



**ANGUS COMMUNITY PLANNING  
PARTNERSHIP**

**LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING IN ANGUS**

**REPORT ON THE FOCUS ON SIDLAW AND  
NEWTYLE AREA SEMINAR**

**HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2004 AT THE  
PIPERDAM GOLF AND LEISURE RESORT**



## Introduction

This report provides feedback on the 'Focus on Sidlaw and Newtyle Area' local community planning seminar held on Tuesday 16 November 2004 at the Piperdam Golf and Leisure Resort.

The event was the eighth in a series of seminars being facilitated by the Angus Community Planning Partnership to assist the further development of the local dimension of community planning within Angus.

The seminar provided the opportunity for community planning partners at a strategic level, local workers of organisations represented in the area and members of the local community and community groups to come together to discuss local issues, identifying priorities for improved partnership working.

The intended outcome from the seminar is: -

- wider consultation on the priorities identified,
- inform the community plan update
- inform local action

Prior to the seminar an audit of activity was undertaken for the area, which informed discussion on the day. The main purpose of the audit was to identify current activity, planned and potential future activity and to identify opportunities for future partnership working where appropriate.

## Format for the day

9.00am	Registration and coffee on arrival
9.30am	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> <i>Sandy Watson, Chief Executive, Angus Council</i>  <b>Community Planning in Angus: progress to date</b> <i>Sandy Watson</i>
9.50am	<b>Land Use Planning Framework</b> <i>Gordon Pyper, Development Plan Manager, Planning and Transport, Angus Council</i>
10.10am	<b>Sidlaws Housing Needs Research</b> <i>Kenneth Stephen, Research &amp; Development Officer, Housing, Angus Council</i>
10.25am	<b>Newtyle Path Network Group</b> <i>Mr Iain Buick</i>
10.40am	<b>Birkhill &amp; Muirhead Park Development Fund Group</b> <i>Jackie Malcolm</i>

10.55am	<b>Introduction to Workshops:</b> <i>Sandy Watson</i>
11.00am	Coffee
11.15am	<p><b>Workshops</b></p> <p>Three groups reviewing speaker input and to consider local issues, each to identify 6 main points</p> <p>a) Strategic b) Local workers c) Community Representatives</p>
12.15pm	<b>Feedback from morning workshops</b>
12.30pm	Lunch
1.15pm	<b>Introduction to afternoon session:</b> <i>Sandy Watson</i>
1.30pm	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Three separate 'mixed' groups, each to discuss 18 points identified in the morning sessions and to reach agreement on main priority issues.</p>
2.30pm	<p><b>Feedback from afternoon discussions</b></p> <p><b>Plenary and way forward :</b> <i>Sandy Watson</i></p>
3.00pm	<b>Close of Seminar</b> - Coffee will be available

The seminar was chaired by Mr Sandy Watson, Chief Executive, Angus Council, who also delivered the first presentation, which set the scene for the day providing an overview of community planning both nationally and locally within Angus.

This was followed by a number of other presentations which included an overview of the land use planning framework, an update on progress with the Sidlaws Housing Needs Research project, the development of the Newtyle Path Network and the proposed project development of Birkhill and Muirhead Park.

The speaker input proved to make a valuable contribution to the workshop discussion, which then followed.

## **Morning Workshop**

The morning workshops divided delegates into the three groups of strategic, local workers and community representatives. Each workshop group was asked to identify six priority issues in Sidlaw and Newtyle Area for partnership working.

The discussion notes from each group are detailed at Appendix 2 with the 18 main issues agreed by each of the groups detailed at Appendix 3.

## **Afternoon Workshop**

The afternoon session took the format of three mixed workshop groups discussing the 18 issues identified from the morning session. The groups agreed on six main issues, which are detailed at Appendix 4. The discussion notes from each group are also detailed at Appendix 4.

At the summing up session, the main issues resulting from the day were summarised and agreed by all those in attendance. (Detailed at Appendix 1)

## **Attendance**

Approximately 50 representatives attended the event.

Invitations were sent to all community planning partner organisations, community planning thematic groups, elected members for the area, local businesses and a selection of voluntary and community sector organisations (including community councils) mainly selected from local knowledge and Area Forum mailing lists.

## **Feedback**

Overall the feedback provided from the day was generally of a positive nature in relation to both the presentations and the workshop discussions. The majority of delegates found the day to be useful, especially in terms of obtaining an awareness of what's going on, what the local concerns/issues are and establishing links and meeting others.

The issue was raised about the lack of community representatives attending the event and therefore it was questioned as to how representative the community view of those attending was of the whole Sidlaw /Newtyle area?

The need to attract a greater number of both community and business representatives at future events of this nature was raised.

It was suggested that for future events it would be helpful to receive input from partner agencies regarding local issues. It was also suggested that it would be more useful if the workshop session looked at more real action planning rather than opinions.

These comments and others received will be considered for future events.

## APPENDIX 1

### Priority Issues

The points listed below were identified as being the main priority issues to be progressed from the workshop discussions. A number of the issues are common across the area e.g. road safety, improved communication where a number of the issues were specific to an individual community e.g. drainage at Muirhead/Birkhill park.

- Improved transport provision
- Improved road safety
- Addressing the needs of young people – including improved facilities and activities for young people
- Increased community engagement right across the Sidlaw/Newtyle area
- Developing links and improving communication between public sector organisations and community and voluntary sector groups
- Improved communication between community and voluntary groups across the area
- Improving access to information and services including rural health services
- Economic development plan - including rural employment opportunities

### Way Forward

To address the issues identified, it was the view that the development of a local partnership would not be the right way ahead, however the elements of partnership working need to be present throughout the area and a much greater interface between partner organisations and the community is required.

There was a clear message that there is a need for improved and greater community engagement right across the area.

It was agreed that an action plan be drafted based on the main priority issues as detailed above and specific actions taken from workshop discussions. The action plan should clearly set out the actions, timescales and who will be involved in progressing.

The first draft of the action plan is detailed at Appendix 5. This will be subject to consultation with the community planning partners and the local community.

It was agreed in principal at the seminar that the Angus Rural Partnership Development Officer will assist in delivering the action plan.

<b>MORNING WORKSHOPS</b>
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**Group 1 – Strategic Group****Six Priorities/Issues**

1. Recognise the diversity of communities within the area
2. Implications of rurality on access to services
3. Resources-existing: more effectiveness – gaps; Angus Rural Partnership role?
4. Accessing Information/communication/engagement/making connections with key stakeholders – NB landowners and farmers
5. Strategic framework – economic action plan
6. NB Young people issues/involvement

**General Discussion points**

Small communities – barrier + advantage, easier to involve, smaller meetings

NHS – Rural Deprivation/Access to services

No. of LHCC → Coordination

Recognise diversity

Newtyle – Birkhill – separate identities

- Fowlis/Liff – Strathmartine

Area Forum - Local issues dealt with separately

Common issues:

- o Affordable housing
- o Road safety
- o Activities for young people
- o Transport
- o Landfill site/windfarm

→ Network? – community wishes

Accessing information/information sharing – strategic response

Website/ACCESS Line

Linking local to thematic - Making connections for action

1100 additional houses: facilities – sense of belonging

City Region 'complication'

Existing Community Networks:

(clarity of linkages)

- PTA – Scouts/Youth groups, voluntary groups e.g. park committee  
N.B. young people involvement/issues

- Private sector – landowners (housing – upgrading + new), farmers, businesses → Diversification opportunities/ encourage local developments

Advantages of face to face links - More resource intensive to support?

Short term - support communication? Between & to organisations

Angus Rural Partnership role? → Build relationships/communication

'Model' for other rural hinterlands (in partnerships)

Explore 'virtual' partnership

City region – unknown quantity as yet?  
NFU/Young Farmers/Mart  
Proactive support to existing (new) businesses  
Use changes in cap to help move away from land-based industry?

## **Group 2 – Local Workers**

### **Six Priorities/Issues**

1. Improved communication – within and outwith area to ensure activities are joined up, local workers understand where they fit, ensure areas are not competing unnecessarily for funding, show where joint working is bringing success
2. Education – understanding local geography, demographics, perceptions, activities and groups in order to take into account issues specific to rural areas
3. Youth provision – ensure local workers are aware of youth issues and barriers in undertaking their work such as cultural attachment to area, schooling arrangements, transport, affordable childcare etc.
4. Health provision – ensure local workers are aware of youth issues and barriers such as transport and services near health centres for example
5. Economic development – use recreational facilities for example as a means of generating income for local area to bring earnings from commuters and tourists back into area

### **General Discussion points**

- Making sure work in area is joined up is important
- What part of the jigsaw are we?
- Education – rural differences in service e.g. fire response time allocations
- Social Work/Community Education/Health joint working – young families support (stress, mental health issues due to moves, lifestyle etc.)
- Differing affluence in Sidlaw/Newtye areas i.e. certain streets can be “ghettoised” – common identity such as school aged kids, social isolation
- Access to preschool education is important for these groups BUT funding is an issue
- Confidence to access existing available provision is sometimes lacking – links to youth issues
- Certain families stigmatised due to one person – it takes long time to become ‘local’
- Root cause analysis needed
- Individual groups don’t always see what else is being done – perceptions are important
- Barrier – ‘them and us’
- Early intervention is important
- Identify hidden issues
- Youth provision – lack of
  - Linked to transport issues
  - Linked to schooling policy (High School)(Kirrie and Monifieth)

- Linked to after school activity provision and transport home
- Transport times long
- Access to taxis for extra activities
- Cultural attachment – not to Monifieth (or Kirrie)
- Geography dictates arrangements
- Health provision
  - Services in P & K, Dundee and Angus
  - Emergencies not recorded as Angus stats when go to Ninewells
  - Local services may dictate which health centre people choose
- Funding
  - Active groups in area seeking funding and getting help from Angus Council
  - Not joined up thus in competition with each other
  - Partnership – sometimes paper exercise
  - Useful if local organisations know what each other is doing
  - Angus Council project database being developed – to inform, share, tie up
- Geography
  - Means sharing of information is essential
  - Community Councils don't regularly interact
  - Council communications but not necessarily 'INTRA communications'
- Community Councils
  - Community Council bi annual meetings don't facilitate networking and a forum for discussing common issues
  - Issues are often common across many community councils in Sidlaw/Newtyle – would be good to meet and share lessons learned
  - Difference groups develop differently but may benefit from others and draw on local experience
  - Creativity in funding approaches can be achieved with this additional knowledge
- Economic Development – Recreation
  - Scope to develop old railways for cycle paths or further path network
  - Area has recreational role for local economic development – tourism
  - And benefits of recreation
  - Links being made with paths coming out of Dundee and P & K via ACCESS Officers
  - IT ALL TAKES TIME!
- Although area is rural, workers are mainly commuters. Redevelop local area to direct income back into rural/local
- Economic regeneration of local communities is limited – income is coming from outwith

- Young people leave area
- End up with unbalanced community
- Community Education runs provision and supports local volunteers in youth provision but young adults are more difficult group to recruit for
- Streetworking initiative great opportunity but staffing is very difficult – recruitment and retention
- Young people need to build trust and openness with the Streetworkers
- Local people do want to work with their own communities but we need to make it viable to work in area
- Affordable child care is a BIG issue in the local area – major implications for health of parents and kids irrespective of income
- And local socialisation
- And choosing to return to employment
- NO DAYCARE PROVISION AVAILABLE for pre-nursery kids
- After school provision is also an issue
  - But available in Birkhill (pre-school breakfast provision NOT available)
  - Normally organised by local parents who need the service
- Childcare is a BIG concern in rural areas
- Library:
  - Only one library in Sidlaw/Newtyle Area – problems have arisen since installation of the computers and internet access.
  - Lack of funding for staff at night SAFETY
  - CCTV has been installed
  - Concern over any loss of facility
- ❖ Community taking responsibility to achieve for themselves ‘others getting help so why aren’t we?’
- ❖ Sustainability is an issue (Coupar Angus all weather courts)

## REALISTIC, ACHIEVABLE AND SUSTAINABLE

- Communication
  - Recognising diversity in communities
  - But learning from best practice in nearby areas
  - Talking to the community to find out which approach may work best to move forward, how similar or different is Sidlaw/Newtyle from other areas? Then would a partnership approach work
  - Involving local people but still tapping into wider strategic activities
  - Local groups engaged in community planning process can begin to make links with service provision and strategic planning
  - Focal point in Sidlaw/Newtyle
- Community and Youth Issues
  - Facilities provision
    - Making ambitions realistic and achievable
  - Understand what young people want by engaging with them
  - Cultural attachment to schools far from home e.g. Monifieth (rural/urban divide)

- Resources
  - (Out of hours facility for Sidlaw/Newtyle kids)
  - how do we attract funding for the rural areas like Sidlaw/Newtyle?
  - Which resources can be attracted via the partner organisations to best fit the community needs – including ‘the community’ itself
  - Community has a responsibility as well
  - Make better use of local existing resources
  - Access to services – transport
- Transport
  - Local communities support each other and travel between each area
  - Demand responsive trials
  - Access to services dependent on transport off rural bus routes
- Health
  - Access to health care depends on access to health centres on bus route and with local services NOT necessarily the nearest
  - Difference in health needs in rural areas e.g. young families (isolation, low income, mental health)
- Economics
  - Employment isn’t so readily available for young people in rural areas
- Investment and encouraging small businesses (and local) to develop
  - Provision of apprentices via Council
  - Linked to the provision of affordable housing and registered child care (pre-school and after school)
  - Understanding rurality – agri land use – who can best help? Angus Rural Partnership?
- Access to Services
  - More than just transport
  - Knowing who to contact or where to go

### **Group 3 – Community Representatives**

#### **Six Priorities/Issues**

1. Improved communication between communities and with agencies (esp. Angus Council)
2. Improved transport network and road safety
3. Survey communities to identify local needs/wants but need to make a difference/BE USED – Focus on what is possible
4. Agencies need to be more concerned/proactive/ and facilitate in terms of local issues
5. Quality services/facilities for the community e.g. secondary schooling
6. Local communities in Sidlaw not being listened to/resourced because of (disadvantaged) geographical location and spread (ribbon area)
7. Nominated contact officer for the community

## General Discussion points

- Different issues across the area – a bit ambitious to focus
- Community based activities/facilities required
- Rural communities can often feel in the ‘backwater’.
- Agricultural pressures across the area → tourism and leisure investment required. Piperdam an example
- Sidlaw West and East issues are mirrored → links
- Transport issues
  - Local -v’s- tourism issues different
  - Transport responsive to need
- What does community want/need?
  - Young people – need to make area attractive for them to stay
  - Youth shelter a “white elephant”
  - Elderly population – use hall for ‘surgery’ to access/obtain info on services – mini version of ACCESS office
  - IT equipment – video conferencing in halls to aid communication
- No affinity with Monifieth – ACCESS Office library. Schools.
- Competition between communities for facilities – could/should work in partnership
  - Should consult with communities – joint working/funding
  - E.g. Auchterhouse’s involvement with Muirhead Hall development
  - Implications for funding bids
- Sidlaw Learning Partnership
  - Little input from Auchterhouse and Angus College
  - About to be centred on 2 burghs
- Need to improve partnership/communications/liaisons within the area with communities, agencies and individual communities with a view to providing local services/facilities
- Better use of resources (from meetings) to provide facilities
- Sidlaw poorly resourced in relation to other areas in Angus Council
- Under threat from Dundee – Sidlaw area needs more powerful presence/identity in Angus
- Not getting to the problems/issues in the communities
- Dealing with dormitory villages
- Rely on volunteers
- Support to community groups to realise aspiration – e.g. funding
- YP associated with vandalism
  - Need for facilities
  - Transport

## APPENDIX 3

### Main Issues Identified in the morning workshops which fed into the afternoon discussion

#### Strategic Partners

1. Recognise diversity of communities
2. Implications of rurality on access to services
3. Resources – existing: more effectiveness – gaps; Angus Rural Partnership role?
4. Accessing information/communication/engagement/Making connections with key stakeholders – NB landowners and farmers
5. Strategic framework – economic action plan
6. NB Young people issues/involvement

#### Local Workers

1. Communication – within and out with area to ensure activities are joined up, local workers understand where they fit, ensure areas are not competing unnecessarily for funding, show where joint working is bringing success
2. Education – understanding local geography, demographics, perceptions, activities and groups in order to take into account issues specific to rural areas
3. Youth provision – ensure local workers are aware of youth issues and barriers in undertaking their work such as cultural attachment to area, schooling arrangements, transport, affordable childcare etc.
4. Health provision – ensure local workers are aware of youth issues and barriers such as transport and services near health centres for example
5. Economic development – use recreational facilities for example as a means of generating income for local area to bring earnings from commuters and tourists back into area

#### Community

1. Improved communication between communities and with agencies (especially Angus Council)
2. Improved transport network and road safety issues
3. Survey communities to identify local needs/wants but need to be used/make a difference – focus on what is possible
4. Local issues – agencies (Angus Council) need to be more concerned, proactive and facilitate
5. Quality facilities/services for the community, e.g. secondary education
6. Local communities in Sidlaw not being listened to/resourced disadvantaged because of geographical location and spread (“Ribbon Area”)
7. Nominated contact officer for the Sidlaw Area

<b>AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS</b>
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**Group 1****Main issues****Action Points identified**

Improve links between local community councils (meetings 2/year?)  
 e.mail network exists?  
 Drainage/hall – group to get together to discuss how to take this forward  
 Angus Rural Partnership development worker → Sidlaw/Newtyle early focus  
 working in area, be proactive  
 Angus Council/partners to listen to communities better  
 What can we do together?  
 Improve things for young people – facilities/activities  
 Action is happening as result of Newtyle community meeting  
 Economic Development Plan  
 Paid workers to provide alternatives for volunteers  
 Education on not only Council

**General Comments**

Area is less of a priority for partners? Perception that there is a greater spread  
 of resources/Ltd resources  
 Be proactive not reactive  
 → Use local facilities for surgeries  
 → Responding to requests/etc  
 Common issues: Rural transport/facilities – access to services

Action plan will be prepared from today

Birth onwards → v. Ltd/No local care services  
 - Local childminder Newtyle

Better Partnership between communities/agencies

**Group 2****Main Issues**

1. Communication – recognising diversity, learning from best practice, involving local people in strategic decisions
2. Community and Youth Issues – understand what the issues are – education
3. Resources and Access to Services – knowing who to contact and where to go
4. Transport – demand responsive

5. Health – understanding rural health needs and accessing rural health services
6. Economics – rural employment – linked to affordable housing and childcare – understanding rural business characteristics

### **Group 3**

#### **Main Issues**

1. Communication/awareness → link to strategies e.g. Active Citizenship Strategy, ACPP Communications Strategy → Improvements in communication locally required - don't know what's going on.
2. Transport and Road Safety
  - development of Angus Rural Transport Forum in area?
  - link to accessing services
3. Diversity of communities
  - geographic
  - demographic
4. Facilities for community – for young people and others
5. Access to services/information – more local
  - someone to talk to – Com Info Point – village halls
  - surgeries – visiting services
6. Economic factors/development – need for entrepreneurship, re. Local Plan development - are strategic connections made e.g. schooling, health
7. Environment of rural area as flip side to economic factors
8. Closer partnership working required in relation to cross boundary issues e.g. secondary schooling

#### **General comments**

- Diversity of communities can also be seen as a strength
- Confusion how strategies/plans fit into community planning – some imposed by Scottish Executive
- Community networking rather than/or community planning
- Bottom-up approach – communities don't understand what community planning is about and need to see results
- Trust has gone – talking shops
- Formalisation of local/community groups is off-putting

**FOCUS ON SIDLAW AND NEWTYLE SEMINAR**

**ACTION PLAN**

The action plan as detailed below is based on the main priority issues arising from the seminar. A number of specific actions have also been included which were taken from the workshop discussions.

The actions identified are still relatively broad at this stage and therefore further discussion and work requires to be done in relation to agreeing specific actions.

PRIORITY ISSUE/S	IDENTIFIED ACTION	WHO INVOLVED IN PROGRESSING -	TIMESCALE
Increase community engagement across the Sidlaw/Newtyle area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore and consider techniques to assist with obtaining greater and improved community engagement activity</li> </ul>	Angus Rural Partnership development officer Community Planning Officer Angus Community Planning Partners Community Community Education worker Elected Members	
Develop links and improve communication between public sector organisations and community and voluntary groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness and link to existing strategies e.g. Angus Community Planning Communications Strategy, Active Citizenship Strategy</li> </ul>	Angus Community Planning Partnership Community Elected Members	

PRIORITY ISSUE/S	IDENTIFIED ACTION	WHO INVOLVED IN PROGRESSING -	TIMESCALE
Improve communication between community and voluntary groups within the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the possibility of establishing a network forum for the Community Councils within the area to come together to share information, good practice and to draw on local experience.</li> </ul>	Community Councils Community Community Planning team Elected Members	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and consider ways to establish links between local community and voluntary groups to enable the sharing of information and to avoid duplication of effort e.g. accessing the same sources of funding</li> </ul>	Community and voluntary groups Community Education Officer Local Community Planning Officer Elected Members	
Consider access to information and services including rural health services (priority within Community Plan Progress Report & Review 04-05)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain information from the community on the types of problems experienced accessing information and services</li> </ul>	Community Planning Partnership Elected Members Community Community Education	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise greater awareness of the existing mechanisms in place to access services and information, which perhaps are currently under utilised. E.g. community planning website, Partner agency websites, ACCESS Line etc</li> </ul>	Community Planning Officer Angus Rural Partnership Development Officer Community Elected Members	

PRIORITY ISSUE/S	IDENTIFIED ACTION	WHO INVOLVED IN PROGRESSING -	TIMESCALE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider establishing surgeries within the local facilities to access/obtain information on services</li> </ul>	Community Planning Partners Elected Members Community	
Consider the needs of young people, including improved facilities and activities (priority within Community Plan Progress Report & Review 04-05)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish what the needs of young people are. Consider a possible consultation exercise with young people to find this out</li> </ul>	Community Education Worker Young People Youth Council	
Investigate and consider improved transport provision (priority within Community Plan Progress Report & Review 04-05)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the further development of the demand responsive transport service through the Angus Transport Forum</li> </ul>	Angus Transport Forum Local community	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain information on planned improvements to transport services for the area</li> </ul>	Angus Council Planning and Transport	

PRIORITY ISSUE/S	IDENTIFIED ACTION	WHO INVOLVED IN PROGRESSING -	TIMESCALE
Improve road safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify specific areas of concern in relation to road safety issues.</li> </ul>	Community Angus Council Roads Department Tayside Police	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate undertaking possible improvements</li> </ul>	Angus Council Roads Tayside Police	
Develop an Economic Development Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the development of an Economic Development Plan for the area – Angus Rural Strategy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural employment</li> <li>Job opportunities</li> <li>The retention of young people</li> <li>Invest and encourage small businesses to develop</li> <li>Affordable housing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Angus Community Planning Partners Angus Rural Partnership Development Officer Elected Members Sidlaws Housing forum	
Resolve the drainage issues at Birkhill and Muirhead Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group to come together to discuss how to take forward the drainage issues at the park</li> </ul>	Birkhill & Muirhead Park Development Group Angus Council Community	

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