

# ANGUS RURAL AND ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2008  
AT 9.30AM IN ANGUS HOUSE

## Present:

Bill Strachan	<b>BS</b>	Senior Service Manager, Corporate Planning, Angus Council
George Chree	<b>GC</b>	Head of Planning and Transport, Angus Council
Eric Lowson	<b>EL</b>	Director of Infrastructure Services, Angus Council
Lee Haxton	<b>LH</b>	Rural Community Planning Officer, ACPP
Phil Gaskell	<b>PG</b>	Area Manager, Scottish Natural Heritage
Mai Hearne	<b>MH</b>	Chief Officer, AAVO
Carol Littlewood	<b>CLi</b>	Farm Conservation Advisor, FWAG Scotland
Cllr Ian Mackintosh	<b>IM</b>	National Farmers Union (Scotland)
Phillip Chambers	<b>PC</b>	Woodland Officer, Forestry Commission Scotland
Genna Dall	<b>GD</b>	Project Manager, Angus Community Health Partnership

## Apologies:

Euan Hart – Scottish Agricultural College  
Catherine Lloyd – Tayside Biodiversity Action Partnership

### 1 Welcome and Apologies

BS welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the group. Apologies were given and noted

### 2 Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minute of the meeting of 13 June was accepted as an accurate record.

#### 2.1 Actions for Delivery

The group agreed to deal with this issue later in the meeting as it was felt that the other agenda items would have a bearing on this.

#### 2.2 Single Outcome Agreement

BS explained that the SOA had been agreed and signed off for this financial year. In addition, BS pointed out that it had recently been agreed that the next set of SOAs would cover a three year period from 2009/10 to 2012/13. This is to be agreed and submitted by 9 February 2009.

The group agreed that AREP should have a key role in providing input into the next SOA, particularly concerning rural and environmental issues.

#### 2.3 Local Community Planning

LH talked to a paper which resulted from discussions at the previous AREP meeting. The group had a wide-ranging discussion and the following points were stressed:

- Important not to raise undue expectations in communities as to what can be delivered and budget implications must be borne in mind.
- Third Sector role is very important in demonstrating how communities can deliver agreed outcomes themselves, with appropriate support from agencies
- Previous community planning in these areas have highlighted issues, which may well still be current
- There is a need to demonstrate how communities can influence service

**ACTION**

**ALL**

delivery. Need to show what has been delivered based on previous engagement and justify why particular issues were not dealt with

As a result of this discussion, AREP agreed that a paper would be produced which, firstly collates information from past research, community councils and elected members regarding priorities in rural communities. Secondly this paper will consider what partners are already doing in these areas and thirdly the paper will provide examples of community empowerment, showing how community groups have been able to deliver key outcomes through their own work.

LH

The group agreed that this would provide a sensible starting point for future engagement. In order to provide a focus for the paper, the group agreed to consider the Memus / Glen Clova / Glen Prosen area as a pilot for this.

#### **2.4 Post Office Network Change Programme**

LH updated the group as the outcome of this. Closures have been confirmed at Kilry, Southmuir (Kirriemuir) and Dundee Road, Forfar. In addition the branches at Carmyllie, Inverkeilor and Wellbank will be replaced by an outreach service. As Glamis has been reprieved, Post Office Ltd are now consulting on the potential closure of Lunanhead as they must achieve their target of 2,500 closures.

#### **2.5 Rural Housing**

LH informed the group that he had discussed the paper presented to AREP at the previous meeting with senior staff in Housing. The Angus Local Housing Strategy is to be reviewed in 2009 and partners agreed that AREP should be able to input into this process at an appropriate stage.

ALL

#### **2.6 South Esk Catchment Management Plan**

CL updated the group, stating that 30% of the questionnaires sent out in Stage 1 had been returned. Analysis of this is now underway and a paper will be produced summarising the main issues. This paper will then be distributed and discussed at public meetings, at which actions will be agreed.

This Action Plan will dovetail into the Tay Area Management Plan being developed by SEPA in response to the EU Water Framework Directive. It was recognised by the group that this was an example of a project on the ground delivering the objectives of community planning by default. CL will provide future updates to the group.

CL

#### **2.7 Partners Angus Priorities**

Partners agreed to send information regarding individual agencies priorities in Angus to LH.

ALL

### **3 Chair and Reporting Arrangements**

BS explained that Angus Council was happy to provide a chair for the group in the interim. The group agreed that it would present a more inclusive image of AREP if, in future, the group could be chaired by a member from one of the other AREP agencies.

ALL

### **4 Presentation on rural business development**

The group agreed to refer this to the next meeting of AREP.

EL

### **5 Engagement with Private Sector**

The group agreed to refer this to the next meeting of AREP as the presentation referred to in Item 4 will have implications for this.

## **6 Mapping Levels of Engagement**

PG suggested that this should not be progressed at this stage. SEARS have recently conducted similar work among rural land managers which should be informative. PG provided an executive summary of this research and the group agreed to consider this first before taking further action.

LH

## **7 Existing Leisure and Recreation Opportunities**

The group agreed that this exercise should consider Leisure and Exercise opportunities as this links into the SOA and existing Community Planning Thematic Groups. LH is to reinforce the desire that this process should consider non-Council facilities as well as those maintained by Angus Council.

LH

## **8 Any Other Business**

### **8.1 Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework**

LH updated the group as to progress with this

### **8.2 Angus Rural Services Priority Area**

BS provided some background information as to the RSPA. PG suggested that priorities such as this should be shared with the Tayside RPAC for the Scottish Rural Development Programme to inform future development of Regional Priorities.

### **8.3 Ragwort**

EL explained that this was an issue which had come up at Angus Council's Strategic Policy Committee but it was unclear as to which body would be asked to deal with this. The group agreed that Stewart Roberts would be asked to prepare a short paper on Invasive Species in Angus and the existing legislative framework for this, with support from AREP partners.

EL

CL has existing information which will be passed round via LH.

CL & LH

### **8.4 Actions for Delivery**

The group agreed that this document needed to be reviewed in order to ensure that it focused on the key deliverables. BS explained that the actions within the SOA were currently being analysed in order to nominate the appropriate thematic group for each action; therefore further actions could be attributed to AREP. The group further agreed that all relevant actions should be on the AREP Action Plan, regardless of which thematic group was responsible for them.

The group agreed to deal with this in more detail at the next meeting.

## **9 Next Meeting**

The group agreed to meet on Monday 3 November at 2pm in Angus House.