

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

30 May 1996

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

4 June 1996

**DEVELOPMENT OF LINKS WITH CORFU**

JOINT REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:

Report No 485/96

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**ABSTRACT**

This report provides a general description of the existing Angus Council links with the Municipality of Corfu and recommends that the links be continued and extended to include contact between primary schools as well as the enhancement of partnerships within the business communities of Angus and Corfu.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Education Committee and the Economic Development Committee

- i) acknowledge the achievements to date in building effective education/business partnerships and confirms their intention to build on these achievements.
- ii) instructs us to ensure that specific initiatives which have already become established (e.g. links between secondary schools and Angus College and their counterparts in Corfu) are maintained, subject to the Council being able to make adequate financial provision available.
- iii) recognise the key role which both education and economic development have to play in continuing and extending the existing strong links.
- iv) instructs us to seek to establish an effective and lasting partnership based on the education and business communities established in Angus and report on progress with this task as and when it is appropriate to do so.

**2 BACKGROUND**

Within Angus there has been a substantial development in education links between secondary pupils and students of Angus College with pupils and students of similar establishments in Corfu. Developments have included exchange visits by both pupils, students and staff from Angus and Corfu providing a wide range of learning opportunities both vocational and non-vocational. These developments were further reviewed by a visit from the head of Public Relations and Sponsoring Division of the Municipality of Corfu in November 1995 in Angus. In addition a return study visit was made to Corfu in March 1996 by the Economic Development Manager and an Adviser from the Education Department.

### **3 DEVELOPMENTS AS OF 1 APRIL 1996**

Angus Council will wish to note the developments to date and will wish to continue to support further developments involving schools, further education and the business community as appropriate.

With regard to the continuation and extension of links, it is proposed that Angus Council supports initiatives relating to:

- i) the formation of links between primary and secondary schools in Angus and Corfu
- ii) development of electronic links between schools.
- iii) joint Science and Maths events for school pupils based upon initiatives undertaken in Tayside
- iv) exchange visits of Angus and Corfu musicians and dancers
- v) the continuation and development of partnership work in
  - i) economic development - preparation of plans, links between Chambers of Commerce and Rotary Clubs, identification of new initiatives and working practices for future application
  - ii) social care
  - iii) training (Angus College)
  - iv) tourism

### **4 CONCLUSIONS**

Much has been achieved to date in developing links with Corfu and it is anticipated that Angus Council will wish to build on current achievements.

Continuing efforts should be made to extend the links to ensure an understanding by pupils, teachers and lecturers of the benefits and advantages of working with partners in Europe.

The Education Department, and the Department of Planning, Transport and Economic Development in taking developments forward will have a major role, in co-operation with key partners in the education and business communities within Angus

### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial applications arising directly from the recommendations made in this report.

## 6 CONSULTATION

The Director of Law and Administration, Director of Education and Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Development have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Jim Anderson

Director of Education

Alex Anderson

Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Development

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 5OD of the Local government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.



**International Study Visit**

**Corfu**

**Greece**

**5-10 March 1996**

**D Valentine Economic Development Manager**

**T Smith Adviser Education Department**

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## Section 1

### Objectives

- to continue and extend the links already made between Arbroath Academy and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lykeio and between Angus College and the Technical Lykeio.
- the formation of a link between a primary school in Angus and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scholeio in Corfu town.
- development of electronic links between schools in Angus and Corfu principally through E-mail but to include the World Wide Web and more broad band communications including video conferencing.
- to look in more detail at work being done with pupils with special needs.
- to build on the Education Department science and maths events which Tayside currently runs.
- to consider the exchange of musicians and dancers for which both Angus and Corfu are well known.
- economic development -
  1. examining methodologies involved in preparation of economic development plans
  2. links with Chamber of Commerce
  3. links with Rotary
  4. identifications of new initiatives and working practices for future application
- social care
- training (Angus College)
- tourism
  1. development of coastal towns initiative
  2. Open golf Carnoustie
  3. European links

## Section 2

### Education

The education system of Greece is one which is fairly heavily centralised the vast majority of resources and deployment of teaching is organised from Athens. Materials are sent directly to schools and staff appointments are done by officers based in the education department in Athens. In the state sector there was little, if any, form of decentralisation or devolved management similar to the system presently in operation in Angus. Budgets were also for the main part controlled by education department officials in Athens.

School buildings seemed to be relatively basic in provision. Classrooms were uniform in size but not particularly large. Classes of mixed ability were organised in the same way as Scottish schools from infants through to pre-secondary school.

In general terms the style of teaching in both primary and secondary schools was very teacher centred. There appeared to be little opportunity for individualised learning or group work. Differentiation for example was not a practice which appeared to be adopted by, or indeed understood by many of the teachers. Recording reporting and assessment was undertaken along traditional lines.

The primary curriculum is broad covering a wide range of topics such as Greek, Arithmetic, Maths, History, Environmental Studies, Geography, Physics, Music, Citizenship, English and sports.

The secondary curriculum is similarly structured to the above. Secondary schooling in Greece is more closely related to the educational system found in France and Germany rather than that found in Scotland.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Scholeio Corfu

This is a primary school situated close to the town hall. There are 300 pupils in this school and 15 teachers including the teaching head teacher. School starts at 0815 and finishes at 1.00pm. The school year begins on 10 September for pupils and has a similar pattern of terms to Scotland ending in June. Teachers start on 1 September.

Each primary school has a specialist teacher of English. In the case of 2<sup>nd</sup> Scholeio the teacher of English was wholly based in the school teaching all of the classes on a rotational basis. Some teachers of English were peripatetic.

There was an opportunity to see 2 classes being taught English by their teacher Marika Dessila. The teaching was sound if traditional. Pupil work books were of a high standard and provided centrally. The contexts in which some of the language was set might have been difficult for some of the children although they seemed to respond well and understand the contexts reasonably.

One class had children of 10/11 years of age. The other 9/10 years. Class sizes were 26 with the majority of pupils girls.

The standard of English of most of the pupils was high. Their comprehension was good as was their readings and pronunciation. Written work was also of an acceptable standard.

They would have very much liked to use computer systems although there were none available. The parents were supportive and would consider providing equipment if the benefits could be identified.



The vice mayor Mr Kaloudis was also supportive of such a suggestion and did not discount help from the municipality.

The HT, Staff and parents were very interested in making contact with a primary school in Angus as were the children. Exchanges of pupils and staff with parents helpers was of great interest to them.

### **Agios Mathaios primary school**

This primary school is situated on the west side of island approximately 25 minutes drive from Corfu town. the school was built in the last 4 years and is in good order. There are 6 classes comprising 120 pupils. The school has 8 teachers including the teaching head teacher Mr Dalietos. the teacher of English teaches in more than one school.

The classes were organised along similar lines to 2<sup>nd</sup> Scholeio. There was not the same opportunity to see English being taught but there was time to see some arithmetic teaching to a class of 8 year olds. Some of the pupils were bi-lingual in English and Greek having both English and Greek parents.

Agios mathaios is a rural school situated among olive groves with views across Corfu. The village nearby is very supportive of the school and parents take considerable interest in the childrens work particularly in the nursery area. The HT, parents and staff are proud of their modern school.

The head teacher and teacher of English were considerably enthusiastic about making contact with a school in Angus and would like to move ahead with as soon as possible with a longer term view to exchanging both pupils and staff.

### **Special Needs Education**

This is a small school in Corfu town which takes a wide range of children with differing special needs across a broad group of ages. The children's needs varied considerably from autistic youngsters to those with severe learning difficulties in terms of reading and writing. Children with physical difficulties were also accommodated. The roll of the school was small comprising 25 students. Mr Tsiotsis the HT was a very caring teacher ably helped by teachers, care assistants and parent helpers. It was the intention of the school wherever possible to place pupils into mainstream education.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Lykeio**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lykeio which has close links with Arbroath Academy now has Mr Giannoulis as its head teacher. This type of school is designed to take pupils of higher ability levels who broadly follow four streams of study depending upon their own aspirations post school. One teacher of Greek and one teacher of Physics have already brought Greek pupils to Arbroath. This school is very willing to continue contact with Arbroath Academy and to exchange pupils once more. The funding for such projects is limited however and it is likely to be 1997 before they can consider some kind of pupil exchange. The standard of English spoken by both the teachers with whom we conversed was high. the teacher of Greek had a particularly high command of the English language. Teachers' salary levels in Greece are radically different from those in Scotland. There was a general interest in the comparison of living standards in addition to pedagogy and classroom practice.

### **Technical Lykeio**

The principal of the Technical Lykeio is Mr Parginos. Mr Kostas Vergos who teaches economics in the Lykeio has already visited Dundee to take part in the mathematics challenge which was won that year by the Greeks. Students have also been exchanged between Angus College and Technical

Lykeio. Mr Vergos was keen to see this continue. There are marked differences between the infrastructure of the Technical Lykeio system in Greece and the further education system in Scotland. Angus College far outstrips the Technical Lykeio in Corfu in terms of facilities and quality of teaching and learning. There is considerable scope however for co-operation between the two establishments in particular from Greek students visiting Angus. They would gain first hand experience of technical innovation which is evident in both Angus College and secondary schools.

### **Institute of Professional Training I.E.K**

This new institute which occupies part of the Technical Lykeio building has been established in the past two years under European funding. Mr George Logaras is head of school. The aim of IEK is to provide vocational training to follow the needs of the local economy. There are 250 FTE students who work from 4.00 pm to 10.00 pm each days. The subjects they cover include accounting with computers, refrigeration and heating/air conditioning, hotel management and catering and fine arts (restoration). Examinations are at the end of each term. They lead to certificates and diplomas developed in partnership between college and employers.

The IEK was well equipped compared to the Technical Lykeio. Students had good access to information Technology including the world wide web. The premises are modern and broadly similar to those operated by local training providers in the UK.

### **Music School**

The Junior High School for music, established over the past 5 years takes musically gifted young people and allows them to pursue their musical talent in an environment designed to enhance their skills. Normal schooling takes place alongside music classes. Each student must study three instruments one of which is the mandolin. The HT of the school is Mr Karamoutsos. The standard of musical ability is extremely high, building upon the long history of traditional music and dance for which Corfu has an enviable reputation. Pupils ably demonstrated their skills in a large orchestra performance in addition to taking part in small group ensembles and choirs. There is a great deal of interest from the HT and staff of the music school in terms of pupil and staff exchanges. There would appear to be considerable scope for exchange of musicians and dancers, particularly in the field of traditional Greek and Scottish music.

## **Economic Development**

### **Municipality of Corfu**

#### **Department of Social Affairs**

This particular department is relatively new and has links with the International Institute of Social research. The social affairs department assists in the operation of the SEN school, trying wherever possible to find places for young people in mainstream work and education. They were recently visited by Mr Marine vice president of the European Association for Disabled Children. The department is also a member of the Healthy Cities Network. Social Affairs matters are administered by Ms Rodoula Markati who works for the Municipality.

#### **Vice Mayor**

Mr Kaloudis is one of a small number of Vice Mayors. His main responsibility is for education. He has a particular interest in the quality of teaching and learning in state schools. There is a dual system of public and private education. Teachers in State schools teach the same pupils privately after normal school hours. Mr Kaloudis would like to see this system changed. He also had reservations in terms of the centralisation of education resources in Athens. He would welcome much more decentralisation and devolution of management with appropriate authority and responsibility. Corfu town is in the process of building a new secondary school.

#### **ANEDK**

ANEDK is a wholly owned private company of the municipality. It was created to give more freedom in the recruitment of staff and in widening its area of responsibility. The board has 7 members all of whom are from the municipality. The company was established in 1989 to develop projects eg a centre for cultural communication. The Filiriaki Youth Centre now deals with inter regional co-operation, tourism development, and enterprise development. ANEDK employs over 145 people and has considerable experience of working with European programmes.. Messrs Dimitris Bibikos and Pouliezos head up the company. They are both to be in Glasgow between 25 April and 3 May and would like to meet with the representatives of Angus.

ANEDK has a growing interest in all aspects of the municipality of Corfu where 90% of the working population are engaged directly in tourism. The company is also interested in the development and growth of small businesses. The PACTE proposal is still an issue for the company given their previous experience with Stratford upon Avon. There was room for co-operation between Angus and Corfu particularly in this regard. Anna Hitiri, Vasia Komi and Mr Pouliezos were interested to hear of the progress made by reform of local government in Scotland.

## **Rotary Club**

Mr Evangelos Kastamonitis is president of the Rotary Club of Kerkyra. At an evening meeting an opportunity was given to consider how best to form links between Forfar rotary and the Rotary Club of Kerkyra. There appeared to be little difficulty in achieving links given the similarities between Angus and Corfu principally in terms of tourism. The possibility of an exchange between young Rotarians was greeted positively.

## **Ropa Valley Golf Club Corfu**

Mr William Brogden is Director of the golf club. He is a PGA member and was captain of the Surrey professionals in 1986, and a member of the Europe tour 1976-1986. He played in the Open held at Carnoustie in 1975. The club has 100 members but has in the past only been open between April and October of each year. The clubhouse and course is in need of some investment and that is something which is very much in hand. Mr Brogden is very keen to see visiting golfers. He is pleased to have made contact with Angus. There is certainly potential for exchange visits tournaments. Mr Brogden's remit is to extend membership of the Ropa Valley Golf Club and to encourage golf tours to the island.

## Appendix 1

### Summary and Recommendation

#### Education

- 1 Establish and promote a link between 2<sup>nd</sup> Scholeio Corfu Town and **Lochside Primary School**, Montrose. 2<sup>nd</sup> Scholeio is very keen to make links with an Angus school. The initiative is being organised by the school's teacher of English Marika Dessila who has already been to Angus and visited schools
- 2 Link **Agios Mathaios** primary school with **Carlogie Primary School**, Carnoustie. Agios Mathaios as a rural primary school where there are English speaking families as well as Greek. The children and staff would very much like to make contact with a primary school in Angus
- 3 Continue links with **Arbroath Academy** and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lykeio Corfu Town. Staff and pupils from both schools have already been involved in exchanges. Although 2<sup>nd</sup> Lykeio is committed to other initiatives for this financial year they are still interested in maintaining the fruitful links which have been established.
- 4 Develop links between Technical Lykeio, IEK and **Angus College**. Students and lecturers from the two institutions have already been involved in exchanges which were very worthwhile. New developments through IEK have enhanced facilities at the Lykeio and will add a new perspective to future exchanges particularly in the field of information technology.
- 5 Begin partnership between musicians and dancers in Angus and Junior Music High School Tsavrou. Students at this music school are selected on the basis of their ability in music. The school has its own orchestra as well as a number of smaller groups of musicians e.g mandolin band, ensembles for string and woodwind and a choir. There is considerable potential for an exchange of musicians who would be able to play music of a high standard based on the traditions in each country.
- 6 Investigate more fully the feasibility of communication by E-Mail and internet particularly with EIK. All Angus schools now have access to email and the world wide web. Pupils particularly enjoy communicating with other young people across the world by this means principally due to the speed with which responses can be made and the relatively low cost vis a vis traditional methods.

#### Economic Development

- 1 Investigate co-operation between the work of ANEDK and the emerging role of Angus Council. ANEDK is a wholly owned company of the municipality created to give more freedom in recruiting staff and widening areas of responsibility. There is scope to continue discussion particularly with regard to business development services to small businesses.
- 2 Continue links between the municipality of Corfu and Angus Council in terms of
  - manufacturing companies
  - demography
  - tourist facilities
  - accommodation in Angus
  - social work/social affairs
- 3 Consider participation in PACTE proposal. This proposal would involve Sienna, Rythimno and Corfu. There was scope for involvement by Angus in relation to the impact of tourism on the environment.
- 4 Follow up links between Ropa Valley Golf Club and a golf club in Angus. Ropa valley golf club is keen to grow and to promote a higher level of tourists golfers. The Director of the club has played as a professional at the last open held in Carnoustie

and is very interested in building a partnership between Angus and Carnoustie in particular.

- 5 Establish contact between Rotary club of Kerkyra and Forfar Rotary. There was a considerable degree of interest by the local Rotary in making contact with Forfar Rotary particularly. A possible exchange between rotarians and possibly young people was explored.

**Appendix 2  
Key Contacts**

POULIEZOS Dimitris	Chairman ANEDK	Telephone 0030 661 36509
BIBIKOS Dimitris	MD ANEDK	Telephone 0030 661 128337 444444
SARLIS Chrissanthos	Mayor Municipality of Corfu Platia M Theotoki 49100 Corfu	Telephone 0030 661 44410- 42601 Fax 0030 661 39500
KALOUDIS	Vice Mayor Municipality of Corfu	
KARNEZI Anna	Public Relations Officer	Telephone 0030 661 42621 Fax 0030 661 39500
KASTAMONITIS Evangelos	Rotary Club of Kerkyra District 2480 10G Theotoki Ave 49100 Corfu GREECE	Telephone 0030 661 39686 Fax 0030 661 41165
MARKATI Rodoula	Department of Social Affairs Municipality of Corfu	
DESSILA Marika	Teacher of English 2 <sup>nd</sup> Scholeio 49100 Corfu Town	
REKKA Betty	Teacher of English	Junior Music School Tsavrou 49083 Corfu
GIANNOULIS Mr	Head Teacher 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lykeio 491000 Corfu Town	4 Xyndos Street GR 49100 Corfu
VERGOS Kostas	Teacher Technical Lykeio Corfu Town	
DALIETOS Kostas	Head Teacher	
DROUSSOU Kyriaki	Teacher of English	Agios Matheos Scholeio 49084 Corfu

### **Appendix 3**

#### **Programme 5-10 March 1996**

##### **Tuesday 5 march 1996**

Depart Edinburgh 0900hrs  
Arrive Corfu 8.00 pm

8.30 pm meeting with Anna karnezi and Celia Philippedes from the Municipality of Corfu

##### **Wednesday 6 March**

**0930**

Visit to 2<sup>nd</sup> Scholeio in Corfu town.

**1200**

Municipality of Corfu. Meeting with Ms Rodoula Markati social affairs department.

**1500**

Municipality of Corfu. Meeting with Mr Kaloudis vice mayor with special responsibility for education and athletics.

**1600**

Municipality of Corfu. Meeting with Anna Kamezi and Celia Philippedes for publicity and media.

##### **Thursday 7 March**

**0900**

Special music school. Meeting with Mr Karamoutso HT, staff and pupils

**1100**

Visit to school for children with special needs.

**1200**

2<sup>nd</sup> Lykeio Corfu

**1400**

ANEDK Corfu



**Friday 8 March**

**0800**

Agios Mathaios Primary School

**1100**

Technical Lykeio

**1245**

Institute of Professional Training IEK

**1330**

ANEDK

**1415**

Music School

**1600**

Ropa Valley Golf Club

**2030**

Meeting with Rodoula Markarti. Various sites Corfu.

**10 March**

Return to Scotland

