

MONIFIETH AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2006 AT 7.00PM IN MONIFIETH LIBRARY AND BURGH CHAMBERS

Present:

Ian Mortimer	(Chair)	IM	Monifieth Steering Group
John Whyte	(Vice Chair)	JWh	Monifieth Further Education Association/ Action Rail Monifieth/Monifieth Community Council, Panmure Church
John Whellams	(Treasurer)	JW	Monifieth Matters Newsletter/Monifieth Community Council Webmaster
Elaine McLeod	(Secretary)	EMcL	Community Planning Officer - Angus Community Planning Partnership
John Zimny		JZ	Lead Officer – Angus Council
Sheila Marshall		SM	Resident
Angus Johnston		AJ	Monifieth Rotary
Derek Dewar		DD	Monifieth Medieval Fayre
Tracy Lannon		TL	Community Learning & Development – Angus Council
Bob Ness		BN	Community Learning & Development – Angus Council
George Mitchelson		GM	Monifieth Medieval Fayre, Tayside Highland Dancing, Monifieth Singers
Diana Robertson		DR	Monifieth Local History Society
Margo Geddes		MG	Monifieth Befrienders
Margaret Copeland		MC	Monifieth Community Council
Cllr Stewart McGlynn		SMcG	Monifieth West

ACTION

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

IM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Stewart Anton – Monikie/Newbigging Community Council

Fiona McMillan – Monifieth Hall Steering Group

2. BOB NESS, COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICE – National Standards for Community Engagement

Bob gave a presentation to the Partnership on the National Standards for Community Engagement that were devised by Communities Scotland, a Scottish Executive agency that works with others to ensure decent housing and strong communities across Scotland.

Bob explained where the Standards come from, what Partner's are involved and what each of the '10 Commitments' means.

Please see Appendix 1 for a copy of the presentation delivered by Bob.

Bob also explained that the Standards link in with all Partnership work and in particular could be looked at by the newly commissioned Health Improvement Sub Group to ensure good practice in community engagement. As the sub-group is just starting out they could concentrate on the following two standards in particular:

Health
Sub-group

- ❖ Planning
- ❖ Methods

The sub-group could then introduce additional standards as appropriate.

JWh asked about the effectiveness of gauging how the delivery of the standards is working. Bob advised that constant monitoring should be carried out e.g. questionnaires, checking back on achievements and asking people. If community engagement isn't going well then look for ways to improve things.

IM highlighted concern about the lack of community involvement nowadays and how this reduces power at a local level. Bob explained that service providers are much more accountable now than before hence the introduction of the National Standards of Community Engagement to ensure good practice in encouraging community involvement.

More information and a copy of the National Standards for Community Engagement can be found on the Communities Scotland website www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk

3. NOTE OF LAST MEETING – 28 FEBRUARY 2006

Minutes were agreed and accepted as accurate.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Toilets

JWh asked if it would be possible to obtain figures on proportionate spend on Monifieth toilets for 2004/2005 in relation to other burghs in Angus. IM also raised the question of any statutory requirement for the provision of toilets. Partnership to investigate these enquiries with the Environmental and Consumer Protection Department.

EMcL

JZ advised that no additional finance had been identified in this year's budget for extra opening hours of the Blue Seaway toilets or any other toilets within the Leisure Services Department's remit.

The opening hours of the Blue Seaway toilets for 2006 are 12.00pm to 5.00pm, Monday to Sunday, from 1 April 2006 to 28 September 2006. This daily, 5-hour block-time is flexible and can be changed if required. JW suggested that the question of opening hours (daily 5 hour block) be asked in an addition of Monifieth Matters. People could phone in their responses to an identified phone number.

JW

MC asked if another source of funding could be sought to enable the toilets to be open longer. JZ advised that for the toilets to be open an extra 4 hours per day, 7 days a week for 24 weeks would cost @£3,000.

SM asked if the shop at the leisure centre pavilion was to re-open. JZ to investigate.

JZ

5. HEALTH IMPROVEMENT SUB-GROUP

The first meeting of the sub-group was held on the 21 February 2006 where a discussion was held on how to move forward.

It was agreed that a questionnaire would be distributed to the local community using the addition of Monifieth Matters due out later in the year. JW suggested that a brief article be placed in the addition due out in April to introduce the sub-group and advise of the questionnaire to follow. Officers on the sub-group are to work on this questionnaire, taking into account what information is already available to avoid any duplication. The draft questionnaire will then be circulated to all members of the sub-group for comment before being distributed.

JZ

The next meeting is to be arranged. GM expressed his interest in being involved in the sub-group. GM to be invited to attend the next sub-group meeting.

EMcL

6. TOP PRIORITIES

Redevelopment of Town Centre – Community Hall

IM raised concern over the number of rumours about town in relation to the town centre redevelopment and suggested that the community should be told of the current position.

SMcG answered that an area forum cannot be held until there is something more definite to report. He advised that the Director of Planning and Transport is looking at various options for Monifieth but the outcome depends on development plans for the town centre. He assured everyone that appropriate consultation would take place.

JWh asked about the likelihood of Tesco taking over the entire town centre and local businesses no longer being able to trade. SMcG advised that Tesco have been informed that 8 retail units have to be made available in any development plans for local business use.

Enquiries were made regarding the petrol station at Barnhill. SMcG advised that the petrol station would remain and would have a Tesco store attached. It would not be a Tesco with a Tesco petrol station.

Rural Transport Links

JWh attended the Tayside and Central Transport Partnership (TACT) conference on the 17th February. It was a useful meeting advising of National Transport Strategy as well as local situations. The meeting also highlighted the need for a statutory requirement to ensure that provision for public transport is taken into consideration when planning issues are being discussed. Currently transport assessment in relation to this is not given much consideration.

TACT Partnership also includes Stirling. This should be seen as a bonus for Tayside as could involve a spin-off benefit e.g. cross rail service from Stirling.

JWh stressed that Monifieth is one of the worst provided areas of public rail transport.

Sports and Leisure Facilities

BN gave an update on 'The Friday Thing', the youth project that is currently taking place at Monifieth High School. Due to exams and mid-term holiday the project did not run for 3 weeks – this affected attendance slightly when re-started. Apart from this the project is going very well and is encouraging the children who normally congregate on the High Street. GM enquired if there is a commitment from the Education Department to continue use of the School during the holiday periods. BN advised that a valuation report is to be carried out after 31st March and will include this issue.

JW raised concern over the possibility of Angus College using Monifieth High School for outreach classes and how this could affect Monifieth Further Education Association. Partnership to write to Education Department to enquire about Angus College's proposals for this. To be copied to Councillor McGlynn and Councillor Murray.

EMcL

MEDIEVAL FAYRE

- GM and DD appealed to the Partnership for their help in promoting the town's Medieval Fayre and recruiting volunteers to help organise this annual event, which is very well attended. There are currently only three active members on this group and more help is needed to enable this event to continue on an annual basis. TL suggested an article in Monifieth Matters might encourage additional support. GM/DD to forward an article for submission to JW.

GM/DD

This years Medieval Fayre will be held on Sunday 18th June 2006.

8. A O B

AJ advised that the 8th April is National Stroke Awareness Day. Monifieth Rotary will have a caravan situated in Tesco Car Park where people can take the opportunity of having blood pressure tests carried out.

MC advised of a website featuring pictures of Old Monifieth that have been named incorrectly. EMcL to investigate and arrange for it to be amended if possible.

EMcL

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 28th March 2006 at 7.00pm in Monifieth Library and Burgh Chambers.