



AUCHTERHOUSE ARGUS

January 2012

Volume 18, Number 01

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Link to a Web page

www.auchterhouse.com

Contact Us

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Present: Shiona Baird; Helen Smith; John Forster and Garry Stewart

Attendance:

Chair: Shiona Baird

Road/Traffic Matters

Shiona has spoken to Ged Gilmartin, Angus C Education Dept., about Parent parking for the school and the use of the school/church lane. He informed her that a report will be sent to us soon stating that the Council have studied the safety of children using the lane and have concluded that no action will be taken to remove the prop shed or alter the lane

Patching work on the bad areas of Bonnyton road has been carried out.

TACTRAN / STPR.

Linda and Garry have had a meeting with Graeme Dey MSP about the inclusion of a project to create a Dundee Northern Bypass on the STPR list of projects for the next 20 years. Graeme sees no prospect of this happening and acknowledges the strong objection in Angus to the proposal, - improvement to the Kingsway by constructing graded intersections being the preferred option, if improvements to the A90 are ever deemed necessary.

Mobile Library Service.

Garry reported that he had attended the launch of the new vans (2) which have been purchased by Angus Council for used in rural areas. Tayside Police and Tayside Fire & Rescue have contributed to this project and foresee valuable use being made of them as a venue for consultation with the public on a range of matters. Each van will have an area within them that can be partitioned off for confidential meetings. A van will visit Auchterhouse each Thursday probably alternating between morning and evening visits lasting about 45 mins. The morning visit will possibly be to the hall car park, so that school children can attend.

For van timetable see: -

http://www.angus.gov.uk/services/view_service_detail.cfm?serviceid=1085

TAYplan

Along with other organisations, who made representation about the TAYplan Strategic Plan and have not had their comments actioned in the final draft, we have been informed that reporters have been appointed to examine the Plan. We may be asked to make further submissions to them in the course of their examination.

The Plan can be viewed at any library and at <http://www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk>

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY

AT 7.00 PM

ALL WELCOME

Hill Water

The banks of the burn in the stretch through Braeside have been improved to prevent loss of water. This has allowed a more consistent flow and reduction in the overflow of water, which has caused flooding on Funnyneuk track. The removal of vegetation, including trees/bushes, from the burn will be tackled when Braeside residents confirm their approval.

Planning Applications

An application to install a wind turbine at West Mains was considered. There was no objection.

Appeal against the Enforcement Order to Remove Caravan at Woodside Cottage. The DPEA have received documents from the appellant's agent claiming our CC has breached its Code of Conduct and also misinterpreted the regulations on planning when objecting to the retrospective application for a residential caravan at Woodside Cottage. These allegations are false and Linda has replied to the DPEA on both issues. The DPEA agreed to put the letter alleging breaching the Code of Conduct on its website but not the one on the planning regulations. The procedures which govern the process for the handling of appeals do not appear to be transparent or democratic. The issue has been brought to the attention of our MSP, Graeme Dey and we will take it up with him and the DPEA in due course.

RECYCLING

The plan for kerbside bins to be introduced by the end of 2010 has been deferred. A new plan will be obtained.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter has been received from Savills asking for comments on anemometer at West Mains and replying to our request for community benefit from any future wind turbine. – see 277.4. a). above. If benefit becomes available it was agreed that regular payments (eg annual for 25 years) would be preferred and to be made available through the community council for community activities. The amount, based on generation capacity, could be £330 pa.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

There is a proposal to move the day and time to the **THIRD THURSDAY** of the month, and the time to **7pm**.

Elected members who were not present at the meeting will be consulted.

The weather of 2011

2011 has been an unusually wet year. Rainfall total was 1063.7mms which is 21% greater than the average for Auchterhouse. The year started with a cold spell with snow lying on the ground for the first half of the month. January was actually quite a sunny month, with a greater number of sun hours than February, which was a dull wet month.

Mean temperature for the year was 7.7°C which is 0.2° less than average. The month of January was particularly below average, which was a remnant of the cold spell which started in November of the previous year and did not finish until well into the month.

Sunshine for the year was 1419.8 hours, which is surprisingly greater than the average of 1365.2 hours. Sunniest month was April with 220.6 hours and we were fooled into expecting a fine summer, which unfortunately did not materialise. The fact is that normal summers at Auchterhouse are not sunny ones and they tend to be dull and wet. However we can always hope that the next summer will be a memorable one, and of course they have happened in the past.

There have been some notable gales during the year. Unfortunately several of them have been accompanied by electricity outages, which means that my records (particularly wind speed) tend to be sporadic. One of the worst in this respect was on 23rd May when I was away from home and the computer which controls the station failed to restart when power resumed, and there was a consequent loss of data. The highest speed recorded on that occasion was 71mph which proved to be the highest of the year. The worst month for gales was December when we had 5. The most powerful of these was the one on 8th December, (maximum speed 69mph) which brought down a tree in our garden, breaking our telephone line causing loss of internet connection which meant the website became disconnected. In addition our power was off for 19 hours but you probably don't need reminding of that!

It is still a struggle to keep the station up and running. I would like to make it more independent of the electricity supply so that it can keep going through any storms which occur. This will require extra battery backup as a minimum. Undoubtedly this will cost money to arrange which explains why it has not been done up to now. Observant watchers of my web pages may have noticed the addition of hourly forecasts – I hope these are found useful.

It looks as if the weather for the next week or two will continue in stormy mode, judging by the forecast of the meanderings of the jet stream, which provides an indication of the type of weather we are about to receive.

John Brush