

Angus Environmental Trust

Annual Newsletter October 2014-September 2015

ANGUS ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

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Registered in Scotland No 178124

Enrolment No 122043

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER October 2014-September 2015 Chairman's Message

Angus Environmental Trust's 18th year saw a major change. The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund was established as part of a range of measures under the Scotland Act 2012 to give the Scottish Government responsibility for the new Scottish Landfill Tax, which replaced the existing Landfill Tax in Scotland from 1 April 2015.

We still had some funds remaining from the 'old scheme' which we have been funding this year's projects from as there's a two year transition period during which contributions already made from the UK fund in Scotland can be spent.

This year, we have approved nearly £2,602,200 for a total of 117 projects across Angus. In this last financial year grants of £282,677 has been approved with £6,948 being expended on administration. This leaves an uncommitted balance of £4,086 of the UK Landfill Communities Fund and £73,550 of the new Scottish Land Fill Communities Fund.

As usual, this year we have welcomed applications from a wide range of projects. Some species have been helped, like red squirrels, barn owls and hedgehogs. Volunteers have built and put up tree sparrow boxes, and there was even an initiative to help bees. We have approved contributions towards upgrading and making energy improvements in community halls in Lunanhead, Padanaram, Murroes, Aberlemno, Brechin and Northmuir. The Pitnapie cutting was opened up for access, and Balgavies Loch had some non-native tree removal done. A list of all projects is in this newsletter.

You will also find more detail on just some of the projects which have been completed this year. The environmental benefits they bring for wildlife and for people are a credit to the groups and their members and other Environmental Bodies who promoted, supported and contributed to the projects' development.

Again this year, Angus Environmental Trust has been greatly helped by Angus Council and its staff who carry out our administration. Linda Caston retired during the year with Rhonda McFarlane ably continuing the role of Trust Administrator. Other support has come from Angus Council and several members of their staff including Kevin Lumsden and Laura Stewart.

And finally, thanks go to my fellow Directors - Angus Council's Alison Smith, and Stuart Young of Dundee and Angus College who both continue as Director. Unfortunately Voluntary Action Angus was unable to provide us with a Director and we are still looking to fill this place.

Angus Environmental Trust is always pleased to consider applications from projects on any scale which will provide a lasting public amenity and enhance the environment of Angus for the benefit and enjoyment of residents and visitors, so please spread the word and help us to continue the good work.

Shona Smith, Chair

**OBJECT D PROJECTS- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC AMENITIES
PROJECTS SUPPORTED AND COMPLETED**

122043.077 Rossie Community Woodland

Project Value: £ 17,410.00

AET Funding: £10,410.00

The project aim was to create pathways for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders in order to create good access through Rossie Estate. It linked existing paths, allowing access directly onto Rossie Moor and to the Core Path on the north side of the estate. Bridleways and footpaths were upgraded and dedicated routes for cyclists and walkers created. Signage has been erected to separate walkers and horse riders and cyclists. The improvements to the woodland have seen a rise in walkers and visitors to the estate.

122043.089 East Haven Maritime and Heritage Point

Project Value: £40, 00.00

AET Funding: £57,789.58

East Haven Resident's Association project saw the restoration of a public convenience being developed into a Maritime and Heritage point in the form of a shelter and seated area. East Haven is one of the earliest recorded fishing communities in Scotland and the maritime and heritage point is attracting many visitors to the area. Heritage interpretation boards provide an outdoor learning facility to be used by schools and other community groups. Project costs were increased due to tenders coming in higher than initially expected.

122043.100 Lunanhead Village Hall Energy Saving Improvement

Project Value: £8,269.77

AET Funding: £2,386.17

Several village halls have benefited from AET funding for environmental improvements, one of which is Lunanhead Village Hall. Funding to install a new gas boiler has contributed to the sustainability of the hall and increased useage by local groups.

**OBJECT DA PROJECTS – SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY
PROJECTS SUPPORTED AND COMPLETED**

122043.083 Toads on the Road

Project Value: £28,800.00

AET Funding: £23,343.84

Through this project the Monikie Toad Crossing Volunteer Group and Angus Council were able to implement measures to support amphibian conservation and rescue. The aim of the project was to install toad friendly measures along the Panmure Road as well as an otter crossing under the road. The work has reduced the mortality rate of toads and other amphibians as they try to cross the road to their spawning ground at Denfield bird sanctuary.

122043.086 Monifieth Community Orchard and Wildflower Meadow

Project Value: £4,000.00

AET Funding: £2,689.50

Monifieth Eco-Force has created a Community Orchard at East End Park Monifieth which has improved the biodiversity of the area. The orchard has established well with most of the trees surviving the first year. The group continues to work and sow seeds on the meadow and so far results have been good with many varieties flowering throughout the year.

122043.099 RAFTS-Quharity Burn Enhancement

Project Value: £40,000.00

AET Funding: £38,364

This project was designed to stabilise banks and reduce pollution through the establishment of buffers on farmland, to keep livestock out of the water, remove agricultural operations from the watercourse edges and to facilitate planting in the riparian Zone. Several farmers were involved in the project making suggestions on which stretches of water course on their land would benefit from protection from pollution through fencing and tree planting. As result of the project 6km of river banks have been protected by buffer strip fencing, 3000 trees planted and a pasture pump and 7 troughs installed to replaced to replace instream watering for livestock.

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Projects completed and fully funded in the year October 2014 to September 2015

122043.059	Monikie Hall & Denfind Wildflower Meadow
122043.077	Rossie Community Woodland
122043.083	Toads on the Roads
122043.085	Monikie & Newbigging Community Path
122043.086	Monifieth Community Orchard and Wildflower Meadow
122043.088	Upgrade of Path between Craigo and Lower Logie
122043.089	East Haven Maritime and Heritage Point
122043.096	Letham Village Hall Energy Reduction
122043.097	Memus/Glens Community Hall
122043.098	The Forfar Guide Hall Energy Saving Improvement
122043.099	Quharity Burn Riparian Enhancements
122043.100	Lunanhead Village Hall Energy Saving Improvements
122043.101	Padanaram Hall Eco Improvements
122043.105	Northmuir Hall –Heating System Upgrade
122043.106	Murroes Community Hall
122043.107	Menmuir Parish Hall
122043.108	Aberlemno Village Hall
122043.110	Brechin Mechanics Institute
122043.113	ENCKA

Projects still underway or part funded

122043.073	Angus Barn Owl Project
122043.082	Monifieth Wildflower Meadow Project
122043.090	Elliot Links restoration project
122043.091	Kirriemuir Swift Conservation Project
122043.095	Going the Whole Hog

New Projects

122043.103	Lintrathen Loch Recovery Phase 3
122043.104	BeeWild Initiative
122043.109	Tree Sparrows on the Edge
122043.111	Pitnappie Cutting, Newtyle
122043.112	City of Brechin Community Council-Wild Flower Meadow
122043.114	Glamis Primary School Eco Garden
122043.115	Letham Feuars Hall
122043.116	Glamis Community Council-St Fergus Well
122043.117	City of Brechin Community Council- Outdoor Gym

Funding to other Environmental Bodies for projects within Angus

824043.127	Enhancing Access and Wildlife at Montrose Basin
824043.132	Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels Phase 3
824043.125	Balgavies Wildlife Reserve

Project still underway

459149.377	RSPB Enhancing Kinnordy's wetland habitat for breeding waders
459149.375	RSPB Angus corn bunting recovery project

Finances - For the year ended 30 September 2015

Finances - For the year ended 30 September 2015

Over the financial year, grants to approved projects totalled £282,677, with £6,948 being expended on administration. The amount remaining for projects was £90,987, up from £65,252 in 2013/14, in accordance with the requirement to spend remaining assets by March 2017 when the current ENTRUST run scheme comes to an end.