

Open Meeting of Stobswell Forum 06/03/2018

A number of local residents joined the Stobswell Forum Committee for updates on 3 important topical issues:

Open Close Stobswell - Russell Pepper introduced the Dundee Partnership funded **Open Close** initiative, whereby less inspiring doors, boards, spaces, etc in Stobswell will undergo a complete transformation, decorated by street art. Since the turn of the year, there were 137 submissions from artists throughout Scotland which were judged by members of the local community and whittled down to 20 final designs. Due to the recent adverse weather, the painting of these spaces will commence in the next couple of weeks, being completed for the beginning of Stobfest on 4th May.

Maps will be produced and sold both locally and in the City Centre detailing the Open Close Art Trail giving both locals and tourists the opportunity to be amazed and delighted at the transformation.

A documentary of the whole process - start to finish -is currently being produced and will be shown in the DCA during May.

17 doors/spaces have been selected to date and we are still looking out for another 3. If you or anyone you know would be interested in transforming a dull space into something exciting please get in touch at info@stobswell.org.uk.

Maryfield Decides - Stuart Fairweather, Communities Officer explained that as Participatory Budgeting commences, Dundee City Council has allocated £1.2 million to improve community infrastructures. This is **your** chance to have **your** say. We in the Maryfield Ward have £150,000 to allocate between 6 projects. This is open until 23/03/2018 to anyone aged 11 and over online through www.dundeedecides.org or by contacting Stuart or Val Kane, Community Regeneration & Participation Worker on 01382 438858.

Please take this opportunity to have your say in improvements to our local community.

RBS Closure - An update on the actions taken by Stobswell Forum. We had a discussion with the local Manager in early January who advised RBS were unwilling to change their decision on Albert Street Branch. As RBS own the building, they would leave 1 ATM in situ, however, if they sell the building, this could change depending on the buyer.

Stobswell Forum are also having ongoing conversations the the Post Office owner, Hussain Ahmed and a list of the services the Post Office will offer will be circulated soon.

Vince Mitchell, from Discovery Credit Union, attended our Open Meeting. He explained that Discovery Credit Union provide a conduit for Savings and small Loans. They currently have a presence in the local Parish Church on Albert Street on Tuesdays between 11.30 - 12.30 and are looking to increase their presence in the first instance. They are also investigating other options for the future. Vince and his team are based in the Central Library near to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Community Policing - Our new Community Sergeant, Lesley Winter introduced her new team of community police officers to the audience. I'm sure we'll all agree that more police presence on the streets is a welcome improvement.