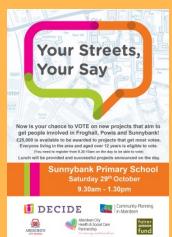


The Fairer Aberdeen Board decided in March 2016 to allocate funding to undertake a Participatory Budgeting (PB) process, with the expectation this would be matched by funding from the Scottish Government. A successful funding bid to the Community Choices Fund, and an additional contribution from Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership meant a total of £25,000 was available.

The Board was asked to take part in a steering group to plan and deliver the PB process and 12 people agreed to this, 6 community representatives from the regeneration areas, 2 representatives from the Civic Forum, and 4 representatives from Partner agencies (Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, Police Scotland and ACVO). Support for the implementation of PB was available from PB Partners and the process was supported and facilitated by the Fairer Aberdeen Coordinator and Development Officer.







"Overall, a great success; feedback from those participating was very positive, and even with slightly lower numbers than expected, there was a real buzz at the event with people networking and interacting enthusiastically. It was great to see the Minister for Communities and Housing, as well as the Council Leader attending."

Alan Budge, PB Partners



The steering group agreed to hold the PB process in the Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank area, as defined by the Community Council boundaries. This is an area with pockets of deprivation, but it does not fall into the 0-15% most deprived, so does not usually benefit from funding targeted at the regeneration areas. It was felt the level of funding was not high enough to hold a City wide event, and the Board members were keen to support an area where there are needs, but fewer funding opportunities. The theme of the PB process was tackling social isolation and exclusion, around the theme of connected communities and health and wellbeing.

It was decided to call the event 'Your Streets, Your Say', as well as to use the 'U Decide' branding which is being used for other PB events in Aberdeen.

An information and training session was held with The Democratic Society to explore the use of Participatory Budgeting Digital Tools. The session included the opportunity to try out the digital packages which are available. The steering group decided against the use of digital tools for this event; however one of the Civic Forum representatives created a website that was used as a simple digital tool to display applications and promote the event.

Community based contacts from Sunnybank Community Centre, Froghall Community Centre, Powis Residents Group and Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank Community Council helped support applicants and promote the PB process. Police Scotland provided valuable support with distributing information and application forms, as did the Community Wardens in the area.



As I live in the area I valued this event as a great opportunity to improve our surroundings and meet people."



66

PB is community empowerment at its best."

Jenny Laing, Council Leader





The voting day was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October at Sunnybank School. 60 people attended and 25 were eligible to vote.

22 applications were received totalling £39,093, although two were withdrawn as one was duplication and the other organisation managed to get the venue they were looking for funding for through community contacts made during the process.

Of the 20 that went through to the voting stage 12 projects were successful in receiving enough votes to be awarded funding from the £25,000 available.

24 feedback forms were received. 18 people had enjoyed attending the event, 1 had not. Of the 19 people who answered whether they felt more or less able to influence decisions affecting their local area after the event 8 people said they felt a lot more able to influence decisions in their area and 11 people said they felt a bit more able. 15 people thought that PB was a fair way to allocate funding, while 2 didn't think so and 2 didn't know.

Most of those attending were already involved in their community, either volunteering, attending residents groups or being a member of a local organisation, however all but one said they had met new people who live in the area, found out more about local groups or more about what was happening in the area. 5 People said they had found out more about how decisions were made in the area and about Council/public processes.

There were some negative aspects to the event, some felt that 2 minutes was not long enough to present ideas, and the number of people attending who were eligible to vote was not as high as expected. It is anticipated that greater use of digital tools could improve participation in future events.

Susan Thoms & Anne Knight Fairer Aberdeen Support Team

For more information contact sthoms@aberdeencity.gov.uk



66

People active in communities know the most about their communities."

66

All well organised and friendly – SO enjoyed it all!!"

## AND THE WINNERS ARE!!!

Sunnybank Improvements
Cycle Repairs @Man shed
Froghall Community Garden
Graffiti Art Work
Lily Pad Coffee Shop
Community Café
Community Centre Decorating
Community Games Room
Community Centre Decorating
Ping Pong Powis
Tooled Up – Powis in Bloom
Get Fit Outside
Wheels Are Fun

Friends of Sunnybank Park
Froghall Community Centre
Froghall Community Centre
Froghall Community Centre
Froghall Community Centre
Powis Residents Group
Powis Residents Group
Sunnybank Community Centre
Sunnybank Community Centre