

City of Brechin and Area Partnership 2009-10

Chairman's Report to AGM on 16th June 2010

In my second year as convenor I am pleased to report that the past year we have again seen a number of positive improvements and happenings in Brechin and firmly believe by highlighting and publicising the good things we will continue to make Brechin a better place for the locals and visitors.

Townscape Heritage Initiative

Last year has seen the internal works of the Town House museum completed and like the outside has been done to the highest of standards. Museum staff are now busy fitting out the inside and hopefully in the not to distant future we will be able to go along and see the fruits of their work.

Much of the last few months have seen the Dalhousie Bar and neighbouring flats covered in scaffolding as major repairs are completed to the roof and chimneys etc. In the next few weeks work will begin across the road as the flats above the former Victoria Wine are refurbished. Other very noticeable shops in the High Street will also see major remedial work done in the coming year. Scaffolding will again be the norm for a few months but the end result will make it worthwhile with the included shops hopefully attracting new businesses into the town centre.

Town Centre Regeneration Project

This project has been difficult to manage because of the very tight time frame agreed when the funding was made. The proposal to purchase Woolworths was not concluded but other properties have been. Hopefully the balance of the money left will be spent purchasing and developing other property. Whilst not getting Woolworths the new owners of the property already have a good record of refurbishing shops in Brechin and most importantly getting quality tenants.

Business

The last year has not seen a significant change in local major employers but the Business Park appears slightly busier but there is still room for a number of new businesses. The current financial situation may impact and we have to go another year of little progress. Perhaps more innovative marketing of the sites is required.

Work has recently begun on the new mental health unit at Stracathro safeguarding local jobs and potentially some new ones.

Pageant 2010

The annual pageant was held at the beginning of the month and the organisers have publicly expressed their delight at the turn out. The weather on the day was perhaps as hot a day as we have had this year which ensured a good turnout of people on the day. The local Round Tablers are to be congratulated in leading the management and organisation of the

event which this year attracted support and help from many other community organisations. A new event was the Saturday morning youth organisations fun sport event which was well supported and keenly contested.

Angus Show

It is hard to believe that like the pageant the Angus Show also had good weather ensuring they also had a very successful event. Many Brechiners made the short trip out to the castle centre show field to enjoy the day and many exhibits and stands to see.

Brechin High School

The big news at the start of the year was the funding from the Scottish Government to allow the building of a new High School. Sadly in these hard economic times this has been cut putting the project at risk. Hopefully once all the political spats have been resolved a workable solution will be found. The school have been very noticeable this year in many community events but perhaps the simple idea of putting bright displays in empty shops is worthy of mention.

Litter was an issue raised some time ago and thanks are again due to Steve and BHS for leading this partnership initiative in getting new bins for the most needed areas of the town. The new bins will be located around the town centre allowing existing ones to be relocated. The Pupil Council at the school now have the task of getting the support and help from their fellow pupils especially at lunch times.

Watson Watt Memorial

We are indebted to Brian and Colin for giving us regular updates on the progress of their proposal. Everyone is very supportive of this project which will hopefully see Brechin get it's first statue.

Fairtrade City

The last year has seen great progress made in getting Brechin Fairtrade status ably led by David Mumford. Members of the partnership are again appreciative of the regular updates and progress.

All Weather Football Pitch

Following ongoing discussion through the partnership and with Angus Council over the past year work is set to be completed on resurfacing the all-weather football pitch at the leisure centre by ERDC contractors on July 16 2010.

Partnership Initiatives

The proposed upgrade of the roundabouts is continuing with the design being carried out by pupils at BHS. In the current economic climate funding may well be difficult to obtain but we will maintain progress so that if money does appear we will be ready to apply.

The welcome pack and promotional material of Brechin and surrounding area is ongoing through the Brechin and District Business Association while the partnership continues to support the A Greener Angus Campaign led through the Volunteer Centre Angus.

My own organisation – The Attic – received an Angus Ambassador Award last year for our work in the community.

Forster Roofing also received an award for their nationally acclaimed excellence in roofing and also their training scheme for young people.

Members of the Partnership took part in the meeting regarding the Flood Prevention measures proposed for River Street and elsewhere in Brechin. The main concern raised is the very high costs of the work and perhaps more simple and cost effective solutions should be sought.

Thanks

As chairman I would like to thank Matt Henderson and the Local Community Planning Team for their help and support in keeping me right and Helen Wallace and the Damacre Centre for organising the rooms for our meetings.

‘The Brechiner’ has again been great supporters of the Partnership ensuring both it and many other organisations get excellent publicity in the local press and I greatly appreciate all that they do for us.

I would also like to thank Councillors Bob Myles and Mairi Evans for their regular attendance and support.

All members of the Partnership need to be thanked for coming along to the meetings but perhaps more importantly are the organisations which they represent and dedicate their time and efforts to. Brechin and area is fortunate to have the wide variety of organisations mostly run by volunteers but all with the common aim of improving the welfare of the people and provide much needed activities and services in Brechin.

2010 – 2011 will be a key year for Brechin as the various projects come to fruition we will have a city to indeed be proud of.

Jim Milne

Chairman