# Minutes of Stobswell Forum AGM 10/05/2021

**Present -** Colin, Lorraine, Stuart, David, Val, Mark, Christine, Phillippa, Rebekah, Ali, Peter, James, Liz, Helen, Sheena, David, Johnny, Robbie, Matthew, Harry, Kenny

**Apologies -** Nichola, Roy, Johnny, Georgia, Graeme, Sarah, Angela, Lynne, Philip

**Minutes of Previous AGM -** Proposed as true reflection of meeting by Lorraine Seconded by Ali

## Stobswell Forum Annual Report - Colin

### Stobswell Forum Committee

During the year Elizabeth Crighton, Sandra Mitchell and Ian Kinsey stood down from the Forum and we'd like to extend our thanks for all of their hard work on behalf of the Forum, in the same time period we've welcomed Helen King and James Barrowman on board to the committee.

### Change of Charity Status

The Forum is in the midst of changing its status from an Unincorporated Scottish Charity to an Incorporated Scottish Charity (SCIO) this will allow the Forum to continue to grow over the coming years.

### Stobswell Forum Weekly Communication Meetings

The Forum continued to host weekly remote meetings throughout the pandemic period, we meet every Thursday at 15.00 for 40 minutes, if you are interested in joining us click on the below link.

https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79939738887?pwd=NDc1Z1JUc0ZoWTFkZmt3MFpiS0pPZz09

### Stobswell Voice

The Forum continued to produce the Stobswell Voice with financial support from the Maryfield Regeneration Forum through the pandemic, we worked with the Morgan Academy to have senior pupils write, design and edit the Autumn 2020 edition. The Voice has a print run of 5,000 and is widely shared on social media and distributed to the Forum's mailing lists.

**Planning**
David MacDougall led the Forums response on planning issues though the year including being heavily involved in the Barratt Development application to build on the former Keillor's site in Mains Loan.

**Albert St Regeneration**
Securing support from Sustrans for the Craigie St Pocket Place scheme and supported the "Widen my Path" consultation and worked closely with the councils UNESCO team and City Development Dept to deliver improved public spaces in Eliza St and Craigie St through the Spaces for People Project.

Delivered the Craigie St online consultation and held a remote meet to discuss the future of the sAlbert St hopping centre.

The Forum also were successful in accessing funding from Scotland Loves Local to "dress" a number of shopfronts in the district shopping centre.

**Urban Spaces and Buildings**
We gained approval for the tidy up and planting of the waste spaces behind Lidl in Dundonald St and are working with the council to deliver improvements in the unused corner spaces between the tenements in Court St. The Forum has also been in (so far unsuccessful) discussions with the owners of a plot behind 63 Albert St with the plan to turn this into a community garden.

Working with Dundee University we have been exploring the possibility of bringing "Wee Forrests" to the area, these innovative projects bring a mix of trees and plants to a small area (tennis court size) to urban areas.

The Forum has also been working with the council to improve and upgrade the Malcolm St Playpark which included a general tidy up, new plantings with new play equipment still to be provided.

Working with the sheltered housing complex in Craigie St to deliver improved seating and environment to the residents.

We have also started to look at a number of properties across Stobswell that could potentially be brought into community ownership when the Forum's charity status has been resolved.

**Street Art**

Delivery of Cardean St gable end mural, two new murals due to be completed over the summer in Craigie St. We also helped deliver a mural at Boomerang in commemoration of International Overdose Day.

We are also in discussions with Home Scotland to bring more street art to the area.

**Dundonald St Project**
The Forum continued to push for security entry systems in all properties along the south side of the street, two properties are still awaiting completion.

We met remotely with MSP Shona Robison to discuss resolving ongoing issues related to private renting, further meetings are planned after the Scottish Elections.

**Forum Re-Focus on Social Issues; including**
Door to door leafleting highlighting community support in Woodside and across Maryfield during the early days of the pandemic.

Support for Boomerang's food distribution programme including securing funding for ongoing projects including The Stobswell Food Larder.

The Forum has been part of a group working towards making Stobswell a Dementia Friendly Neighbourhood, this project will have a slow burn but has the potential to be life-changing for some local residents.

Forum members took part in the October 2020 holiday food programme where food and advice were offered from street stalls in Malcolm St and Arklay St.

The Discovery AllStars group comprising Dundee FC Community Trust, Kanzen and Dundee Youth Theatre were part-funded by the Forum to provide youth events over Easter 2021.

Purchase of Tablet Devices for the Morgan Academy to assist with distance learning in spring 2020.

The Forum supported the work being done to investigate the opportunities to site a cycle hub at the DISC centre.

The Forum have joined The Poverty Alliance, Living Rent Scotland and The Scottish Towns Partnership over the last 12 months which opens opportunities for networking outside of the Dundee City bubble.

**Stobswell Cultural Events**
Unfortunately, both Celebration in the Park and Stobfest were once again cancelled due to the pandemic.

The council changing the way they provided Festive Celebrations across the city allowed the Forum to deliver a very successful Festive Event with the Traditional Christmas Tree at the Morgan, Light Shows and our very own North Pole Post Office on Albert St (provided by Hillcrest), we were supported by events organiser Victoria Tait with funding being secured from the Regeneration Forum and the council's new Festive Fund.

Festive Celebrations 2021, the Forum have begun to look for funding sources to assist in the delivery of this year's event.

We hosted the lighting of the Baxter Park Pavillion to show support for the Scottish NHS in 2020.

Stobfest 2021 will be going online with Ali Floyd picking up the lead role, there will be music, art, storytelling and much more, for six days from the 10th of May

Ongoing planning is underway to deliver events from the Dundee Design Festival in Stobswell later in 2021 with Helen King leading on this project.

**Social Media**
We've seen growth on FaceBook with our followers increasing by over 100% over the last two years to approaching 2,200, we are also represented on Instagram and Twitter.

The Forum has been active on social media during the pandemic reinforcing the public health message from the Council and Scottish Government receiving many positive comments and support from the community.

**Stobswell Forum Annual Report** Proposed by Robbie, Seconded by Helen

**Stobswell Forum Finance Report**

Overall the Forum have seen a not unexpected drop in turnover from the record high of 2019/20 against a background of limited physical activity however the overall financial picture remains positive with an increase in un-restricted reserves to above our minimum reserve level of £5,000 and relationships with two of our new funders The Big lottery and The Scottish Towns Partnership proving strong in a difficult time for everyone.

During the year our largest funding partner continued to be the Dundee City Council who provided financial support for The Stobswell Voice, Food on Friday and our Festive Celebrations, we also secured funding to support The Boomerang Centre's emergency food provision from The CORRA Foundation and Scottish & Southern Electricity, The Big Lottery come onboard in funding Stobfest 2020 which unfortunately was cancelled and The Scottish Towns Partnership helped us brighten up Albert St with funding for our Shop Front Improvement Project.

We would like to send a huge thank you to all of our funding partners, we genuinely wouldn't be able to achieve anything without you.

Looking into the future an upside is that we are growing our funding application skills which will be important as the Dundee City Council continue to reduce the funds available through the Maryfield Regeneration Forum, we also face the challenge of finding new cash generating projects as the continued cancellation of Stobfest and Celebration in the Park have limited our ability to generate un-restricted funds which will impact our ability to self fund projects in future.

Our full accounts can be found on the Stobswell Forum website by clicking here http://stobswell.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AG-1-1.pdf

| Annual Accounts at 29th February 2021 | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| Receipts in the Year | £18,334 | £41,094 |
| Payments in the Year | £15,478 | £44,156 |
| | | |
| Balance at Bank at the Start of the Financial Year | £13,866 | £16,279 |
| Surplus (Deficit) for the Year | £2,397 | -£2,413 |
| Balance at Bank at the End of the Year | £16,263 | £13,866 |
| | | |
| Restricted Funds | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| CRF M1909 Stobswell Voice | £732 | |
| Common Good Fund/Morgan Academy | £775 | |
| CRF M2006 Food on Friday | £25 | |
| Big Lottery Stobfest 2020 | £4,484 | |
| CORRA Foundation Stobswell Larder | £19 | |
| CRF M2003 Stobswell Voice | £1,012 | |
| CRF M2025 Festive Celebrations | £76 | |
| Scotland Loves Local-ShopFront Initiative | £3,470 | |
| Total Restricted Funds | £10,593 | |
| | | |
| Un-Restricted Reserves | £5,670 | |

**Stobswell Forum Finance Report** Proposed by Lorraine, Seconded by Robbie

**Stobswell Forum Committee** all stood down and Chair replaced by Stuart pending Committee being voted in.

**Chair -** Colin Clement - Proposed by Robbie, Seconded by David

**Vice Chair -** David MacDougall - Proposed by Lorraine, seconded by Robbie

**Treasurer -** Lorraine Clement - Proposed by Ali, Seconded by Helen

**Secretary -** To be announced at a later date.

**Committee Members -** Harry - Proposed by David Seconded by Lorraine
Robbie - Ditto
Helen - Ditto
James - Ditto
Becky - Ditto
Ali - Ditto
Nichola - Ditto

**Date of Next AGM -** To be announced at a later date