

# ARGUS

*Newsletter of Auchterhouse*

January 2011

Tel: 01382 320377

Issue 17.01

The regular meeting was held in the Hall on Tuesday 18 January 2011

Present: Shiona Baird; Linda Cockram; John Forster; Clive Sayers; Helen Smith and Garry Stewart.

In Attendance: Councillor John Whyte; and 3 members of the public

Chair: Shiona Baird

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### POLICE MATTERS.

There was no report. Gwen has emailed to say she has been transferred to Central division and that she would inform us when her replacement is appointed. She will request that a copy of the Police Consultation document is emailed to us each month by Tayside Police.

### ANGUS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Shiona, Linda, John and Garry met and completed the questionnaire on "Identification of Land Use Planning Issues", Part 1 of the Angus LDP consultation. In Part 2, "Development Site Proposal Form", with the full consent of John & Bob Wallace, we have proposed the development of half the Pitpointie Farm field adjacent to the school for up to 20 mixed houses plus the inclusion of a car park beside the school. which could accommodate cars of parents (dropping off/picking up children) and visitors. Both parts were submitted by 23 Dec.

The LDP Main Issues report is expected in July with the draft Proposed Plan following in July 2012 each followed by periods of consultation. Final adoption of the Plan is foreseen to be summer

### TRAFFIC MATTERS

The installation of a Pick up/Drop off point at the road-end was completed at the end of November.

The continuing problem of cars turning around at the school lane (by reversing into the lane or, worse still, by driving into the lane and reversing out), was raised by a member of the public. Leoch road is also being used to turn about. This practice, which can be partly attributed to the temporary traffic lights which were in the village during the water mains improvements, is dangerous and must stop. The Head teacher will be asked to impress on parents the need to desist from doing this and drive around the "block" instead.

It was noted that lights at the back of the Hall were still not functioning. The School/Hall committee would be requested to take action. Parking, outwith school hours, on the tarred playground at the school is encouraged and has the permission of the Head teacher

It was noted that the school was working on a project on "The ways they travel to School" as part of efforts to retain the Eco school status, and the Eco Flag, which they have.

### BRAESIDE ENFORCEMENT CASE.

Angus Council Enforcement officer is still pursuing the non compliance of West Residential with planning conditions agreed for the Braeside development. It was decided that we should ask the Council for details of the course of action they will take should the enforcement prove unsuccessful. The amenity area, which has the old water supply burn from the hill running through it, has been left to grow wild

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

New houses at Old Balkello and on the vacant site beside Cedar Lodge, Braeside have been approved.

Loft conversion at Silverknowes, Kirkton Bank has been refused.

Conservatory at 3 Burnhead Farm Cottage is pending

**HILL WATER**

A meeting of all interested parties is still proposed to resolve the problems of disruption and flooding, associated with the burn from the hill to Old Whisky Road. The participation of representatives from Angus Council, Scottish Water and SEPA will be sought

**ARGUS DISTRIBUTION**

The minutes commented that this would be reviewed with The Editor. Resulting from these discussions it was agreed that in spite of efforts made by Garry Stewart to get householders in both Braeside and Thriepley to advise of their email addresses to rbruce726@yahoo.co.uk there had been little or no response. The conclusion was that as these areas are not within existing hard copy distribution only email deliveries were possible.

A repeat request to all email users is being made for addresses so that copies of The Argus can be received - unless you are not interested.

**The Weather of 2010**

When I look back at the weather during the past year, one thing which stands out is the number of times when the mean temperature for the month was below the average for that month. To illustrate this the following table may be of interest:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Av	2.3	2.8	4.5	6.6	9.3	12.0	14.1
	13.8	11.1	8.1	4.5	3.0		
2010	-0.1	0.6	4.1	6.9	8.8	13.3	13.4
	13.0	11.5	7.8	2.6	-2.6		
Diff	-2.4	-2.2	-0.4	+0.3	-0.5	+1.3	-0.6
	-0.8	+0.4	-0.3	-1.9	-5.6		

The row marked "Av" is the 1971 to 2000 long term average temperature which has been calculated for Auchterhouse and is a mix of my measurements and those taken by my brother when he lived here, with some extrapolation of results from Mylnefield for the years for which no records exist.

What can be seen from this table is that temperatures during the summer months did not seem to be very different from the average, but the winter months were a different story. In fact December 2010 was 5.6°C below average which must be a record, and is certainly the lowest mean temperature for any month for which I have records. January and February were also well below average, but by considerably less. I also recorded the lowest ever temperature at -13.1°C that I have observed, (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December) again including my brother's and my own records.

Despite all the above, we are told that global warming is taking place, and that overall the world's atmosphere is warming up. There is no doubt that polar ice is retreating compared with its position say 10 to 15 years ago, and the temperatures at the poles are in general not so low as they have been in the past. I don't think that the most informed meteorologist would state

that Scottish winter weather was likely to continue below average in the future, because the actual cause of Scotland's recent cold spells has not been clearly established, beyond the fact that the normal winter path of Atlantic depressions was interrupted during these events.

Other meteorological quantities such as rainfall have been up and down compared with the norm, we had an unusually wet July at 163.3mms (normal 60.8mms) and November at 138.3mms (normal 77.8mms). December fortunately had a low rainfall at 39.6mms instead of the normal 85.3 and the resultant snow did not add too much to the 48cms of snow measured during the latter part of November.

My usual struggle to keep my station on the air continues, there have been several failures during the last year all of which have been rectified, but I enjoy the challenge and hope that it is possible to keep things running smoothly for the next 12 months or so. Data from the station is supplied to various groups in the British Isles and elsewhere. I am very glad to note that usage of the website continues to grow with time, which gives me an incentive to keep the station running as long as I can.

*John Brush*

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2011

AT 7.30 PM  
IN  
VILLAGE HALL

ALL WELCOME