

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 17 JANUARY 2017

PRIDE IN PLACE UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD PLANNING AND PLACE

ABSTRACT

This report details the work of the Pride in Place Member Officer Group. It provides an overview of progress on the group's two main campaigns, Clean up Angus and Beautiful Angus alongside a regular quarterly update.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee -

- (i) Commends the Pride and Place Member Officer Group (MOG) for the work that is carried out to date and agree to seek suggestions from the community for any areas that can be enhanced;
- (ii) Agrees that the group continues to work with communities to bring forward projects for Angus Council officers to carry out feasibility plans.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit
- Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services

3. CURRENT POSITION

The Pride in Place member officer group has continued to meet regularly since August 2013 to progress work under a number of themes around promoting pride in place in our communities. Awareness raising around pride and place work is continually ongoing, both in communities and within our own Council departments and by partners. Really positive and innovative work is being carried out in our communities, by communities, signalling that communities are being empowered to succeed. The MOG will continue to meet in 2017 on a quarterly basis.

Clean Up Angus

Clean up Angus is a campaign that has been developed by the Pride in Place Member Officer Group and is now beginning to make some real progress in changing behaviours about littering and dog fouling. Services are working together to improve responses and support and communities are leading the way through lots of clean-up activities. The siting of all bins has been reviewed against littering complaints and changes to locations have been implemented. An innovative project funded by Zero Waste Scotland has involved communities in Arbroath at the West Links and Forfar Academy led an ambitious programme aimed at reducing the amount of litter dropped. As ever, maintaining momentum remains a high priority and the project has also been rolled out to Arbroath High School.

In terms of dog fouling the continued emphasis on the 'any bin will do' message, alongside regular clean up using a Hoover like device has seen the council clean up mountains of dog poo, even although the Council does not own a dog! We know that most people will clean up, but new ways to

highlight the need for some people to think about clearing up after their dog are being trialled, alongside enforcement activity to help ensure people can take pride in their place.

Beautiful Angus

The second campaign designed by the Pride in Place Member Officer Group is Beautiful Angus. It harnesses community's interests in gardening activity as well as looking after the county's many war memorials. What was a tenants garden competition has now grown to include schools who are engaging pupils in planting, growing and harvesting produce to public houses around Angus who want their premises to look better by planting hanging baskets, planters etc. Some communities have taken this project further and are delivering town centre displays in Carnoustie, clearing The Den in Kirriemuir, enhancing Keptie Pond in Arbroath, redesigning and planting a roundabout and gap sites in Forfar, landscaping and planting in Easthaven etc. The efforts made by communities are remarkable and are being commended by the Member Officer Group.

The Pride in Place Member Officer Group are supporting the development of a range of other activities in respect of resilience, access in town centres for people with disabilities and in relation to commemorating WW1 VC recipients. This constitutes a power of work making a real difference in our communities here in Angus. More detail is outlined below in the quarterly update.

High School Litter Projects

Forfar Academy Litter Project

Forfar Academy are working towards sustaining the work that was carried out as a result of the Zero Waste Scotland project that they were involved in a year ago and are working to maintain their Gold Pride in Place Recognition award. A meeting took place recently to discuss what the school were looking to do. An opportunity they are considering is for the volunteers from the school to get involved in the local community clean-ups organised by the Wellbraehead and Goosecroft Action groups. It is envisaged that this will happen early 2017. This will enable the school to sustain the community part of their gold award and also could continue to strengthen relationships between the school and the community.

Arbroath High School Litter Project

The Arbroath High School litter project has been progressing well and representatives from the school attended the MOG earlier in the year to give an overview of the project which is being led by the pupils. The group have designed with young people in the school a litter charter with the aim of reducing litter in the school. The young people started off with an audit and will repeat this on an ongoing basis as part of the ECO group to monitor litter activity. Young people designed a presentation and this was delivered to the whole school.

Recycling has been reviewed and new measures have been taken across the whole school again lead by young people and supported by waste management. This includes new recycling bins which pupils have responsibility for. The ECO group attended the 'Junk Koutre' national competition and were commended for their efforts in upcycling and design.

The project is on track and young people are fully engaged. The school has taken on leadership and this will help to ensure that they take the approach that is right for their school. The school have made connections with D&A College and Arbroath sports centre to look at strategies across the area. These discussions have just begun. There are also plans to engage with local businesses to look at packaging. The HT has also met with Tayside contracts to look at packaging to reduce the amount used.

Following on from High School Litter projects in Forfar Academy and Arbroath High School the MOG have agreed that Websters High School, Kirriemuir should be the next school to take part in the project due to the positive work they are already involved in with regards to combatting litter.

The Clean Up Angus Sub-group brought a Roadside Litter Campaign launched by Keep Scotland Beautiful on behalf of Zero Waste Scotland to the attention of the MOG. The campaign will mainly be run via social media however will be supported in other ways where possible.

An anti-cigarette litter campaign has been taking place in Montrose whereby licenced premises were written to and invited to take part in the campaign and were offered posters and sand buckets for cigarette disposal.

Monikie, Crombie and Forfar Loch country parks all have ongoing campaigns to tackle dog fouling. Since May of this year fouling has been sprayed pink at Monikie to highlight just how many irresponsible owners there are, "pick up your poo" leaflets are given out to the public, and posters are displayed. At Crombie, faeces are also spray painted and trails are monitored daily. At Forfar Loch, 83 piles of fouling were sprayed following the junior ranger's campaign earlier in the year.

Dogs Day Out

Representatives from the Angus Alive Ranger's service attended **the Dog's Day Out event took place on 7th August 2016 at Glamis Castle** to promote the Clean-up Angus Campaign and to encourage cleaning up after dogs. Clean up Angus messages were promoted, and in particular the work of the Ranger's service with their "pooh mountain", highlighting the volume of pooh left around Forfar Loch.

Beautiful Angus

The Beautiful Angus Garden competition was judged over the summer and the award ceremony took place on Friday 23rd September in the Reid Hall, Forfar. The event was well attended by Council tenants, community groups and licenced premises proprietors and the Montrose Road Masterchefs provided a hearty lunch. This year was the first year that Community Judges were involved in the judging process however it was noted that entries for the competition have not been as forthcoming as they used to be so the group will be considering ways of working with local community groups to improve this.

This year also saw the introduction of the Pride in Place MOG Communities Award – Easthaven 800 were presented with Gold with Keptie Friends and Bravo Brechin receiving the Silver.

Aberlemno Primary School won the school award and The Vault in Monifieth won the licenced premises award.

The second Beautiful Angus Market Place event took place in 30 March 2016 in the Reid Hall, Forfar. It was well attended by community groups from throughout Angus however feedback received as been that the networking opportunities for the groups has been valuable, however it does not seem to be appealing to members of the public and what they are keen to do is get more people/volunteers involved in their individual groups. A more local approach linking in with other local community groups was something that was suggested.

The Beautiful Angus sub-group are working on proposals of how to take forward both the Garden competition as well as the Market Place event.

Pride in Place Recognition Award

This year saw the launch of the Pride in Place recognition award which is targeted towards schools and Youth organisations. The award was developed with input from the Pride in Place MOG and teachers and has been designed as a self-evaluation style of award, allowing a lighter touch and less bureaucracy therefore being more accessible for groups and schools to receive recognition for the hard work they do.

So far awards have been received by Forfar 4th Guides, Ladyloan Primary School, Forfar Academy, St Thomas Primary School and Southmuir Primary School who have received Gold awards and Kirriemuir Out of School Club who have received Bronze.

Working with Housing

John Morrow, Service Manager Housing, attended the MOG on 10 November to inform the group of the role of the new Community Housing Assistants and how they can contribute to the pride and place work happening in our localities.

There will be 14 Community Housing Assistants working across the four localities who will provide a flexible and responsive service in our communities, primarily around our Council's housing stock including the streets and open spaces.

As well as the introduction of the Housing Assistants, housing have been working with communities to co-design areas of new housing which has already instilled a sense of pride in place for these residents of Angus.

Street Charter

Following the visit from the Royal National Institute for the Blind in June 2016, it was agreed that a short-life working group of the MOG would look into developing a Street Charter for Angus. A street audit of Arbroath town centre took place on 14th September in order to gauge how accessible our streets are and what the issues are. A number of issues were identified including the use of A boards, placement of bin and parking on pavements and double yellow lines. The MOG have agreed to take a report to the January committee asking the Council to adopt a Street Charter for Angus.

Community Resilience

A successful and well attended 'Ready for Winter' Community Resilience event took place on 28th October in Tesco Car Park, Forfar. Themes covered included flooding, winter travel and free vehicle checks, coping without utilities, home safety, first aid and free CPR training. In attendance at the event were Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, St Andrews First Aid, Scottish Flood Forum, SEPA and SSE as well as Roads colleagues.

Plans are progressing to hold a bigger, second event in the Spring of 2017 with the main focus on Resilient Communities as well as smaller locality focussed events using a similar model to that of the event held in Tesco Car Park.

World War One

Planning is underway for the third and final WW1 Angus VC Recipient, Charles Melvin 100 year commemoration event which will take place on 21st April 2017 in Kirriemuir. This follows two successful events in Carnoustie to commemorate Charles Jarvis VC on 23 August 2014 and George Samson VC on 25 April 2015.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no additional financial implications as all projects will be financed either from existing budget or from initiative funding.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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