

**CITY OF BRECHIN AND AREA PARTNERSHIP
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21 2009, 7.00PM
DAMACRE CENTRE, BRECHIN**

PRESENT:

Jim Milne	Attich Youth Project
Sheila Macgregor	Brechin Learning Centre
Steve Dempsey	Brechin High School
Lindsay Crowe	Brechin City Boys
Bob Myles	Angus Council, /NUFS
Mark Johnston	Community Learning and Development
Matt Henderson	Community Planning
Bill Strachan	Angus Council
Tomas Cabla	Greener Angus

APOLOGIES:

Ruth Leslie Melville	Angus Council
Mari Evans	Angus Council
Brian Mitchell	Watson Watt Society
Bill Sturrock	Brechin Business Association
David Mumford	St Andrews Episcopal Church
Liz Pert	Tenant Participation
Colin G Whyte	Guidry of Brechin
Charlie Simpson	Inveresk Community Council
Douglas Murray	Brechin Community Council
Steve Mitchell	Brechin Advertiser

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jim welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round introductions were made and apologies were given.

Jim noted that Douglas Murray was not able to attend following an accident and it was noted that everyone wishes him well and a speedy recovery.

2. PREVIOUS MEETING NOTE AND MATTERS ARISING

The previous minute was proposed as correct by Bob Myles and seconded by Steve Dempsey as a correct record of the meeting.

Following discussion on the Watson Watt Memorial it was noted that the proposed site is St Ninians square where the sundial is currently situated.

A cheque has been received from Angus Councils Community Support Fund for the new bins and Steve Dempsey will be working with pupils on launching the new bins complete with design from young people. It was agreed that those involved, including the task force should be invited to a press release.

It was also noted that the roundabout designs will be coming from the high school in due course and that city hall is set for renovation.

3. COMMUNITY PLANNING TEAM UPDATE

Bill Strachan gave an update on the new local community planning arrangements and noted that the new team of community facing workers from Tenant Participation, Community Learning & Development and Community Planning will be based at the Brechin ACCESS

office. This team is available to help progress areas of work which will benefit the development of public services for the areas of Montrose and Brechin.

It was noted that while Bill will take on the lead officer role he will not be able to commit to attending all partnership meetings and it may only be necessary for 1 member of the local community planning team to attend those meetings.

It was discussed that the SOA does not dictate the local agenda in terms of priorities but it should be noted that these outcomes are central government policies and that reflecting these may improve the allocation of resources and funding.

Bill is available to discuss issues and can be contacted at William Wallace House in Forfar.

4. A GREENER ANGUS CAMPAIGN

Tomas Cabla from the Drobromysl Foundation attended the meeting to promote the A Greener Angus campaign which sought support from the partnership in promoting events and generating funding. The campaign aims to improve the natural and built environment through litter clearing and tree planting with a series of events planned for 2009/10.

It was discussed that support could involve using notice boards at places such as the Attic Youth Project and that the High School and others could be contacted for support.

The Community Planning Team will arrange to meet with Tomas to take forward action in the area.

3. FOOTBALL PITCH DEVELOPMENTS

Bob Myles gave an update on the all weather football pitch developments at the Brechin Leisure Centre. Possible contractors have been in discussion about resurfacing the pitch at a reduced cost which may be possible through the common good fund. Bob will continue to look into this development and feedback to the partnership in due course.

Following the sale by Matrix which has halted plans to lease ground now owned by Kelman Engineering, plans are advancing with the site at Provost Buchan, Lindsay Crowe is progressing this area of work and has been in discussion with the Councils Neighbourhood Services Department as well as groups such as Brechin Vix and Sport Scotland about the possibilities of carrying out the work and leasing the ground. This would involve 2 full sized pitches and 2 seven-a-side pitches with training facilities at a cost of around £315k. At the moment Lindsay is consulting on the project and seeking support from local people and groups. The partnership has agreed to support the project in principle and will provide a letter of support in this affect.

4. FAIRTRADE UPDATE

Matt gave an update of the fair trade initiative following the initial meeting on Saturday October 17. David Mumford chaired a well attended meeting and will now lead a steering committee set up with local schools, church groups and businesses. The first meeting of the committee will take place on November 10, 5.00pm at St Andrews rectory. Any further interest in attending than has been agreed should be directed to Matt.

5. FLOOD PREVENTION UPDATE

Bob Myles fed back that there will be a report going to committee looking at options for flood preventing including 100 and 200 year proposals. As previously noted there will be a march taking place on Saturday 31 October followed by discussion on how this issue can be resolved and action taken by the responsible agencies.

6. TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

The following update on the THI was presented as follows:

- **Priority Projects:** Significant progress has been made with a group of buildings to the High Street. Site surveys have been undertaken for 4 neighbouring buildings and grant applications are anticipated once the repair works have been tendered.
- **Multiple Projects:** 3 small level grants have recently been awarded for rainwater goods renewal, historic window pattern reinstatement and roof repair. Several owners have met with the Project Manager and are likely to submit grant applications for a variety of repairs to buildings on the High Street and St David Street.
- **Cathedral Wall Repair:** The wall to the northern boundary of the Cathedral graveyard has been repointed in lime mortar by a squad on the New Deal Programme (aged 18-24 years old) under the supervision of Angus Council Training Services.
- **Cross Keys Close Mosaic:** a project to create and assemble a mosaic to be placed on a wall in Cross Keys close is currently being devised. Volunteers, aged 10-17 years old are being sought for the project which will take place on 5 Saturday's from the 7th of November until the 12th of December at the Damacre Centre.
- **Archaeological Dig at Bishop's Close:** The archaeologists who supervised the archaeological dig during September will return to Brechin later this year in order to give a talk about the discoveries.
- **Angus College:** a joint project investigating the availability of traditional building skills amongst Tayside firms is nearing completion. The project has been part funded by the THI and LEADER and will result in a directory that will be made available locally.

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

There has not been any further feedback on the Town Centre Regeneration Fund application which is expected in the near future. The council continues to promote empty units in the city with difficulties still being reflected by the resection. It was also noted that the slaughter house has taken on a lot of new employees while any application for a proposed supermarket has not been forthcoming to the council.

8. ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Action Plan was updated and agreed as correct.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Steve gave an update on the school following an article in the Brechin advertiser. The council will be carrying out a consultation with the wider community before progressing work on the £20-30 Million project. It was noted that the school has been in need of an upgrade for some time and this will be a long term project.

Jim thanked Kieran Andrews, along with Steve Mitchell, for all their support for the partnership and the group wished Kieran well in his new post with the Dundee Courier.

10. DATE, PLACE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 16 December 2009 at 7pm at the Damacre Centre, Brechin.