

Thriving Places - Aspiring Communities Project - Meeting held on 31.07.18

Attendees: Alison, Andy, Eric, Joyce, William & Ted. **Apologies:** Audrey, Morven, & Ryan

We focused our attention on how to respond to the consultation report and the feedback from our gathering on the 30th June, which are the basis of our Community Connecting Plan. Taking the lead from the themes in the feedback we listed the following possibilities:

- **Financial hardship:** we should boost the services which already exist in the community to support local people, even more so with the introduction of universal credit (UC). We therefore proposed that in order to alleviate the impact of UC and support local people with income maximisation we will request funding to increase the hours of a DMAC worker to help people organise their finances and become aware of their entitlements in terms of benefits. We will also request funding to support the advocacy work delivered by DMAC with a focus on building capacity in the community through training of volunteers to support local people.
- **Literacy:** Linked to the financial hardship is the issue of people not being able to fill in forms or not being able to read information sheets about their rights. We will engage with the library first of all, through Jonny Howes, to find out if there is support already available for literacy work. Should further funding be required, we will request funding to invest in literacy work. We also identified the need for delivering English as a second language to support people from other countries who come to make their home in Drumchapel.
- **Welcome Pack:** We discussed the need for a welcoming pack for people coming to live in Drumchapel. This pack will include a map of the streets in Drumchapel and the services available. We will establish a group of people to lead on this to accompany new residents in Drumchapel to become familiar with the area. This will be delivered by linking in with the housing associations via DRUMCOG and GHA.
- **Zero Tolerance:** We exchanged ideas about racism in Drumchapel and agreed that a campaign focused on zero tolerance with racism and homophobia will be launched. The campaign will include activities in the schools but also a billboard and other material to tackle all forms of discrimination.
- **Drumchapel News:** Both the consultation report and the feedback tell us that local people want to know what is going on in the community and have difficulty in finding out. We agreed that a newspaper could help fill this gap and also promote positive activities taking place in Drumchapel. We will engage with the High School students to produce the content and the Clydebank Post to print the paper. Joyce will contact the High School after the school holidays.
- **Shopping Centre:** We agreed to attend the Community Council meeting on the 10th September as the new owners, LCP, have been invited to the meeting to discuss the future of the shopping centre. LCP requested a copy of the report and the feedback which Andy will deliver.
- **Community Participation & Power:** We agreed to organise 3 or 4 community gatherings per year to discuss ongoing issues in Drumchapel. It was also mentioned that we could make these gatherings thematic, for example on environment, ethnicity, health or any other

relevant theme. We will deliver activities and meet in the different venues in Drumchapel so as to promote the entire community.

- **Building skills:** We will take advantage of all of our activities to build skills in the community. The community gatherings and community budgeting both offer opportunities to build peer skills. Even more so with the Council investing in participatory budgeting, we should prepare Drumchapel to eventually be ready to deliver community budgeting on a much larger scale, as is now happening in the four areas chosen this year to receive £250K for participatory budgeting.
- **Environment:** We talked about engaging with Green Drumchapel and a possible funding application to Stalled Spaces Fund about the area next to Antonine School. Eric will contact Mark Langdon to find out about the current stage of an ongoing application.
- **Isolation:** We agreed to organise 3 or 4 trips during the year to different places thus offering the opportunity for local people to visit other places and socialise with other members of the community.
- **Community Hub:** Both the report and the feedback speak of a community hub understood as a place in Drumchapel, under local peoples' control. This will require further discussion as venues such as the Stonedyke Centre and the Kinfauns Centre are in the community but are currently closed. Both venues could become a community hub. We will try and contact the Mormon Church to clarify the situation of the Kinfauns Centre.
- **Broadening the Group:** Due to the group now having reached the stage of implementation of our findings, defining our Community Connecting Plan, and also that the themes involve other people and organisations, we considered the possibility of broadening access to our group. This process will be done based on criteria and not on an open-ended basis.
- **Funding:** We still have £1465 available, thanks to Joyce's excellent financial management, plus £500 that should come in via the Community Council in support of our event on the 30th June. In terms of expenses we have requested another 100 copies of the report and have to finish the film. Once concluded these activities we will discuss how to use the remaining funds.
- **Sessional Workers:** In order to implement our Community Connecting Plan we will request funding to support local people on a sessional basis, as we did with the research process.

This was an initial discussion around the above themes. Undoubtedly, more will come to mind once we continue reading the feedback and the report. This meeting was necessary in the eventuality of the ACF initiating the Stage 2 process.

Audrey, Joyce and Ted are on holiday in August but should the need arise, for example having to submit a Stage 2 bid within certain timescales, those available will convene to submit a bid.

Otherwise, we can reconvene in September when the group is back in full capacity.