



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



Community Cash event in our new premises

Kincardineshire Development Partnership
F9 Sheriff Court Building
Dunnottar Avenue
Stonehaven
AB39 2JD

Letter from our Chairperson



This past year has seen significant change in the operation of KDP. The first and most obvious one is the change of personnel, who are now the point of contact for our customers. Lesley Carnegie left the organisation in November 2018 and we decided to appoint 2 new members of staff to share the work that Lesley undertook in general office administration and windfarm fund applications. These appointments coincided with our office move to the new community hub at the sheriff court house in Stonehaven. We also took the opportunity to upgrade our IT equipment and photocopying capacity. This move has proved very popular with staff and they have orchestrated the whole thing in an efficient and timely manner. This change now allows us to staff the office for 4 days per week instead of the previous 2 and will further enhance our ability to support our communities.

Jacky has been exceptionally busy this past year with a diverse range of contacts and requests for advice and support. The opportunities for income generation are being explored as we are conscious of the reduction in financial grant available from Aberdeenshire Council to continue to support our Service Level Agreement with them. We have appeared before the Area Committee to explain our roles and responsibilities and received very favourable and supportive comments from Councillors for the way KDP is effectively managed and is having a major impact on our community. Community groups helped by KDP this year provided a range of good community stories to illustrate our work. Jacky then produced a newsletter for community circulation which we hope will be an annual undertaking. One of the key roles KDP now performs is of course the management of the Windfarm Community Benefit Funds available each year for groups within each of our community areas. Details are further reported within this document.

Board membership has remained stable throughout the year with 2 new appointments. The trustees provided a range of skills and expertise to members of staff in the execution of their duties and ensure continued good governance for the partnership. Our Treasurer Ian Hunter has been busy and supported by office staff in bringing together groups of environmental activists to consider what can be done within our communities to enhance awareness and produce actions to further 'green' objectives.

Our AGM was held in October and hosted very kindly by MacPhie of Glenbervie, who have themselves a considerable footprint of community engagement. We are very grateful for their support and provision of refreshments on what proved to be a splendid engagement for all those attending.

There is no doubt in my mind that through tight financial management we demonstrate our capacity to achieve a wide range of opportunities for our communities on a one-to-one basis within budget. This illustrates the huge returns and added value we make on the Councils financial support to the rural partnership.

Finally, I would wish to record my thanks to Jacky, Margo, Kirsty and Lesley and the Trustees for the work they do in promoting KDP throughout Kincardineshire and Mearns. With their continued support we will continue to 'help' communities 'help themselves' over the next 12 months.

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 five 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.kdp.scot 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, the constitution allows for this through co-options. Within the board there are four office bearer roles Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and a Secretary.

The board is currently supported by the Office Team Employees:

Margo Titmuss Office Administrator on 10 hours

Kirsty Alchin Windfarm & General Administration on 10 hours

Jacky Niven Development Officer on 28 hours.

Until the end 2018 Lesley Carnegie provided General and Windfarm Administration support in a 20-hour post. Lesley moved to pastures new and KDP wish her all the best in her new role. It was decided that the opportunity to appoint two employees to cover the post offered scope for more flexibility and development going forward.

This is KDP's fifth 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 Financial Report for 2018-19

The accounts shown are unaudited and at the time of writing are being lodged with our accountants. They will therefore be subject to minor adjustments.

The reserves have fallen this year partly due to a reduction in the Aberdeenshire SLA payment and also the relocation expenditures which includes a one-off significant IT amount.

Although the reserves remain substantial the reduction in the year highlights the requirement to explore new income streams.

Ian Hunter

Treasurer KDP

14.05.2019



KDP Provisional Profit & Loss for the Year 2018-2019

Opening Balance		£43,087.29	
INCOME			
Windfarm Community Fund	£32,071.58		* See Note 1
Windfarm Community Fund - Admin Fee	£6,247.85		
Aberdeenshire Council Area Committee Fund	£3,000.00		
Aberdeenshire Council SLA	£32,618.00		
Other Deposits	£5,458.77		
Total		£79,392.18	
EXPENDITURE			
Accounting fees	£500.00		
Advertising & Marketing	£300.00		
Catering/Refreshments for meetings	£622.37		
Board members expenses	£0.00		
Board member travel	£834.80		
Feasibility Study	£2,450.00		
Insurance	£499.31		
IT expenditure	£2,189.58		
Our Mearns Tourism Association	£170.00		
Office expenses (inc hall hire)	£1,018.50		
Office move & related costs	£388.68		
Office rent & service charge	£1,730.30		
Stationery, Printing and Postage	£736.28		
Photocopying	£180.49		
Telephone	£1,984.17		
Training	£0.00		
Travel	£0.00		
Staff expenses	£1,001.50		
Staff travel	£1,968.50		
Staff wages & related costs	£32,074.29		
Website & Social Media	£632.87		
Windfarm Community Fund / other reallocation	£35,784.83		* See Note 1
Total		£85,060.23	
Income less Expenditure		-£5,668.05	
Closing Balance		£37,419.24	

Note 1 - Funds held and then distributed

3. DEVELOPMENT WORKERS' REPORT

The Development Officer works to a Work Plan and provides 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.

Jacky responds 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.

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.

Community Action Plans

We have been approached a number of communities who are considering undertaking Community Action Plans over the past three years. 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 views are as representative of the whole community as can be possible. This is an organic and community driven process which has taken time to gain traction

We were delighted to have completed the Community Action Plan for Gourdon in 2017/2018 and it is great to

see the progress being made with some of the actions,

in particular the Gourdon Lower Park. The fundraising continues to take forward the group's plans for this community space for all.

We had hoped to have made better progress in delivering a completed Community Action Plan for Drumoak, Stonehaven and Johnshaven.

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 the conservation status.

This was a well-attended event which has provided data which could support the development of an Action Plan; however, these community driven plans rely on key members of the community to drive them forward and this CAP has fallen down their priority list. We are working with the Community Council on a Community Council Futures project, to look at invigorating and updating the local Community Council to better engage with the whole community. Through this work we hope to be able to encourage work on the final part of the CAP process and look forward to completing in 2019.



Community Action Plans cont.

As reported in last year's Annual Report, a steering group had been 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 have endeavoured to progress this work with a planned four-day engagement event sited in the Town Centre and in two of the main areas of residential population. Twice the programme has slipped down the priority list for the key actors in favour of consultation on the wider Local Plans. We will continue to support and encourage this process and look to secure a date for the engagement plan.



In 2016/2017, 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. We have now reconnected with the main drivers of the original steering group and progress to develop a Community Action Plan for Portlethen using the data gathered from all approaches is being made. We expect to be able to deliver a completed CAP for Portlethen by the middle of 2019.



In a landscape cluttered with plans and consultations, it can be challenging to keep communities focused on the process needed to see a Community Action Plan through to completion, if the document produced is to be truly one that is a roadmap for implementing community change. However, KDP still continue to foster the relationships with community members to ensure we are able to effectively facilitate the delivery of Community Action Plans when the communities are ready, and that process has as much to do with building community capacity as the plans themselves.

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 relationships with over 30 groups and organisations during the last 12-month period, providing practical help & support which can include helping with structure & Governance, finding & applying for funding to repositioning, engagement activities, mentoring, business planning etc. We continue to ensure that we are flexible & responsive to our community need as no two requests are exactly the same.

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.



An indication of how activities working with our community groups are starting to make an impact was to be able to launch the first edition of the Kincardine & Mearns Annual News, which whilst containing features and news from KDP this publication was largely written by the communities and groups we support.

We are working with Community Halls to re-establish the K&M Halls Association. We held a “Talking Halls” event which has been the catalyst in regaining the appetite of halls working together to address common issues.

With introduction of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) in May 2018 local groups took the opportunity to take part in GDPR clinics run by KDP to help them to understand their obligations under the new regulations and where to go for more information.

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 two 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.

Going forward we will still need to consider an external funding source to support these valuable events as we hope to continue with Community Cash throughout 2019/20 and beyond.

Our Mearns Tourism Association

KDP had continued to support the newly formed “Our Mearns Tourism Association” to enable the delivery of their strategic plan to create an Arts, Cultural Tourism Destination of the Mearns area, until the middle of 2018. Now formed as a Social Enterprise it was important to allow the organisation to develop under its own Board of Directors. KDP continues to provide support through the same range of services available to all our



community groups and organisations. For example, we facilitated an initial meeting for the group wishing to develop the coastal path from St Cyrus to Stonehaven. The group has gone on to form as a sub group of OMTA securing funding from the Tullo Wind Farm Community benefit fund to support work to make improvements to the coastal path.



Community Wind Farm Funding

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

Hillhead of Auquhirie:

A total of £12367.85 was awarded to 10 local groups on behalf of Blue Energy at the awards ceremony held on 10th October 2018 at the Arbuthnott Hall.



Meikle Carewe:

We were delighted to hold a presentation ceremony at the Porty Cabin, on 27th November 2018 where a total of £29,230 was awarded to 17 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 made its first awards in May 2018. A total fund of £21,345.80 was awarded to 9 local groups.

Democracy Matters

The Scottish Government is considering making changes to the ways decisions are made in communities. The Local Governance Review is looking at how power, responsibility and resources are shared with government and with communities. The review was called Democracy Matters and ran from May 2018 until November 2018. The Scottish Government

wanted to hear what people think and Democracy Matters conversations were set up to hear the voices of your community in a discussion about local communities deciding their own future.

KDP held four of these events for communities of interest and invited community members to join our conversations held at the end of October and the beginning of November. This activity aligned well with our work community empowerment and understanding how communities wanted to see the distribution of decision making. All four events were well attended and provoked some interesting conversations. Reports on the feedback were prepared and returned to Scottish Government.



Building Links and Partnership Working

A significant proportion of our activities during the 2018/2019 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 help and support.

The Third Sector Strategy Group (TSSG)

Jacky has taken on the role of Chair of the Third Sector Strategy Group whose purpose is to strengthen the partnership working between the Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation (ARPF) the Third Sector Interface i.e. Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action and Aberdeenshire Council to ensure the community/third sector voices are considered where policy may impact them. Under Jacky's Chairmanship the group has strengthened links across the partnerships with more effective local level partnership working and produced a clear strategy document to help maximise the opportunities this partnership presents.



Aberdeenshire Third Sector Strategy Group

Strategy Document April 2019



Let's
Explore

The Power of Community

Community Empowerment!

What does it mean to Kincardine & Mearns?

What does it mean to your Community?

One of the initiatives arising from the TSSG was to hold local Community Empowerment events. Three years on from when the Community Empowerment Act (2015) was passed KDP wished to look at Community Empowerment in Kincardine and Mearns, understand what truly empowered communities look like and further engage with the Act to help ensure that our communities maximise the opportunities it should present. KDP

with partners from Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, held a day event for community groups to consider the wider subject of Community Empowerment and how it could align with the Act.



Dialogue & Deliberation - Community Planning

Development Officer, Jacky was fortunate to be selected to attend a two-day facilitators' course on Facilitative Leadership held 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 Autumn of 2018 to officers of Aberdeenshire Council to ensure the benefit of the learning was shared as

widely and as effectively as possible.



More Partnership Working

Other activities have been with Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation working towards building a more cohesive collective and maximising the strength of the Federation's uniqueness.

The partnerships are keen to explore CPD opportunities and work together to collectively represent Aberdeenshire on a national level. For example, we had the opportunity to represent the area in promoting the valuable contribution the

LEADER programme has made over the past 26 year at a parliamentary reception in February this year. Our attendance was important if we are to ensure Aberdeenshire's voice is heard when replacement funding is being considered to try and secure support beyond the Central Belt.



K&MWWN

Lunch & Learn



At a local level, through our work with the Wellbeing and Welfare Network we have initiated a series of Lunch & Learn sessions. KDP and Partners host Lunch & Learn events for practitioners working with the communities of K&M. This presented the opportunity for individuals to talk informally and build relationships to help sustain a cohesive network of support for our communities

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



Conclusion

This report provides an overview 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 2018/2019. As we continue the work on the ground undertaken by our Development Officer, 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 £400k of funding into K&M. We anticipate that there is scope to bring in at least £800K in the shorter-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 in the North East and how it continues to affect the needs and priorities of communities. KDP 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.

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
Ron Sharp (Vice Chair)	Portlethen & District Community Council
Ian Hunter (Treasurer)	Stonehaven & District Community Council
Bob McKinney	North Kincardine Rural Community Council
Mairi Eddie	Benholm & Johnshaven Community Council
William Dargie	Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar Community Council
Walter McMillan	Portlethen & District Men's Shed
Marion McNeil	Crathes, Drumoak & Durrus Community Council
George Cruickshank	Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore Community Council
Andrew Newton	Stonehaven Town Partnership
Sandra Davidson	Mearns Area Partnership
Bridget Scott	The Bettridge Centre
Isabella Williamson	Arbuthnott Community Council

Our Team



Jacky Niven
Development
Officer



Margo Titmuss
Administration



Kirsty Alchin
Windfarm
Administration

Dear Everyone,

Thank you for your support
over the last month or two, as its been
a bit stressful, not knowing about the
funding from Aberdeenshire Council.

Its lovely feeling to get the K.T.P.
Community Cash for the Weekend Respite
Project. This will help us, for sure.

Once again a big thank you.

Kindest Regards.

Gwen

Finally...

Don't Take Our Word for it.....

"The committee of Inverbervie and District Day Centre find it very helpful to be members of KDP

We used to be funded and supported by social work but a few years ago they withdrew their support and we had to find our own funding, but our support worker managed to find the funding for a year for us before he retired, and this is where K D P stepped in and last year managed to find funding for us"

Sheila Taylor
Inverbervie Day Care

"The support we've had from KDP has been invaluable in helping us with this. They've helped us source grants, they've provided training in how to write applications, how to evidence need, how to measure our impact etc. The events they've organised have given us fantastic networking opportunities and really helped us raise the profile of the centre. They've also given us one-to-one guidance, advice and support. And as a result, we're delighted to be able to say we've raised over £130,000 in grants and donations in just over two years."

Bridget Scott
Development Officer
The Bettridge Centre

"The Garioch Partnership have enjoyed a strong working relationship with KDP. Joint working through the ARPF and the Third Sector Strategy Group have enabled clear strategic thinking which has a positive impact on our communities.

TGP also benefitted from being involved with the KDP Community Empowerment event, sharing good practice, which enables us to offer more opportunities for learning to local groups.

I have always found Jacky Niven to be supportive, knowledgeable and helpful. This skill sharing allows us to offer a wider range of skills and technical expertise than if we were a stand-alone organisation."

Dawn Brown, development worker, TGP



**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?**

Kincardineshire Development Partnership

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