

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



Gourdon Community Action Plan - getting the views of the whole community

Kincardineshire Development Partnership

42-46 Barclay St

Stonehaven

AB39 2FX

Letter from our Chairperson



This past 12 months has seen the Partnership grow, not only in its Service Delivery, but also in the respect and capability of its role within our many diverse communities.

Our Development Officers, Jacky and Lesley, have encouraged and supported a wide range of community projects, fund raisers and Local Authority initiatives together with partners throughout the Rural and Voluntary Sector. Their willingness to get involved, roll up their sleeves and deliver despite obstacles in the process is to be applauded. The Board of Trustees is always consulted but the “coal face” is the area that our staff have to work within. This is often taxing, tiring and just plain difficult but I am delighted to report that their work is recognised and appreciated by many of our stakeholders and elected members within Aberdeenshire Council.

The significant role of the Rural Partnerships throughout Aberdeenshire is now well documented and elected members have the opportunity to scrutinise this work and decide on the levels of funding to support it. This year we have successfully completed our Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the administration and I am happy to report that KDP has secured a promise of continued funding, albeit at a reduced level, for the next 2 years.

Financial stability is of paramount importance for the continued delivery of support to our communities. I am very pleased to report a further year of tight financial management that has allowed the organisation to operate most effectively within the finances provided. It is essential that we continue to show good governance while rewarding our staff with the financial returns commensurate with their workload and the results they achieve.

This report showcases a brief snapshot of the diverse range of our activities. It is by no means exhaustive and in many respects underplays the large number of inter-relationships that have grown and been developed with our third-sector partners. We need to be increasingly aware of where our participation can have the most impact. We have now reached a stage in our development where it is appropriate to say no to some areas of involvement. Despite our abilities to communicate electronically, face-to-face interactions are increasingly required to satisfy the demands of our partners and membership.

The Development Partnership hears the voices of our 100 plus member groups and it is actively working with up to 20 at any one time. Our strength is in the volunteers who come on board as unpaid Trustees and represent their Community Councils and groups throughout the Kincardine and Mearns area. It is through their willingness to get involved that this organisation will grow and prosper and continue to achieve our stated strategic objective...

“To help communities help themselves”

David Nelson
Chair

INTRODUCTION

Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP), formed in 2014 as a community led and community focused independent not-for-profit voluntary organisation, has completed four years of work for the communities of Kincardine and Mearns. Its objectives continue to be to promote, encourage and enable sustainable community development and economic growth in the area known as Kincardine & Mearns (K & M) Area.

KDP provides free membership services to its members. 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 web site or, on request, sent out by post or collected from the Stonehaven office. Please visit the KDP website www.kdp.scot for information.

Operating as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), KDP is governed by a Board of Trustees 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; up to 18 representatives in total. To enable it to fully represent all parts of the community, KDP welcomes representatives onto the Board from the wider populace and 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 two office team employees:

Lesley Carnegie, Administration and Assistant Development Officer on 20 hours per week

Jacky Niven, Development Officer, on 28 hours per week

This is KDP's fourth Annual Report and it will show that the role of the Partnership continues to be as wide ranging and diverse as our communities and their groups and organisations. While a primary focus is on working with our communities, we also commit time and resources to developing and nurturing strong partnerships with statutory agencies, Aberdeenshire Council and our colleagues in the other five Rural Partnerships. In working hard to help build and develop social capital within our towns and villages, we are confident that KDP will continue to play a strong role in helping our communities deliver robust and sustainable projects.

2. TREASURERS REPORT

KDP Financial Report for 2017-18

The accounts shown are draft accounts recently received from our accountants CS Corporate Solutions Stonehaven.

It has been another sound year financially with the Partnership completing its ambitious programme comfortably within its budget.

The reserves have increased during the year and may appear conservative at over £40,000 but Aberdeenshire Council, the main source of funds, is facing severe budgetary constraints and a reduction in funding from that source is anticipated.

Furthermore, the present office accommodation is restrictive and the transfer to more spacious and more costly premises is anticipated.

The 2018-19 financial year is expected to be more financially challenging but that should not distract from what has been a successful year.

Ian Hunter

Treasurer

31.05.18

KINCARDINESHIRE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2018

	31.3.18 £	31.3.17 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Grants	39,665	35,191
Funds from predecessor group	-	37,754
Wind Farm Fund - admin fee	5,938	5,053
	<u>45,603</u>	<u>77,998</u>
Total incoming resources	45,603	77,998
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Pensions	233	-
Support costs		
Management		
Wages	31,501	28,471
Insurance	473	449
Telephone	1,078	1,121
Postage and stationery	938	1,285
Advertising	1,404	1,272
Sundries	40	63
Catering & Meeting Expenses	419	193
Staff Travel	2,493	1,667
Trustees travel reimbursed	682	1,120
Training	195	70
Office expenses	582	1,160
Rent	1,049	685
	<u>40,854</u>	<u>37,556</u>
Finance		
Computer equipment	-	600
Other		
IT & Website Expenses	583	374
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	640	660
	<u>42,310</u>	<u>39,190</u>
Total resources expended	42,310	39,190
Net income	3,293	38,808

3. DEVELOPMENT WORKERS' REPORT

The Development Officers work to a Work Plan and provide a Monthly Development Officer Report which is circulated to all members of the Board. They also report to the Board at the 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.

Lesley 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 plans for development.

Community Action Plans

Over the past two years, we have been approached a number of communities who are considering undertaking Community Action Plans. We are working with these communities to build capacity and support them through the engagement process. We are committed to ensuring that the process is robust, and that views are as representative of the whole community as possible. This is an organic and community driven process which has taken time to gain traction.

We are delighted to have completed the Community Action Plan for Gourdon and we are already seeing progress being made with some of the actions. A particular highlight is the Gourdon Lower Park,

where the Improvement Group took delivery of wooden train as part of their plans to develop the site as a

community garden. The group raised almost £4k to purchase the feature through community fundraising, donations and an award of £1,156 from K&M Area Committee Budget. The fundraising continues to take forward the group's plans for this community space for all.

We had hoped to deliver a completed Community Action Plan for Drumoak before the end of this period. The work undertaken in the settlement has produced the evidence to progress the Drumoak Church and community group development, a

£3.5 million project to create a self-sustainable community space. The engagement supported a successful LEADER Funding application of £80K in the Autumn of 2017 which initiated the first phase of this exciting project. There is a desire to hold a further consultation with the community to further inform the church development before the steering group is happy to complete the Community Action Plan.



Community Action Plans cont.



In Johnshaven, KDP supported the Community Council with their plans to hold a Community Drop-in event in April 2018 to consult the community on a number of issues including its conservation status. It is hoped that this will launch the development of a Community Action Plan for Johnshaven.

A steering group is being formed in Stonehaven after a lengthy process which has sought to ensure that a diverse and representative cross section of the community work together to take the engagement forward. With a population in excess of 12,000, Stonehaven is the third largest settlement in Aberdeenshire which suggests that this will be an

ambitious undertaking, however the steering

group wish to build on a number of previous consultations in order to produce a Community Action Plan which is meaningful and relevant to the wider population of the town.



We are working at various stages of development with the Community Action Plans for Catterline and Newtonhill. We hope to see progress with these in 2018/19.

Laurencekirk wish to develop a CAP utilising engagement data collected to date by various other means. KDP have offered to work with Laurencekirk Development Trust and Mearns Area Partnership to assist in this process.

We had worked with Portlethen Community Council to initiate some early consultation. In 2017, there was an Aberdeenshire Council led engagement using the Place Standard Tool which was extremely well supported by the community. There is still work ongoing based on the outcome of this consultation. KDP hope to reconnect with the Community Council to consider how the CAP can develop on the back of this engagement.

Supporting Community Groups

We are committed to the promotion of community economic development through the provision of support, advice and information to community groups and organisations and social enterprises. We are delighted to report that we have been fostering good relationships with in the region of 25 groups and organisations in this past 12-month period. This is in addition to those organisations and groups we have reached through the projects delivered through partnership working and



the groups we have supported through our work administering the Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds. This is an area of our work which is developing into the core service delivery we had aimed for. We have been providing support and advice on areas from formation and governance issues, funding, project planning and community engagement to Community Asset Transfer. The level of support continues to vary from group to group with some enjoying the capacity to just require a steer on seeking SCIO status to more involved support for larger more complex projects.

KDP Community Cash

We have enjoyed great success in raising awareness of KDP and the development of social capital through our Community Cash Events.

We held a further four participatory budgeting/funding events offering micro grants funded by KDP. An exercise in live time democracy, KDP Community Cash also introduces the concepts of participatory budgeting and citizenship. The events highlighted the challenges of having to make difficult decisions and laid some groundwork in preparation for the Participatory Budgeting pilot events which took place in 2017. The events have



provided a mechanism for engagement with additional groups and organisations. In addition, they strive to empower communities to feel part of a decision-making process. It also begins to build social cohesion as communities learn about groups and projects in their area. Key for us is the strengthening relationship developing with the Rural Partnership to provide wider support and facilitation. We were delighted to have been able to hold one of the events in the village of Gourdon to coincide with the launch of the Community Action Plan where one of the key projects highlighted in the plan won the vote. We continue to develop a proven track record with these micro grants and as a result we were approached by Aberdeenshire Council Community Planning to do the on the ground engagement for the larger Participatory Budgeting event with an additional SLA.

Going forward we will need to consider an external funding source to support these valuable events as we hope to continue with Community Cash throughout 2018/19 and beyond.



Our Mearns Tourism Association

KDP continued to support the newly formed “Our Mearns Tourism Association” (OMTA) to enable the delivery of their strategic plan to create an Arts and Cultural Tourism Destination of the Mearns area. Throughout 2017 we provided governance support to establish the organisation as a social enterprise.



Now formed, OMTA is positioned to explore ways of creating sustainable development to the area considering core values such as community education, recognition of local talent, authenticity of projects and protection of heritage. However, the bigger picture could provide benefit to the wider community. Through effective planning, partnerships and promotion the area can take advantage of greater economic activity such as job creation, business growth, new business and agricultural diversity. This in turn can boost local infrastructure and amenities. For example, exploring the use of Augmented Reality and Geo technologies to promote the area may attract investment in the digital infrastructure badly needed in this area.

Our work is ongoing with the group to help identify sources of funding to develop and promote the “Visit Mearns” brand, appoint a Tourism Coordinator/Project Worker and, where necessary, to support particular projects OMTA is championing. OMTA is starting to build strong links and partnerships with bodies such as VisitAberdeenshire and Visit Scotland and gathering support from local elected members and MSPs.



Community Wind Farm Funding

KDP currently administers three wind farm community benefit funds as follows:

Hillhead of Auquhirie: A total of £25,335 was awarded to 12 local groups on behalf of Blue Energy at the awards ceremony held on Monday 18th September 2017. The event was kindly hosted by the Friends of Stonehaven Open Air Swimming Pool, one of the successful applicants.



Meikle Carewe: We were delighted to welcome Calum Whiteford and Donna Hamilton of RES Energy to award the cheques at our presentation ceremony which was held in the Bettridge Centre, Newtonhill, on Monday 11th December 2017. A total of £34,530 was awarded to 16 groups for a wide range of projects and activities.

St John's Hill: In March 2017, KDP signed a contract to administer the St John's Hill Wind Farm Fund on behalf of REV. The fund opened for applications on 1 January 2018 and is expected to make its first awards in May 2018. A backdated total fund of just over £32k will be available in the first year of operation.

Building Links and Partnership Working

A significant proportion of our activities during the 2017/2018 period centre around partnership working. KDP was an effective contributor to a number of cross agency/cross partnership initiatives. Our involvement in these group projects has considerably strengthened our relationships with partners across K&M and Aberdeenshire and our approach has helped establish our reputation as a trusted partner. Furthermore, the impact of this collaborative work has raised our profile and visibility within the K&M Community and we are becoming recognised as that helping hand, trusted contact for advice and support.

Your Voice, Your Choice

Local Community Planning Group - Participatory Budgeting Steering Group

KDP worked with Community Planning Partners to develop the process and plan for a Participatory Budgeting pilot event to award £30K to the communities of St Cyrus, Johnshaven, Benholm, Gourdon and Inverbervie. KDP were funded through an award from the Community Choices Fund to dedicate additional and targeted on the ground time for community engagement and capacity building elements. The Big Event was held in June 2017, when a number of groups we had been supporting won the vote and were awarded funds from the £30k Budget. We are now seeing the legacy of the work undertaken here with those groups making increased numbers of successful funding applications with panels commenting on the enhanced quality of the submissions.



Grow Your Group

*Funding workshops for community groups
and voluntary organisations in K and M*

Do you want to be able to plan your projects
more effectively?

Would you like to understand better what
funders are looking for in applications?

Do you want to know more about where to
find funding?

...

We are running a series of FREE workshops
starting on the 20th September. These will
aim to address these questions and more.

For more information and a booking form
please contact Diane Strachan on
01569 768 323 or email
diane.strachan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Places will be
allocated on a first
come first
served basis.

**grow
your
group**

Providing Practical Support to nurture Community Groups

Grow Your Group Funding Programme

This programme of workshops emerged through the K and M Ways of Working group, a group which brings together people from third and public-sector organisations working at grassroots level to support communities. The programme was a response to an ongoing need to support groups with information on sources of funding and how to make strong applications. It was also designed to build the capacity of organisations more generally to plan and deliver financial sustainability in the longer term. The programme consisted of five workshops held in Autumn 2017, culminating in a funding fair held in February 2018. The workshops broke down the application process and looked at all the facets from planning to evaluation.



Grow Your Group Funding Programme cont.

The key intended outcome of the programme of increased financial sustainability of organisations in K and M is hard to assess in the shorter term, though some feedback suggests the programme has already had an effect with one participant saying:



"Thank you for a fab day on Sat - as usual, very interesting & useful & encouraging. I was wondering if a bit of feedback re the number of grants we've managed to obtain since the start of the workshop series might be useful? It's been £12,517 from a variety of sources including Tesco, Area Committee & E.ON. Not necessarily directly attributable to the workshops of course, but I'm sure they've really helped. The proof of the pudding will be our next lot of massive applications... and they will be attributable to the workshops. Will keep you informed."

This is indicative of much of the feedback received. We aim to rerun this programme during 2018/2019.



Dialogue & Deliberation

Community Planning

Development Officer Jacky Niven was fortunate to be selected to attend a two-day facilitators' course on Facilitative Leadership organised by What Works Scotland. The learning was to be cascaded throughout Aberdeenshire. Jacky, with Aberdeenshire Council colleagues, delivered a Train the Trainer workshop on Dialogue & Deliberation in the Autumn to members of Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation to ensure the benefit of the learning was shared as widely and as effectively as possible. A second session will be held later in 2018.

More Partnership Working

Other activities have involved working with Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation (ARPF), moving towards building a more cohesive collective and maximising the strength of the Federation's uniqueness.

Jacky has taken on the role of Chair of the Third Sector Strategy Group whose purpose is to strengthen the partnership working between the ARPF, the Third Sector Interface (i.e. Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action) and Aberdeenshire Council to ensure the community and third sector voices are considered where policy may impact them.

Through our work with the local Wellbeing Network, we participated in delivering the outcome of a piece of work on engaging communities undertaken by Aberdeen University entitled "Living with Hope". KDP has also taken an active role in the Local Learning Partnerships through Community Learning and Development with particular emphasis on raising social capital and celebrating the work of volunteers.

Supporting papers and reports about many of these activities will be available on our website or on request.






Conclusion

This report provides an overview of our activities over the past twelve months and we are confident that we have been able to demonstrate a positive return on the investment and the successful delivery of our SLA for year 2017/2018. As we continue the work on the ground undertaken by our Development Officers, we are starting to foster relationships built on confidence and trust.

The benefits or soft outcomes of our activities can be measured by evidence of increased social capital, more engaged communities, less anti-social behaviour etc. However, in more tangible terms, our activities have helped communities secure over £200k of funding into K&M. We anticipate that there is scope to bring in at least £800K in the longer-term future based on the projects we are currently working with. We are also working with much more ambitious projects which have the potential to bring multimillion figures of investment into K&M. This investment, if secured, would offer a significant boost to the economy in terms of bringing more business to the area.

This is key when we consider the impact of the changes to the economic climate of the North East and how it continues to affect the needs and priorities of communities. KDP is well placed to support that change, encourage new ways of thinking and nurture innovation. As we continue to progress and become a valuable community resource, we will remain committed to the monitoring and evaluation of our activities to ensure that we are current and in touch with community need.

We have proven to be an effective partner across our networks this year and through successful partnership working we have begun to harness a confidence with our membership and have become the “go to” organisation to help our communities make K&M a great place to live and work.



Who's Who

Our Trustees	
Name	Representing Organisation
David Nelson (Chair)	Mearns Community Council
Bob McKinney (Vice Chair)	North Kincardine Rural Community Council
Mairi Eddie (Secretary)	Benholm & Johnshaven Community Council
Ian Hunter (Treasurer)	Stonehaven & District Community Council
David Evans	Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar Community Council
Walter McMillan	Portlethen & District Men's Shed
Marion McNeil	Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council
Michael Morgan	Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore Community Council
Andrew Newton	Stonehaven Town Partnership
Jim Stuart	Mearns Area Partnership
Bridget Scott	The Bettridge Centre ,Newtonhill
Isabella Williamson	Arbuthnott Community Council

Our Team



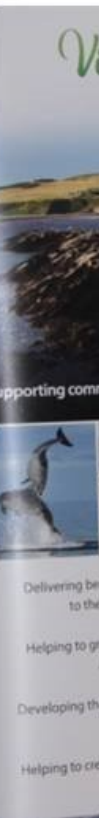
Jacky Niven
Development Officer

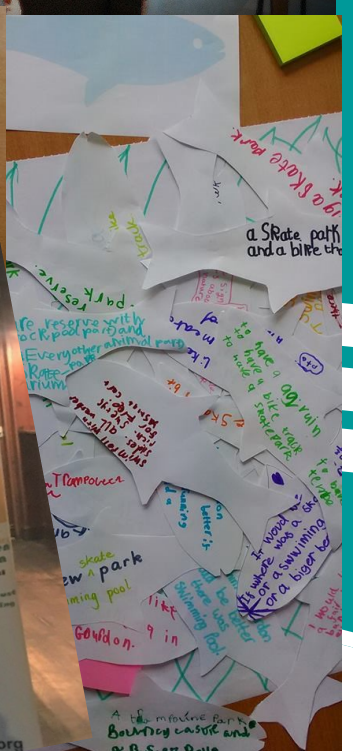
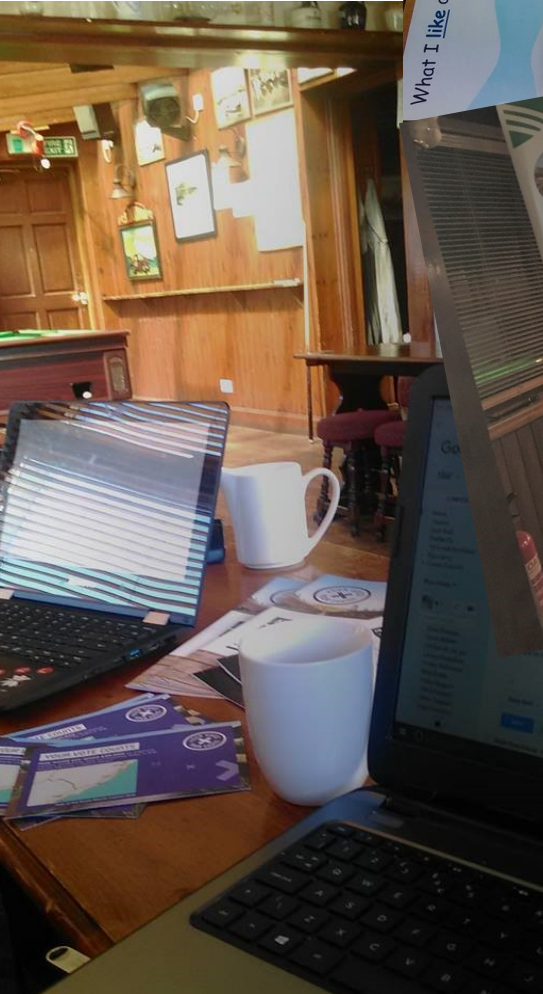


Lesley Carnegie
Administration and
Assistant Development Officer



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Helping our Communities make

Kincardine and Mearns

A

Great Place

to Live and Work

**Got a Project idea?
Need Help or Advice?**

Funding? Engagement?

Empowerment?

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