

DUNDEE

PARTNERSHIP

Building Stronger Communities held on Thursday, 17th June 2021 Skype Video Call

Present:	Alice Bovill	-	Strathmartine Forum
	Alison Anderson	-	Neighbourhood Services - Environment
	David MacDougall	-	Maryfield Forum
	Gary Knox	-	City Development
	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

In Attendance:

	John Berry	-	City Development
	Mike Welsh	-	Neighbourhood Services – Communities
	Nadine Law	-	City Development

Apologies:

	Elaine Zwirlein	-	Neighbourhood Services
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Action

1. Apologies & Introductions

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

2. Minute of Thursday 20th May 2021

Agreed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

- Information on the Fairness Commission report was sent out to Communities Officers and Commission members are arranging to attend the July BSC
- Paul to contact Arlene Mitchell for additional information on the Mental Health Strategy **PAD**
- Generation Rent: At present there is no date for additional information coming out. John W to keep tabs on this and bring any information to the July meeting **JW**
- David informed the group that Hillcrest are selling a lot of their holdings in Maryfield to a private rented company. He hopes that it won't be a step backward, as Hillcrest have been very cooperative with local resident groups

4. Priority Updates

4.1 Lochee LCPP / Local Community Plan

Mike talked to the presentation circulated prior to the meeting (copy also attached with this minute). The main points covered included;

- Food provision has been highly successful at Menzieshill and Charleston Community centres and has helped build strong relationships with people
- Other groups have also continued meeting and providing support, and community gardens have been continuing too
- Local artworks have been put in place that have brightened up the area. This includes work done with St. Marys and Ancrum Primary Schools in the underpass between the schools with themes of Dundee's 800 years and going to the berries. Street Art groups are going to do more work in the area later in the year
- Lots of people have been participating in activities

- Achievements include;
 - Work on environmental improvements, with play parks upgraded throughout the ward
 - Within the Local Community Plan, 49% of outputs have been achieved, and a further 43% are either on hold due to covid or in progress
- Engage Dundee and local consultation on what people would like to see in communities have highlighted that people want weight management courses that are affordable and local. Both LMGs are looking into healthy lifestyle courses / groups for a small cost
- Other activities sought include;
 - Low cost exercise and social family activities
 - Learning groups especially for children & young people
 - All of the above will impact positively on mental wellbeing
- People want to see further development of Lochee High Street. It has been 10-12 years since the area regeneration was finished, so a refresh is being looked for
- Heritage is a big thing in the area. People have started a heritage group online recently and are coming up with lots of ideas. A Heritage Trail is in development with John Gray from Planning. Future trails may be more children focussed
- A number of people have passed away during covid, and Recovery journeys have been made harder for many local residents. It is hoped that additional funding for the Ward will improve people's situation
- Future priorities include;
 - Representative / tenants groups getting started up again
 - Local Community Plan development
 - LMGs are keen to get activities going in Community Centres based on feedback from communities, and helped by availability of Scottish Government funding

Discussion followed that included;

- The area is looking good, with appropriate / relevant images in place
 - Mike added that there are also seven individual pieces of art in 'windows' too. These have just been installed after people voted on the works they preferred through the Lochee IYN page
- Mike has also been speaking with Gary Knox on the Streetscape Initiative. Love Lochee have been out painting planters and others have planted in them. Traders are also being approached to get a group going to help improve the area too, though some are proving harder to engage than others
- The Lochee High street area needs clearer markings for pedestrian / vehicular areas. Where there is no kerb, cars may park there but unclear if this should be the case. Gary to take this to colleagues

GK

4.2 Strategic Housing

John Wolstencroft talked to the update circulated prior to the meeting (copy also attached with this minute). The main points included;

- Affordable Housing programme had a disappointing outturn in 2020-21 as only 27 homes were completed due to covid restrictions, and knock-on on supply chain issues. Costs for developments have also increased, and there have been some surface water drainage issues on brownfield sites. 75% of the available grant was still spent however. This year there is £20m available, and several sites are in progress at the moment with an anticipating outturn of over 300 homes.
- Housing Need & Demand Assessment. This is required every five years to calculate how much land is needed for building housing for all tenures, and is being done at a regional level. It includes an estimate of need for wheelchair housing provision and is carried out through a mix of desk analysis and household surveys
 - Surveys were completed in 2020 with a selected sample plus open responses around people's housing needs in future. Further consultation with stakeholders will take place later in the summer, with those in the building market rather than communities
 - Information in the Assessment will inform the Local Housing Plan, etc.

- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) was also responded to at the start of June

Discussion followed that included;

- Peter, John W & Gary to discuss further and also look at collating reporting cycles between areas of work
- Query raised: If a site is long term delayed, where do cost implications lay, with DCC or the contractor?
 - John W responded that for covid delays there is a Scottish Government compensation scheme to cover most of this. Contractor insurance will also cover some costs. Overall, there are no major extra costs though other than delay in revenue from the sites and meeting housing need

**PA/
JW/GK**

4.3 Travel Networks

John Berry introduced Nadine to the group as a recent addition to his team, who may deputise at this meeting in future. Their area of work does get a lot of interest from communities and councillors and an extra team member will help with responsiveness.

John updated the group on recent developments, which included;

- This is a difficult time for the bus industry; Scottish Government money has been helping prop up services and Xplore Dundee have been making changes on an ongoing basis. They, alongside Stagecoach and Moffat & Wilson are providing a reasonable service at present. Information has been going out on whether particular buses are busy buses or not, to help people decide when to travel
- DCC support services to complement the commercial network. The contract for this was recently awarded and agreed at committee to start in mid-August. These routes don't overlap with existing routes but aim to fill in gaps
- Big change is taking place soon, with bus travel becoming free for all aged under 22, across Scotland from the start of 2022. This will be positive for the bus industry as young people may become regular bus users going forward
- Dundee Transport Forum: John has been awaiting Nadine's start to organise an online meeting of this, which is being scheduled for late summer. John has also been speaking with Nicola Mitchell (DVVA) about this too
- Fintry PS: A new School Streets initiative is coming in during September. A further member of the team will be leading on this (due to start soon). There has been some dialogue with Fintry Community Council and John will attend a meeting with them soon too. Councillors are keen on pushing this forward to avoid chaos at school gates and improve safety. If successful, a roll-out to other schools will take place at several other schools
- Active Travel: There has been lots of money from the Scottish Government to support cycling and walking
 - Initiatives including free bikes for children need to be implemented
 - We are aiming to make cycling more attractive in Dundee
 - Dundee Cycle Hub will be opening up at Waterfront soon. The tenants took possession of the keys yesterday. There will be a soft launch in late July plus a formal launch event in September

Discussion followed which included the following;

- Query raised as to whether bus passes or 20p fares are being provided for children in summer holidays? John B indicated that this had been put on hold due to free travel initiative, but that has been delayed and he felt that it is now too late to implement due to practical challenges and funding being required. John offered to look into this nonetheless, including whether this would be possible to set up for the October holidays
 - Peter and John B to discuss further and agree an approach to take with the Convener and senior officers on this
 - Post meeting, John B put the question to Xplore Dundee. Their Managing Director confirmed that with physical distancing restrictions in place, they could not participate in the scheme this year
- Ron will make sure that John is sent the date for the Fintry Community Council meeting

PA/JB

RN

- Query raised: Residents parking schemes consultations – where are we with these now?
 - John B indicated that he has clear instructions to recommence face to face meetings in Stobswell and Coldside when restrictions permit. He will need to get a formal response from the various Community Councils and other local representative groups on what they would like to see
 - He has met with the West End Community Council to get their views and was able to share information from March 2020 that had been gathered on a residents parking scheme
 - These events haven't yet taken place in Stobswell or Coldside but will do so. A Committee report is due in December 2021 on what the communities have said and to make recommendations
 - A request was made for the information from the West End be shared with other forums / groups, as this could give those groups opportunity to add prompts for local meetings. John B agreed to do this
 - Comment made that while it is difficult for Community Councils / Neighbourhood Representative Structures to represent their whole community, it is part of their role to do so and so we should treat their feedback as being on behalf of communities
 - We also need to make sure that Engage Dundee feedback links in with this topic
- Query regarding the status of the Blether Bus and other similar services
 - John B indicated that DCC are awaiting Public Health advice as it is hard to socially distance on board these services
 - Regular users have asked when they will be coming back but there is no date set at present. The Blether Bus is more likely to come back earlier; Shopping buses later as usually are very full. The Out & About Service was usually quite full, so it is harder to bring back under restrictions
 - The buses and drivers have been supporting school transport recently.

JB

4.4 Environment – Green & Open Spaces

Alison gave an update to the group (see also attached additional information). The main points of the update included;

- Grounds maintenance is still being impacted by covid through need for staff to self-isolate and to socially distance, and so is behind schedule. The service aim to be back on track in two-three weeks' time
- Environmental Improvements include a number of gate replacements at playparks. Additional park improvements have also been identified via green flag assessments in several places. Water stations at cemeteries are also to be replaced
- Regular meetings are taking place regularly with Communities Officers regarding capital works being based on need, and are looking at improvements that are also low maintenance
- At Broughty Ferry beach, RNLI lifeguards will be present from this week until September
- Camperdown Growing Hub now has a steering group established. Architects are at the design stage and aiming for a low carbon design
- Green Health Partnership had a successful Green Health Week in May, with 50 activities on offer. They are also involved in the 'Dundee Is Cycling' campaign
- A grasslands consultation took place in late 2020. The results are now on website [here](#). There were 550 responses, with 80% being very supportive of biodiversity grasslands in the 27 sites identified
- April saw a report go to the Policy & Resources Committee on additional Scottish Government funding. A two year Community Environment Officer post is being established to engage with people in their green spaces and look at how they play a part in resilience. There is also £250k towards climate change actions which may be allocated via participatory budgeting

Discussion followed that included;

- Concerns were raised over the state of a large amount of plant stock at the proposed Growing Hub site. Alison is to update Rod Houston and Jay Grant on

AA

this in order for the issue to be dealt with. The plants will be made use of in the coming months, leaving the site clear for the Growing Hub

5. Forum Representatives – Issues & Information Sharing

Alice informed the group that two people on the Forum are also interested in receiving the agenda and minutes directly. Paul to arrange with Alice.

**PAD /
AB**

David expressed the Maryfield Forum's concern that a number of organisations with premises in the Stobswell / Maryfield application are coming to the Maryfield Forum rather than areas that their client group come from e.g. one group has 35/150 members living in the area. The Forum are trying to give a better opportunity to people living in the area despite the reduction in funding to the area.

- The group consensus was that saying no to these groups is okay. If they do want to seek DPCRF monies, then it could be applied for from the Ward the majority of their members / clients comes from

6. Community Empowerment

Nicky provided an update on several items, including;

- Generation Rent – this consultation was still live at the time of meeting (but closed on the 18th June (see [here](#) for information))
- [Engage Dundee](#) is live. Nicky will also share a printable pdf for anyone wanting hard copy (attached). Hard copies can also be requested at community centres and libraries. The purpose is to gather information on what people in Dundee want within five key topics. It will run until early July before being aggregated. This will enable August LCPP meetings to start work on parts of their Local Community Plans in advance of their November meetings. All should encourage people to fill them in. We are also targeting people via DVVA, including older people and people with lived experience, and working with sheltered housing wardens too
- Community Centre update; A summary document was prepared for level 1 restrictions, but we've gone into level 2 in the meantime. Nicky will re-work and send out on a level 2 basis (see attached). He encouraged people to think about whether events / groups should take place even if they are allowed to
- Fairness Action Plan: Communities Officers are working on what they're doing locally with the £60k covid recovery funding. There is a clear steer that it should be on activities to support people who are isolated during covid and might have difficulty getting involved again in community life
- An NHS Together application has been submitted, seeking £2k per community centre
- ADP funds: A sub group of each LCPP will administer this. £10k per Ward is available for help with recovery. This can include community café's as well as more direct support, and will involve people with lived experience in the process
- Carole Jenkins is moving on from DCC, and her post has now been advertised

All

NM

Discussion followed that included;

- Group members expressed their thanks to Carole for the work she has done over the years, and the enthusiastic, helpful manner of her support
- Query raised as to what support is being given to Forums that don't currently send representatives to this group in order for them to be represented in the future
 - In the East End, the group were approached but no-one was interested in attending. Some work to be done by Nicky and Christine Miller on promoting what the group actually does to the Forum to generate interest
 - In Lochee those who are interested all work during the day. There are a few new members in Lochee that may attend but they are not yet confident enough to do so
 - Suggestion made that the current Community Representatives send Nicky a few points on what they see as the benefits of being in the group
 - The Chairs Group, if it does come together again may be another route in for representatives

**NM /
CM**

**Com.
Reps**

- Joyce asked whether the electronic nature of the meetings is putting people off? If so, LEAD Scotland are launching lots more digital training and can also lend equipment
- The North East Communities Officer post will hopefully be filled by mid-August as the closing date for applications is the 25th June. During the interim, other Communities Officers will be asked to provide cover as needed
- Joyce provided contacts for Nicky to use to promote involving those with disabilities in Engage Dundee;
 - The Learning Disability Providers Forum, robin.paris@arc.org.uk
 - Advocating Together, for direct links with people with learning disability, via office@advocating-together.org.uk

NM

7. Dundee Partnership Community Regeneration Fund

7.1 Grant Applications

All grant applications were agreed.

7.2 Late Reports

At the time of this meeting a small number of reports were overdue, but these have been received in the period leading up to the preparation of this minute. As a result, there are currently no outstanding reports on 2020-21 awards.

7.3 DPCRf Review

Paul is to arrange a meeting with Forum representatives to discuss a number of items relating to the DPCRf, including scoring of applications, encouraging applications to other funders, etc.

PAD

8. AOCB

None raised.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 22nd July 2021. Online via Skype

Attachments

Lochee LCPP presentation

Housing Update

Environment Update

Community Centres Guidance

Engage Dundee – file for printing hard copies