Riches in recycling

We’re turning everyday rubbish into useful new products

Also in this issue:
• Ambassador Awards shortlist
• Prepare yourself for winter
• Support your local shops
• Building homes for the future
Welcome to Angus Life

WINTER is officially upon us, and while we don’t want to depress our readers, it’s time to think about preparing for whatever the season brings.

Nationally, the Government has been urging us all to get ready for winter, and in this edition of Angus Life, we are supporting that campaign by giving our residents local advice and information.

Finances are also on everyone’s mind and like any household, the council has to keep a tight rein on its spending and identify savings. Our budget feature outlines how you can be a part of this process for 2012/13.

One way for us all to save money is to reduce waste. Our cover image shows youngsters on a fact-finding visit to the council’s waste processing depot, where materials arrive for sorting and processing before being recycled.

Despite the challenges facing the council, it remains committed to ensuring that Angus communities are: prosperous and fair; learning and supportive; safe and strong; caring and healthy; and sustainable.

The council recently published its corporate plan, setting out how it plans to deliver on these priorities over the next four years. In Angus Life, we’ve highlighted how each article relates to these priorities.

Share and save on your journeys

REMEMBER back in 1983 when petrol was 37p a litre? It still is if you car-share with three other people. Angus Council supports lift share and encourages staff, residents and workers to share a journey.

To find out how you can save money by sharing journeys visit www.angusliftshare.com

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Angus Council boundaries cut across Royal Mail postal areas, you may receive a copy of Angus Life if you live outside our boundary. Unfortunately this is beyond our control, but we hope you find the publication of interest and that it provides useful information when visiting Angus. Angus Life is produced using paper from sustainable sources. When you have finished with this magazine, please recycle it.
Over the next few weeks the festive shopping season will get into full swing. And this Christmas, Angus residents are being urged to get the tills ringing in local shops.

Recognising that in these tough economic times it is more important than ever to support local businesses and suppliers, and to preserve the unique character of Angus towns and villages, Angus Council has launched a shop local campaign. To encourage people to enjoy a hassle free and fun festive season, the council has launched a brochure packed with information on local events, and highlighting the many independent traders in the county. The brochures will be distributed widely, encouraging shoppers to support Angus businesses and outlining the many advantages of shopping locally, such as the large number of specialist shops, the variety of high-quality niche products, personal service, free parking and great value for money.

Among the traders supporting the campaign is Peter Burke of Fobel Hardware Shop in Carnoustie. Peter said: “As well as saving time and petrol by shopping locally, you can be assured of personal knowledgeable service from retailers you can trust who employ your friends and relatives, keeping the money you spend in the town where you live.”

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Ten good reasons to shop in Angus:

- High-quality niche products
- Independent shops – investing more in your communities
- Great value for money
- Helping generate jobs for local people
- Shopping on your doorstep
- Town centres – the heart of your community
- Reputable retailers offering personal service
- Ease of access – free parking
- Environmentally friendly – reducing your fuel consumption
- Trouble free shopping

How we’re doing:
The percentage of retail space occupied in Angus increased from 90.5 per cent in 2009/10 to 91.7 per cent in 2010/11.

Regeneration in Brechin:

After four years of work, the multi-million pound regeneration of Brechin’s historic town centre is almost complete.

Angus Council, The Heritage Lottery Fund, and Historic Scotland jointly invested £2.9m in the project to bring historic buildings in the centre of Brechin back into use by awarding grant aid to owners. The scaffolding is set to come down on the last remaining buildings to be restored by spring 2012.
Delivering services – achieving savings

Angus Council has to make savings of £6m next year – and we’re asking for your views on how we can best achieve this.

THE consultation about our 2012/13 budget has started.

As we said last year, Angus Council has to achieve £23 million of savings by 2014. We are on target to deliver the £8.4m savings agreed for this financial year, and we are doing this with the least impact possible on the essential services that people rely on.

For 2012/13, we estimate we need to deliver savings of £6m which will be an even bigger challenge given that we are starting with a lot less than before.

Our savings approach is still concentrated on:
- improving efficiency
- reducing staff costs
- more focused services
- increased income.

The spring edition of Angus Life highlighted that this year’s budget consultation would be more focused, using the members of Angus Citizens’ Panel and local community councils. They already have copies of the budget survey and have been invited to take part in group discussions to talk through the savings proposals.

You can also have your say as the survey is available online at www.angus.gov.uk/budgetsurvey and at your local ACCESS office and library. If you would like help completing the survey, please call the ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778 where one of our customer service team can take you through it.

As well as setting out what could be done to achieve the necessary savings in 2012/13, the survey also lets you know what we are doing to drive down costs and increase both the efficiency and effectiveness of our services.

We are aiming to deliver £4.5m of efficiency savings by the end of this financial year. Last year’s savings included more than £830,000 from procurement, through collaboration with neighbouring councils, and more than £770,000 by advertising jobs online rather than in newspapers.

We are reducing staffing costs and are on track to reduce our staffing numbers by the equivalent of around 300 full-time posts by 2014. In the past 18 months, we have reduced numbers by the equivalent of 154 full-time posts.

We have a pay freeze in place and saved almost £400,000 in the last financial year by reducing sickness absence.

We will still have about £259m to spend on essential services in 2012/13 and we are spending where there is greatest need, focusing on our priorities.
You told us you wanted us to share more services with partners and we are now sharing some premises with the police and working with them and health partners to improve the results and cost-effectiveness of our work with those affected by drugs and alcohol.

We have also reviewed the role of warden services and changed our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour – aiming to prevent it rather than respond to it.

The last strand of our savings approach is to increase income. For the fifth consecutive year, council tax in Angus has been frozen and as it is likely the freeze will continue, we will not be able to raise any additional income that way.

However, we have increased income by selling council properties that are surplus to requirements; we are pursuing the non-payment of council tax, and we are maximising income by selling council properties rather than respond to it.

The budget consultation seeks your views on what we could do next, to deliver the £6m of savings needed next year, so have your say at www.angus.gov.uk/budget survey

The finalists of the Angus Ambassador Awards 2011 have now been chosen, with the winners to be announced on 25 November

THE FINALISTS ARE:

BUSINESS – Entrepreneurial Angus Award, sponsored by Enterprise North East Trust
- Intervention Rentals, Lunan Bay – offering specialist services to the oil industry, Intervention Rentals has quadrupled its turnover in four years and employs 19 people in Angus.
- Building Workshop, Kirriemuir – established in 2009, this company offers a fresh and modern approach to architecture and design services.
- Gemini Corrosion Services, Montrose – Gemini offers a high quality, cost-effective solutions for surface preparation and protective coating applications to a wide range of companies.

COMMUNITY – Pride of Angus Award, sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline
- Norrie Stein, Arbroath – Norrie was a key player in establishing Arbroath’s CAFÉ (Community Alcohol Free Environment) Project. Since then he has worked tirelessly to support and fund the project.
- Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre – the centre is committed to education, with a new library and resource centre nearing completion, and an increase in school visits.
- Arbroath High School – the school offers an extensive sports programme for its pupils, and has established links with community clubs so that pupils can also participate in sport in evenings and weekends.

CULTURAL – Creative Angus Award
- Angus Open Studios – Angus Open Studios was set up in January 2011 to provide the opportunity for artists and craft workers to open their studios to the public.
- The Abbey Theatre, Arbroath – the Abbey Theatre is a small independently run venue in Arbroath which produces six plays a year, involving the community as much as possible.
- Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre – over the past year, the centre has achieved accredited museum status from Museums and Galleries Scotland and has attracted a record number of visitors.

YOUTH – Aspiring Youth Award, sponsored by Angus College
- Ailsa Russell, Carnoustie – Ailsa is currently a student at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where she was recently awarded the Harry Mortimer Memorial Trust Brass Student of the Year.
- Ailsa Summers, Carnoustie – in the past year, golfer Ailsa has won tournaments locally, at county level and has represented the county and Scotland at national and international level.

INTERNATIONAL – GoAhead Angus Award, sponsored by Entertrag Ltd
- Intervention Rentals, Lunan Bay – from its headquarters in Angus, Intervention Rentals has become a global market leader in flow measurement process for the oil sector.

TOURISM – Welcome Angus Award, sponsored by Forbes of Kingennie
- Arbroath Seafest – Arbroath Seafest has been running this successful event since 1997 to showcase the marine heritage of the area and offer a family day out to visitors.
- Strathmore Vintage Vehicle Club – The club holds its flagship Extravaganza event every year at Glamis Castle. The event attracts up to 12,000 visitors from across the country and beyond.
- Year of the Light, Arbroath – to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Bell Rock Lighthouse, an ambitious programme of events and initiatives has attracted interest from across the world.

HOW WE’RE DOING

The percentage of council tax collected increased to 97.4 per cent in 2010-11 from 96.4 per cent the previous year, which amounted to an extra £0.29m income for the council.
From trash to cash – recycling is worth it!

FROM cooking oil to carpets, washing machines to woodchip, there’s new life in almost everything we throw away. We may live in a disposable society, but the good news is that one person’s rubbish is another’s opportunity.

Morag Grant, waste strategy officer, said: “Angus residents have a great record of recycling, and the council is always looking for new ways to reduce, recycle and reuse our waste.”

As well as kerbside recycling, the council has a network of recycling centres, and neighbourhood recycling points throughout the county where residents can take their unwanted items.

New ways of reusing our waste means less rubbish goes to landfill metal lids and, by popular demand, plastic containers such as margarine tubs and yogurt pots.

Mixed wood is also accepted, including MDF, and household batteries can also be brought to the centres.

Coming soon to Forfar Recycling Centre for the first time is a skip for carpets – currently a staggering 50 carpets are dumped to landfill each week.

What happens next
Ever wondered what happens to your empty beer can, or Sunday paper after you’ve recycled it?

Tucked away on an industrial estate in Arbroath is the council’s sorting and processing plant for the recycled materials it collects.

Every day, tonnes of material, including paper, cardboard, cans and plastic bottles, are brought to the depot where they are baled before being collected for reprocessing and recycling into new products.

Inside the depot, there’s a steady stream of lorries bringing in more waste from the kerbside collections and the recycling centres.

Seeing the giant bales of materials gives a sense of how much rubbish we generate.

“Dumping such huge amounts of waste would have a devastating effect on the environment, making it vital that we reduce, recycle and reuse wherever possible,” said Morag Grant.

A new life for your rubbish
Although some items such as paper and aluminium cans are recycled again and again, other items taken to the recycling centres have more interesting second lives:

- Household cooking oils become bio-fuels
- Fridges and freezers are broken down into metals, plastics and foam then recycled into new products
- Liquid food and drinks cartons are recycled into plasterboard liner, paper carrier bags and even garden furniture
- Plastic bottles can become fillings for sleeping bags and mattresses, or guttering, wheelie bins and water butts
- Shoes and handbags are
Sustainable

collected and sent to third world countries
• Reprocessed aluminium foil is used to make engine components.

Helping at home
Large or small, unwanted household goods can always be found a new home.
Angus Council works with various organisations in the county to make good use of many of the items in good condition which are destined for the skip.

HOW WE'RE DOING
The number of complaints per 1000 households regarding waste collection rose by 21.04 per cent in 2010/11. This was mainly due to the severe weather conditions which resulted in a considerable number of missed collections over the winter. When these complaints are factored out, the number of complaints received during 2010/11 is comparable with those received in previous years.

Larger items such as sofas and wardrobes can be donated to a local furniture group, while items such as crockery and cutlery, glassware, and pots and pans can become starter packs to give people from all over Angus a helping hand when they get a new home.

Festive collections
Watch out for your handbill outlining festive seasonal collection arrangements for refuse collections.

For more information on any aspect of recycling in Angus, visit www.angus.gov.uk/recycling, or call ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778.

Recycling facts:
• Households in Angus use an average of 331 bottles and jars per year.
• About 294 tonnes of paper pass through the recycling depot every month.
• Recycling paper has a lower environmental impact than sending it to landfill or for incineration.
• Angus Council sells approximately 36 tonnes of plastic bottles every month.
• In the UK, an estimated 13 billion plastic bottles are thrown away each year.

Kinloch care centre update
WORK continues apace on the innovative new development at Kinloch in the heart of Carnoustie.
The care centre and support housing project is part of a long-term strategy to transform the housing and care available for older residents, enabling them to lead the most independent life possible.
The care centre is taking shape, with steel stairs installed, and work on the first floor progressing. Timber kits for the supported housing are in place, with roof tiles, windows and render taking place.
The 10 council houses being built on the site are also taking shape, with only final minor works to be carried out and a completion date at the start of November (see p14 feature on affordable homes).

My job.com
The recruitment minisite at angus.myjobscotland.gov.uk holds information on all current vacancies within the council, and allows applicants to apply online and store details for future applications.

Community plans online
The council’s community planning teams are helping local people fulfil their aspirations for their areas.
The teams provide a link between local people, the council and its community planning partners. As part of this, the first-ever local community plans for the Angus wards have been published.
These set out what will be delivered over the next couple of years by community groups, local area partnerships, the council and its partners.
The plans are at www.angus.org.uk/localarea.cfm
THE short days and long nights are upon us and, as the temperatures drop, it’s time to get ready for whatever this winter throws at us.

We may get lucky this year and escape the big freeze, but the message to residents is to hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

Angus Council and its partners plan ahead to protect services in the county during severe weather, but in extreme conditions such as those experienced last year, everyday life can be disrupted.

However, we can make life easier by undertaking some basic steps to be prepared at home, at work and while travelling.

Many of the measures we can take are straightforward:

- PDNHVXUHRXUFDUVDUHUHDG for winter driving
- JHWVXSSOLHVRIVDOWJULWDQG shovels for keeping doorsteps and paths clear
- ZLQWHUSURRIRXUKRPHV
- SUHSDUHDKRPHHPHUJHQFNLW
- ēQGRXWKRZDXWKRULWLHVZLOO communicate about closures of

HOW WE’RE DOING

The dark nights may be here, but Angus will be well-lit as statistics show that the percentage of street lighting columns replaced this year was 3.3 per cent compared to 2.5 per cent last year and the percentage of traffic light repairs completed within 24 hours increased from 93.1 per cent to 94.3 per cent.

Our gritting action plan

WINTER ROADS

THE council’s roads service is gearing up again to fight the elements.

The authority has increased this year’s winter maintenance budget by £400,000, bringing this year’s investment to tackle the elements to nearly £2.5m.

We’ve bought an extra 100 grit bins and salt stocks have been increased to 19,000 tonnes.

To ensure that the salt stock is used effectively, the council prioritises its roads network into the following three categories:

Category 1 routes
These priority routes carry most traffic so are treated before all other routes. During prolonged periods of snow, category 1 routes will be kept open, or opened up before other routes.

Category 2 routes
A number of routes, which, although carrying less traffic than those in category 1, have been identified as being particularly prone to icing – they are generally glen or high-level routes.

Category 3 routes
These routes are only treated after category 1 routes and treated later than category 1 and 2 routes. During prolonged snow conditions, these routes are only dealt with after category 1 and 2 routes have been cleared.

Pavements
The treatment of pavements and footpaths is categorised in a similar way, with priority given to those in towns and larger villages.

The council is ready for the big freeze – and you can help too at work and while travelling.

Many of the measures we can take are straightforward:

- make sure our cars are ready for winter driving
- get supplies of salt, grit and shovels for keeping doorsteps and paths clear
- winter-proof our homes
- prepare a home emergency kit
- find out how authorities will communicate about closures of

Hours of cover
During a cold snap, the council endeavours to keeps roads and footpaths free from snow and ice. However, there is not
facilities such as schools and day centres.

If we do experience bad weather, we can also think about how we can support our community and be good neighbours. This can involve anything from volunteering any specific skills you have or just checking up on an elderly person who lives near you.

The council’s civil contingencies manager Jacqui Semple said: “The council has been working closely with its partners in the fire service, police, voluntary sector and the Scottish Government to plan ahead for this winter.

“We have learned lessons from last year’s severe weather and have been considering better ways of working to minimise disruption.

“However, in extreme conditions, resources can become stretched and we need residents and communities to think now about the steps they can take to protect themselves, their families, homes, and business.”

Winter advice
There’s a wealth of information out there to help householders and businesses, so it’s worth taking the time now to get some top weather tips.

For advice on preparing for the winter, the Scottish Government has lots of helpful information on its website at www.readyscotland.org

In the event of severe weather, the council and its partners will issue information and advice to residents, in a variety of ways including the internet, local media and social networks.

PUSS in Boots will entertain audiences at Arbroath’s Webster Memorial Theatre this festive season.

The panto, which runs from 9 December to 28 December, features the folk of the Land of Loch Lovely – stony broke and living in fear of the Wicked Witch Wysteria, played by Musicality winner Donna Hazelton.

Other well-known names taking to the stage are Radio Tay’s Graeme Waggott, Edward Reid of Britain’s Got Talent and River City’s Pamela Byrne.

Tickets are on sale now – call the box office on 01241 435800.

Keeping you informed
During severe weather, information on council services will be available at www.angus.gov.uk/ wintetrwatch. We’ll also keep you updated via Twitter @anguscouncil, or facebook.com/anguscouncil

New paths open up
Angus to walkers

NEW paths have been created in Angus by a dedicated band of volunteers.

The Sidlaw Path Network Steering Group is establishing paths along the south of the Angus Sidlaw Hills, principally in the areas of Birkhill, Muirhead and Fowlis.

A railway path walk from North Dronley to Rosemill has been created thanks to funding from Angus Council and Angus Environmental Trust. It is hoped to extend this to the old Auchenhouse Station and link up with the Newtyle Path Network.

For information and copies of the map, contact secretary Gillian Zealand on 01382 581152.
Always mindful of your needs

MANY Scottish people are likely to be affected by mental health problems at some point in their lives. Mental health is important to us all. It affects every aspect of our lives and there is no health without mental health.

In Angus, mental health services are being shaped by speaking directly to people with mental health difficulties and carers’ representatives. The feedback from service users and carers has influenced a major new development in mental health services.

New crisis teams will offer three core elements – an assessment service for people experiencing a mental health crisis; an alternative to hospital admission, and early supported discharge from inpatient services.

Mike Harkin, service manager, integrated adult mental health services, explained: “We anticipate this service will be implemented early in 2012. Work is continuing across Tayside to ensure the smooth delivery of this new and beneficial service. In Angus, we are responsible for ensuring, as far as possible, that alternatives to psychiatric hospital admission are seen as the first option, thus reducing reliance on traditional approaches to mental health crisis.

“This places greater emphasis on flexible, responsive, person-centred care provided in the community with access to crisis services, 24-hour assessments and out-of-hours support and treatment.”

In Angus, mental health services are delivered by multi-agency, multi-disciplinary teams. These teams, with staff from Angus Council social work and NHS Tayside, work in close collaboration to provide integrated services and treatments to people aged 16 to 65.

Currently, there are mental health nurses, social workers, support workers, occupational therapists, psychologists and psychiatrists attached to three teams in Forfar, Arbroath and Montrose.

Work undertaken includes assessment, support, counselling, psychological therapies, group therapies and adult support and protection interventions. Inpatient psychiatric care at Sunnyside in Montrose is also available. This provision is being relocated to a new facility at Stracathro Hospital before the end of the year.

Angus residents have access through their GPs to a dedicated psychological therapies service. People with mental health difficulties can also directly access support from the independent sector, which includes a range of dedicated mental health services.

Mike added: “As our services develop in line with national and local policy, all of the above service areas are heavily involved in consultation and involvement. This is deemed a real strength in Angus and is reflected in the redesign and implementation of services in the county.”

The number of people with mental health problems who were readmitted to hospital within a year of discharge has fallen over the last three years from 76 to 47.

HOW WE’RE DOING

The Walking Wonders group has ventured out on more than 50 walks, covering 1100 miles, giving a total of 420 people the opportunity to become involved in an interest that increases their physical activity and reduces isolation.

Established by the Forfar community mental health team, this unique and innovative project is now an integral part of mental health services in Angus. The walks are chosen by service users who also help compile a newsletter, run a website and a Facebook page, allowing them to give feedback on activities, share photos and enjoy a good social network.

Some of the walkers commented: “It raises morale and at times I forget I have any issues with mental health.” “It’s an uplifting experience going on the walks.” “I look forward to it every week – it is very relaxing.”

We would walk one thousand miles

COME hail or shine, people with mental health problems are getting outdoors in Angus.

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The teams can be contacted at:

Arbroath 01241 437200
Montrose 01674 832219
Forfar 01307 475239

Out-of-hours telephone: 01382 307964.
New booklet offers plenty of food for thought

A NEW Angus Food Producers Booklet that brings together details of quality local producers in Angus for the first time has been launched.

The booklet provides a wealth of information for consumers as well as caterers, restaurants, accommodation providers and retailers. The aim is to encourage people, whether they run a café, restaurant or shop or simply appreciate good quality local food, to consider using local producers.

Food and drink is a significant part of the local economy and is a key strand of Angus Council’s tourism strategy A Sustainable Strategy for Growth through Tourism.

Adult protection

We all know that children need to be protected but sometimes adults need to be protected too.

Older people can become frail or suffer from dementia. Adults who have learning disabilities, physical disabilities or mental health problems may also be at risk of harm. The harm these adults suffer can take a number of forms, including:

• physical abuse
• psychological abuse
• financial abuse
• sexual abuse
• neglect.

Are you being harmed?
Worried about someone who may be at risk?
Then phone Angus Council ACCESSLine 08452 777 778 or Tayside Police 0300 111 2222.
DESCRIBED by head teacher Dawn Hendry as a “wonderfully light and bright learning and teaching environment for all”, Burnside Primary School opened its doors in 2008. The school, which replaced the ageing buildings at Barry and Kinloch, has 422 pupils.

Dawn, who joined Burnside just over a year ago, commented: “As soon as I entered the building, I could feel it was a vibrant and purposeful working environment for pupils and staff.

“Each of our classrooms is a semi-open plan space leading out into a shared area, which maximises the learning space for every class. Active learning opportunities thrive in these areas where children can learn in co-operative groups and on individual projects.

“Active learning opportunities thrive in these areas where children can learn in co-operative groups and on individual projects.

“The extensive grounds allow us to maximise the opportunities for outdoor learning and sports, and the school is extremely well-equipped in terms of ICT.

“When I discussed the new school with the pupils, they were all very clear that the purpose-built environment had enhanced their educational experiences in all areas of school life.

“You always get straight answers to the questions you ask of children and so I would see this as a positive endorsement of how school life has been improved by our fantastic new school building.”

Our new school by Burnside Primary 7

It’s big and has lots of space. Our classrooms don’t have doors now – we like that. – Robbie

In our new school there is grass to play on, not just tarmac. We now get to mix with all of the other pupils when we are out to play. – Thomas

We have a computer suite so we get a chance to work on computers every day, which is great. – Lauren

I love the new huge gym hall we have. Also the changing rooms have lots of space and hooks for all our stuff. – Craig

We have new and very clean toilets. We also have a dinner hall next to our gym so lunchtime is better. – Courtney

I like Burnside because it is all one building now. Everyone is together and that makes a nice atmosphere. – Scott

Burnside Parent and Toddler Group

BURNSIDE Parent and Toddler Group is just one of the community organisations use of the school facilities.

One of the mums commented: “The group is thriving and is beneficial to parents old and new in the catchment area. The transition between toddlers to nursery to school is made smoother by being in the same building. We support the school by having the Primary 4s down at break time to play with the children, which the children love. The school is very welcoming and supportive.”

How we’re doing

The percentage of P1 pupils in classes of 25 or less has increased from 82.9 per cent to 92.8 per cent.
Isla Primary School, Peel Farm, Lintrathen

ISLA Primary School boasts a stunning location nestled in the heart of the Angus countryside. Inside and out, the new school is eco-friendly and biodiverse, something high on the wish list of the pupils who moved into the building just over a year ago following the merger of Glen Isla, Lintrathen and Kilry primaries.

The interior is enhanced with the use of local oak, and the high ceilings and large windows flood the classroom areas with light.

Head teacher Suzanne Milne said: “Driving up to this wonderful new school each morning, I think how lucky we all are to have such a fantastic building in which to teach and learn.

“This school ticks all the boxes. The flexibility of the accommodation fits in with the demands of the curriculum. The layout of the classrooms allow pupils to interact, and to work alongside each other.

“The school is very well equipped, and the children have the use of a large, well-equipped gym which has mobile staging, sound and light systems.”

Outside, the pupils enjoy a timber adventure trail, sensory garden, outdoor classroom and an orchard, all of which enhance outdoor learning and local biodiversity.

LINDSAY Downie, chair of Isla Parent Council, said: “Bringing the three schools together on one site has worked really well. We couldn’t really ask for more, the school is very well resourced with the latest technology and is very spacious.

“The open-plan interior means that the learning space is very flexible, but has been designed to keep noise levels to a minimum. The outdoor space is fantastic and complements the surroundings perfectly.

“The new school provides much better accommodation for modern learning and positive social benefits for the pupils through a bigger school roll.”

Isla pupils’ comments

I really like the adventure playground and the outdoor classroom. – Rose, P5
I like the gym hall. We get to do lots of things in it. – Danny, P7
The classrooms are nice and bright. – Dylan, P5
I like the big playground and meeting new friends. – Isla, P6
We have a nice library and lots of space. – Hannah, P5
ANGUS Council has embarked on an ambitious building programme to provide 147 new council houses to help reduce the housing waiting list.

Working in partnership with the Scottish Government, the council has received funding of £3.8m which, along with an investment of £17.6m from the authority’s own resources, will give the social housing sector in Angus a much-needed boost.

This funding of more than £21m is enabling the council to realise its vision of building quality affordable and energy efficient homes for rent in areas of highest need in Angus.

Working in partnership with other social housing providers and the private sector, the council will also help to deliver up to 150 additional new affordable homes across the county, to increase access to high-quality homes for local people to rent and buy.

As well as supporting local people in realising their housing aspirations, the building programme also provides an important boost to the construction industry and, in turn, to the local economy.

The first new council houses to be completed are three and four-bedroom homes in Monifieth and Carnoustie.

The Carnoustie houses are part of a larger development of the former Kinloch School site, which also includes 28 supported housing cottages and a care centre.

Eleven new houses in Arbroath on the site of the old Harry Farmer Court complex are next in line, with tenants getting their keys in early 2012.

These will be followed by sites at Mortar Holes in Kirriemuir, and Dungman’s Tack in Montrose. Future developments include Newmonthill in Forfar, and at Inveralide in South Angus.

Housing policy manager John Morrow commented: “These, and future developments, will make a real difference to the lives of families and individuals across Angus by increasing the number of affordable properties available for rent. “We will be looking to create a domino effect in terms of allocations, by creating a chain of moves so that the number of new tenancies will be double the number of new-build houses. This will start to make a considerable impact on lowering the housing waiting list.”

Tenants’ groups
ANGUS Council is committed to encouraging community and tenant participation in the county.

Tenants’ groups form an important part of the housing service’s planning, and are consulted each year on issues such as rent levels and expenditure priorities. This will become even more important with the introduction of the Scottish Social Housing Charter in 2012.

The charter is part of a new national strategy to ensure that tenants and other customers of social landlords receive continually improving services.

If you would like to get involved with this process, please contact Deirdre Mitchell on 07397 474740.

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Montrose Swimming Pool
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Councillors

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Wards

1 Kirriemuir & Dean
2 Brechin & Edzell
3 Forfar & District
4 Monifieth & Sidlaw
5 Carnoustie & District
6 Arbroath West & Letham
7 Arbroath East & Lunan
8 Montrose & District

Your councillor can be contacted at:
Members' Services, The Cross, Forfar DD8 1BX
Tel: 01307 473000 Fax: 01307 461968 Email: members@angus.gov.uk
Further details can be found at www.angus.gov.uk

Council members

1 Kirriemuir & Dean
Alison Andrews (LIB DEM), Milton House, Milton of Finavon, By Forfar DD8 3PY
Tel: (H) 01307 850 275 Email: cllrandrews@angus.gov.uk

Iain Gaul (SNP), 46 Prior Road, Forfar DD8 3ET
Tel: (H) 01307 464 698 Email: cllrgaul@angus.gov.uk

Ian Mackintosh (CON), Kirkton of Kingoldrum, Kirriemuir DD8 5HW
Tel/Fax: (H) 01307 547 716 Email: cllrmakintosh@angus.gov.uk

2 Brechin & Edzell
Mairi Evans (SNP), 5 Albion Place, Brechin DD9 7UU
Tel/Fax: (H) 01356 648 265 Email: cllrevaevans@angus.gov.uk

Ruth Leslie Melville MBE (IND), 34 Park Road, Brechin DD9 7UE
Tel/Fax: (H) 01356 625 259 Email: cllrevmelville@angus.gov.uk

Bob Myles (IND), Dalbog, Edzell DD9 7UU
Tel/Fax: (H) 01356 648 265 Email: cllrbob@angus.gov.uk

3 Forfar & District
Colin Brown (IND), Lilybank Farmhouse, 6 Lilybank Road, Forfar DD8 2JB
Tel: (H) 01307 469 518 Email: cllrbrown@angus.gov.uk

Bill Middleton (SNP), 51 Lilybank Crescent, Forfar DD8 2HZ
Tel: (H) 01307 469 989 Email: cllrbill@angus.gov.uk

Jean Lee (SNP), Cransdale, 14 Dick Street, Monifieth DD5 4EF
Tel: (H) 07717 808 228 Email: cllrjeanlee@angus.gov.uk

Jean MacKay (CON), Nether Finlarg, Forfar DD8 2HY
Tel: 07766 073 823 Email: cllrjeanmack@angus.gov.uk

4 Monifieth & Sidlaw
Jean Lee (SNP), Cransdale, 14 Dick Street, Monifieth DD5 4EF
Tel: (H) 07717 808 228 Email: cllrjeanlee@angus.gov.uk

Rob Murray (SNP), 8 Beechgrove, Monifieth DD5 4TE
Tel: (H) 01382 534 908 Email: cllrrob@angus.gov.uk

5 Carnoustie & District
Glennis Middleton (SNP), 51 Lilybank Crescent, Forfar DD8 2HZ
Tel: (H) 01307 469 989 Email: cllrglennis@angus.gov.uk

John Whyte (CON), 34 Reform Street, Monifieth DD5 4BA
Tel: (H) 01382 534 277 Email: cllrwhyte@angus.gov.uk

Brian Boyd (IND), Ceel na Mara, 1 Long Row, Westhaven, Carnoustie DD7 6BE
Tel: 07777 808 228 Email: cllrbboyd@angus.gov.uk

Jean Lee (SNP), Cransdale, 14 Dick Street, Monifieth DD5 4EF
Tel: (H) 07717 591 810 Email: cllrjeanlee@angus.gov.uk

6 Arbroath West & Letham
Margaret Thomson (LAB), 92 Grangehill Drive, Monifieth DD5 4RS
Tel: (H) 01382 533 946 Email: cllrmthomson@angus.gov.uk

John Whyte (CON), 34 Reform Street, Monifieth DD5 4BA
Tel: (H) 01382 534 277 Email: cllrwhyte@angus.gov.uk

Alex King (SNP), 12 Dalhousie Place, Arbroath DD11 2ET
Tel: (H) 01241 872 107 Email: cllrralex@angus.gov.uk

6 Arbrought West & Letham
David Fairweather (IND), 40 Addison Place, Arbroath DD11 2BA
Tel: (H) 07766 073 823 Email: cllrfairweather@angus.gov.uk

7 Arbroath East & Lunan
Jim Millar (CON), 268 East Abbey Street, Arbroath, DD11 1EN
Tel: (H) 01241 873 763 Email: cllrmillar@angus.gov.uk

Donald Morrison (SNP), Eastmost Cottage, West Mains of Dunnichen, Letham
DD8 2NW Tel: 01307 817 214 Email: cllrmorrison@angus.gov.uk

8 Montrose & District
David May (LIB DEM), Evarston, Lamondfauld Lane, Hillside, Montrose DD10 9XH
Tel: 01674 830 673 Email: cllrmay@angus.gov.uk

Mark Salmond (IND), 3 Gardyne Street, Montrose DD10 9BQ
Tel: (H) 01674 660 098 Email: cllrmsalmond@angus.gov.uk

Paul Valentine (SNP), 1 Rutland Crescent, Montrose DD10 9AS
Tel: (H) 01674 677 235 Email: cllrvalentine@angus.gov.uk

Sandy West (SNP), Albairn, Bridge of Dun, Montrose DD10 9LH
Tel: (H) 01674 810 297 Email: cllrsandy@angus.gov.uk

7 Arbroath East & Lunan
Jim Millar (CON), 268 East Abbey Street, Arbroath, DD11 1EN
Tel: (H) 01241 873 763 Email: cllrmillar@angus.gov.uk

Donald Morrison (SNP), Eastmost Cottage, West Mains of Dunnichen, Letham
DD8 2NW Tel: 01307 817 214 Email: cllrmorrison@angus.gov.uk

Robert Spink (IND), The Grange, Inverkeilor, Arbroath DD11 4LU
Tel: 01241 820 307 Email: cllrspink@angus.gov.uk

Sheena Welsh (SNP), Montquhir, Carmyllie, Arbroath DD11 2CS
Tel: (H) 01241 880 317 Email: cllrswelsh@angus.gov.uk

8 Montrose & District
David May (LIB DEM), Evarston, Lamondfauld Lane, Hillside, Montrose DD10 9XH
Tel: 01674 830 673 Email: cllrmay@angus.gov.uk

Mark Salmond (IND), 3 Gardyne Street, Montrose DD10 9BQ
Tel: (H) 01674 660 098 Email: cllrmsalmond@angus.gov.uk

Paul Valentine (SNP), 1 Rutland Crescent, Montrose DD10 9AS
Tel: (H) 01674 677 235 Email: cllrvalentine@angus.gov.uk

Sandy West (SNP), Albairn, Bridge of Dun, Montrose DD10 9LH
Tel: (H) 01674 810 297 Email: cllrsandy@angus.gov.uk

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