ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

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

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

It is with the greatest of pleasure that we present the Annual Report for KDP for 2021/22. As you read through the report, you will see the many challenges that we have undertaken. It is fantastic to be able to reach out once again into our communities and be able to help and support our member organisations to become both sustainable and more resilient. My thanks go to Mairi and Margo for producing such an excellent and informative document.

At one point, it was in doubt whether or not KDP would be able to continue due to the funding cuts, and the removal of our Service Level Agreement with Economic Development due in March 2023. Due to this uncertainty, we also lost Jacky Niven, our Development Officer, which was a huge blow to KDP. The last 6 months have seen us re-evaluate how we operate, and I am happy to report that there are encouraging signs for the future of KDP due to the hard work and commitment of both its board and staff members.

Mairi has worked tirelessly in her new role as Development Officer, and has helped to secure funding from various sources. I have recently signed off a Service Level Agreement with Kincardine & Mearns Area Office for the next 3 years, to allow KDP to carry out Community Planning work. This will provide around £20,000 per Annum. We have also been successful in securing funding from the Challenge Fund, Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, and the Community Recovery Fund, which puts us in a healthy financial position for the coming year and will allow us to continue to support our communities to the same high standard that we have in the past.

The success of KDP is determined by the ongoing commitment of its staff and trustees, and the support it receives from its member organisations. I would like to thank both Mairi and Margo for the work they have done over the past 12 months in difficult circumstances. We are now faced with new challenges and find ourselves in the fortunate position where we need to recruit a further member of staff. Due to the increased workload, Margo has taken on additional responsibilities as our Windfarm/Funding Officer, and we have recently recruited an Administrator to assist with the more general duties.

Our membership continues to grow, and we are also attracting new trustees. The Challenge Fund is being used to employ a consultant to look closely at how we are set up as an organisation and examine our future strategy and sustainability. These are exciting times for KDP, and all going well, we look forward to working and meeting with you in the year to come.

Ron Sharp
Chairperson

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial year 2021 – 2022 has presented KDP with yet another year of financial challenge. The hopes that April 2021 would herald the start of the covid-19 recovery were dashed as the pandemic entered its second year of impact on society; in fact, recovery only really started as the 2021-2022 financial year was closing.

KDP was forced to continue to keep a close watch on its finances and the situation was compounded by a policy decision by Aberdeenshire Council to reduce their financial commitment to the Area Partnerships working in the North-East of Scotland. For KDP this meant a reduction in funding of £8,400 with a further reduction anticipated in the forthcoming financial year. On the plus side Trustees and Staff have been proactive in seeking new funding and have been successful in obtaining significant grants/awards from other sources. One encouraging development is a three-year contract for work on Community Development but as this does not start until April 2022 details cannot be included in this report.

The unaudited accounts are shown below and some points to note. The total income for 2020-2021 was skewed by the unexpected award of £36,000 to aid community recovery after the first year of the pandemic. All this money was paid out to deserving organisation within our area. In this financial year we have received an award of £8,235 from the Communities Recovery Fund II to aid recovery in the second year of the pandemic.

The current closing balance of £61,597.75 shows a sharp increase of £21,439.58 over the previous closing balance. However, £16,431 relates to awards that arrived in our accounts in the last couple of days on this accounting year and are committed to agreed projects in 2022-2023. At least the money is in place! Without these committed funds the closing balance would have been approximately £45,166.

Overall KDP financial affairs are relatively healthy, and I do not predict any funding crisis in the next two years. However, the long-term future is more problematic, and I am grateful to Mairi and Margo who are diligently seeking new funding whilst, at the same time, undertaking exciting projects for KDP and our communities.

Andrew Newton
Treasurer

Provisional Receipt and Payment Account for Kincardineshire Development Partnership for 2021 - 2022

	2021-2022		2020-2021		
INCOME					
Opening Balance	£40,158.77		£37,180.99		
Windfarm Community Funds	£36,924.44		£33,515.96		* Note
Windfarm Community Finds - Admin F	£2,950.45		£5,544.86		
Aberdeenshire Council SLA	£25,500.00		£33,900.00		
Supporting Communities Fund (SCF)	£0.00		£36,000.00		
Aberdeenshire Council (Challenge Fun	£11,671.00		£0.00		
Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund	£4,760.00		£0.00		
Community Recovery Fund Phase II	£8,235.00		£0.00		
Other Deposits	£834.03		£3,600.00		
Total		**£131,033.69**		**£149,741.81**	
EXPENDITURE					
Accounting Fees	£500.00		£500.00		
Advertising & Marketing	£154.80		£0.00		
Catering	£282.40		£0.00		
Board Members Expenses	£0.00		£0.00		
Board Member travel	£0.00		£0.00		
Community Cash Back Awarc	£0.00		£300.00		
Conference Attendance	£0.00		£0.00		
Consultancy Services	£7,741.50		£0.00		
Insurance	£441.40		£366.43		
IT Expenditure	£831.90		£864.96		
Membership of external organisations	£35.00		£35.00		
Miscellaneous	£198.70		£47.00		
Office Expenses (inc hall hire	£105.60		£0.00		
Office rent & service charge	£549.00		£3,415.40		
Stationery, Printing & Postag	£163.40		£146.33		
Photocopying	£0.00		£0.00		
Telephone	£393.01		£860.51		
Training	£0.00		£0.00		
Staff Expenses	£0.00		£0.00		
Staff Travel	£673.88		£21.91		
Staff Wages & Pension	£21,639.78		£33,399.55		
Supporting Communities Allocation	£1,214.26		£35,971.45		
Website & Social Media	£84.00		£0.00		
Windfarm Community Funds re-allocation *	£34,426.71		£33,655.10		* Note
Total		**£69,435.34**		**£109,583.64**	
Closing Balance		**£61,597.75**		**£40,158.17**	

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.

WHO WE ARE

KDP is a not-for-profit, voluntary organisation and Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and we cover the Kincardine and Mearns Area.

WHAT WE DO

Our aim is to support and encourage the vibrant local third sector, offering help and assistance to community organisations and voluntary groups.

Set up in 2014 we look to promote and encourage sustainable community development and economic growth in our area. 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 community groups from throughout the area. These trustees have wide ranging experience and involvement in community activities and projects and provide valuable advice and support to our staff.

We currently have 2 members of staff both working flexible part-time hours and they are home based at present. Mairi Eddie is our Development Officer and Margo Titmuss our Windfarms and Funding Officer.

Mairi Eddie
Development Officer
07536 389576
DevelopmentOfficer@KDP.scot

Margo Titmuss
Funding & Windfarm Officer
07903 156864
Windfarms@KDP.scot

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of KDP is free and open to all constituted, non-political organisations within K&M. We have more than a hundred members at present and offer them a range of practical help and support as well as a fortnightly information bulletin, detailing funding opportunities and relevant local news and information.

HOW WE CAN HELP

For example:

- Funding enquiries and applications
- Community consultation and engagement
- Governance
- Project Planning
- Facilitation
- Jargon Busting
- Signposting to other support services

We also look to encourage strong ties and partnership working with statutory agencies; Aberdeenshire Council; local support organisations and our colleagues in the other five Rural Partnerships in Aberdeenshire.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

AGM & Community Cash

We managed an in-person AGM this year at the Dickson Hall in Laurencekirk, and it was super to have such an excellent turnout and to be able to catch up with many of our members.

At the AGM we were delighted to be able to hold a Community Cash event again after a two-year break! At these events the audience hear pitches from several community groups and then vote on which group should get the £500 grant. Taking part were Jane Cruickshank from the Bellman; Jane Mitchell from Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network; David Johnstone from Portlethen Jubilee Hall; Julie Gray from The Haven and Cat Cowie from Auchenblae Pre School Group. The Jubilee Hall won the vote and will be investing the cash on a projector and sound system.

Community Wind Farm Funding

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

In the latest financial year, £65,890.31 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.

Meikle Carewe

£33,141.10 was awarded to 14 successful applicants

Hillhead of Auquhirie

£12,759.83 was awarded to 10 successful applicants

St John's Hill

Due to Covid the 2020 and 2021 funds were combined. £19,989.38 was awarded to 7 successful applicants.

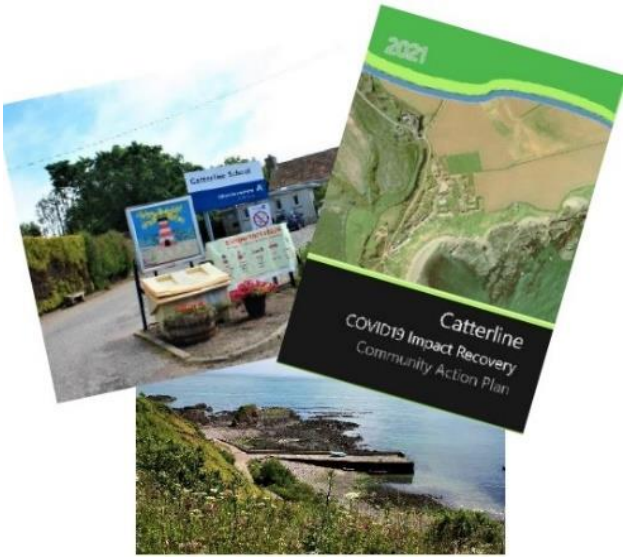
The KDP website is updated when funds open and information appears in the local press and across social media. Any questions on any of the funds can be forwarded to windfarms@kdp.scot

Community Action Plans

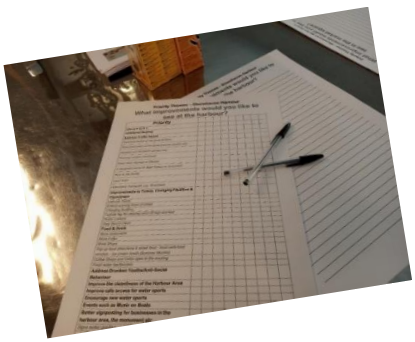
In Spring of 2021, we were approached by several communities looking to progress a Community Action Plan (CAP). In response, we developed a model which focused on tackling some of the issues emerging as a result of the pandemic. The aim was to make this a more expedient process to move actions on quickly.

We introduced the COVID19 Impact Recovery Community Action Plan model which focused on a single issue impacting a community because of the pandemic.

We were delighted to produce a COVID19 Impact Recovery CAP in August 2021 which tackled community concerns relating to an increase in visitors to the small fishing village of Catterline; which impacted heavily on residents. The challenge faced by the community was how to manage inconsiderate parking, and misuse of local facilities, whilst remaining welcoming. The CAP process yielded many workable solutions which were detailed within the document.



KDP started working with Stonehaven Community Council to develop a Community Action plan for the town. With a population of nearly 12,000 residents, this was a large undertaking. Progress was beginning to be made with the completion of a survey and a drop in event, with significant data gathered. Unfortunately, due to changes in our Council Service Level Agreement, KDP could no longer facilitate this process, although we are hoping that new SLA arrangements will allow us to start offering this support again.



Supporting Community Groups

KDP encourages community groups to get in touch if they need help or support. It can be tough being a voluntary organisation, dealing with all the red-tape and form filling; especially when you are a volunteer. We are here to listen and to help - if we don't know the answer to a query, we almost always know someone who will!

This year we have had a wide variety of requests for help and information. We have seen an increase in groups looking to become SCIOs (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations) and have been able to offer advice and guidance on the route to becoming one, if that's what's right for the organisation.

We also receive many requests for help finding suitable funding and help with filling in the associated forms. We regularly publicise funding opportunities on our Facebook page and in our Bulletin.

We want communities to feel supported and empowered to deliver activities to improve their areas. We aim to be flexible & responsive to our communities needs.

We were excited to work with **Paws on Plastic**.

The initiative was founded in 2018 and had attracted an online following of 21,000 dog owners and followers from over 70 countries, across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The Founder Marion Montgomery wanted to develop the initiative, which revolves around the simple, but effective idea, of using daily dog walks as an opportunity to pick up a few bits of litter, and form a charity. With the help of KDP, Paws on Plastic is now a SCIO.

Big Halls Tour

KDP has for some time now been a champion of our wonderful local halls, running a series of “Talking Halls” events over the past few years. Halls play such a crucial role in local communities, providing a venue for clubs and activities, fund raising events and gatherings. Due to Covid, many halls have experienced a sharp drop in revenue and yet the maintenance costs continue, and heating prices rise.

Thanks to funding from the Communities Recovery Fund, we were able to develop a project aimed at supporting our local halls. Our Development Officers conducted a “Big Halls Tour”, visiting 17 local halls, finding out about their facilities and the challenges they face. The project culminated in a series of training events for those that run our halls, giving guidance on risk assessments and use of social media, and providing a welcome opportunity to chat with others about common issues, over a delicious afternoon tea.

Community Café Trial Project

Many of the community groups we work with were involved in the Covid Response, offering practical help and assistance to those shielding and self-isolating. Our Halls were home to a network of community larders, offering basic supplies to those in need.

We have become increasingly aware this year, as we move towards recovery, that for some people there is still a need for additional support. Many are nervous about socialising and yet loneliness and isolation are real issues that need to be addressed, especially in our rural communities where transport issues often exist and access to community activities are more limited.

Funding from the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, means we are about to start a trial project where KDP will oversee the setting up of 2 community café projects locally. Essentially, we will support local volunteers to start up a weekly café, held in a local hall, providing an accessible, friendly community meeting space where people can get together. Primarily a chance for people to chat and socialise, but also offering additional support, information and services where required.

We hope in time, to develop a network of these cafes throughout K&M. Please get in touch if you think your community might be keen to start its own Community Café.

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation – SC046327

Future Plans

It's a time of change and re-evaluation for KDP, which is both challenging and exciting. Our funding situation will change significantly next year when we will no longer have a service level agreement with Aberdeenshire Council's Economic Development Department. We are currently looking at how we might continue to be able to offer economic development support once this funding comes to an end.

We have however just agreed a service level agreement to undertake Community Planning work in our local area, for the Council, and this is a great opportunity for us as an organisation. Close partnership working with our council colleagues and other community planning partners is surely the best way ahead, and this agreement allows us to devote significant time to this valuable work.

We have recently been successful in securing significant grant funding for KDP, which has allowed us to undertake the "Big Halls Tour" and the Community Cafe Trial Project. Attracting this type of project funding may be increasingly important in the future. It also allows us to be responsive to the specific needs of our community and increasingly KDP may look to project manage initiatives as well as supporting our communities to undertake their own projects.

Thanks to funding from Aberdeenshire Council's Rural Partnership Challenge Fund, we have been able to employ a third-sector specialist consultancy to guide us on our journey. The aim is to formulate a plan for KDP's sustainable future, mapping out our goals and objectives and how we hope to achieve them. Funding will be a main consideration if we aim to grow and have a secure future. The Challenge Project will outline our funding options and potential income streams, leaving us with a clear plan to follow.

We've already held our first "Strategy Day" for trustees, which was an excellent opportunity for open discussion on our future hopes and challenges.

WHO'S WHO

Our Trustees	
Name	**Representing Organisation**
Ron Sharp (Chair)	Portlethen Town Partnership
Bridget Scott (Vice 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 Davidson	Our Mearns Tourism Association
Isabella Williamson	Arbuthnott Community Council

FIRE EXIT