ANGUS FAIRTRADE ZONE STEERING GROUP
Meeting held 2pm, 15th November 2016
County buildings, Forfar

Attendees:
Kelly Ann Dempsey (KAD) Angus Council (Communities)
Irene Hoar (IH) Carnoustie Fairtrade Steering Group
Margaret Scrimgeour (MS) Angus Presbytery
Lynne Ogg (LO) Scotmid

Agenda items:
1. Apologies – Ian Sykes, Barbara Reid, Jeanette Gaul, Alita Spink, Margaret Scrimgeour, Anne Pole, Evelyn Fordyce, Brenda Roddy
2. Minutes of meeting held on 7th April 2016
   *Minutes approved
3. Angus updates

Forums

Carnoustie
- IH told the group that the team had not been as active as normal over the summer months due to the sad passing of Angus Provost Helen Oswald. Helen had been very active within the Carnoustie group. It was noted that Helen had also been a great supporter of the zone over the years and her passing is a great loss for the FT effort in Angus.
- Awareness raising effort would be focused on FT Fortnight next year and the group are planning a combined bake off event with adults and children.
- Like many other town groups the no’s attending meeting has dropped and all are thinking of ways to boost members.

Montrose
- The Montrose FT Action Group attended the Farmers’ Market in early November with 6 volunteers in total. Including a few pre-orders for rice and Advent Calendars, the volunteers sold more than £320 worth of stock.
- KAD circulated the stock list at their request in case any other groups wanted to buy any of the Montrose stock.
- LO attended the last Forum meeting as did Edith Fraser the new churches together rep.

Arbroath
- The Arbroath group passed on information about various activities including;
  - Participation and presence at the Arbourfest event in July,
  - Also at the Planet Pondie Picnic held at Keptie Pond (a national environmental initiative which our local “Keptie Friends” encouraged and facilitated Arbroath’s participation) in August.
  - In September they attended the annual Dundee & Angus College Open Day.
  - The group also collected over 120 signatures for the latest Traidcraft “Justice Matters Petition”.
  - The group also wished to note the sad passing of one of their founding group members, Linda MacDonald. Her legacy to the group continues to be an inspiration and we will hope to enthusiastically continue, to promote the Fairtrade cause in Arbroath and the surrounding area.

Brechin
- No update

Kirriemuir
- The Kirriemuir group held various events over the summer. They gave Fairtrade footballs to the under 13 football team in Kirriemuir which were presented to the team on the day of the Bake-Off & Coffee Morning – 27th August. The Bake-Off was really successful with many more entries than usual.
- The group will have a Fairtrade stall at the Winter Fair in the Old Parish Church in early November as will Elemental – the Fairtrade shop in Kirriemuir.

Forfar
The Forfar Forum still attend the Farmers market once a month, and now have loyal, repeat customers. The group continue to get clothes, socks and unusual items from "Sunrise" in Brechin but highlighted that it is difficult trying to keep a large stock of items especially food items due to the sell by date.

The group continue to provide items to sell at Lawson Church, Letham church and the Speckled Hen cafe and farm shop.

The group had a stall at Forfar Gala day and made a Fairtrade/ local produce Chicken curry made with the Fairtrade curry sauce and sold as a taster with a piece of naan bread.

The group aim to produce a FT in Forfar booklet which hopefully should be available by the end of the year or early 2017.

Plans are in place to have another Stall at Angus House before Christmas which is a good place to promote as Angus Council is a supporter of Fairtrade.

**Churches**

- MS informed the group that Angus Presbytery is now a Fairtrade Denominational Area. She noted that there have been some very helpful people supporting her, particularly several Ministers. The group congratulated Margaret on all her hard work.
- MS also highlighted work she has been doing with local Girl Guides highlighting FT on the Ivory Coast. Chocolate is a great draw at these events and LO from Scotmid offered to donate vouchers to buy some. MS said that B&M in Forfar stocks a surprising amount of FT goods. KAD to mail MS printed versions of the FT logo to use at the event.
- MS is to give up her FT responsibility and a new rep will be appointed. The group thanked MS for her regular contribution and will be sad to see her go.

**Angus Council**

- **Communities** - KAD maintaining AC FT webpages.
- KAD also about to promote the AC responsibility to provide FT goods as a choice at all AC meetings.
- Planning FT Fortnight events 2017 (See FT Fortnight).
- **Education** – AS has provided an update for the AC FT education webpage. AS has also pulled together a list of which schools in Angus do FT activities. KAD to circulate this list to the group with the final minutes.

**Scotmid**

The group welcomed LO, who is new in post, to the Forum. LO is very keen to work with the group and promote Scotmid. There is scope to work on FT Fortnight activities together in 2017. Scotmid have always been a brilliant flagship employer for the Montrose Forum and KAD would like to discuss in future Scotmid becoming the zone flagship employer if possible.

4. **Fairtrade Fortnight 2017 - 27th Feb 12th March**

There was no zone bake off in 2016 and KAD had received the following great suggestion for a future event form the Forfar group “The bake of would be the same as every year but the difference would be that people attending the Farmers Market would be the judges by sampling the cakes and would then judge and put their vote into boxes. The winner would be the person with the most votes. The bakers would need to agree that maybe they wouldn’t get to take their cakes home as they would have been used as samples. That way at least many people could become involved in Fairtrade”.

FT Fortnight 2017 was discussed and the group felt that there were two events that they would like to progress in 2017. The first, influenced by Forfar’s recent curry making, is an event at the Angus Farmers Market on 11th March. KAD to contact Carol Robbie and progress this event. The second is a zone wide wine tasting/quiz night supported by Scotmid. KAD to progress this and will be in touch in due course.

5. **Date and time of next meeting.** KAD will send out a doodlepoll for a meeting in January 2017 pre FT Fortnight.

**AOCB**

- N/A
- KAD closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.