

# engage

## Your Community, Your Plan

February 2012



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# Monifieth Community Centre

In November, the Monifieth Community Centre Steering Group (MCCSG) launched their 'ideas box' (as pictured). The box was used around the town to gather people's views and ideas on the proposal for a new community centre for Monifieth.

The MCCSG worked with Monifieth High School pupils to design the logo for the box which was brought in by Aim Architects who are carrying out the feasibility study into the potential new centre. This has all been made possible by the hard work of the MCCSG working with the Local Community Planning Team. The LCPT worked alongside MCCSG to help them apply for £10k of Lottery funding and a £5k Angus Council Community Grants award to pay for the feasibility study.

MCCSG Chair Margaret Copland explained, "MCCSG are most appreciative of all the help they have been given. Having reached the stage of setting up a feasibility study within Monifieth, regarding site, location and services requested by the Monifieth residents, we are grateful for the assistance and support of the Local Community Planning Team."

LCPT manager for the Monifieth area, Debbie Gowans, said, "We are delighted to have been able to help MCCSG get to this stage and look forward to hearing the thoughts of the wider community".

## What is Local Community Planning?

'Community Planning is a process which helps public agencies work together with the community to plan and deliver better services which make a real difference to people's lives' – *Scottish Government*.

In Angus we have four Local Community Planning Teams which have been set up across Angus to work with individuals, groups and organisations to:

- Help you influence how services are delivered in your area,
- Help you work towards something you would like to see in your area
- Help community groups and organisations get projects up and running

If you would like to know more or would like to get involved in local community planning please contact your team

# Terra Nova Centenary



2012 marks the centenary of the death of Captain Scott and his colleagues on their famous Terra Nova Expedition to Antarctica. Scott and his chief scientist, Edward Wilson spent many months in

Glen Prosen planning the expedition and testing the equipment. A local group has formed to plan a series of projects and events to mark the occasion and commemorate the links with Angus.

The group has plans for a number of interesting activities which include:

- Replacement of the existing memorial cairn at Scott's View with a new monument, followed by a ceilidh to celebrate the unveiling.
- Production of 'Mythmakers' - a play about the relationship between Captain Scott and JM Barrie
- Open days at Burnside Lodge, where Scott and Wilson were based
- Community Event at Memus and the Glens Hall
- Talks and lectures about Antarctica and Scott & Wilson

The Local Community Planning Team is supporting the group to plan and deliver the various events. In addition, the Team have helped the group source approximately £75,000 towards the cost of the monument and events.

If you wish to help you can contact the Local Community Planning Team; Ivan Laird, Chairperson of the Action Group at [ivan@iaelaird.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:ivan@iaelaird.fsnet.co.uk); or search for 'Scott 100 in Angus' on Facebook.

## Carnoustie Development Group

The Local Community Planning Team have been working with the Carnoustie Development Group to put together an action plan to improve the local economy and tourism within the town.

Working closely with Angus Council, the group recently prompted an investigation into the potential for town and village gateways and roundabouts to be used for advertising.

The group believed this was an opportunity not to be missed and could potentially bring many benefits to visitors and the Angus burghs.

Proposals for suitable sites, sponsorship and associated signs at the proposed locations will be brought to Angus Council's Infrastructure Services Committee in early 2012. The group want to maximise the potential of the locations to promote the local towns and attract passers-by to visit the burghs at the same time promoting business, services and local attractions.



Photograph courtesy of Oliver Vellacott

## Monifieth Eco Force Volunteer Day – Make a Difference

Monifieth Eco Force, a local group of environmental enthusiasts, held a volunteer day later last year. People (and dogs!) of all ages went along to find out how to get involved in enhancing their natural environment. A grant of £250 from the Council for Voluntary Services was secured to provide refreshments for the volunteers who planted bulbs and found out what Eco Force are doing in the community.

# Year of the Light

The Local Community Planning Team is delighted to report that as a result of Arbroath's Year of the Light events, anecdotal evidence indicates an increase in visitors to the area over the year.

Angus Council and The Year of the Light Steering Group with support from the LCPT were also delighted that the project was highly commended at the Angus Ambassador Awards ceremony in November, a glittering conclusion to the hard work that had gone into the events throughout the year.

The real success of the event is the ongoing legacy it has left to tourism in Angus, with the new and improved visitor attractions in the area. The community are already making plans to continue their work to mark other occasions and boost tourism and the local economy in future years



Photograph courtesy of Neil Murray

## Charleston Village Hall

The original owner of Knockenny Quarry established Charleston Village in the 1830s for his labourers and also provided a school and school house, which later became the Village Hall. The Hall Committee have been working on a plan of redevelopment and in October 2011 Phase 1 was completed, which comprised the demolition of the existing extension and the construction of a wind and watertight shell.

Phase 2 will complete the internal fit out and the committee are working extremely hard to secure the necessary funds and help."

## Davidson Park, Kirriemuir

The Davidson Park Action Group (DPAG) was formed to improve the play experience for young people using the Park. An information event was held in May 2011 in Davidson Park where the group spoke to residents and young people to see what improvements they would like to see in the Park. The group are working with Angus Council who have put together a masterplan, following the feedback from the information session.

DPAG are now raising funds towards new equipment and have recently been awarded £12k from Proctor and Gamble via Now Magazine to go along with hundreds of pounds from fundraising events. The Davidson Park Action Group is a motivated and enthusiastic group seeking to improve the park for the community.

## Inverkeilor Parks

A public meeting was held in Inverkeillor in September to discuss recreational facilities in the village. As a result the Inverkeilor Parks Committee was formed. The group have been working with Angus Council to look at options for the parks and potential funds that could be accessed. The group have spoken to the Woodland Trust who agreed to donate eight fruit trees, which have been planted in the Old Park. The group have also been active in working with local businesses who have donated bark mulch and fertiliser to the project.



Rural Angus



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# Serving Rural Angus

January 2012 saw the launch of the new Angus mobile rural service vehicles, "Serving Rural Angus". Angus Council has invested £269,000 in the new mobile service, which includes two new vehicles and a smaller transit van to take services to people in rural areas of Angus. The new service replaces two mobile library vans.



The Local Community Planning Team, in partnership with Cultural Services, undertook a large scale consultation with rural communities across the county in order to develop a timetable and route for the vehicles. The results of this consultation mean that the timetable reflects the wishes of rural communities in Angus and ensures that the all Angus residents have the opportunity to access this fantastic new resource.

Staff will be able to use the internet on the vehicles at certain points on the route, where they can search library catalogues on line, access other council information or log messages with the ACCESS office on behalf of those using the mobile service.

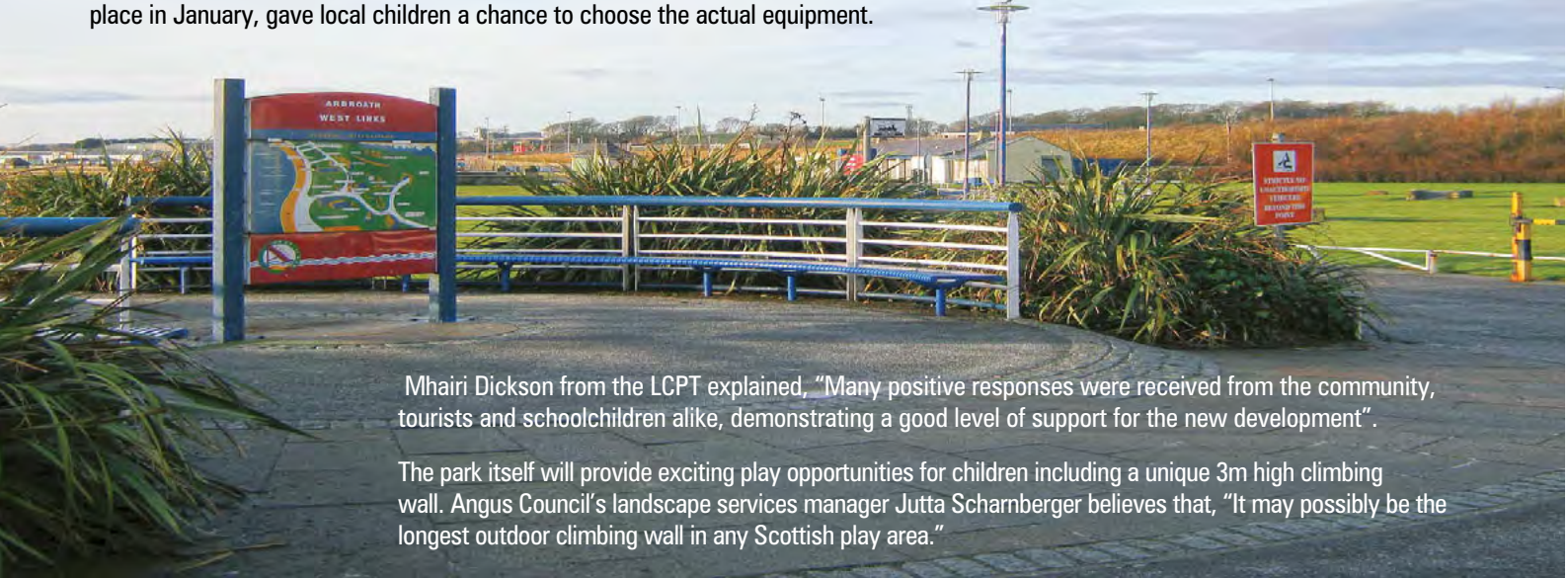
One of the new vehicles will have a consultation area where a Council officer can meet with a member of the public, by prior arrangement, to discuss specific issues.

Vice-convenor of Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Colin Brown said: "We listened to the views of the people who live in the more rural areas of Angus and who use the mobile library services, and found out what they would like to see in the new vehicles."

Why not go along and take a look for yourself? You can view the timetable at [www.angus.gov.uk](http://www.angus.gov.uk).

# Arbroath West Links

In October the LCPT undertook a large scale public consultation on the new play park planned for the West Links. The feedback received has helped influence the design and location of the park and the second phase, which took place in January, gave local children a chance to choose the actual equipment.



Mhairi Dickson from the LCPT explained, "Many positive responses were received from the community, tourists and schoolchildren alike, demonstrating a good level of support for the new development".

The park itself will provide exciting play opportunities for children including a unique 3m high climbing wall. Angus Council's landscape services manager Jutta Scharnberger believes that, "It may possibly be the longest outdoor climbing wall in any Scottish play area."

## Tenant Participation

The first Housing Consultation Roadshows took place at the end of the year and around 100 residents turned out across Angus to get involved and find out more about changes to benefits, new build housing and house letting. Those who came along had the chance to ask questions and give their opinions and the feedback will go to the Housing Department Management Team.

One of the most important points for the Local Community Planning Teams was to encourage more people to become involved in how the local housing services are delivered. The LCPT were promoting the Tenants Panel and other ways to have your say without necessarily having to join a group or go to meetings.

The Local Community Planning Teams also continue to support and develop tenant participation at community level. For example, work is being done in Montrose to ensure tenant participation in housing policy formation; in the establishment of operating standards; and in performance monitoring. A range of Montrose groups are contributing to aspects of housing policy and management and are also undertaking their own activities to improve their community. The recent Consultation Roadshow brought together tenants and tenants' representatives from across

the area to discuss broader housing strategy in Angus and related matters such as welfare benefit reform.

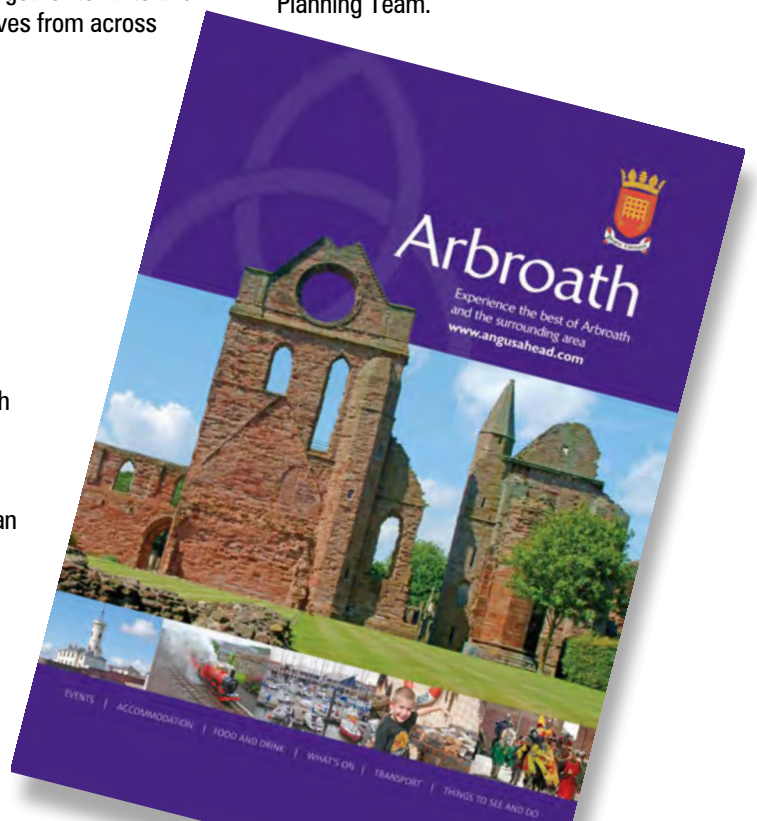
A new Registered Tenants Organisation has emerged in the Craigo / Dubton / Hillside area and the existing RTO in Borrowfield has taken on the responsibility of running and regenerating the local community centre.

If you would like to know more about getting involved in housing matters, please contact the Local Community Planning Team.

## Arbroath Town Centre Regeneration

The Arbroath Town Centre Regeneration Group is working closely with Angus Council to improve the shopping experience for residents and visitors alike.

The Local Community Planning Team have helped the group develop an exciting Action Plan and find funding to carry out the work. This includes new pole banners being installed along the gateway to Arbroath from the A92 and a stunning, high quality visitors magazine to promote the treasures of the burgh.



# Success for Sidlaw

Muirhead and Birkhill Millennium Hall hosted the inaugural community planning event for the communities in and around the Sidlaws – Success for Sidlaw. The evening, hosted by the LCPT brought together a wide range of organisations from around the Sidlaws including community councils, village hall committees, scouts and guides, sporting clubs and many more community groups. It was also great to see that all the rural areas in the Monifieth & Sidlaw ward were represented by at least one group from their community.

The event was a response to the concerns of community members in the Sidlaws who felt that the residents of the smaller settlements were not having their voices heard. There was also a recognition that residents in neighbouring villages may have common issues and that by working together with one voice these issues might be more successfully addressed.

The group identified several priority areas for the future development of the Sidlaw communities and agreed to come together again in 2012 to begin to action these priorities. People agreed that the evening itself was a great success and that the idea of a Sidlaw-wide working group to come together to work for the whole community was worthwhile and something that they would like to be involved in.

If you live, work or volunteer in the Sidlaws and would like to be involved in the community planning process in the area then please contact the LCPT to find out how to get involved.



## Paddy Action Group

The LCPT and Servite Housing Association undertook a community appraisal within the village of Padanaram. The appraisal sought to provide an insight into the needs and aspirations of local residents, using interviews and discussions to identify key community priorities.

This information was discussed in greater detail at an open community event and a constituted group has now been established called the "Paddy Action Group." This group is seeking to identify and make positive changes in the community and environment with the support of residents and outside agencies.

Since their establishment, the Paddy Action Group have held two successful events in the Village Hall and have produced three local newsletters, called the "Paddy Post." The group are now working on the key issues from the community appraisal and continue to work with residents and public service partners.

## Christmas in the City

The LCPT organised a series of retailers' workshops on visual awareness and the marketing of the High Street in Brechin. The success of these prompted an increased level of cooperation amongst local retailers and from that a wish to work together to raise the profile of Brechin as a shopping destination. The Retailers' Group closed the High Street and hosted street entertainment as well as their own promotions, discounts and entertainment within their shops. The Local Community Planning Team created links with local community-led initiatives such as the Christmas Lights ceremony, the Caledonian Railway's

Santa Special and a Craft show at the Mechanics' Institute. The LCPT supported the coordination of the range of events and what developed was a "buzzing" town centre Christmas event which showed Brechin at its best. Shopkeepers reported a significant increase in business, and are expecting return visits.

This event has greatly encouraged all those who are working to reinvigorate Brechin town centre as a vibrant and supportive community, and has helped create a vision of what Brechin can be.



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## Your Community, Your Plan

### Contact your Local Community Planning Team



*Standing (Left – Right)*  
Mhairi Dickson; Graeme Hodge;  
Claire Warrender; Mark Johnston;  
Nicky Lowden-MacCrimmon; Siobhan Fagan; Lee Haxton.

*Seated (Left – Right)*  
Barbara Reid; Janet Russell;  
Elaine McLeod; Beverley Gibb; Liz Begg.