

ANGUS COUNCIL

RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

19 AUGUST 1999
26 AUGUST 1999

SUBJECT: DOORS OPEN DAY 1999

REPORT BY DIRECTORS OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
AND DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL SERVICES

Abstract: This report outlines progress to date on the Doors Open Day event for Angus 1999.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee notes the progress on the Doors Open Day event for Angus as contained in this Report.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 A joint report on a Doors Open Day event for Angus, was presented to the Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of 4 March and the Planning and Transport Policy Committee of 11 March. (Report No. 228/99 refers). Since then, a list of 12 buildings has been finalised, covering Arbroath, Brechin, Edzell, Forfar and Montrose. Progress has been made on preparing draft publicity material, including handouts for each building. These handouts will be available at each Doors Open Day venue. It is proposed to publish a small booklet publicising each of the 12 buildings which will be sold at a nominal sum.

3 BUILDINGS SELECTED

- 3.1 Buildings have been selected for reasons of architectural/historical interest, geographical spread and ease of management. Although Montrose Town House and Forfar's Town and County Hall were open during last year's event (the pilot year), they proved to be of such public interest that they have been included in this year's event.
- 3.2 Other buildings, such as Hospitalfield House, Arbroath and the associated Mortuary Chapel will be open for the first time this year. Both buildings have interiors of exceptional quality and are likely to attract a significant number of visitors.
- 3.3 A Partnership has been developed with the Patrick-Allan Fraser of Hospitalfield Trust in arranging access to Hospitalfield House (the Mortuary Chapel is in the Council's ownership). The Trust has agreed to staff Hospitalfield House during the event.

- 3.4 The congregations of Forfar Old Parish Church and Montrose Old Church have kindly agreed to staff their Churches.
- 3.5 The partnerships will widen the number and type of buildings which will be open to the public and encourage community participation in the Doors Open Day event. As the project develops in scale over the next few years, approaches will be made to other community groups and individuals. Given that the Doors Open Day is essentially a community event, the development of such partnerships is highly desirable.

Partners and volunteers will be invited to a small reception in Montrose Museum on Tuesday evening, 7th September.

- 3.6 Buildings within the Council's ownership will be manned by officers from the Cultural Services, Planning & Transport and Property Services Departments.
- 3.7 The 12 buildings selected and the dates on which they will be open are detailed in the table below:-

TOWN	BUILDING	DATES
Arbroath	Hospitalfield House	18 September 1999
	Mortuary Chapel	18 September 1999
	Signal Tower	18 September 1999
Brechin	Town House	25 September 1999
Edzell	Inglis Memorial Hall	25 September 1999
Forfar	Town and County Hall	25 September 1999
	Balmashanner War Memorial	25 September 1999
	Old Parish Kirk	25 September 1999
Montrose	Town House	25 September 1999
	Archive Centre	18 September 1999
	William Lamb Studio	18 September 1999
	Old Parish Kirk	25 September 1999

4 SAFETY AND INSURANCE

- 4.1 The Insurance and Risk Management Officer has been approached with regard to the insurance aspects of the event. No adverse comments were made.
- 4.2 Two of the buildings were inspected from a public safety aspect, namely Balmashanner War Memorial, Forfar and the Signal Tower Museum, Arbroath. No adverse comments were received as a result of the inspections. Balmashanner presents a slight risk which can be minimised by providing lighting to the access stair, taking visitors up in groups and ensuring that a member of staff is present on the viewing platform of the Memorial at all times. To further minimise risk, persons

under the age of 18 will not be allowed into any venue unless accompanied by an adult.

5 PUBLICITY

- 5.1 Publicity is essential to the success of events such as these. Accordingly, it is intended to publish 1,000 copies of a small booklet which gives details of the architecture and history of each building. The booklet will contain photographs of each building, together with text and a map, showing the different venues. It is intended that this booklet would be retained as a record of the event, in addition to comprising a document which gives an insight into each building. A modest charge of £1.50 will be made for the booklet to offset some of the costs of printing, which is estimated at £1,529.00.
- 5.2 Approaches will also be made to the local press with a view to publication of substantial articles on Doors Open Day. These articles would contain much the same information as contained in the booklet described above. Posters advertising the Angus venues will be produced and circulated widely.
- 5.3 The Keeper of the Records of Scotland, Patrick Cadell is to attend the Archives on 18th September when he will transfer some material from Edinburgh to Angus. The Provost will accept the return of this material to its county of origin.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As detailed in the previous report on this event the Scottish Civic Trust is responsible for the national marketing and promotion of the event and for Public Liability Insurance for those properties not normally open to the public.
- 6.2 The costs to the Council in terms of staff time and preparation of the publicity material are fairly small when considered against the benefits of participation in the Doors Open Day event. Bringing visitors into Angus will have an economic benefit.
- 6.3 Other costs include approximately £500 for the provision of lighting to the Balmashanner access stair. The Director of Roads has kindly agreed to erect banners on some of the buildings, as a corporate contribution.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive and the Directors of Finance, Law & Administration, Personnel and Property Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Those local authorities which have participated in Doors Open Day for a number of years, report that the event is very popular with the community. Partnerships have

been developed between the local authority and the community, in the area in which the event is held.

- 8.2 A successful Doors Open Day event for Angus would, therefore, further the Corporate Agenda by promoting Angus and developing community participation in a cultural event. As experience is gained in managing the project, it is anticipated that the number of buildings open to the public will increase substantially and include a number in private ownership. In the longer term it is hoped that Doors Open Day could develop into a substantial cultural event, held on an annual basis.

NOTE

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

AA/PM/IAL/AMF
9 August 1999

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport

Gavin Drummond
Director of Cultural Services
DoorsOpenDay