ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

Kincardineshire Development Partnership

Room F9, Sheriff Court Building

Dunnottar Avenue

Stonehaven

AB39 2JD

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation – SC046327

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LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

This is my first opening address as chair of KDP and I hope that I can do the work of our organisation justice and give. an insight into our successes despite the challenges we encounter, along with our aspirations for the future.

Having only been in the post for about 6 months, it would be remiss of me not to give credit to our outgoing chair, David Nelson, who through his tenure over the past 3 years has provided a very firm base for us to build on. In his own words KDP is here "To help communities help themselves", and I would like to take the opportunity to thank him for the work he has done in guiding the organisation in the right direction.

At the AGM held in the Jubilee Hall in Portlethen, which was well supported by our members, I intimated that this year would be a difficult transition period for KDP. We are living in uncertain times at present, with financial pressure being placed on Local Authority budgets. I am pleased to announce that in the interim we have secured funding for the next 6 months to continue the work in delivering our Service Level Agreement and continue the work building capacity and helping to create strong and vibrant communities. I would like to thank both Ian Hunter, our outgoing treasurer, and Andrew Newton, who has taken over the role, for their continued guidance in helping KDP to stay within budget.

We are fortunate that our board membership remains strong and provides us with a range of skills and expertise which stands us in good stead for the trying times ahead. You will see from the contents of the Annual Report that we have continued to be receptive to the needs of our members. In particular, the Talking Halls initiative has been well received and we are providing much needed support and a good networking platform.

The most important part of our operation is our frontline staff, Jacky, Margo, and Kirsty, who provide a friendly yet professional ear to our members, and continue to give advice and assistance to those who require additional funding or guidance through the wall of bureaucracy which many have difficulty coping with. Our strength lies in the ability to communicate on a personal level to help communities achieve their goals.

Jacky, our Development Officer, has been extremely busy this past year in demonstrating the need for Rural Partnerships and her work with the Third Sector Strategy Group. This will hopefully have a positive response from our partners and will show the need for our organisation to be at the forefront in helping communities to become both 'Resilient' and 'Sustainable' in the future.

Ron Sharp

Chairperson

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 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.

This is KDP's sixth Annual Report, and at the time of writing the communities of K&M, along with the rest of the world, are dealing with unprecedented events surrounding the COVID19 Pandemic. These events offer a different perspective on the value of the work of KDP. The work undertaken to build capacity, strong robust community groups and social capital helps to create a community resilience which now is playing a vital part in ensuring the support and survival of the vulnerable, isolated and others in need at this extremely challenging time. The partnerships and relationships built across K&M and across the Shire itself, are ensuring that there is support and a cohesive approach to supporting communities, making sure they have access and information on whatever is required.

This year's report 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 continue to include working with our communities and in addition, 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

KDP Finance Report 2019-2020

The accounts shown below are the provisional Receipts and Payments for the year ending on 31st March 2020. The accounts have still to be certified by an independent Examiner.

It is pleasing to report that Income and Expenditure are nearly in balance although Expenditure did exceed the former by £576. The reserves would permit the organisation to continue operations for approximately 10 months without any grant but the funding from Aberdeenshire Council is essential if KDP is to fulfil its Service Level Agreement with the Council. KDP have previously identified this weakness in its financial model and have set up a sub-group to pinpoint additional income streams.

A W Newton
KDP Treasurer
11th April 2020

Provisional Receipt and Payment Account for Kincardineshire Development Partnership for 2019 - 2020

	2019 - 2020		2018-2019		
INCOME					
Opening Balance	£37,419.24		£43,087.29		
Windfarm Community Funds *	£35,280.61		£32,071.56		* Note 1
Windfarm Community Funds - Admin Fee	£8,210.18		£6,247.85		
Aberdeenshire Council SLA	£33,900.00		£32,616.00		
Aberdeenshire Council Area Committee Fund *	£0.00		£3,000.00		* Note 2
Other Deposits	£7,750.00		£5,456.77		
Total		**£122,560.03**		**£122,479.47**	
EXPENDITURE					
Accounting Fees	£500.00		£500.00		
Advertising & Marketing	£925.96		£300.00		
Catering	£393.48		£622.37		
Board Members Expenses	£0.00		£0.00		
Board Member travel	£117.00		£834.60		
Conference Attendance	£195.00		£0.00		
Feasibility Study	£4,900.00		£2,450.00		
Insurance	£524.04		£499.31		
IT Expenditure	£229.16		£2,189.58		
Our Mearns Tourist Association	£0.00		£170.00		
Membership of external organisations	£246.00		£0.00		
Office Expenses (inc hall hire)	£655.74		£1,016.50		
Office move & related costs	£0.00		£386.66		
Office rent & service charge	£2,886.00		£1,730.30		
Stationery, Printing & Postage	£1,166.09		£736.26		
Photocopying	£0.00		£180.49		
Telephone	£714.32		£1,984.17		
Training	£185.00		£0.00		
Staff Expenses	£38.47		£1,001.50		
Staff Travel	£2,113.17		£1,966.50		
Staff Wages & Pension	£31,732.36		£32,074.29		
Website & Social Media	£0.00		£632.87		
Windfarm Community Funds re-allocation	£37,895.72		£35,784.83		* Note 1
Total		**£85,417.51**		**£85,060.23**	
Closing Balance		**£37,142.52**		**£37,419.24**	
Committed - Cheque 10921 Issued 11/3/20		**£300.00**			
True Balance		**£36,842.52**		**£37,419.24**	

Note 1	Funds from 3 Windfarms are lodged in the KDP main account and then transferred to separate accounts for re-distribution to applicants
Note 2	£3000 from Area Fund now subsumed into SLA grant

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

The Development Officer and supporting team follow 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.

Jacky responds to a variety of requests from communities which include 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 by a number of communities who are considering undertaking Community Action Plans over the past four 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 Portlethen in 2019, for 2019 to 2022. We were able to work with Community Planning Officers to ensure that this document dovetailed with the information and actions garnered from the Aberdeenshire Council led engagement *"Portlethen- How good is our place?"*. It is great to see the progress being made with some of the actions, in particular the Paths Group.

Fundraising continues to take forward Gourdon Lower Park Improvement Group's plans creating a community space for all. This is a strong legacy for the work involved in producing the Gourdon Community Action Plan in 2017/18.

We had hoped to have made some progress in delivering completed Community Action Plans for Drumoak, Stonehaven and Johnshaven. These have stalled, awaiting communities to re-engage with the process. Other matters have taken priority in these settlements.

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 needs as each request for assistance, whilst there will be commonalities will often have unique requirements.

The number of groups stated above is in addition to those organisations and groups we have reached through the projects delivered through partnership working, initiatives 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 merely requiring a steer on seeking SCIO status to more involved support for larger more complex projects.

In February 2020, we were delighted to publish the second edition of the Kincardine & Mearns Annual News, which contains features and news from KDP and many great contributions from the communities and groups we support.

One of our contributors was the Edzell Woods Social and Improvement Group (EWSIG). EWSIG are a new community group based in Edzell Woods, formed, with the assistance of KDP, to host events on the estate for the estate and surrounding area. They have also been set up to undertake activities to help promote good health and wellbeing within the community. They also aim to be involved with some projects which will improve the overall feel and look of the Estate, such as a community garden. EWSIG are keen to involve the young people of Edzell Woods and plans to create a film around the "Kindness" theme were in place as a mechanism to engage with teenagers from the area. Workshops with KDP, EWSIG and young people were planned for the end of March 2020, however, this is on hold to be resumed once the Coronavirus Crisis has passed. This project is indicative of how KDP builds relationships with the groups they work with. The initial enquiry may be assistance to form a group, but through fostering strong links with organisations, the groups feel able to just drop an email or pick up the phone to ask for help whenever they need to.

K&M Talking Halls

At the end of period 2018/19 we were working with Community Halls to re-establish the K&M Halls Association.

Historically there had been a Halls Association in Kincardine & Mearns whose focus was to bring groups running community halls together to work on common themes and issues. In 2016, KDP started work with Hall groups to try and resurrect the Association. Two meetings were held, and then, working with our partners in Marr we co-hosted a Halls event on the 27th April 2017 at Finzean Hall. Kincardine & Mearns was not represented as well as we hoped at this event, quite possibly due to the location. Attempts to hold further meetings had been unsuccessful in terms of numbers of responses, so the halls had not enjoyed the opportunity to get together for nearly two years.

During the course of our Development Officer's work with a range of community groups and organisations including many halls, Jacky had become aware of a number of common concerns shared by hall groups and she felt it was a good time to invite the halls to get together using a different approach. We held a "Talking Halls" event in March 2019 and this has been the catalyst in regaining the appetite of halls working together to address common issues. We provided an informal space where groups could discuss and share their experiences, have conversations that matter and pick up useful information from each other. There was a positive buzz in the air and the feedback at the end suggested that this was a successful approach which should be repeated.

There have now been three successful "Talking Halls" events and the K&M Halls Association has been re-established. The most recent event provided a presentation on Insurance from Garry Dalton from Keegan and Pennykid Insurance and the groups were joined around the table by Ronnie Reid of Oteac Fire and Security to answer questions on the related theme. Future events will offer information on Licencing, Risk Assessments, Heating solutions, but most of all the opportunity to learn and share experience is a great take away from these get-togethers.

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 three 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 new 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.

Successful projects have included, Gourdon Community Council, Edzell Woods Social Improvement Group and Auchenblae Brownies. There are always interesting and diverse projects pitched and KDP works to try and support the groups who are not successful on the night to realise their projects.

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 2020/21 and beyond.

Community Wind Farm Funding

KDP continues to administer three wind farm community benefit funds in the area and they are:

St John's Hill:

On 1 May 2019, REV community fund for St Johns Hill through a decision-making panel, awarded 10 worthy groups a total of £29,341.46. The fund normally opens annually on the 1 January for three months.

Hillhead of Auquhirie

A total of £18,160.28 was awarded to 12 local groups on behalf of Fern Community Funds and Octopus Energy. The awards evening was held on 2nd October 2019 and hosted by Stonehaven and District Men's Shed. The fund usually opens annually on the 1 March each year for three months.

Marykirk Bowling Club had an open afternoon on Saturday 11 May 2019 to mark the summer season and use of the brand-new green which received some funding from The Hillhead Fund. Council representation was by Provost Howatson who kindly declared the season open and Cllr George Carr and Cllr Jeff Hutchison. Kirsty Alchin and Ron Sharp from the Kincardineshire Development Partnership were invited as well to have a few games and afternoon tea.

KDP were invited to the launch of the defibrillator at Redmyre school in February. Pictured are local children from Redmyre Primary School (front row) who received Defibrillator and CPR training at a session held by The Fordoun Defibrillator Group (FDG), along with (rear, left to right) Headteacher Judith Gronneberg; Chair of Kincardineshire Development Partnership Ron Sharp and Chair of FDG Wayne Evans. They were successful in obtaining funding from Hillhead of Auquhirie Wind Farm Community fund.

Octopus Renewables were kind enough to take Newtonhill Primary 6 students on a field trip to the wind farm. Joining the class were Harrison Brook and Caitlin Wale from Octopus Renewables, along with Ivan O'Neil from BayWa.re (the company that manages the Hill of Auquhirie wind farm site), Angus Robertson (who manages our wind community benefit funds), and Jacky Niven from KDP.

Meikle Carewe:

Each year the fund usually opens on the 1st July for three months, and on 26th November 2019 Stonehaven Golf Club kindly hosted the awards evening for the 20 groups who were awarded a total of £29,341.46 from the energy group RES.

The KDP website is updated when funds open and information appears in the local press and across social media. Any questions on any of the funds can be forwarded to windfarms@kdp.scot

Building Links and Partnership Working

A significant proportion of our activities during the 2019/2020 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 continues her 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. Further to the Strategy Document produced in April 2019, the TSSG is embarking on work to demonstrate the value of the third sector across Aberdeenshire. If successful, the purpose of this project will be to help strengthen the position of many Third Sector Organisations (TSO) to be recognised as a credible partner in the delivery of services. There are great examples of this already happening, therefore the first stage is to obtain a picture of what our Third Sector currently looks like. A short questionnaire, circulated to gather valuable quantitative information, kick started the process during the first quarter of 2020.

The TSSG have instigated the first Aberdeenshire Third Sector Week, week commencing 26th October 2020. This promises to be an interactive and engaging week offering "Back to the Floor" experiences for Public Sector employees and opportunities to garner a better understanding of how the two sectors can work effectively together.

Please note due to the ongoing COVID19 Crisis the work on this will continue albeit likely that the timetable will aim for a 2021 focus.

Members of the TSSG were invited to contribute to the development of Aberdeenshire Council's Volunteer Policy to offer third sector input to assist with creating a policy which

protects all parties, but does not appear prohibitive to community groups and volunteers wishing to provide services on Council owned properties.

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 continue to explore CPD opportunities and work together to collectively represent Aberdeenshire on a national level.

At a local level, through our work with the Wellbeing and Welfare Network (K&MWWN) we have continued with the 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.

KDP collaborated with partners from the K&MWWN to host a conference on Loneliness & Isolation in October 2019, based around a report written by Kiren S. Zubairi. This event was well attended by partners and organisations from K&M and across the Shire.

KDP produced a short film demonstrating how community groups are tackling Loneliness and Isolation in K&M. The film can be access via this link: Click Here

Work with our partners as part of the Stonehaven Local Learning Partnership (SLLP) under the theme "Raising Social Capital, resulted in holding two K&M Volunteer Fairs to try and help groups and organisations recruit volunteers. One of the priorities identified through the SLLP is "Raising Social Capital", primarily focusing on broadening the pool of active volunteers in the area. Activities under this priority have been to hold a Volunteer Celebration and to establish a Volunteer Network.

The network has provided members of organisations who rely on volunteers, many of whom are volunteers themselves, a forum to share common issues and learning. From a programme of "Volunteering - A Way Forward" sessions, a number of actions have been taken forward

including a K&M Volunteer Noticeboard on Social Media; set up and administered by KDP, Workshops tackling a variety of challenges faced by groups and organisations who work with volunteers; from recruitment, to training, to retention to recognition.

Recruitment has been identified as one of the greatest challenges and it was suggested that a recruitment event may help to attract more volunteers. The first event, hosting stalls with groups promoting volunteering opportunities and other information on volunteering, was held on Thursday 6th June 2019 at Fetteresso Church Hall, as part of Volunteer Week.

This was an extremely successful event with a diverse range of 20 organisations promoting their opportunities to just short of 60 potential volunteers. Mearns FM were in attendance and prepared a podcast showcasing the opportunities and organisations.

A second event was held in November for the Coastal Communities. Due to the weather and time of year this was not as well attended, but nevertheless a worthwhile event for all those who were involved.

Supporting papers and reports of many of the activities described here 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 2019/2020. As we maintain the work on the ground undertaken by our Development Officer, we continue 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 £300k of funding into K&M.

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 evaluating 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. The Film from our AGM held in October 2019 summarises some of the work undertaken by KDP over the past year and includes some words from our communities. The film can be accessed via this link: Click Here

In writing this Annual Report, we cannot ignore the impact of the COVID19 Crisis, and the effect it has had, and will have, on the plans and actions we were preparing for the period 2020/2021.

The focus will shift from the immediate and urgent support communities need to survive the real health and economic challenges; to periods of recovery, rebuilding and to once again beginning to thrive. We believe KDP will have an effective part to play in every phase of this process

We have been moved by the level of local action in response to the crisis; groups stepping up and looking out for their own communities, with KDP, along with other partners, extending practical support and sharing vital information, to allow these communities to deliver support to those in need. There will be a need to harness this community spirit and innovation to help our groups rebuild, albeit on a slightly different landscape, when we emerge from this crisis.

WHO'S WHO

Our Trustees	
Name	**Representing Organisation**
Ron Sharp (Chair)	Portlethen Town Partnership
Mairi Eddie	Benholm & Johnshaven Community Council
Andrew Newton (Treasurer)	Stonehaven Tolbooth Association
Bridget Scott (Secretary)	The Bettridge Centre
Bob McKinney	North Kincardine Rural Community Council
Ian Hunter	Stonehaven & District Community Council
William Dargie	Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar Community Council
Walter McMillan	Portlethen & District Men's Shed
Marion McNeil	Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council
George Cruickshank	Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore Community Council
Sandra Davidson	Mearns Area Partnership
Alasdair Shiach	Mearns Community Council
Isabella Williamson	Arbuthnott Community Council
Paul Melling	Portlethen & District Community Council

Our Team

Jacky Niven
Development Officer

Margo Titmuss
Administration

Kirsty Alchin
Windfarm Administration