

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 26 MAY 2015**

**DEMENTIA FRIENDLY KIRRIEMUIR**

**REPORT BY STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES**

**ABSTRACT**

This report informs the Committee of the Dementia Friendly Kirriemuir initiative for which the Kirriemuir and Dean Area Partnership have been awarded three year funding totalling £269,000. The report also seeks approval for the lease of ground north of Lyall Court, Rosefield Gardens, Kirriemuir to develop a dementia friendly garden and the use of the former Kirriemuir Access Office at 5 Bank Street, Kirriemuir (Subjects of Let) as an information hub.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the one year rolling lease of the ground north of Lyall Court, Rosefield Gardens, Kirriemuir to develop a dementia friendly garden with a rent of £1.00 per year.
- 1.2 It is recommended that the Committee approves the Licence to Occupy the former Kirriemuir Access Office by the Kirriemuir and Dean Area Partnership for a three year period from July 2015 and agree that they shall not require to pay a rent or occupancy fee for the use of the office accommodation.

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

- 2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-16:
  - Individuals are involved in their communities.
  - We have improved the health and wellbeing of our people and inequalities are reduced.
  - Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Kirriemuir and Dean Area Partnership have been awarded £269,000 from Life Changes Trust to develop Dementia Friendly Kirriemuir over the next three years. The overall aim of the initiative is to raise awareness, change attitudes and promote inclusion throughout the community as a whole to enable people living with dementia to exercise more choice and control over their lives.

- 3.2 There are four key elements of the initiative:

**Place** - develop a sensory/dementia community garden which is easily accessible to people living with dementia and their carers/family. It will be a safe, friendly, outdoor space where people can take part or give their advice or just enjoy watching things grow.

**People** – to challenge stereotypes and prejudices and to focus on what people with dementia can do, through awareness raising, training and support to local businesses, community groups, schools, youth groups and all public sector organisations.

**Resources** – use of technology and information, eg appropriate dementia friendly signposting, de-cluttering of the town centre.

**Network** – involving local people to plan and develop a dementia friendly information hub, to include befriending and volunteering opportunities for all ages.

- 3.3 The overall aim of the dementia friendly community is to change the way people stereotype and react to dementia through awareness raising and training to promote an inclusive community where quality of life is enhanced. If we get it right for people living with dementia, we get it right for the whole community.

#### **4. PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 The Kirriemuir and Dean Area Partnership is in the process of becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The proposals are subject to the Partnership achieving charitable status which they anticipate will be completed by July 2015.
- 4.2 The Partnership wishes to lease the derelict ground north of Lyall Court to develop a dementia friendly garden which people living with dementia, their carers and family, as well as members of the local community can enjoy and help to maintain. Planning permission for change of use is currently being sought.
- 4.3 The Partnership has also asked for the use of the former Access Office in Kirriemuir over the three year period of the initiative as an Information and Resource Hub as well as an office base for the project co-ordinator. The Partnership shall not require to pay a rent or occupancy fee for the use of the office accommodation.
- 4.4 The Council's Landlords are in the process of approving the Licence to Occupy and the Partnership has agreed to pay all rates, taxes, assessments and other charges which may be levied in respect of the Subjects of Let and to pay all charges for electricity, gas and other services consumed or used at the Subjects of Let. Angus Council will continue to be responsible for any repairs to the Subjects of Let.
- 4.5 A Steering Group is being established to oversee the initiative and will report directly to the Partnership. Membership of the Steering Group will be:
- Chairperson of the Kirriemuir & Dean Area Partnership
  - Alzheimer's Scotland
  - 3rd Sector Representation
  - Local Health Representative (GP)
  - Local Churches Representative
  - Local Elected Member (Voluntary Action Angus)
  - Local Resident

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Partnership is requesting a one year rolling lease of the ground north of Lyall Court, Rosefield Gardens, Kirriemuir to develop a dementia friendly garden with a rent of £1.00 per year.
- 5.2 The Council currently rents the property at 5 Bank Street, Kirriemuir at a cost of £24,000 a year. This cost will continue to be met by the Communities Directorate as an in-kind contribution to the initiative. Any cost of repairs to the property will also continue to be met by the Council as an in-kind contribution.

**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.

#### **REPORT AUTHOR:**

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