

MONIFIETH AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 7.00PM IN MONIFIETH LIBRARY AND BURGH CHAMBERS

Present:

Ian Mortimer (Chair)	IM	Monifieth Hall Steering Group
Duncan Inglis	DI	Lead Officer, Angus Council
Sandra Stewart (Sec)	SS	Angus Community Planning Partnership
Cllr Margaret Thomson	MT	Angus Council
Margaret Copland	MC	Monifieth Local History Society
Sheena Thomson	ST	The Vault
Davina Campbell	DC	Angus Council Community Learning & Development Service
Stewart Ellis	SE	Monifieth Community Council
Vikki Bunce	VB	Volunteer Centre Angus
Sheila Marshall	SM	Monifieth Resident
Maureen Turner	MT	Monifieth Community Council
Eileen McArthur	EMc	Focus on Alcohol Angus

ACTION

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

IM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Claire Warrender, Angus Council Housing Division
Cllr John Whyte, Angus Council

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 21 AUGUST 2007

Minute was then accepted as accurate.

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Lowland Games – Ian has spoken to the local Round Table but they are unable to take this forward due to low number of members. It was decided not to take this any further.

b) West End Park – work is due to start on this next week.

c) Britain in Bloom – after discussion it was agreed that maybe a smaller environmental improvement project be undertaken for spring next year and this might provide a catalyst for taking forward the Britain in Bloom competition in the longer term. A small sub-group is to meet to discuss involvement of other groups ie youth groups, schools, local community groups and also to look at submitting an application for funding from the Community Priorities Fund. DI provided the name of the local parks manager whom the group can contact re- a start up plan. Orders for bedding plants can be accessed through Angus Council but the group need to decide what is required as seed order needs to be in by Oct/Nov.

ACTION

SE

d) Filling Station – MC reported that Tesco's have leased this site. No further information is available.

4. TOP PRIORITIES

Community Hall

No further progress.

5. PRESENTATION

Vikki Bunce, Sports Development Worker, Volunteer Centre Angus gave an overview of the work of the Centre. Vikki spoke about the Millennium Volunteer Awards where young people are recognised for the hours of volunteering they undertake ie 50hrs, 100hrs and 200hrs. Organisations that involve young people can register with the Centre and young people receive signed certificates with the 200 hr certificate signed by the First Minister. The Centre is also involved in supporting sports volunteering and helping people with additional support needs find a placement.

Organisations can register with the Centre and their opportunities are advertised through the Centre website. Volunteers can contact the Centre via the website, telephone or visit the Centre in Arbroath. Staff will arrange meetings with individuals in their own area if required. The Centre also has people referred to them from other agencies.

VB also summarised the Scottish Executive Volunteer Strategy which has 4 main strands; Project Scotland and Young People, Improving the volunteer experience, dismantling barriers and monitoring, evaluation and policy development.

VB/SE

SE to liaise with VB with a view to advertising for volunteers to help with the project to enhance the town centre. VB suggested that

ACTION

maybe the Prince's Trust could be involved as they are always looking for projects for young people to be involved in as part of their programme.

Website: www.volunteerangus.org.uk

6. FOCUS ON ALCOHOL PROJECT

Eileen McArthur attended the meeting to follow up on the discussion from her last visit in June and look at how the Project could support local concerns. EMc asked people who attended to write down what they saw as local issues and suggestions on how they might be addressed. In looking at responses some of the main concerns were underage drinking and associated behaviour including litter. Solutions on how to tackle these issues included establishing an Alcohol Free Zone, implementing Operation Dry Up, targeting drinking dens, marking bottles to identify where drink litter has originated from (there is currently a pilot project in Kirriemur using this technique) and having community wardens in the town.

Discussion took place on how diversionary activities for young people might be set up to provide an alternative to drinking. Suggestions include Midnight Football available through Active Schools and Street Football (a portable football pitch) available through the Café Project, Arbroath. (In Arbroath and Forfar, Midnight Football is organised by the Community Liaison Officers from Tayside Police.)

Actions Agreed

- EMc to contact Tayside Police with regard to Operation Dry Up targeting Monifieth **EMc**
- EMc to contact Corporate Service re-by-law for Alcohol Free Zone **EMc**
- DC to put in bid through the ICS Partnership for funding to cover costs of Street Football with the view to running the football over 6 consecutive Friday's as a diversionary activity. An evaluation after this period will be carried out by DC to measure the impact having this activity has made. The Web Project is to be asked to attend and the CLDS Youth Bytes Bus which has information available on a wide range of topics and also internet access. **DC**
- EMc also suggested that the environmental improvement project for the town centre might be another diversionary activity for young people to be involved in. **SE/EMc**

ACTION**7. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EVENT 2007**

A problem has arisen with regard to the date as the Forfar event is on the same evening. The secretary has a confirmation letter from Angus Council for the 29th. It would be difficult to rearrange the date due to the commitment from a wide range of people who are booked for that evening. DI to investigate.

DI**8. AOCB**

MC discussed the decline in membership of the Partnership and that the general feeling for this locally was due to the lack of commitment from Angus Council for local priorities and a feeling of discrimination for Monifieth projects. Although Monifieth is seen as an affluent area there is no bank, sports centre or community hall. MC didn't feel it was a Partnership as it was weighted by representation from Angus Council which is reflected in the attendance at meetings. More recently problems have arisen with the arrival of a bill in relation to the bench outside the House of Memories and subsequent letters about payment. Cost was included for securing the bench to the pavement. DI assured the meeting that the bill should have been for the agreed amount of £500 and will contact accounts department to find out how the error occurred and a credit note issued for the surplus charge.

DI

SE asked how councillors could justify spending nearly £5000 on purchasing new flags when there isn't funding available for local priorities.

MT informed the meeting that double glazing had been approved for the Burgh Chambers room.

MTu raised the issue about funding for the Community Council and that they didn't have money left to pay bills. MT has written to Bill Strachan, Chief Executives about this matter.

SM raised concerns about abusive graffiti at the wheeled sports area which had been there for nearly 10 days. DI informed the group that this should be reported to Angus Council through the ACCESS line. If Angus Council are made aware of it they can have it removed.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 23 October 2007 at 7.00pm in Monifieth Library and Burgh Chambers.