



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



Embark Forest School receiving KDP Community Cash Award at our Johnshaven Event

Kincardineshire Development Partnership

44-46 Barclay St

Stonehaven

AB39 2FX

Letter from our Chairperson



This is my first opportunity to comment on the work of KDP which has continued and expanded since its formation 3 years ago. Our mission statement is quite simply “to help communities to help themselves”.

Through the continuous hard work of our Development Officers, this ethos of ours has enabled many groups to benefit and establish their own diverse activities in a structured and competent way.

The strategic plan for KDP through to 2020 is to secure, wherever possible, adequate funding to support the growth opportunities identified in our communities. To promote communication between groups and to empower them to take on projects, share experiences, establish Community Action Plans, and deliver real improvements for our people. For it is our people, the public, who make our communities the places we want to live and work within.

The primary funding we receive from Aberdeenshire Council is committed for one more year, 2017-2018, and thereafter subject to review. The economic impact and return on social capital that we can deliver through our activities within Kincardineshire and the Mearns is huge. It represents good value for money and harnesses the expertise that volunteers acting as trustees or members of KDP can bring to the table. We can ensure good governance of procedures, tight financial management and effective supervision of these funds. In addition, our registration as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) allows us to seek funding from a wider variety of sources to assist communities and become a self-sustaining body, one of our key strategic objectives.

The following report highlights just some of the range of activities KDP is involved in. In particular, I would like to highlight the OUR MEARNES TOURISM ASSOCIATION, TRAK and THE COMMUNITY CASH EVENTS as outstanding examples of the innovative work of our Development Officers and some of our trustees. The management of wind farm developers’ community funds, now 3 operations, is also a good example of the role that an independent body can take in serving our Kincardineshire and Mearns communities.

The list is long and the demand for help and services is never ending. We will endeavour to prioritise our resources and ensure that throughout 2017/18, just as we have done throughout 2016/17, “WE CAN 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 its first three 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. 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 web site or, on request, sent out by post or collected from the Stonehaven office. Please visit the KDP website www.kincardineshiredp.org for information.

Operating as a SCIO it 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. KDP welcomes representatives onto the board from the wider communities to enable it to fully represent all parts of the community and the constitution allows for this through co-options. Within the board there are currently four office bearer roles: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary.

The board is currently supported by the 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 third 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. 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 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 Finance Report for 2016-17

The accounts shown are unaudited and have only recently been lodged with our accountants and therefore will be subject to minor adjustments.

As can be seen from the attached Cash Flow spreadsheet and provisional Profit and Loss summary the Partnership is financially sound and operating within its income.

The end of year accounts for 2015-16 included an expected payment of £3000. That payment did not materialise. Our accountants advice on how that is to be reflected in the accounts is awaited.

Ian Hunter
Treasurer
23.05.17

KDP Provisional Provisional Profit and Loss for the Year 2016-17

	£	£
Opening Balance		34416.47
Add INCOME for Year		
Windfarm Community Fund	21,092.46	* See Note 1
Windfarm Community Fund - Admin Fee	5,052.63	
Aberdeenshire Council Area Committee Fund	3,859.28	
NHS Grampian	3,303.25	* See Note 2
Aberdeenshire Council SLA	34,333.00	
Returned cheque	150.00	
Total	<u>67790.62</u>	
Deduct EXPENDITURE		
Accounting fees	360.00	
Advertising & Marketing	1,421.99	
Catering/Refreshments for meetings	135.00	
Committee members expenses	-	
Committee member travel	1,120.35	
Insurance	462.01	
IT expenditure	127.99	
NHS Grampian Cheque Repayment	3,303.25	* See Note 2
Office expenses (inc hall hire)	1,160.37	
Office rent	685.29	
Stationery, Printing and Postage	760.66	
Photocopying	468.25	
Telephone	1,111.34	
Training	70.00	
Travel	-	
Staff expenses	295.05	
Staff travel	1,660.85	
Staff wages & related costs	28,216.15	
Website & Social Media	144.00	
Windfarm Community Fund reallocation	21,092.46	* See Note 1
Total	<u>62595.01</u>	
Income / Less Expenditure		<u>5195.61</u>
Closing Cash Balance		39612.08
Estimated Profit for Year		
Income / Less Expenditure	5195.61	
Less: Equipment Depreciation @25%	<u>330.00</u>	
Estimated Profit for Year	<u>4865.61</u>	

* 1. Funds held and then distributed

* 2. Paid to us in error by NHS and returned

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 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.

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

As the following record of activities and case studies illustrates, KDP is emerging as a strong service provider for K & M, engaging communities and satiating an appetite for positive change.

KDP activities really started to gather momentum at the end of 2015 and into the beginning of 2016. The pace has continued throughout the remainder of 2016 and into 2017. In addition to responding to a number of enquiries from community groups, Community Councils and partners, KDP has initiated a programme of events aimed at building community relationships with the organisation and social cohesion.

We have been encouraged by the developing relationship between the communities and KDP. A measure of this can be felt in the invitation to four Community Celebration events within the last month.

Community Action Plans

Our main activities concerning Community Action Planning have centred around the communities of Gourdon and Drumoak. Both had strong responses from the initial consultation and clear themes have been identified. Progress has been made to develop Gourdon Lower Park to work

towards the creation of a community garden promoting (but not limited to) community identity, health and wellbeing and

inclusiveness. Concerns were raised about traffic speeding and safety; this was identified as a priority and a small win was achieved as, through the Community Council, we organised the erection of 20mph repeater signs throughout the village. The work undertaken in Drumoak has produced the evidence to progress the Drumoak Church and community group development. This will be a £3.5 million

project to create a self-sustainable community space. We are currently awaiting the outcome of a strong LEADER application which, if successful, will engage the first phase of this exciting project.

We have undertaken the initial stages of Community Action Plans in Johnshaven, Portlethen, Newtonhill, Stonehaven and Catterline. As of the end of March 2017, these communities are at various stages of this process from initial approach, first consultation activity and wider engagement to action planning.



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 24 groups and organisations in this past 12-month period. 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 varies 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.

As an example, we can refer to a Case Study from the 2015/16 Annual Report:

Fettercairn Public Property Committee – Fettercairn Public Hall



We have been working with the group with one of our partners from AVA to help take forward the great undertaking of restoring and refurbishing the Hall, a category C listed building. Built at the beginning of last century, the 125 years old 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.

Our work and relationship has been ongoing throughout 2016 and 2017 and, through a variety of sources, including funders and community fundraising and donations, the group has raised over £100k. There is still a shortfall of £45K required and the group are, with KDP and AVA's support, approaching other



funders. Meanwhile, the group wanted to engage with the community to raise awareness of the work to be done and the story so far but to also consider the sustainability of the hall for the next 125 years. We supported the group in the facilitation of an engagement event in February 2017. The event also explored the idea of a "Friends Of..." to raise funds for ongoing costs; 75% of respondents to date supported this approach. The work continues with the aim for the hall to be reopened before the end of 2017

although the group still face a number of challenges.

Other groups have included Forest Schools, Heritage sites and projects, Halls, Out of School, Preschool and Youth projects, Older People, Mental Health and Environmental protection - a reflection of the diverse community landscape across K & M which presents challenges and opportunities in equal measure. As these projects come into fruition there is a potential of £4.5M of funding investment to benefit the area.

KDP Community Cash

We held four participatory budgeting/funding events offering micro grants. Supporting the ethos of the Community Empowerment Bill as an exercise in live time democracy, it also introduced the concepts of participatory budgeting and citizenship. It highlighted the challenges of having to make difficult decisions and has laid some groundwork in preparation for Participatory Budgeting pilot events to take place later in 2017. After two successful events in Drumoak and Portlethen in 2016 we were able to secure funding from the Community Planning budget to hold a further two events in 2017 in Johnshaven and Drumlithie. This injection of cash has enabled us to continue with the programme going forward in 2017/18. The events have provided a mechanism for engagement with additional groups and organisations. In addition, it strives to empower communities and feel



part of a decision-making process. It also starts 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 are developing



a proven track record with these micro grants and as a result we have been approached by Aberdeenshire Council Community Planning to do the on the ground engagement for the larger Participatory Budgeting event with an additional SLA.

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What could your Group do with £300?

KDP Community Cash!

KDP Community Cash Event
Thursday 23rd March 2017
Drumlithie Village Hall,
Drumlithie
6.45pm until 8.30pm

For more information Contact
Kincardineshire Development
Partnership on 01569 763 246 or
email enquiries@kincardineshirekdp.org

Aberdeenshire
Community Training Partnership

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation - SC048327



Our Mearns Tourism Association



Progress continued through a steering group to take forward this initiative to create an Arts, Cultural and heritage Tourism Destination of the area known as the Mearns. This culminated in a Launch event in November 2016, hosted by the Balmakewan Farm Shop and Restaurant which has led to the formation of the Tourism Association. We have supported and will continue to support, the newly formed “Our Mearns Tourism Association” to enable the delivery of their strategic plan and promote the “Visit Mearns” brand. We have provided Governance support to establish the organisation as a Social Enterprise. We have helped establish good links and partnerships with bodies such as VisitAberdeenshire, Visit Scotland and World Host. As part of our commitment to the project, KDP have achieved World Host status. Going forward, the Association could be positioned to offer sustainable development to the area. It can apply to core values of community education, recognition of local talent, authenticity of projects and protection of heritage. However, the bigger picture provides 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.



Transport Action Kincardineshire (TrAK)

Following the outcome of the “Transportation Matters” forum held at the beginning of 2016, the action group TrAK was formed. Its objectives are to offer a collective voice for the whole of K&M on all aspects of Transport and, where possible, to take action to tackle issues such as rural isolation and weak network links.

Community Wind Farm Funding

KDP administer two funds on behalf of the Energy Groups with a third fund to come on stream in late 2017.

Hillhead of Auquhirie: A total of £12,725 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 29th September 2016.



Meikle Carewe: Funding worth a total of £40,796.81 was handed out to local groups and projects at the Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Community Fund Awards on Friday 20th January 2017. The well-attended event was hosted by Newtonhill Bowling Club where groups received funding to support a wide range of projects and groups in the area of benefit. We were delighted to welcome Callum Whiteford of RES Energy who attended the event to award the cheques.

Getting out into the Community



The Development Officers have taken a variety of approaches to getting to know the different communities. The Community Cash events have been a valuable mechanism for opening channels of communication. We also have taken “Walk abouts” in different parts of K&M to talk to and engage with people on the ground. These have proved successful in promoting our events and identifying groups and projects who could benefit from our support. Development Officers also go

along to local coffee mornings, Community Council meetings (by invitation) and work in public spaces to reach and engage communities.



Building Links

The Development Officers and members of the Board make an active contribution to the Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation, working to ensure that the strength and value of the work of all the Rural Partnerships across Aberdeenshire is recognised. Development Officer, Jacky Niven represents the Federation at the Community Planning Executive. In addition, KDP is represented on the following groups and committees to grow and develop partnership working, reduce duplication and consider how the Rural Partnership can best support and engage their communities:

CED Partners
Third Sector Strategy Group
Ways of Working in K&M (WOW)
Local Community Planning Group
Local Learning Partnerships (Stonehaven, Portlethen, Mearns)
Wellbeing Network

We have also developed good working relationships with our partners at LEADER, NESFLAG, VisitAberdeenshire and a variety of third sector organisations to ensure that we are well placed to identify the best possible outcomes for the communities we support

Conclusion

This report provides a snap shot of our activities over the past twelve months, however 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 2016/17. Still relatively early on in its development, the Rural Partnership is proving to support and help build capacity and social capital within our communities. Continuing 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 £160,000 of funding into K&M. We anticipate that there is scope to bring in at least £4.5 million in the foreseeable future based on the projects we are currently working with.

The impact of the changes to the economic climate in the North East continue to affect the needs and priorities of communities but we believe we are 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 monitoring and evaluation of our activities to ensure that we are current and in touch with community need.

With developments in legislation such as the Community Empowerment Act, we will be able to further demonstrate the vital role the Rural Partnership can play going forward. In addition, initiatives such as the Tourism Association have the potential to attract wider investment into the area by the development of a marketplace conducive to growth.

Although Kincardineshire Development Partnership is still relatively new in its formation, our ability to listen, to engage and to know our communities has quickly established a strong return in social capital, moving towards making K & M a great place to live and work.



Who's Who

Our Trustees	
Name	Representing Organisation
David Nelson (Chair)	Mearns Community Council
Dave Ramsay (Vice Chair)	Mearns Creative Community Fund
Mairi Eddie (Secretary)	Benholm & Johnshaven Community Council
Ian Hunter (Treasurer)	Stonehaven & District Community Council
Caroll Burness	Inverbervie Community Council
George Greiss	Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar Community Council
Walter McMillan	Portlethen & District Men's Shed
Marion McNeil	Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council
Paul Melling	Portlethen & District Community Council
Michael Morgan	Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore Community Council
Andrew Newton	Stonehaven Town Partnership
Jim Stuart	Mearns Area Partnership
Isabella Williamson	Arbuthnott Community Council

Our Team



Jacky Niven
Development Officer



Lesley Carnegie
Administration and
Assistant Development Officer



**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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