

Welcome to the November 2006 edition of Angus Citizens' Panel News, which has feedback on the most recent surveys, plus details of some consultations that may be of interest to you.

## LOCAL CONSULTATION TAKES OFF!!

The Citizens' Panel is just one of the ways we let you have your say on issues that affect life in Angus. Another is the Have Your Say database, which includes local consultations and e-surveys that are open to all.

We have been working hard to ensure that we are asking you about those local issues of most concern, effort that has had some success in recent months, with major local exercises underway in Forfar, Montrose, Arbroath and Carnoustie. These are all exercises that have also been promoted in the local press.

If you prefer not to use the internet you can also contact ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778 to either complete a survey or have one posted to you.

## FORFAR REID PARK CONSULTATION

In Forfar, the Consultation on the future of the Reid Park Bowling Green and Pavilion [www.angus.gov.uk/reidpark](http://www.angus.gov.uk/reidpark) has been underway for over a month. We have already had hundreds of responses, but if you have not aired your views so far there is still time, with the survey running until December.

## CARNOUSTIE SEAFRONT CONSULTATION

A consultation on Carnoustie seafront was also added recently, and can be accessed via Current Consultations through [www.angus.gov.uk/hys](http://www.angus.gov.uk/hys). There are versions of the survey for both young people and for adults and the consultation runs until 24 November.

## ARBROATH SEAFORTH CONSULTATION

Angus Council is also looking for input on Draft Development Guidelines for the Seaforth Site. Background information is available on the internet, which should be of use in helping people to complete the survey at [www.angus.gov.uk/seaforth](http://www.angus.gov.uk/seaforth) until 7 December.

## MONTROSE LOLLIPOP EVALUATION

Finally, in Montrose, the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) are conducting an evaluation of the success of the Lollipop initiative which took place in September. The project saw lollipops distribute to those leaving pubs with the aim of reducing late night disturbance. People can give their views via the e-survey at [www.angus.gov.uk/lollipop](http://www.angus.gov.uk/lollipop).

## ALCOHOL MISUSE SURVEY

You might remember that the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) were also behind the Alcohol Misuse Survey you helped us with in the summer. Your answers to the survey were very useful in providing a picture of alcohol misuse and the problems it causes.

One of the main findings is a link between your main worries, which are vandalism and rubbish, and the use of alcohol. It was also interesting to note that most people drink at home and buy alcohol from supermarkets. This information helps in promoting safe drinking.

This is also important in the impact alcohol misuse has on the community. With most people drinking at home and drinking sensibly it is clear that problems are created by a small minority who drink outside the home and who drink too much.

Only a small number of those who answered the survey, had been ill (6%), argued with someone (4%), sung in the street (4%) or lost their temper (3%) because of alcohol in the previous six

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month. On the other hand 19% said they had been hungover in the same period.

These results are important in terms of what can be done. Comments broadly fall in the three areas that reflect the impact on the community, the problems face by those who drink too much and getting the right information to people as they buy alcohol.

In terms of the impact on the community there was support for stiffer penalties, licensing restriction, diversionary activities and action on underage drinking. For problem drinking, more support, and, across the board, improved education and information, particularly when alcohol is sold.

## MUSEUMS SURVEY

The Museums Survey that you helped us with during the summer has also provided some very helpful results which are being used to improve the service.

The survey provided the welcome news that most of you had visited your local museum at some point in the past. There were also high levels of satisfaction with the museums, recorded by those who had visited in the last 12 months, with 91% satisfied with The Meffan, 93% satisfied with Arbroath Signal Tower and 94% satisfied with The Gateway to the Glens.

On the other hand, most people do not return to museums very often. The reason appears to be that people visit, either out of general interest, as a family, or to see a particular exhibition. The issue appears to be that some people are either not aware of the exhibitions, or are not interested in those that are available.

Comments also focused quite heavily on improved promotion and awareness of what was available in the museums. This is one of the areas that we will focus on, with all museums to develop and advertise a planned, annual Exhibition/Events Programme. We will also be

adopting an Angus-wide marketing strategy to raise awareness of museums, with advertising extended to Angus-wide and Tayside press, and, exhibitions will be more creative and museums will share experience more often.

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY SURVEY

The results of the survey have proved very useful in looking at the further development of both the strategy itself and the services that underpin it – resulting in proposals which will be worked on further.

The survey revealed that while a great number of you are quite physically active, there are also many who are either not very or not at all active. One thing we noticed was that those under 30 and those over 70 together with those who live alone appear to be less physically active than others. This is something we will bear in mind as we develop the strategy and services.

The survey also asked a lot of questions about ways in which services could be improved, focusing on how we communicate, service quality and priorities. There were no surprises in terms of communication; you tend to look for information in leisure centres and pools, libraries and from friends and relatives. These are the main ways in which we communicate at present.

In terms of service quality, the survey findings were clear, 19% said Playparks were poor or very poor, with 15% saying the same about pools. Further, 11% thought car parking was poor or very poor, and another 10% felt the same about changing facilities and the availability of spaces at sessions.

Finally, your priorities have also been noted, with 45% looking for Come and Try sessions, 32% a detailed information booklet and 30% lower prices. While in terms of priorities for improvement, Swimming Pools came in at number 1, Leisure Centres 2 and Playparks 3. Results that reflect views on service satisfaction.

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