

**MONIFIETH AREA PARTNERSHIP
NOTE OF MEETING**

Tuesday 17 February 2004, 7.30pm, Seaview Primary School, Monifieth

Present: Ian Mortimer (Chair), Monifieth Centre Steering Group **IM**
John Zimny (Vice-chair), Leisure Services/Lead Officer, Angus Council **JZ**
Ed Taylor (Secretary), Angus Community Planning Partnership **ET**
John Whellams (Treasurer), Ashleigh Manor Guest House **JW(T)**
Bill Strachan, Head of Policy and Performance, Angus Council **BS**
Cllr. Stewart McGlynn, Angus Council **SM**
Martin Taylor, Monifieth Wine Circle **MT**
Craig Fotheringham, Monifieth Further Education Association **CF**
Jim Culloch, Monifieth Rotary & Monifieth 41 Club **JC**
Tracey Lannon, Community Education Service **TL**
Jim McCormack, St. Brides Men's Group **JMc**
Fiona McMillan, Monifieth resident **FM**
Ruth Scott, Monikie & Newbigging Community Council **RS**
Patricia Kinnear, Monifieth resident **PK**
Jean Spence, Monifieth resident **JS**
Catherine Gibson, Muirwood Place **CG**
Margo Geddes, Muirwood Place **MG**
Sheila Doig, Monifieth Matters/Monifieth Befriending Scheme **SD**
Bill Deacon, Riverview Caravan Park **BD**
Margaret Copeland, Monifieth Local History Society/ Hall Group **MC**
Diana M Robertson, Monifieth Local History Society/ Hall Group **DR**
Peter Howie, Monifieth Panmure Church **PH**
John Whyte, Monifieth Community Council, Action Rail Monifieth **JW**
Stewart Anton, Monikie & Newbigging Community Council **SA**
Colin Lorimer, Monifieth Community Council **CL**
Andrina McCormack, Monifieth Centre Steering Group **AM**

- 1. Apologies** Cllr. Rob Murray, Angus Council
Cllr. Helen Oswald, Angus Council
Craig Lafferty, Angus Council
Merlyn Dunn, Angus Ahead
Barry Jack, Duntrune House

2. Note of last meeting

JZ went through the various points under A.O.C.B. The following points were noted:-

- Carnoustie has been selected for the Open Championship in 2007, which will make Monifieth Medal a qualifying course. This may provide opportunities for the Partnership.
- JZ asked that members of the Partnership invite representatives of the rural area to future meetings.

- JZ explained the Council is now encouraging people to donate seating in their estate, as this would benefit the community.

IM proposed the note as an accurate record.

3. Priorities paper

IM proposed this was accurate and suggested members keep hold of the paper for reference to see how the Partnership has progressed in the future.

4. Accommodations sub committee

IM introduced Dr. McCormack, treasurer of the Monifieth Centre Steering Group. Dr. McCormack detailed the work the group has been undertaking including:-

- The group is looking to develop a community hall for Monifieth
- The Steering Group consists of 7 members
- An application has been made for Direct Grants funding for a feasibility study looking at taking the project forward (awaiting response). The Group is looking to appoint a local consultant to carry out the study, and it is hoped work on this can commence in March subject to funding availability.
- The M.H.S.G. has been in discussions with the Churches Strategy Group looking at the consolidation of church premises in Monifieth.

Dr. McCormack proposed that the M.H.S.G. become a sub committee of the Partnership, as this may help the group access funding and perhaps get a wider input into the project. IM seconded this motion.

- IM asked BS whether the MAP Partnership Agreement would cover the work of the sub committees of the Partnership. BS stated the bureaucracy may need to be tightened up for funding applications, for example, but the Agreement was written to be flexible. BS stated that the partnership approach might give a funding application more weight as support of the Partnership demonstrates a wider commitment to the project.

5. Town centre

IM referred to the Priorities Paper and discussion at the previous meeting regarding the state of the town centre.

- IM stressed the need to get information on the situation.
- CL stated the Community Council has formed a sub-committee to look at this and suggested the Partnership tie into this.
- AM questioned what the role of the Community Council was in relation to the role of the Partnership. BS stated the Community Council was one member of the Partnership, and as the Community Council is already looking at this, it would make

sense to work together and not duplicate efforts. BS reiterated that the Partnership can bring weight (with funding etc) to the activities of its member organisations.

- It was suggested that the Partnership ask Angus Council Planning & Transport Department to give a presentation to the Partnership about the town centre and the contents of the Local Plan in relation to Monifieth. It was hoped that this will give a context to what can be done by the Partnership in relation to the town centre.
- The need to address why businesses are failing in Monifieth was stated. The rents were said to be excessive, and there was no incentive(s) for new businesses to start up.
- CL stated the Community Council town centre sub-group had met with a representative of Angus Council in the past, but it was felt a presentation to the Partnership as a whole would allow a wider input into discussion over its future and what can be done.
- JZ provided details of previous correspondence between MC and Graham & Sibbald (factors of former William Low's site in Monifieth). The lease on the property with Tesco does not expire until 2019. It was suggested that Tesco pays approximately £64,000 p/yr for the vacant building.
- The Monifieth Community Council Town Centre sub-committee consists of:-

John Whyte, Colin Lorimer, Margaret Copeland and David Hammond. Jim Culloch to join group. It was also suggested that a member with a business in Monifieth be approached. Euan Jenkin was suggested and IM to approach. Andy Davis (Cho Ku Ray) was also suggested. IM suggested Council representation may benefit the group.

6. Business Community

IM introduced the next item by asking partners if anyone knew what had happened to the Monifieth Traders Association. BD (Riverview Caravan Park) stated the Traders Association had folded due to lack of interest and lack of businesses.

The following points were raised regarding the Monifieth business community:-

- The Community Council website (monifieth.net) has been recently upgraded and offers opportunities for businesses in Monifieth to link into it.
- The importance of the business community was discussed and it was thought to be important to include representatives of businesses in the work of the Partnership.

7. Marketing of the Monifieth area

A range of points were raised regarding the marketing of the Monifieth area:-

- MC stated the Monifieth Local History Society has taken over the lease for 55 High Street which will accommodate a 'House of Memories'. This will involve a collection of historical artifacts and information about the area. The former charity shop requires a lot of work and it may take some time before it opens. MC also stated the Society has produced a video available for £9.99 in the town.

- ET read comments of Barry Jack (Duntrune House) who expressed an interest in genealogy and felt perhaps there was a niche market for the Monifieth area in this field.
- MC expressed an interest in developing historic walks and notice boards.
- BD commented that Monifieth was shown on 'Scottish Passport' including Riverview Caravan Park. BD stated that he had received 600 enquiries since the show and this had promoted Monifieth. To get Monifieth on the show had taken years of work with the tourist board, but it was highlighted as an example of what can be achieved.
- BD stated that RCP has a small tourist information room marketing the area.
- JW(T) stated the Ashleigh Manor had a website, the Community Council had a website, BD had a website and that linkages between these different sites could be beneficial. MC mentioned the Tay Valley Family History Society website also.
- The Destination Montrose brochure was shown as a good example of what can be produced to marketing an area, using the tourist board and other partners for distribution. Visit Scotland and the Caledonian Society in Canada were also mentioned as possible avenues for brochure distribution. BS stated that a financial contribution from Angus Council was made to assist the first edition of this brochure.
- SD asked whether Economic Development would make a funding contribution to the Monifieth Matters newsletter. BS suggested that the funding was likely to be dependant on the target market and that it was likely that Montrose had been successful because it was aimed at tourists rather than existing residents.
- BS suggested the Partnership focus its efforts building on the positives of Monifieth including the golf course(s), sea front and surrounding rural area.
- BD stressed the need to establish who the target market will be for any marketing of the Partnership.
- It was suggested that Dobbies attracts a lot of visitors and that information boards about what Monifieth has to offer could be successful.
- Green Tourism was suggested as an area which is developing and perhaps this provided an opportunity for developing activities in the area (reference was made to the quality of bathing waters since Hatton came into operation, the development of a coastal cycle track, and the path adjacent to the A92 which will be constructed).
- IM suggested a sub committee could look at marketing for the area:-

Dr. Andrina McCormack, Margaret Copeland, John Whellams & Bill Deacon volunteered to form a group to look at this

- JZ to contact individuals about a meeting of this sub-committee.

8. A.O.B.

Angus Farmers Market It was suggested that representatives of the AFM be invited to a future meeting to discuss whether they could come to Monifieth and what the Partnership would need to do to facilitate it coming to Monifieth. Permission to use the square has been granted in the past for the Monifieth Medieval Fair, and Graham and Sibbald would need to be approached to get this.

Rural Transport SA stated discussions had taken place with Chris Boyle from Angus Council Planning & Transport Dept. regarding improvements to rural bus services

to the Monifieth landward area. He had hoped to see a Sunday service from Dundee to Monikie Park, a service from Dundee to Monikie departing at around 2015, and a service from Monifieth to Forfar via the rural areas.

Funding for the Partnership JC asked if there is a person within the Council who could advise the Partnership of possible avenues to funding. BS advised members that the Economic Development Unit (Angus Council) had an External Funding Team who could be asked to meet with the Partnership once the priorities/projects have been decided.

Community Learning Partnership TL advised the Community Learning Plan will soon be published. An event will be jointly held with Careers Scotland entitled 'Opportunities for Change' on 29 May. This will take place in Tesco car park.

Meeting dates JW stated that Partnership meetings clash with meetings of the Further Education Association and asked whether there was there another evening which can be used. AM asked whether the heating can be put on at future meetings. ET to check availability of hall with Janitor and mention heating.

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9 March 2004 at 7.30pm, Seaview Primary School, Monifieth.

Actions arising from meeting:-

- ET to contact Angus Council Planning & Transport Dept. and ask to do a presentation at next meeting of the Partnership (*see item 5: Town Centre).
- JZ to contact individuals about Marketing sub-committee meeting.
- ET to check availability of hall with Janitor and mention heating.

Seaview availability	✓ Available ✗ Unavailable Closed for Easter 2 April – 19 April
Monday	✓
Tuesday	
Wednesday	✓
Thursday	✗
Friday	✗