# A VIEW FROM THE PUPILS AT MORGAN ACADEMY

**Article written by Imaan Hussain and Haajirah Arshad**

Stobswell was once an area filled with derelict properties and poor maintenance but all of that is changing, it's not perfect but the community and council are working hard to make things better.

New playparks are being introduced to keep children occupied and make the area more pleasant, and new "pocket places" have been popping up, but, with the waterfront and city centre the city's focus, we need to work even harder to bring improvements to our community.

One of the areas that needs sorting in our community are the roads.

If you look at the situation in Stobswell, you may think that those looking after our roads may have a different mindset having missed some serious disrepair, walking around the area there are some clear signs of poor maintenance.

We talked to members of the local community.

A 4th year pupil from Morgan Academy, when asked for their views said, "It is an issue that needs to be looked at. Not just making the roads better and fixing the potholes for cars, but the pavements need to be wider. It can become too crowded, especially at lunchtime. I would want the council to make them wider so we feel safer and also clear up obstacles to let people pass each other safely."

Whilst a driver who drives through Stobswell every day due to work, shopping and visiting the city centre said, "For an arterial route that is so important to the city with high traffic, I think the roads need to be made safer. Not only are they crowded but this is one of the worst areas for potholes and high danger of collision due to pedestrians. It is something that the council should focus more effort on."

I think this makes it clear why it is essential to give the roads of Stobswell some love. So the community and road users can be proud of it and make it safe for everyone to use.



## THE STOBSWELL FORUM ARE...

Colin Clement, Robbie Fotheringham, David MacDougall, Lorraine Clement, Nichola Fraser, Ali Floyd, Helen King, James Barrowman, Becky Young, Harry Main

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# STOBSWELL VOICE

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Summer 2021

# STOBSWELL POCKET PLACES



Sustrans Scotland are pleased to bring our Pocket Places Programme to Stobswell, in partnership with Dundee City Council, and with the help of Stobswell Forum.

Stobswell Pocket Places is a project that aims to make Stobswell's Shopping District a more attractive and welcoming place to spend time through small but impactful changes. The project area covers the south entrance to the shopping district, the west end of Craigie Street, shop shutters on Albert Street and some minor road crossings off of Albert Street.

Another objective is to develop a creative wayfinding system with signage that reflects local heritage and guides people to landmarks within walking and cycling distance of Craigie Street cul-de-sac.

The project team worked with Stobswell Forum to deliver an online event as part of Stobfest in May this year. At our Heritage and Hidden Gems event, Matthew Jarron, Museum Curator at the University of Dundee, explored Stobswell's rich history, as well as the variety of landmarks and places of historical interest across this special part of Dundee. Folk who joined us also shared local stories behind some of the area's most notable landmarks.

Stobswell Pocket Places follows on from temporary improvements, including the Craigie Street pocket park, delivered by UNESCO City of Design Dundee and Dundee City Council in consultation with Stobswell Forum.

We combed through all your comments from the Forum's Craigie Street Pocket Park consultation, the information gathered by UNESCO City of Design Dundee and what people told us at the Heritage and Hidden Gems event. We also visited the area to have a look around. With all this in mind, we began pulling together some initial ideas for the project area.

On 1st July, we took to the streets to share these ideas with the community, and gather your ideas too. Masks on and sanitiser at the ready, we welcomed people to the west end of Craigie Street to tell us what they'd like to see in Stobswell. We looked at ideas for art on shop shutters, motifs for signage and colourful features at the south entrance to the shopping district to welcome people in.

We also approached local groups and organisations to join an online workshop where we discussed these initial ideas. People told us they wanted creative lighting, lots of colour and something to draw the eye upwards.

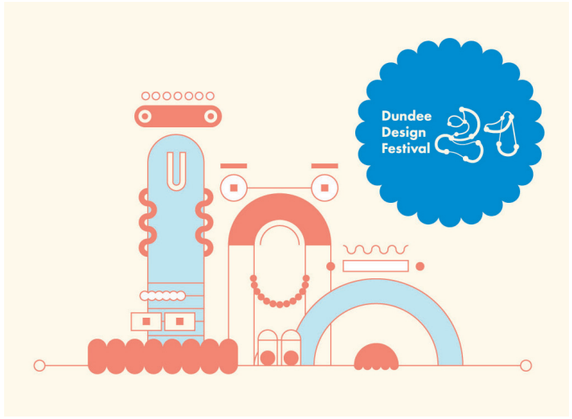
Several people said traffic on Albert Street impacted how they used the space. Although this is outwith the scope of the Stobswell Pocket Places project, we will pass all feedback on to Dundee City Council who are our delivery partner in the project.

We still have lots more feedback to go through but we hope to be back in Stobswell soon to present more refined design options based on all of the input we receive from the community.

Finally, later this year we'll also be looking to find out what you like about the pocket park in Craigie Street and which elements you think could be improved so that we can find a more permanent solution for this space that suits the needs of residents, businesses and the wider community.

Keep an eye out on our website (stobswellpocketplaces.com) for updates, or better yet, sign up to our mailing list to hear about events and other ways to get involved: www.arcg.is/1qSDWf

# DUNDEE DESIGN FESTIVAL 2021 AND THE STOBSWELL DESIGN HOUSE




Dundee Design Festival is coming to Stobie from September 23rd-3rd October with free activities at four locations around Dundee and online.

Previously the Design Festival has been held in the city centre, but this year it will be rooted in the heart of our community with an outlet on Albert St, other locations will be at Hilltown Park, Finlathen Park and the waterfront plaza surrounding V&A Dundee. These "Design Houses" will be fun and accessible with hands-on design activities for all ages surrounding this year's theme of Every Where Design.

Every Where Design will celebrate products that were designed and produced in our city from the jute textiles, the early computers created by Timex, Games Designers, The Beano and Dandy all the way through to the Waterfront Development and Stobie's Design House will be themed on Health and Wellbeing and explore the hidden and unusual design that exists all around us

To find out more about the festival including opening hours, please visit: www.dundeedesignfestival.com

If you would like to get involved and help out by volunteering at the festival, please visit: www.cityofdesigndundee.com or contact kirsten.wallace@vandadundee.org

Full training will be provided, and you don't have to have a background in design to become a volunteer! A passion for our city, a keen interest in cultural activity and a friendly first impression for welcoming visitors is what the team are looking to see and would appreciate any time that you can offer!

# DISCOVERY ALL STARS

Discovery All Stars seeks to provide young people in the City of Dundee with free opportunities to try new skills, participate in a range of sports and arts activities with others and enjoy outdoor, active learning experiences.

Bringing together three leading youth activity organisations in the city as Discovery All Stars; Dundee Football Club In The Community Trust, Dundee Youth Music Theatre and Kanzen Karate, this exciting partnership combines the talents of these organisations in providing motivating and dynamic participation activities for young people.

After a very successful pilot project in Baxter Park earlier on in the year, we are delighted to be rolling the project out across five areas in Dundee this summer thanks to the support of Dundee Common Good Fund and the NHS Innovation Fund. We would like to thank the Stobswell Forum and Councillor Lynne Short for their encouragement throughout.

# STOBSWELL SUMMER FOOD AND FUN 2021



Headed up by Val Kane from the Maryfield Communities Team and funded by the council, the Stobswell Forum have delivered a weekly event in the Malcom Street Playpark.

Each Thursday through July from 12 noon there were hundreds of free dinners handed out (provided by Dundee Bairns) and games and activities for the bairns. We had lots of support from the DCA (Dundee Contemporary Arts), ParkLives, We Are With You, Be Friends and the Community Health Team and many others

A huge thanks to everyone who made the events possible and a special thanks if you managed to make it along and had fun.

# STOBSWELL FORUM ACHIEVES SCIO CHARITY STATUS SC051135

Great news, the Forum's application to change its status to a Scottish Incorporated Charity (SCIO) has been accepted by the charities commissioner,

We are looking for people with experience in Housing, Finance, Urban Regeneration, Events Management and Community Activism, so if you have an interest in any of these areas or simply want to get more involved in making Maryfield and Stobswell a better place to live, work or visit please get in touch.

# A TRIBUTE TO NEIL ELLIS



We lost a good pal of the Forum when Boomerang's Neil Ellis sadly passed away recently. Here's a wee poem in tribute to Neil by his stepdaughter Paula.

I didn't do it for me
I did it for them
When they needed a food parcel
Or even just a friend
I didn't do it alone
There were others that helped
With kindness, compassion, empathy, and heart
We showed them heart and never judged them at all
As tomorrow it could easily have been one of us with nothing or no one at all.

I never gave to receive
I gave to be kind
I didn't do it for praise
I did it for my own peace of mind
When someone is down on their luck
You show them hope with a hand and help them back up

My path wasn't one I thought it would be
But it was a path full of happiness, fulfilment, and fun

So as we sit here today and we say our final goodbye
Remember me always being larger than life
In my silly outfits and smile on my face
I hope I made you smile at least once along the way
It's been a pleasure, an honour, a privilege, and more
And as it's time to go and I say goodbye to you all
I just want you to know I had an absolute ball