

STOBSWELL FORUM OPEN MEETING

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 11th AUGUST 2015

1. ATTENDANCE

Duncan McCabe (Chair)	James Currie (Minutes)	David MacDougall
Robbie Fotheringham (Minutes)		
Connor Beaton	Betty Wood	Phyllis Devlin
Arlane Morris	Janet Brown	Claire Dufour
Asifa Malich	Philip Nicol	Janet Crank

Beverley Knight – Healthy Living Initiative
Shoab Khan – Dundee Admadiyya Community
William McLaren – Stobswell Church
Hayley Tunstall – Maryfield Regeneration Team
Alistair Cairns – Housing Dept
Jim Wilson – Environment Dept
Pamela Culloch – Housing Dept (Private Sector Investment Unit)
Donald Graham – Housing Dept (Private Sector Investment Unit)
Councillor Georgia Cruickshank
Councillor Ken Lynn
Councillor Craig Melville
Stuart Fairweather – Maryfield Regeneration Team

1.1 APOLOGIES

Sarah Barham	Chris Airlie	Susan A'Brook
Robert Calvert		

2. WELCOME

Duncan welcomed all to the meeting explaining that this was the first since the Special Meeting in May that had elected a new Committee. Dundee City Council staff from the Housing and Environment Departments were welcomed.

Following discussion at the May meeting and at the Forum stall at Baxter Park, where views were sought, it had been agreed to hold a meeting on Housing and the Environment but any other issues could be raised towards the end of the meetings.

There will be four Open Meetings of the Forum per year, and that the role of the Forum is to allow residents to come together and to bring their views, concerns, etc to the attention of the Council and other public bodies in order to promote social welfare. He outlined some of the concerns that people have, namely –

- Parking
- Youth issues in the area
- Legal High shops
- Pavement disrepair
- Transport around Albert Street
- Bins left on pavement

3. HOUSING

With regard to Housing, concerns have been raised about:

- Security entry systems, especially in flats owned by multiple landlords
- Private landlords not taking advantage of the free “cladding insulation scheme”.

Pamela Culloch and Donald Graham from the Housing Sector spoke about their experience of working in the area. They pointed out that advice is available when security issues were identified and that a £250 grant is available to each owner to install security systems. This has to be the responsibility of the owner, and not the tenant. People were advised to check the Council's

website. The public can access the names and addresses of landlords under “Landlord’s Scotland”.

It was noted that the private sector landlords own 40% of the property in Maryfield. Information leaflets will be prepared for circulation and will focus on “Keeping Closes Safe”.

House Cladding and Insulation Scheme – this is being undertaken by the Council and SSE. Letters are sent to private landlords but there has to be 100% agreement of all the owners of the block of flats. It was queried as to whether the Forum should push for legislation to make it compulsory, and it was suggested that this could perhaps be investigated through the MSPs.

- Query about tumble dryer disturbance and damp (Councillor Melville to speak to the lady who raised this matter).
- One gentleman raised the question about the Council’s arrangements regarding Housing Benefit payments once Universal Credit is rolled out in Dundee. It was suggested that contact should be made with the Council’s Connect Team or to seek clarification through the Stobswell Advice Café staff (Advice Café held on Tuesdays 11am – 1pm in Stobswell Church Hall)

4. ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

These included

- Bins overflowing on pavements
- Dog fouling
- Decline in state of Swannie Ponds
- Resurfacing incomplete eg at Lilybank Terrace where path has been left muddy and waterlogged. Alistair Cairns agreed to find out more about what was happening and to feedback to Stuart.
- Also highlighted were drainage problems at Baffin Street where an ongoing issue exists with drains being blocked. This will be identified and raised at the Maryfield Community Planning Partnership. (Clarity on responsibility – Environment Dept/Tayside Contracts – to be sought).
- A gaping hole at the corner of Albert Street/Arbroath Road. A temporary repair appears to have been attempted. A link to the recent road collapse was suggested. David MacDougall agreed to follow this up at the August 25th Maryfield Community Planning Partnership meeting. The general state of Albert Street was remarked upon.

Issues like the above can be added to a list and addressed as part of an environmental walkabout.

With regard to dog fouling, Councillor Melville stated that there will be a launch of the “Take Pride in Your City” campaign and one of the topics will be a crackdown on dog fouling and raising awareness among residents. Some members raised concern that dog wardens never seemed to be visible in the area. It was suggested that the Regeneration Fund could focus on dog fouling issues, and that community groups, schools and the Forum could be involved in the dissemination of leaflets.

Recycling: Councillor Melville explained that a city wide rolling programme will be introduced in six phases over two years and that it is not a “one size fits all” approach. It is not a reduction in provision but rather to achieve recycling targets.

Jim Wilson of Environment Dept spoke about the planned move to fortnightly bin collections across the city. Specific attention will be paid to areas like Stobswell (tenemental properties). It was hoped this would address the issue of bins on streets.

Councillor Melville voiced his interest in seeing progress on all the above matters.

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Duncan asked the attendees to give consideration to nominations for membership to the Forum’s Committee. Anyone interested in being a committee member was invited to discuss the matter with an existing committee members and to attend the next organising meeting.

6. AOCB

- It was noted that the Boomerang Club will be transferring to the former Social Work building at Kemback Street which has been purchased through asset transfer into community hands.
- It was suggested that a dialogue should be started between the Boomerang Club and the Forum, with an invitation to them to attend the next Open Meeting.

- **Legal Highs Campaign**

It was agreed that the Forum should support this campaign which is being led by Councillor Georgia Cruickshank and that it should be included on the agenda for the next meeting. It was noted that this is not a political campaign.

- **Traffic/Parking**

There are issues to do with traffic across the area. It is hoped that the Transport Section of the City Development Department's review will address some of this. David MacDougall offered to follow this up on behalf of the Forum.

A specific issue was raised about parking in Brown Constable Street and the Councillors offered to address this matter.

- **Glebelands Nursery**

Concern was raised about the entrance to the new nursery leading out onto the Arbroath Road. Details were not known and it was agreed to follow up the details.

- **Haparanda Bench**

The bench has been moved as part of the above process. Jim Wilson agreed to ensure that it was in a place of safe keeping.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Open Meeting will be on Tuesday 17th November 2015 at 7pm in Arthurstone Community Library.

The next Forum organising meeting is on Tuesday 15th September.
