

DUNDEE

PARTNERSHIP

Building Stronger Communities held on Thursday, 23rd September 2021 Skype Video Call

Present:	David MacDougall	-	Maryfield Forum
	Elaine Zwirlein	-	Neighbourhood Services (chair)
	John Wolstencroft	-	Neighbourhood Services - Housing
	Lali Tudela	-	Dundee Volunteer & Voluntary Action
	Murray Webster	-	Coldside Forum
	Nicky Maccrimmon	-	Neighbourhood Services - Communities
	Paul Davies	-	Dundee Partnership Team
	Peter Allan	-	Chief Executive's
	Robert Cook	-	East End Forum
	Ron Neave	-	North East Forum

In Attendance:

Jay Grant	-	Neighbourhood Services – Environment
Natalie Mackland	-	Neighbourhood Services – Communities

Apologies:

Alice Bovill	-	Strathmartine Forum
Alison Anderson	-	Neighbourhood Services - Environment
Gary Knox	-	City Development
Joyce Barclay	-	Health & Social Care Partnership

Action

1. Apologies & Introductions

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions was made. Apologies received are noted above. New to the group were Robert Cook, Jay Grant, and Lali Tudela. Elaine joined the meeting as Chair for the agenda items that followed.

2. Minute of Thursday 19th August 2021

Agreed as accurate with a change to the date of meeting.

3. Matters Arising

- Nicky informed the group that agreement has been reached for the NHS Innovation Funds available in Strathmartine to be allocated to St. Mary's Community Facility alongside the two DCC community centres in the ward
- Representation from DVVA has been arranged, with Lali attending her first meeting of the group today

4. Priority Update

4.1. West End- LCPP Update

Natalie talked to her presentation (attached), the main points of which included;

The team has been very involved in the covid response, including identifying vulnerable local families, coordinating the food response, and working closely with DVVA to get physical copies of information out to thousands of households.

The LCPP had a short hiatus due to the pandemic, but has been meeting online since August 2020.

- A new Chair, Paul Thomson, has recently taken over following the retirement of Sandy Flight

- The group are keen to carry out engagement around the development of a new Local Community Plan, including wanting to host a community event as soon as is feasible and safe

Community Capacity Building and Engagement has included;

- Consultation just prior to covid on a resident parking scheme
- The Community Council has been meeting online. While there have been several resignations, there have also been new members recruited with an overall younger profile than previously seen. The online format seems to work well for the younger age group
- Local 'Friends Of' and environmental groups have remained active

Locally available funding includes;

- A welcome increase of the DPCRF allocation to £20k
- The District Shopping Centres Fund, for which an allocation process is to be confirmed
- Covid Recovery Fund. £6k is available to help support individuals, and this has now all been allocated
- ADP Locality Funding. £10k is available and the Health & Wellbeing sub-group is anticipating this will be allocated soon

Post-Covid, expected developments include;

- Development of a new Local Community Plan
- Focussed engagement in the more deprived areas of the ward
- Support for a range of consultations
- Community Asset Transfer – progressing interest in the Mitchell Street Centre
- A new CLD Community Worker joins the team in October, working half time in each of the Ferry and West End Wards

Discussion followed, the main points of which were;

Progress is needed in relation to both resident parking & district shopping centres.

- Some disappointment was expressed at City Development not carrying out consultation during the pandemic, but a meeting is scheduled for this evening with John Berry on the parking situation
- The District Shopping Centre Fund has been carried forward for three years to date. There are concerns that it may not get used, and not carried forward any further. It needs some innovative thinking with partners (e.g. communities, universities, traders, etc.) to get resources in place to carry out engagement and make use of it
- Scotland Loves Local Fund. City Development appear to want to take a lead on this, but have an apparent lack of resource / capacity for engagement
 - Natalie stated that in the West End, City Development did take the lead on this
- District Shopping Centres – Natalie has been involved in putting ideas forward
- Parking – The 2020 events were the most engaged with that Natalie has seen. People are very interested and so got involved. The events were led by John Berry, using materials supplied by Natalie
 - It is worth sharing the materials for other groups to use (Paul to pass this on to Gary Knox so City Development colleagues make use of the resources)
- At present it seems there is no joining up of thoughts e.g. park and ride is being looked at separately; one-way streets freeing up parking spaces – also someone else's remit. Joint consideration of these alongside resident's parking would make more sense
- Lali asked whether a document looking at what covid recovery funding is available where is available as there are groups out there that could benefit. Nicky offered to share this with Lali. The funding is across all wards, and at present only fully spent in West End & Lochee wards.

PAD

NM

4.2. Green & Open Spaces

Jay provided an update to the group, the main points of which included;

- A new Community Environmental Officer is due to start in October

- Biodiversity areas. It has been a difficult year, but consultations and site meetings were held with local groups. The team is looking at plans going ahead for 27 sites; some sight lines are being kept open for aesthetic purposes. This is a work in progress as both positive and negative comments are being received
- We have been successful in getting £109k from the Nature Restoration Fund. This will be used for signage (with QR codes for more info) and cultivation, improving the biodiversity sites
- During covid have been working on a litter bin and dog bin audit and review. As an example of potential changes, litter bins around ex-schools are probably no longer needed, but are still there and so need to be emptied periodically. The audit is about 60% done and should be completed over winter
- Operations this year have been disrupted by being at around 70% staffing. There have been some machinery repair issues too, but despite these issues staff have been busy. The team wants to continue working with community groups (including 'Friends Of' groups).
- The staffing situation is improving and some positions vacated by retirement can now be filled too
- Team members are happy to carry out local walkabouts where requested, to identify local issues

Discussion followed which included;

- The wildflower meadows are an exciting development, and the Eden project is keen to be involved too
- Coldsides residents met recently on this topic. None of the complaints heard were about the staff, who are acknowledged as working hard under difficult circumstances. Instead, concerns are about covid being used as an excuse by senior management for cuts over a lengthy period of time, which has made the job harder (This was not limited to work in green & open spaces, but across departments). Community members are keen to help by working with staff in partnership. To achieve this, communication needs to be improved
 - Jay commented that we are seeing a 'generation change' within the department and this could help make changes in how work with communities goes forward. We need to take into account views of local residents to get the best results. There is a lot of training going on at present, and we do need to prioritise some areas that need improvement
- Elaine agreed that Local Authorities have been financially challenged for some time, but we do need to commit to new ways of working as well as sourcing funds from elsewhere too
- Other community representatives echoed the feelings from Coldsides. The enthusiasm to move forward is clear
- It is clear that it will take time to develop the wild meadow areas, and it would be of benefit if there were an array of interpretation boards to explain why areas 'look scruffy' and then to explain what species are expected to be seen in future. Long term it will be helpful to keep residents informed on what is going on in their environment
 - Jay confirmed that part of £109k will be for signage and is being worked on at the moment. Scruffy areas exist because this year was about seeing what grows in these areas. Some plants do need to be controlled to some extent due to their over prevalence, but resources to do this have been limited. Operational changes should help with this in future

5. Forum Representatives – Issues & Information Sharing

The Chairs Meeting was discussed at the East End Forum meeting. The Forum Chair expressed a preference for face to face meetings to get this restarted.

- Murray asked when will we get a final decision on this? At the last meeting we had some discussion of a review of process
 - *PAD Note: the review of DPCRF processes and Chairs Group meetings are two linked, but separate items. Previous reviews have been carried out via a small group of community representatives and officers over 2-3 meetings*
- Nicky reminded the group that the Community Empowerment Team will support the Chairs Group if it goes ahead

- Discussions at forums generally give the impression that members are unsure of the specific role of the Chairs Group. It was suggested that a short term working group meets to develop what this should be
- We also need to look forward to elections in early 2022
- Murray asked about the previously agreed remit and restated that we need to get a decision on going ahead or not
- Elaine – agreed that a working group is the way to progress (Nicky to take forward via Forum Chairs). Currently, it is difficult to agree to face to face meetings as the message is still to work from home where possible. This will be reviewed in October and will depend on infection rates

NM

6. Community Empowerment

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

- 4th October – Allan Gunn is joining the as Communities Officer for North East Ward. Sarah Barham is also starting, as the new community worker for West End / The Ferry
- Paul Clancy is stepping down as head of Children & Families at the end of 2021. A new Maryfield LCPP chair will be found for February 2022
- Local Community Plans are now to be published post-elections in May 2022 once new Elected Members are in place
 - Community Collectives will be held during Nov-Dec. Details will be shared ASAP. They will bring communities and services together, look at information from various services, explore priorities and develop priority actions for the next few years
 - The Information & Research Team are doing good work on distilling information into visual representations of the numbers. The outputs from this will be available soon
- Three Community Asset Transfer requests are currently in. Two of these are for the Mitchell Street Centre; from Yusuf Youth Initiative and Alexanders Community Development. The other is from Fairfield Community Sports Hub for the Fairfield Sports & Social Club. Community members and others can send in their observations before close tomorrow. (see [here](#) for details). Observations received are sent on (anonymised) to the applicant for a response. Applications are then scored. A Nov-Dec decision is anticipated for the three above

Following the update the following points were raised;

Murray expressed his thanks to the CET for the work they are putting in on dealing with local issues and supporting & engaging with communities. Going forward we need to ensure they are getting the support they need to carry on doing this

- Elaine stated that it has been a challenge, and it is good to acknowledge the efforts of staff. We really have seen 'Team Dundee' working well together – communities, third sector and public sector

7. Dundee Partnership Community Regeneration Fund

7.1 Grant Applications

All grant applications were agreed.

7.2 Late Reports

There continue to be no late reports this month. Paul put this down to work done in chasing them up by DPT colleagues and local Community Workers.

8. AOCB

Ron informed the group that this would be his last meeting as he is stepping down from the Forum and some other community work, having reached a milestone birthday. He said that it has been great working with everyone over the years.

- Elaine expressed the thanks of the group for his huge contribution to the work in Fintry and across the city over the years. Others have been helped by his leadership
- Murray added that he has felt that Ron has been a good, dedicated voice for his community and hopefully we can have a face to face congratulations in the near future

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 21st October, 10am – Venue: probably via Skype (tbc).

Attachments

- West End – LCPP Update