery – funding from £10k to £200k. For more information click [here](#)
- Robertson Trust – focusing on improving the lives of people and communities experiencing poverty, details of funding opportunities can be found [here](#)
- Corra Foundation – Administer a number of grant schemes, including the [Enabling Neighbourhoods & Communities Fund](#). Information on other grant funds can be found [here](#)
- People’s Postcode Lottery – for grants of up to £20k look [here](#)
- Esme Fairbairn – funding for larger organisations (turnover £100k+). Visit their [apply for funding](#) page
- Four funding schemes from the Scottish Government to keep an eye on in relation to helping those with drug issues and their families - [news article](#)

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 22nd April 2021. Details to be confirmed, but probably online via Skype

Attachments

- Coldsides Presentation