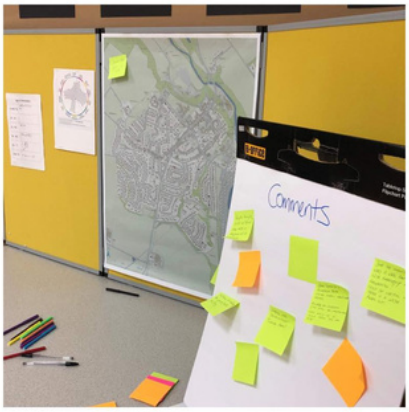
Kincardineshire
Development Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



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

Letter from our Chair

I'm delighted to introduce KDP's Annual Report for 2022-23. Many thanks to Mairi and Margo for all the hard work that has gone into producing a report which captures so vividly what the partnership has been up to in the past 12 months and how much has been achieved in that time.

It has been yet another very challenging year - but an exciting one and a positive one for the partnership - as staff and trustees have spent a lot of time working together as a team, focussing on what our priorities are and how best to achieve them.

We have been fortunate enough to receive over £40,000 in grant project funding in the last 18 months, which has enabled us to carry out some important pieces of work to support the local community, and also to help KDP grow and develop.

While we were disappointed to lose our Economic Development SLA - which enabled us to carry out the majority of our core community support work over the past 9 years – we have welcomed the opportunity to work more closely with the K&M Area, Community Planning Dept.

This has enabled us to build on our considerable experience and expertise in the community consultation and place planning disciplines and has further strengthened our role within K&M as the trusted local anchor organisation which is relied upon by many small and otherwise unsupported community groups to become both sustainable and more resilient.

None of this would have been possible without our staff, whose hard work and dedication have been absolutely essential to the survival of KDP. Mairi and Margo have grown and developed together as a well-respected, trusted and efficient team, delivering above and beyond all our expectations, both for the partnership and the wider community. This is all the more remarkable given the fact that they both work in isolation from home most of the time. We congratulate them for all their efforts and achievements and hope the next 12 months prove to be less stressful.

Our biggest challenge for the coming year is to find core funding to enable us to continue to support local groups, while also growing the partnership so we have a sustainable future. The work we have done this year has provided a strong foundation for this and we are very optimistic that KDP has an exciting and productive future ahead of us.

Bridget Scott
Chair

Treasurer's Report

Firstly a quick explanation. KDP holds four separate bank accounts of which only one, the Treasurer account, is reported on here; the other three accounts are ring fenced, one for each of the Wind Turbine Farms for whom KDP dispenses annual grants. KDP has no legal entitlement to these funds and separate financial reports are submitted to the relevant owner of the farms.

Documents relating to the Treasurer account are now with our auditors and eventually the latter will produce a comprehensive review of KDP's finances. Unfortunately auditor's reports are quite often difficult to understand and also the annual report may not be 'signed off' before KDP's own publication dates so I have attached an unexamined annual Receipt and Payment statement for your perusal; I do not expect any significant differences to emerge when the official audit is completed.

This financial year has witnessed the slow emergence from the last two years of covid and as expected our staff have begun to move away from working from home and re-kindling personal engagement with the community. This renewed activity is reflected in increases in travel, hire of halls, catering etc. These increases are well within expected boundaries and, strangely from a Treasurer's perspective, are welcome as it indicates that KDP is back to its primary objective of face to face help for our community. This renewed activity by our hard working staff also covers seeking and obtaining grant funding for specific projects, e.g., opening community cafes, transport study etc. Overall there is nothing in the Expenditure that gives me any cause for concern.

However, Income is different. Aberdeenshire Council made a decision three years ago to gradually stop all funding to the regional Rural Partnerships and KDP received the last trance (£22,500) in this financial year. Fortunately KDP managed to agree a three year Service Level Agreement with Kincardine and Mearns Area Office to provide expertise for on-going Community Planning work and the first payment was also made in this year (£19,485). Whilst this new funding is a blessing it is targeted towards a specific project and the loss of the old Economic Development SLA, and funding, means that KDP's original role of helping communities with all manners of advice, requests and general 'hand holding' has to be funded out of KDP's reserves. Obviously this cannot continue in the long run and KDP's Development Team are now engaged in sourcing funding that will enable KDP to maintain a significant and comprehensive presence in the Kincardineshire area.

Happy to answer any questions.

Andrew Newton
Treasurer

Provisional Receipt and Payment Account for Kincardineshire Development Partnership for 2022 - 2023

	2022-2023		2021-2022		
INCOME					
Opening Balance	£61,597.75		£40,158.77		
Windfarm Community Funds *	£0.00		£36,924.44		* Note 1
Windfarm Community Finds - Admin Fee	£5,840.40		£2,950.45		
Aberdeenshire Council SLA	£22,500.00		£25,500.00		
Aberdeenshire Area Com Plan SLA	£19,485.00		£0.00		
Aberdeenshire Council (Challenge Fund)	£4,827.00		£11,671.00		
AVA Mental Health etc.	£6,606.00		£4,760.00		
Johnshaven Community Café	£953.38		£0.00		* Note 2
Auchinblae Community Café	£543.16		£0.00		* Note 2
CEIS - Community Recovery Fund	£0.00		£8,235.00		
Other Deposits	£932.00		£834.03		
Total		**£123,284.69**		**£131,033.69**	
EXPENDITURE					
Aberdeenshire Council Challenge Fund	£16,412.35		£0.00		
Accounting Fees	£550.00		£500.00		
Advertising & Marketing	£172.80		£154.80		
AVA Mental Health etc.	£2,578.16		£0.00		
Board Members Expenses	£0.00		£0.00		
Board Member travel	£0.00		£0.00		
Catering	£401.93		£282.40		
Coastal Community Challenge Fund	£7,200.00		£0.00		
Community Cash Back Award	£500.00		£0.00		
Conference Attendance	£0.00		£0.00		
Consultancy Services	£1,579.50		£7,741.50		
Edzell Woods Engagement	£42.02		£0.00		
Hall hire	£290.50		£0.00		
Insurance	£452.06		£441.40		
IT Expenditure	£838.75		£831.90		
Membership of external organisations	£156.00		£35.00		
Miscellaneous	£107.75		£198.70		
Office Expenses	£0.00		£105.60		
Office rent & service charge	£564.00		£549.00		
Stationery, Printing & Postage	£509.46		£163.40		
Photocopying	£0.00		£0.00		
Telephone	£293.98		£393.01		
Training	£0.00		£0.00		
Staff Expenses	£0.00		£0.00		
Staff Travel	£1,541.48		£673.88		
Staff Wages & Pension	£41,147.86		£21,639.78		
Supporting Communities Allocation	£0.00		£1,214.26		
Website & Social Media	£84.00		£84.00		
Windfarm Community Funds re-allocation *	£0.00		£34,426.71		* Note 1
Total	**£75,422.60**			**£69,435.34**	
Closing Balance		**£47,862.09**		**£61,597.75**	

Note 1 Occasionally a Windfarm operator will deposit funds in the main KDP account.
These are transferred to the relevant ring fenced accounts for re-distribution to applicants.

Note 2 These funds are ring fenced. Held on behalf of these 2 organisations

Who We Are and What We Do

KDP aims to support and encourage community organisations and groups within Kincardine and Mearns. We are a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), offering help and assistance to the vibrant local third sector.

Set up in 2014 we look to promote sustainable community development and economic growth by fostering the necessary skills and knowledge. Above all we are community led and focused, concentrating on helping communities achieve their ambitions.

We are governed by a Board of trustees, nominated by community councils and voluntary groups from throughout K&M. Our trustees have wide ranging experience and involvement in community activities and set the strategic direction for the organisation.

We have 2 members of staff both working flexible part-time hours and they are home-based at present as we do not have an office. They are however keen to get out and about and meet groups whenever possible.

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Membership

Membership of KDP is free and open to any constituted, non-political organisation within K&M. We have over 100 members and offer them a range of practical help and support as well as a fortnightly information bulletin, detailing funding opportunities and relevant local news.

KDP can help in a number of key ways:

Community Cafes

In Johnshaven and Auchenblae we worked with a team of local volunteers to get community cafés up and running in their local halls. Thanks to funding from the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, we were able to cover hall hire and food costs for the first 6 months as well as offer staff support, advice on meeting health and safety/food safety requirements, help with volunteer recruitment and advertising.

The cafes are open one morning a week and provide a welcome chance for people to socialise locally. Tea, coffee and cake are provided at no cost and the cafes are run by local volunteers. A book exchange and information leaflets are also available at each.

Both cafes have proved very popular and are well attended. Income from donations means the cafes are set to continue for the foreseeable future.

'It's good to see so many people enjoying a natter'

'Lovely to be able to meet and chat with friends old and new'

Providing opportunities to get out of the house and meet with others, and to share relevant local information through a cafe noticeboard and leaflets, can help improve general well-being, build a sense of community and tackle rural isolation and loneliness. The cafes are open to all and a warm welcome is guaranteed.

Thanks to a second successful application to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund we are now looking to develop a further 2 cafes within K&M. Please get in touch if you think your community might be keen to start its own Community Café.

'This is fantastic. Thanks so much for organising it. I have met people I haven't seen for years. Well done'

'Great idea. Good to be out of the house and meet up'

Community Engagement

Community engagement is the process by which we reach out and gather a community's views on an issue. Increasingly community groups and third sector organisations are looking to consult with communities on a range of issues, and KDP is on hand to offer help and guidance with this.

Good community engagement involves trust and respectful dialogue and should be as inclusive and open as possible. Those involved should gain an improved understanding of the underlying issues and this in turn should result in better solutions to local issues.

Increasingly groups that are applying for funding or Community Asset Transfers are expected to have consulted with their communities and to provide proof of need and widespread support. Effective community engagement is vital to support robust applications.

We have been privileged to have supported several community engagement exercises this year, including:

Edzell Woods

We were invited to the Edzell Woods Community Fun Day in order to engage with residents to gather their views on potential future plans for the estate. As the estate is un-adopted this causes certain challenges and our aim was to identify what these are and what residents would like to see done about them.

A report was written detailing the main issues faced and we continue to work with the community to look at how they can tackle these issues. In particular we are helping to identify solutions to their sewage treatment issues and to address the lack of a community building and to identify suitable funding.

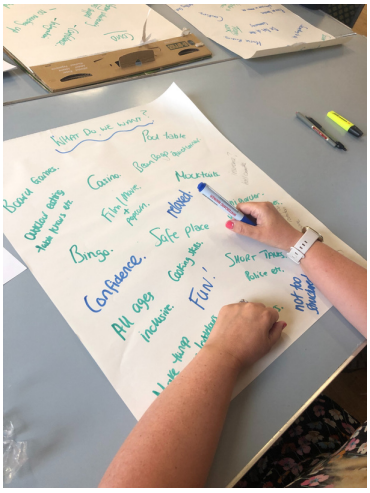
"KDP has been an enormous support to the Committee of Edzell Woods, we would not be where we are today without their support, signposting, becoming involved and general encouragement.'

Inverbervie – Place Standard

We provided support to Inverbervie Community Council as they carried out a Place Standard exercise. The event was run over several sessions and the community were invited to come along and respond to a number of questions that looked at a wide range of issues. The resulting feedback will be used to draw up a "vision for the future".

Tolbooth Museum – CAT Engagement

The Tolbooth Museum in Stonehaven are making an application for a community asset transfer, this requires them to undertake community engagement in order to gauge public opinion and support. We advised on the best ways to do this and helped facilitate a drop-in session at the museum where local people could come along and find out more about the proposal and could give their views. The group also presented to the local Community Council, issued a press- release in order to gain press coverage, utilised social media to let people know what is happening and reached out to members.



Portlethen, Jubilee Hall – Lunch Club

A group were keen to start up a lunch-club specifically for those with additional needs, at the Jubilee Hall in Portlethen. We facilitated a brainstorming session to understand better what kind of activities the group would like to take part in and how they would like any club to function. We followed this up by supporting the group to identify funding and to complete the funding application. This resulted in them securing funding to get the club up and running.

Oakley Info Evening

We were delighted to be able to support the group working towards opening the OaKley Play and Life Skills Centre at their informal information evening. They hope to open a unique facility for children and young people with additional support needs and their families. The event aimed to tell people more about the project and to gather views and find a team of volunteers to assist with planning and fundraising. We were able to offer administrative support on the evening and to assist with gathering views.

Community Planning

KDP has a service level agreement in place with Aberdeenshire Council to complete community planning work in partnership with staff in the K&M Area Manager's office. This has allowed us to be involved with the K&M Community Planning Group and the associated Health and Wellbeing Network, and to contribute to ongoing work aimed at achieving outcomes highlighted in the local plan.

We undertake targeted project work such as support for the Edzell Woods community as they look to tackle a range of challenges.

We were involved with helping to organise a Cost-of-Living Forum, where council officers, councillors, third sector groups and MSPs came together to learn more about the challenges faced by our communities.

One outcome of the forum was KDP forming a Grassroots Action Group, an informal network of all those voluntary organisations and groups involved in tackling need within K&M. The aim is to encourage peer support and partnership working. The group has a closed Facebook page where information can be shared and we hope to hold a speed networking event and a Volunteer Fair in the near future.

Jubilee Path Event

We were delighted to have been involved in helping to organise the launch event for the Platinum Jubilee Coastal Path project. The event, championed by the Lord Lieutenant for Kincardineshire, Alastair Macphie, launched this ambitious legacy project aimed at creating a coastal path from Cullen to St Cyrus.

The project will involve a partnership of community groups, the Council and landowners.

Those attending heard about the amazing progress already made on our stretch of the path, by local paths group MERCHAT.

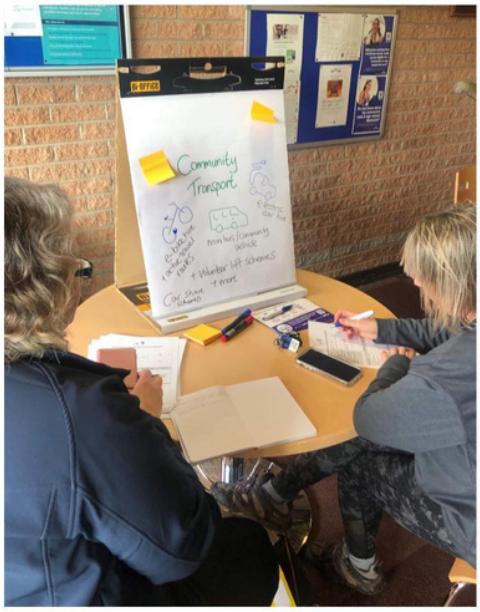
Community Transport Feasibility Study

We have become increasingly aware of the transport based issues that many of our rural communities face. Lack of reliable, affordable transport options can lead to isolation and loneliness, can make it difficult to access low cost food and can affect job opportunities and much more besides.

We were able to access funding from Aberdeenshire Council's Coastal Communities Challenge Fund that has allowed us to commission a consultant to conduct a feasibility study looking at whether community transport options could provide solutions.

The funding allowed us to focus on the coastal strip from Catterline to St Cyrus and North East Transport Training undertook a study, including community consultation and research, into which community transport options would be most useful for this area.

The report has just been completed and the results will be presented soon. It has highlighted several opportunities to develop community transport initiatives locally.



Halls Network

KDP continues to support the committees who run our local halls and community spaces. These venues play host to an abundance of different groups offering a profusion of activities to our communities from exercise classes to uniformed groups, art classes to Mothers and Toddlers, fundraising events to birthday parties, and so much more.

The last 12 months have seen considerable challenges to our halls as energy prices rocket and some halls experience delays to a return to pre-Covid rentals. Keeping a tight rein on the budget and finding all opportunities for cost-saving has been key.

The K&M Halls Facebook page, which is managed by KDP, offers a private space for our hall committees to share information and ask questions amongst like-minded people. Events and funding which could benefit the halls are also shared.

KDP also organises meetings of the Halls Network to enable face to face discussion, networking and information sharing. The latest meeting was held at Kinneff Hall and we were delighted to welcome Natalya from Local Energy Scotland, who presented and answered questions on the Scottish Government's Let's Do Net Zero Community Buildings Fund.

'The Skateraw Hall Trustees would like to record their appreciation and thanks for all the assistance and advice received from the team at KDP over the last years.
The speed at which any inquiries are dealt with is quite astounding.'

'It has been VERY beneficial to be part of KDP, and as KDP are willing to organise meetings and speakers, that takes away an extra burden of responsibility on the hall committees.

I feel KDP are best placed to take on this role, and I wish to express my appreciation.'

Community Wind Farm Funding

KDP administers the Community Funds for St John's Hill, Hillhead of Auquhirie and Meikle Carewe Windfarms on behalf of the windfarm operators.

In the last financial year, £73,686.30 was awarded to local community groups.

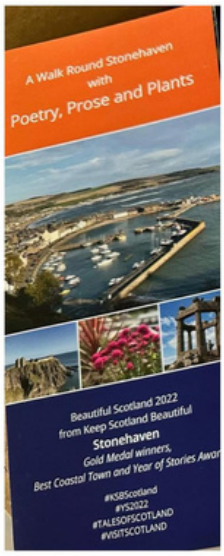
KDP is grateful to the representatives of the Community Councils within the areas of benefit who sit on the Decision-Making Panel for each Fund.

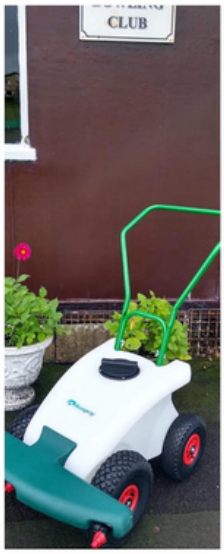
The KDP website is updated when funds open and information appears in the local press and across social media.
Any questions on any of the funds or completing an application can be sent to margo@kdp.scot

St John's Hill
£15,218.43 was awarded to 8 successful projects.

Hillhead of Auquhirie

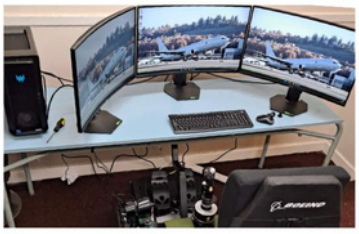
£13,238.48 was awarded to 12 successful applicants.





Meikle Carewe

£45,229.39 was awarded to 21 successful projects.



The Way Ahead – Planning for the Future

The last year has seen us devote significant time and effort on looking towards the future and making a plan of action. Funding received from Aberdeenshire Council's Rural Partnership Challenge Fund allowed us to engage a specialist third sector consultant to help us identify our key objectives and look for income streams that would help us achieve a sustainable future. The consultant reviewed all aspects of the organisation from governance to funding.

Through a series of workshops, brainstorming sessions and interviews, we now have a clearer idea of what our aims are and how we can achieve them. Undoubtedly we face challenges with funding if we want to continue providing the help and advice service that we currently offer within K&M. We need to identify future funding to support this now that we no longer have our Council Economic Development Service Level Agreement.

Already we have secured significant project funding that has allowed us to lead meaningful initiatives such as the opening of 2 community cafes. We have also been able to secure funding that has allowed a full appraisal of community transport options for the coastal strip.

Our new SLA for community planning work with Aberdeenshire Council has allowed us to get fully involved with the K&M Community Planning Group and to play an active role in working to achieve the outcomes of the local plan. We've been able to support communities that are working to meet local challenges and have taken part in a variety of community engagement exercises. Our communities are achieving great things and we plan to be there to support them for the foreseeable future.

Unveiling our New Look

Part of our review process and planning for the future led us to revisit our core values and services, and to re-evaluate how we communicate these.

We undertook a re-branding process that suggested new ways we could convey our message, and a refresh of our logo and marketing materials.

Over the next few months you will see us roll out our “new look” and start to share our plans for the future.

Here’s a sneak peak ….

Kincardineshire Development Partnership

Who's Who

Our Trustees	
Name	**Representing Organisation**
Bridget Scott (Chair)	The Bettridge Centre
Andrew Newton (Treasurer)	Stonehaven Tolbooth Association
Robyn Campbell (Secretary)	Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council
Ian Hunter	Stonehaven & District Community Council
Eeva-Kaisa Arter	Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar Community Council
Walter McMillan	Portlethen & District Men's Shed
George Cruickshank	Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore Community Council
Sandra Davison	Mearns & Coastal Healthy Living Network