

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL & LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 16 OCTOBER 2003

KIRRIEMUIR GATEWAY TO THE GLENS MUSEUM – OPENING HOURS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report recommends that the pilot scheme to open the Kirriemuir's Gateway to the Glens Museum on Sunday afternoon be discontinued, and that opening on Thursday afternoons be resumed.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agree to:

- a) discontinue the Sunday afternoon opening of the Kirriemuir Gateway to the Glens Museum and
- b) in July and August resume the opening of the museum on Thursday afternoons.

2. BACKGROUND

The Kirriemuir Gateway to the Glens Museum opened to the public on 19th May 2001 and the opening hours of the museum were agreed by the Recreation and Cultural Services Committee (284/01). These were originally Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm and Thursday 1 – 5pm. This recognised that with Thursday being the shopkeepers' half-day holiday in Kirriemuir, that locals and tourists would at least have the museum to visit.

A 'Friends' organisation was set up in November 2001, and they were keen to try opening the museum on Sunday afternoons in July and August, and they were willing to provide a rota of volunteers to assist with the opening, provided that one member of staff was present. The committee agreed to this (Report 676/02), but agreed to close on Thursday afternoons to cover the costs of this.

On 10th October 2002, the committee considered a report on the Sunday opening in July and August 2002 (1189/02), and despite the low visitor numbers agreed to continue the Sunday opening for a further year, after which it would review the situation.

In 2002 a total of 114 visitors were recorded on the 8 Sunday afternoons, an average of 14, which did not compare well with the average Thursday afternoon total of 20.

In 2003, a total of 109 visitors were recorded on the 9 Sunday afternoons, an average of only 12, which again does not compare well with the average Thursday afternoon of 21 visitors.

The 'Friends' have been consulted regarding this, and they agree that, it would be preferable to discontinue the Sunday afternoon opening, and revert to the Thursday afternoon opening through the year.

It is therefore recommended that the committee agree to these changes with immediate effect, in order that marketing of the revised hours commences right away.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights Implications associated with this report.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

JOHN R ZIMNY
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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 this report.