

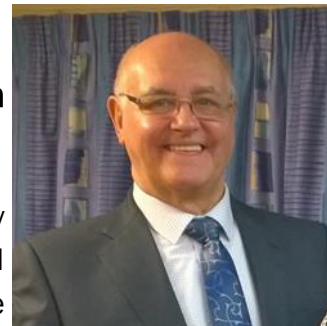


ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

A large white graphic of a wind turbine is centered on a yellow circular background at the bottom of the page.

Kincardineshire Development Partnership
44-46 Barclay St
Stonehaven
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Letter from our Chairperson



This year we say in essence. As with all voluntary organisations we have had a change in some cases, to our office bearers and in one case no representative from one Community Council. Which we hope will soon be rectified by the Local Authority.

“KDP supports people and communities with projects of all sizes, both existing and new, enabling and encouraging, harnessing the skills and enthusiasm of local people. It can provide information and advice on project planning, funding, community consultation and engagement, community action planning, governance and helping community based organisations to cut through the ‘red-tape’ so they can gain access to services and funding.”

The above paragraph from last year has certainly been fulfilled. It is reflected by the 82 constituted member groups now registered with KDP and more groups visiting the office to collect registration forms.

KDP is now sixteen months into its formation, therefore its confidence and experience in delivering its community focused mandate is this year currently more project focused. However, the collective background, experience and qualification of the KDP Committee members and its two employees represent significant experience in community and business experience within public, private and third sector representation and highly commendable reputations.

[Insert signature]

– Paul Melling
Chairperson

INTRODUCTION

Formed in 2014, Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP) is a community led and community focused independent not-for-profit voluntary organisation. Its objectives are to promote, encourage and enable sustainable community development and economic growth in the area known as Kincardine & Mearns Area (K & M Area).

KDP provides free membership services to its members. The membership is open to all constituted non-party political organisations within the K&M Area. The process of applying for membership is purposely user-friendly and uncomplicated. Membership packs can be downloaded from the KDP website or, on request, sent out by post or collected from the Stonehaven office. Please visit the KDP website www.kincardineshiredp.org for information.

KDP is operated under the management of a constituted committee consisting of one nominated representative from each of the twelve community councils in the K & M Area plus six representatives from constituted voluntary led community organisations; 18 representatives in total. As of the beginning of 2016 KDP have been granted SCIO status and is now governed by a board of Trustees as defined under the conditions as detailed by OSCR. KDP welcomes representatives onto the board from the wider communities to enable it to fully represent all parts of the community, the constitution allows for this through co-options. Within the board there are currently four office bearer roles Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and a Secretary.

The board is currently supported by the Office Team Employees:

Sandra Stuart Development Worker in Training on 16 hours

Jacky Niven Development Worker on 20 hours.

Following the departure of the original Development Worker, John McKrank in August 2015, KDP was supported on an interim basis by Development Officer Jean Henretty from September 2015 until the end of November 2015. Jean is the current Chairperson of Marr Area Partnership and her wealth of knowledge and experience proved invaluable in helping KDP begin to deliver their vision.

This is KDP's second Annual Report and it will show that the role of the Partnership is as wide ranging and diverse as our communities and their groups and organisations. Our activities involve working not only with our communities but also developing and nurturing strong partnerships with statutory agencies, Aberdeenshire Council and our colleagues working alongside us in the other five Rural Partnerships. In working hard to help build and develop social capital within our town and villages, we are confident, that KDP will play a strong role in helping our communities make Kincardine and Mearns a great place to live and work.



2. TREASURERS REPORT

3. DEVELOPMENT WORKERS' REPORT

The Development Workers work to a Work Plan and provide a Monthly Development Worker Report which is circulated to all members of the Committee/Board. They also report to the Committee/Board at the monthly or bi-monthly meetings. Their activities are focused on working with community groups and organisations, engaging communities, attending partner meetings in order to support, enable and empower our citizens to play a part in the development of robust, sustainable communities within K&M.

Sandra and Jacky respond to a variety of requests from communities from help locating potential sources of funding, facilitating community engagement events, capacity building within groups and Community Councils to help with development plans.

As the following record of activities and case studies illustrates, although KDP is still early in its own development it is already engaging communities and satiating an appetite for positive change.

As 2015 moved on, KDP activities really started to gather momentum. Internally we developed our branding and identity for a fresher and more colourful image. More importantly, we have been responding to a number of enquiries from community groups, Community Councils and Partners.

Community Action Plans

Gourdon CAP is well underway with the first round of full community consultation being undertaken.



The communities of Portlethen, Drumoak, Newtonhill and more recently Johnshaven and Stonehaven have approached KDP to support them through the process. St Cyrus have undertaken community engagement and consultation. The results of which have taken forward actions to try and establish a Coastal Community Sports Hub connecting the four communities Inverbervie, Gourdon, Johnshaven and St Cyrus along that part of the coastal strip. There was a public consultation held in February to ascertain interest in taking this forward. Fraser Govan and Andrew Watson have taken away the feedback and we look forward to learning the outcome.

Community Forum Event

KDP hosted their first Community (formally Ward) Forum Event in March 2016. It was decided to hold one central event for all of our Wards with a theme of Integrated Transport being promoted under the title “Transportation Matters”. The evening began with two guest speakers from Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans followed by a World Café style engagement activity, where participants were encouraged to have some conversations that matter. We also offered space to groups promoting transport solutions



such as Community Transport, Car Sharing Schemes etc. One of our aims was to promote citizenship and encourage communities to feel empowered to look at solutions rather than nurture the “consumer” mentality. It also presented to promote and highlight the solutions that are already out there.



The event was supported by local Councillors, Aberdeenshire Council Officers and members of KDP Board with eight members of the public in attendance. The Development Workers will revisit their strategy for promoting future events although their efforts were limited on this occasion by a tight timescale.



Despite the lower than hoped for attendance there were quality conversations held and a much sharing of information and knowledge. Following the evening’s event there is to be a movement to create a local Transport Forum to focus on transport issues experienced within K&M.

Halls’ Association

We have also resurrected the Halls’ Association and are holding a “Get Together” informal event in April where there will be a range of information and discussion on holding Film Nights, Insurance, New Water Rates Legislation and Funding.

Getting out into the Community



The Development Workers have taken a number of approaches to getting to know the different communities. Earlier in 2015 KDP held a number of Library Drop in Clinics in the different areas. Development Workers also go along to local coffee mornings, Community Council meetings (by invitation), work in public spaces to reach and engage communities.

Workshops

KDP offers a number of training and workshop opportunities. In addition to delivering specific support these workshops help to deliver the part of our strategy focused on capacity building and the development of social capital. We held two Funding Workshops in Stonehaven which were attended by approximately 20 representatives from community groups. The



emphasis was placed on identifying the five key outcomes of making areas in Aberdeenshire Safer, Greener, Smarter, Healthier and Fairer. It encouraged groups to refocus their projects to understand how they could support the wider community if successful. KDP are now working with a number of the groups attending the workshops providing support from help refocusing the development plan for Newtonhill & District Bowling Club to facilitating a potential partners' engagement event for Social Enterprise organisation The Furniture Lodge.



Planning for Real Workshop

Isabella Williamson and Susie Brown of MAP facilitated a workshop on 7 November at the Arbuthnott Hall for KDP members and community groups.

Case Study #1 Crathes, Drumoak & Durrus Community Council “Away Day”

Following the success of an “Away Day” event held in 2015, members of Crathes, Drumoak and Durrus Community Council invited to KDP to facilitate a second session to review the progress made in 2015, identify the level of current resource within the CC and plan for 2016. The session opened with discussion as to what the group would like to achieve out of the day. In summary, the group were looking to establish what could be achieved with the current level of resources, deal with outstanding issues, understand the roles and structure of CC and wished to spend some time discussing the Park Quarry development concerns.



The workshop continued with a variety of team building, skills and group consensus agreeing activities to help strengthen the team through identifying and building capacity.

The afternoon continued with some work on understanding the role of the community council and its councillors followed by planning and prioritising for 2016.

One of the desired outcomes for the session was to identify individuals prepared to undertake the CDDCC Office Bearer Roles. This was achieved by the end of the session.

Although rich in quality skills and resources, the group were realistic about its limitations. They have outlined a plan of action to keep CDDCC moving forward setting SMART goals with the emphasis being on Achievable.

A key priority is the recruitment of new members and increase community support. A session outside of a normal CDDCC meeting to encourage creative thinking and some innovative or tried and tested approaches would be recommended.

The focus on communication, a theme continued from 2015, is an essential part of the process of reaching the wider community and promotes healthy engagement within the CC.

We have developed a model through this event which can be made available to our members looking for capacity building and planning within their group or Community Council.

Health and Social Care Events

KDP hosted the Health and Social Care events on 8 September 2015 at the Bettridge Centre, Newtonhill and 17 September 2015 at the Burgh Hall, Inverbervie.

Our Mearns

KDP's first step was to be the catalyst which began to unite the local energy. We held a launch event on Wednesday 7 October, in Arbuthnott. Despite a wet and windy night, 30 representatives of local projects and initiatives were in attendance.



The event offered the opportunity for key people involved in local projects, local artists, groups, and partners to make connections, share ideas and take practical steps to pave a way forward. Space was provided for displaying information about local initiatives, a rolling film presentation of the coastal trail prepared by KDP committee members and a "Call to Action" Space.



Participants were offered the opportunity to tell us about their projects, ideas, venues and sites. This started to create an inventory of the arts, cultural and heritage wealth within the Mearns. In addition, participants were invited to join a list of individuals with talents or skills – the Mearns' "Living Treasures". This information has formed the basis of a potential cross

referencing data base to ensure local talent has access to opportunities and projects have access to local talent.



The steering group held their first meeting on 4 November and will start to build a strategy to take the initiative forward.

Community Wind Farm Funding



Hillhead of Auquhirie: Funding worth a total of £12,420 was handed out to a range of local groups and projects at the Hillhead of Auquhirie Wind Farm Community Fund Awards on behalf of Blue Energy on Thursday 24 September 2015.

Meikle Carewe: Funding worth a total of £24,375 was handed out to a range of local groups and projects at the Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Community Fund Awards on behalf of RES Energy on Thursday 28 January 2016. All 15 groups attended to receive funding to support a wide range of projects and groups in the area of benefit.



Community Groups

We are continuing to support community groups a number of which are looking for funding for larger projects for which they will be trying to secure Heritage Lottery or similar. KDP is also supporting groups who have requested support in facilitating community engagement events. Below are two case studies demonstrating the positive impact the support from KDP has had on very different community needs.

Case Study #2 Drumoak Primary School Football Club

Scott Bichon, one of the parents responsible for the running of Drumoak Football Club contacted the KDP office, looking for some assistance.

Drumoak Football Club are an out of school football club although affiliated with the local school it receives no financial support from it. Sandra and Jacky met with Scott and another member Graham to discuss how they could raise funds for kit and equipment for the club. In all they were looking for approximately £1,000. KDP provided them with a number of funding options and a range of approaches from sponsorship and active fundraising.

“Drumoak primary school football club found our meeting with the KDP to be extremely useful in kick-starting our fund-raising efforts and as a result we have now put the following points in action:”

– Scott Bichon
Drumoak Primary School
Football Club

As a result of this meeting the club’s fundraising efforts have been coming along quite well. After a club meeting they agreed a number of actions split over the group and these included:

- Discussion with an existing strip sponsor to discuss new strips for next year’s season (which they’ve kindly agreed to do)
- Discussion with Aberdeen Football Club community advisor re getting some discounted tickets to take some children to a home game before the end of the season
- They ran a ‘tuck shop’ at a league game last week to raise a small bit of extra funds
- Have started discussions with a few local companies to investigate the possibility of someone becoming their ‘main annual sponsor’ (i.e. basically aiming for a company to provide the club with a few hundred pounds every year to cover coach training and equipment costs)

“We’ve got a few other ideas being discussed too regarding Racenights etc. so all in all we’re certainly a lot more focussed as a result of catching up with you guys thanks.”

– Scott Bichon
Drumoak Primary School
Football Club

Case Study #3 Fettercairn Public Property Committee – Fettercairn Public Hall

Helen Thomson of the Fettercairn Public Property Committee attended the “Planning for Real” workshop held in November 2015. Helen spoke to Jacky at the end of the session and arranged for Jacky to visit Fettercairn Public Hall and meet with her to explore how to take forward the great undertaking of restoring and refurbishing the Hall a category C listed building. Built at the beginning of last century the hall has been the centre of village life in Fettercairn and the community have been very active in raising funds towards the growing number of repairs needed before it can reopen to the public.

The group have been successful in securing a financial support from local windfarm funds and Area Committee, however they are still needing in the region of £6,000 to make the building wind and water tight. In addition, the main hall ceiling needs restoring to bring the building to the stage whereupon it can be reopened to the public.

A second phase of the project is to refurbish the interior of the hall and the toilet block.

The costs for this and the ceiling are still an unknown quantity at this stage. The process will be lengthy and potentially complicated.

Jacky is working with Helen and the group’s Treasurer Graham Cunningham to help them to process the information, plan, guide and support them in the delivery of the project. KDP have teamed up with Ed Garrett of Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) who will offer support and advice relating to funding and KDP are providing support and advice in project management and planning and community engagement to help gather the evidence required for any funding applications.

This project is a long way from completion and Helen and the Group have achieved a tremendous amount of work in securing the funds they have already, to date. It is hoped that the support given by KDP will help to give the group the strength and confidence to carry this through to completion in addition to the skills, knowledge and experience we can bring.



“Our consultation with Jacky Niven of K.D.P. and Ed Garrett (AVA) has been most helpful to our organisation as we seek to progress the restoration requirements of Fettercairn Public Hall. Through our discussions we have been supported in deciding our next steps. Through discussions we have also gained confidence in our own abilities to make decisions, and have been supported throughout the process, and don't feel quite so alone.

We have received valuable advice in terms of attending an Excellent Course run by Heritage Lottery 'Making it Happen'. We have been given advice in terms of using the information gathered at this course, in order to tailor it to our community, and we have been given advice in regards to the information we need to gather prior to Funding Bid applications. We have also through discussion been taken through the next steps in order to move forward.

A further meeting has been arranged and also another meeting to discuss the best funders for our project has been promised once we know costings and the amount of money we need to look at applying for.

It is good to have people with their skills to guide us through the process, and the continuity of their engagement with us is also vital to helping us keep focused, and progress our project.”

Helen Thomson (F.P.P.C.
Chairperson)

Summary

Text

Final Word from Our Chair

Text



– Paul Melling
Chairperson
Kincardineshire Development Partnership

Who is Who?

Text

Committee Representation

Mearns Learning Partnership
Portlethen Learning Partnership
Kincardine & Mearns Welfare Solutions
LEADER
Ways of Working in K&M (WOW)
Third Sector and Aberdeenshire Council
Communication for Communities
Community Planning Group

Kincardineshire Development Partnership

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