LIVE WELL, DO WELL
STOBSWELL

STOBSWELL VOICE

Baxter Park • Clepington • Maryfield • Stobswell • Woodside

Spring 2025

STOBSWELL FESTIVE APPEAL 2024

Year FIVE of the Appeal once again exceeded all our expectations and can only be described as absolutely fantastic, we had nearly 30 Stobswell local shops and traders supporting the community by inviting their customers to donate into their specially created donation boxes and collection buckets.

Local Businesses who took part this year included;

Kay Meach Makeup Artistry, Grewars, Discovery Flexibles, Hillcrest Housing Assoc, Sharon Allen Hair Design, Buttie's Albert Street, Balloons Made For You, Dundee Ducks, Princes St Surgery, Maryfield Communities Team, Arthurstone Library, Pam's Flowers, Room 39 Boutique, Bertie's Barber, Enjoy Cafe, John Clarkson Plumbing, Kanzen Karate, Diwc, Stobbie Chippy, Morgan Academy, Jon Miller Hair, Ross's Bar, Harlequinn's, Stobswell Bar, Balmore Bar, and Blend Café. If we missed you off the list huge apologies.



A massive THANK YOU to all the local businesses who took part. You did the community proud.

Saturdays in the North Pole Post Office were manic. Donations from our community came in thick and fast along with local children who came to see Santa for free! Santa handed out nearly 200 selection boxes, spending some time with the children and hearing about the gifts they would like. His little elves also replied to over 100 letters which had been posted in the special Santa Post Box. Thank you Santa for all your help!

Donations, as ever, were generously given. Numerous faces reappear year on year bearing multiple gifts, chocolate, warm clothing, toys, toiletries, food, blankets and hot water bottles. Many thanks also to the hand knitters for the beautiful baby clothes and blankets. We can't thank you all enough! Special thanks to the donor of an Electric Organ, complete with stand and stool which went to a music student of Morgan Academy. Also to the couple who donated numerous sweatshirts and other cosy clothing which were forwarded to local families who needed a bit of help. Hillcrest Housing apprentices clubbed together to donate £195 of One 4 All vouchers, and Hillcrest Foundation gave £200 which went a good way towards paying for the selection boxes for Santa to give away

Mention must be made to Jimmy and Leigh from Discovery Flexibles, a local factory in Kemback Street. Jimmy and Leigh highlighted our Appeal to their customers who donated FOUR car loads of goodies! I couldn't believe my eyes when one of the deliveries arrived on a pallet by forklift! I kid you not!

Last and by no means least,probably MOST important, lots of local families struggling through this cost of living crisis.

We couldn't have done it without our army of volunteers, who showed up every week and put in massive effort to match the donations to the requests, and making our special hot chocolate with skooshy cream and marshmallows for Santa's visitors. Safe to say we've had many many thanks from individuals, groups and charities on behalf of the beneficiaries.



Our aim as always, was to help as many local families as we could and the numbers (unfortunately) are increasing year on year - 362 children and 346 adults (that we know of) benefitted from the generosity of their local community. We also collaborated with other local charities to provide clothing and food for local families more in need than just Christmas gifts. The £500 Greens Vouchers went to DIWC who will distribute to local families who need a wee bit of help.

And, if all that wasn't enough, we also received cash donations that totalled over £4000. These donations came from our pals at Dundee Ducks, Princes Street Surgery, East Craigie Junior Football Club, Grewars Butcher, online donations through our Just Giving page and the donation buckets at the Christmas Shop, KR Makeup, Grewars, Blend Cafe, Ross's Bar, Harlequin's, Stobswell Bar and Balmore Bar.



Again a MASSIVE THANKS to everyone for their help and assistance. A great example of real community spirit and we couldn't have done it without you! We are always looking for help, so if you fancy getting involved in the 2025 Appeal get in touch, it's such great fun.

STOBSWELL LOCAL PLACE PLAN CONSULTATIONS

Stobswell Local Place Plan is now well on the way to becoming a reality, with just a few weeks to go before it is lodged with Dundee City Council. We'd like to thank everyone who has helped with this so far, including all those who have taken the time to comment on the plan. Here's a quick update on what's been happening and where we are at just now with the process.

The Consultation Process

In the run up to finalising Dundee's first ever Local Place Plan, there were five consultation events organized by Stobswell Forum in 2024:

- Safety On Our Streets Public Workshop - March 2024
- Active Travel Public Workshop - May 2024
- Stobswell Family Fun Day Survey - June 2024
- Stobswell Visioning Event - August 2024
- Local Place Plan Recommendations Public Event - November 2025

The first two public workshops enabled facilitated discussion of core issues facing our neighbourhood and proposals for ways forward. The Fun Day survey ensured that young people got a voice, with a huge chalk map of Stobswell drawn on the playground of Morgan Academy, allowing them to "vote with their feet" for their favourite places. The Visioning event was a creative session to bring together the structure of the plan, create a vision statement, and name its key themes: Services and Facilities, Better Connections, Community and Culture, and Quality Homes for All.

The Big Event in November

The main public consultation event took place on 7th of November in Arthurstone Library, with a chance for over fifty local folk to discuss the draft plan. The evening was very lively, with a real buzz around the room. Food and drink was provided by local businesses on Albert Street: Café Enjoy, Marrekesh, Nutty Ella and Clark's Bakery. Stobswell Forum provided eight facilitators (two per table) to aid the group discussion on the four theme tables. People were encouraged to vote for the proposed recommendations related to each key theme using red, amber and green sticky dots directly on the pinned up recommendations themselves and to write down any thoughts they had on post-it notes on various maps of the area placed on the tables. The results of this event were used to adjust the recommendations where necessary, although in the main, they strongly supported what was already proposed.



Next Steps

A community planning consultancy, "Place at the Table", has independently reviewed the draft plan, and ensured that there is a robust set of proposals that can be put forward for consideration in the next Dundee Local Development Plan, which is being prepared by the Council just now. In the future, our plan and its proposals must be taken into account when any planning matters are considered by the Council, although there is no guarantee that the Council will take them forward. Nevertheless, the plan provides strong evidence for our local councillors to use when requesting support for our neighbourhood. It also provides a first-ever comprehensive and coherent road map for our aspirations, particularly in relation to land-use.

The final illustrated version of the draft Stobswell Local Place Plan has now been put out for public consultation via Facebook, with people who live and work in Stobswell being offered the chance to make final comments on the plan using a simple Google Form. The plan has also been circulated to our councillors and community councils adjacent to our area for comment, too.

The aim is to finalise the plan, after this final round of consultation, and lodge it by the end of March or early April.

STOBSWELL MURALS

These are the newest murals to appear in Stobswell, but where would you like to see any new murals in 2025? We are hopeful that we can deliver some exciting new pieces of art but where should they be? Get in touch and let us know. info@stobswell.org.uk





KANZEN FOR LIFE

Kanzen for Life, a Dundee-based charity that started with just one Karate class, is taking a bold step forward with its most ambitious project to date - a £1 million community hub on Clepington Road. This marks a major milestone for the organisation, which began in 2009 as Kanzen Karate, founded by Roy O'Kane and Dan Woods. Initially focused on using Karate as a tool for personal growth, the charity has grown into a driving force for health, wellbeing, and education across some of Scotland's most deprived areas.

The new Kanzen for Life Centre will create 10 new jobs while tackling pressing issues such as inactivity, social isolation, and mental health challenges. It will provide a safe, inclusive space for people of all ages and backgrounds, promoting stronger and healthier communities. Located in Dundee's Stobswell area, the centre aims to be a vital resource.

"We saw how physical activity, community, and a sense of belonging could transform lives - not just physically, but emotionally and socially," said Chief Officer Roy O'Kane. *"As we grew, we realised we could do so much more to support people, and that's how Kanzen for Life was born."*



Today, the charity supports over 1,200 people each week across Dundee, Angus, and beyond, offering a diverse range of activities. The new centre represents the evolution of Kanzen, furthering its role to create healthier, more connected communities. It will strengthen partnerships with community groups, charities, and third-sector organisations to deliver a range of services, including physical activity, wellbeing support, education, and leadership training.

"This isn't just about a building; it's about creating opportunities for people to improve their health, education, and employment prospects," added Roy. *"The £1 million investment and the creation of 10 new jobs are just the beginning of what we can achieve."*

The project has been widely welcomed by the local community. Colin Clement, Chair of The Stobswell Forum, said, *"We are delighted that Kanzen for Life has chosen Stobswell for their new hub. This partnership will bring about long-term positive change to the area."*

Kanzen for Life's proven track record includes hosting the WUKF World Karate Championships in 2018 and 2023, generating £19.2 million for Dundee's economy. The charity has also earned accolades such as the Community Impact Award at The Courier Business Awards and Dundee Social Enterprise of the Year. Through partnerships with Dundee & Angus College and Abertay University, it has created pathways for education and employment, empowering individuals to achieve their potential.

Working with Jon Frullani Architects, Kanzen for Life plans to submit its application for the new centre to Dundee City Council. *"This is the next chapter in our journey,"* said Roy. *"We've evolved, but our mission remains the same: to change lives. We're excited to work with partners to bring this project to life and deeply grateful to everyone who has supported us so far."*

LES BANKS

Stobswell Forum has lost a "founding father". Les Banks passed away on Saturday 1st February in Roxburgh House. After graduating in Town & Regional Planning at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in 1971, Les worked for a variety of local authorities before returning to Dundee at local Government Reorganisation. Les was part of the team that worked on the Inner City Local Plan covering the Maryfield ward and the award-winning Upper Dens Work Mill regeneration.

He was also a key part of the team that worked on the early plans to regenerate Stobswell while also setting up the Stobswell Forum along with Ina Brown. Les was a key part in the modern Stobswell story, laying the grounding for the progress that's been made over recent years allowing others to follow and build on the foundations that were laid.



MORGAN'S IS OPEN!

Morgan's is Morgan Academy's newly refurbished community café and retail space. Over the past year, staff and young people have been refurbishing our new premises at 1 Pitkerro Road to transform the space into a professional café, which also has the flexibility to be used as a multi-purpose space.

Our aims for this initiative include upskilling our young people in enterprise and employability, provide work experience opportunities for our pupils, ensure they progress onto a sustained positive destination after school, and to engage with our local community and partners. A targeted group of pupils are being trained in Barista Skills, Health & Hygiene, Customer Service and Enterprise and Employability, and we are now ready to open to the public and welcome you in to Morgan's!

Morgan's offers professional standard coffee along with tea, hot-chocolate and soft drinks. There are also numerous items for sale that Morgan Academy pupils have created including birdboxes, decorations, coasters, photographs and



artwork. Morgan's is a social enterprise so there are no set costs for anything, but donations are welcome (please note that we are cash only).

Within school term time, Morgan's will be open weekly on Tuesday afternoons between 2.15pm and 4.00pm and fortnightly on Wednesday mornings between 9am and 10.30am. Posters are displayed on our shop windows which will be regularly updated with our opening times. We hope to increase our opening hours as we have more pupils complete their training.

We hope you can join us for a cuppa in the near future!

MEET THE TRUSTEES

Ali Floyd, who originally hails from a wee village just south of Dundee (Edinburgh), has been a Forum member since 2018. He works for the University of Dundee, in a job connecting researchers from the School of Life Sciences with real people. After bringing his scientists to his first Stobfest, Ali was gently persuaded to join the team.

Since then he's been an enthusiastic member of #TeamStobie. He's been involved in setting up a new website, running the Instagram account, bringing large-scale science art murals to the area, and lots of planting. He sings with the uni big band, and helped to persuade them over for a sold-out Christmas show in Arthurstone Library. You can also often see him stomping around the main stage at Dundee Pride. As an adopted Stobie-ite, Ali's really fallen in love with the neighbourhood. It's been exciting to see so many things happen over the time he's been here, and to meet so many fantastic folks.



Ali can also be found running, mostly between Stobswell and the Ferry. It's nice to visit, but you wouldn't want to actually live there.

THE STOBSWELL FORUM ARE...

Colin Clement, Robbie Fotheringham, David MacDougall, Lorraine Clement, Nichola Fraser, Ali Floyd, Helen King, Joy Melville, Mike Seton, Fionn Stevenson, Lisa Croll, Thomas Coutts

You can contact Stobswell Forum in the following ways:

Email: info@stobswell.org.uk **Telephone:** 07801 419941 **Web:** www.stobswell.org.uk

Follow us on social media: stobswellforum @stobswellforum @stobswellforum

Join us at our monthly meetings in Arthurstone library - all welcome.

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