

MINUTE of the BI-ANNUAL MEETING of **REPRESENTATIVES of ANGUS COUNCIL** with **REPRESENTATIVES of COMMUNITY COUNCILS** held in Training Rooms A, B & C, Angus House, Forfar on Thursday 4 December 2014 at 7.00pm.

Provost Helen Oswald in the Chair.

**1. WELCOME**

Provost Helen Oswald welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. LONG SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION**

In recognition of her outstanding contribution as a Community Councillor, Provost Oswald paid tribute to Sue McMahon of Carnoustie Community Council who had achieved 20 years service or more as a Community Councillor. Provost Oswald presented a scroll and quaich to Sue in recognition of her service.

**3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minute of meeting of the Bi-Annual Meeting of 18 June 2014 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**5. PRIDE IN PLACE: GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

Beverley Gibb, Communities Manager, Angus Council gave a presentation on Pride and Place. She confirmed that the Pride and Place Group membership was made up of elected members and officers of Angus Council and chaired by Councillor Jeanette Gaul.

The remit of the group was to promote community work and to make Angus and its communities a place where people could and should feel proud to live and work in.

Beverly gave a brief overview of the work of the communities in Angus and highlighted a number of areas which included:-

- World War 1 Memorials were now plotted on the Angus Heritage Trail
- Litter Projects – Working with schools throughout Angus.
- Monifieth Eco Force - Beach clean ups and High Street planters maintained
- Arbroath - flower beddings areas tended to

Beverley advised that she intended to follow up and would continue to promote the work of Pride and Place. She would be making arrangements to meet with each Community Council to discuss how Pride and Place could help each Community Council.

Wendy Murray, Lead Organiser from the East Haven 800 Project gave an inspiring and informative overview of the key themes, priorities and benefits of the Project. She indicated that the starting point had been to develop a comprehensive communication strategy and that they had included all persons views who were in the community and showed an interest in the project which also included reaching out beyond the boundaries of their own community. They had signed the pledge to Clean Up Scotland and Clean Up Angus and had also applied for funding to achieve their ambitions.

She indicated that East Haven 800 were the winners of the Herald Society Award, Community Project of the Year 2014.

**6. LOCALITY POLICING: KEY TRENDS AND FUTURE DIRECTION**

Chief Inspector Gordon Milne, Area Commander for Angus, Police Scotland gave a presentation on the key trends and future direction.

He provided a brief overview and highlighted a number of areas of improvement and sought feedback on areas where the Community Councils felt that services had not remained as good. He advised that there had been considerable budget cuts and that police numbers were fixed by the Scottish Government, and consequently indicated that Police Scotland were looking to work better with communities.

He highlighted that there were 10-15 incidents per day of shoplifting in Arbroath and that these incidents were usually as a result of substance misuse. He advised that Tayside Intensive Support Scheme (TISS) was a partnership made up of Police Scotland, NHS Tayside, Criminal Justice Social Work Department and other agencies and that as a result of the work of the scheme there had been a reduction in crimes committed.

Following discussion, where questions were answered in relation to parking in town centres, Mr Milne was thanked for his interesting and informative presentation.

## **7. COUNCIL HOUSING UPDATE**

John Morrow, Service Manager (Housing) gave a presentation in respect of new build social housing and Pride in Place.

He provided a brief overview and update in respect of the Council's new build projects in Angus, in particular highlighting key issues such as:-

- New Build – Drivers for Change
- The Council's Strategic Role
- New Build Council House Programme
- Completed New Builds in Angus
- Delivering New Build Council Housing
- Future Plans

He indicated that the Council undertook a dual role to enable and deliver services and that the housing service required to drive strategic objectives, to plan for pride in place and to also work alongside communities to achieve joint objectives.

John was thanked for his interesting and informative presentation.

## **8. WHAT'S NEXT? THE VISION FOR 2015 AND BEYOND**

Kevin Ditcham, Community Engagement Support Officer gave a presentation on the vision for 2015 and beyond.

He highlighted that Community Councils had always played an important role in creating forums for local democracy in Angus and that Angus Council were committed to supporting Community Councils and would continue to work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for Angus communities.

He outlined the meaning of empowerment and indicated that this would enable better community engagement. A new training process was being progressed and advised that this would be focused around key issues and more. A new website for Scotland's Community Councils had been developed by the Scottish Government, COSLA and the Improvement Service. The website can be viewed at [www.communitycouncils.org.uk](http://www.communitycouncils.org.uk).

Kevin also informed the Community Council representatives that a review of the format of the Bi-Annual Meetings would be progressed shortly and requested comments and feedback in this regard.

## **9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

The Community Council representatives were advised that the consultation period for the Angus Local Development Plan consultation would commence in February 2015 and requested representatives to make comments to Angus Council in relation to their respective areas.