Kincardineshire Development Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC046327

Creating confident and engaged communities

Letter from our Chair

I am delighted to present KDP's Annual Report for 2023-24. The report illustrates well what the partnership has been up to in the past 12 months and how much has been achieved in that period.

The trustees are indebted to our staff, whose hard work, dedication and enthusiasm have been essential to the survival and development of the organisation. While times are undoubtedly challenging for us, as they are for many charities, we continue to seek and attract new funding and to expand the range of work we undertake.

We continue to grow our membership and endeavour to provide a wide range of help and support to these groups. Our fortnightly Bulletin is now a trusted source of information and goes out to more than 250 local contacts. Our new website further expands the range of help and advice we offer, and we hope this will prove to be a valuable resource to our members.

Highlights for the year have been seeing the 4 community cafes we helped set up flourish, the volunteer recruitment event that brought together more than 20 local groups, and our new branding and launch of the website. Not to mention the valuable work we have been able to undertake thanks to our partnership with the Council. The ongoing work with the Edzell Woods Community has been particularly rewarding and we have been able to play an active role as a community planning partner.

Always looking for new ways to support our communities, we anticipate the future will see us increasingly involved in climate adaptation work and focusing on sustainability, providing learning opportunities and support on these topics. We always aim to be community led and welcome input from our members, so please let us know what we can help you with.

We are optimistic that KDP has a bright future, our main challenge is to secure the core funding to allow our key activities to continue. Be assured our staff and board are working on this and are ready to take up the opportunities when they appear.

George Cruickshank
Chair

Treasurer's Report

Our accountants, ARH Accountants, have examined the accounts for the financial year under review and have produced their report, which is now ready for the annual submission to OSCR. Unfortunately the report consists of 15 pages of close analysis of KDP finances and although we have been given a clean bill of health it is not easy reading for individuals lacking an accountancy qualification. Consequently I have created a table which records all receipts and expenditure against the relevant sub-heads; hopefully this fully explains the strengths and weaknesses of KDP's finances.

I have removed all references to the three ring fenced windfarm accounts as these are subject to examination by the relevant windfarm operators and only create confusion when examining KDP's core activities.

From the outset I have to comment that it has been another difficult year for KDP. The heart of the problem is the decision made a couple of years ago by Aberdeenshire Council to taper off grants to the Shire's Rural Partnerships. The last payment received by KDP was in 2022-2023. The table shows that in the year under review we experienced a loss of £22,500. This is a significant drop in income, made all the worst as it funded the prime cause of KDP's existence, namely support to local communities. We are continuing to work with local communities by focusing more on practical support and by utilising some of our financial reserves but the use of the latter cannot continue beyond the short term.

To a certain extent the loss of Rural Partnership support has been compensated by agreeing a three year SLA with Kincardineshire & Mearns Area Management, whereby KDP provides expertise on community planning, food access work, community engagement etc.

The Trustees and work colleagues are well aware of the difficulties in obtaining grants for charity day-to-day running costs and Mairi in particular has been very creative in adjusting work activities to align with funders' requirements. It is a great pleasure to record that Mairi has just received notification of a grant of £11,070, details to be announced soon.

This grant will help KDP support our existing networks (halls, cafes and grassroots) and, in addition, provide funding for 4 new workshops – 2 on Place Planning and 2 on Climate Adaption. This will undoubtedly alleviate some of the short term financial pressures but given the high regard accorded to KDP, by both the general public and local government, more secure funding is urgently required to enable us to continue our core work.

I end on a more positive note. Both Mairi and Margo keep a very close eye on the finances and as a result expenditure is down considerably from the previous financial year; at the same time both are constantly monitoring the funding scene and writing applications. Sometimes with a positive result as can be witnessed by success in securing paid consultancy work on a Water Resilience Project and the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (via Mearns Academy) – the latter paying for a new website and two Volunteer Fairs.

Andrew Newton
Treasurer

Provisional Receipt and Payment Account for Kincardineshire Development Partnership for 2023 - 2024

	2023-2024		2022-2023		
Opening Balance	**£47,862.09**		**£61,597.75**		
INCOME					
Windfarm Community Finds - Admin Fee	£6,363.98		£5,840.40		
Aberdeenshire Council SLA	£0.00		£22,500.00		
Aberdeenshire Area Com Plan SLA	£19,485.00		£19,485.00		
Aberdeenshire Council Challenge Fund	£3,920.00				
Aberdeenshire Council Coastal Community Fund	£6,480.00		£4,827.00		
AVA Mental Health etc.	£0.00		£6,606.00		
Bervie Community Café	£2,434.53		£0.00		* Note 1
Johnshaven Community Café	£1,518.87		£953.38		* Note 1
Auchinblae Community Café	-£543.16		£543.16		* Note 1
Tackling Poverty & Inequality	£6,000.00		£0.00		* Note 2
Other Deposits	£4,005.00		£932.00		
Total		**£49,664.22**		**£61,686.94**	
EXPENDITURE					
Aberdeenshire Council Challenge Fund	£1,920.00		£16,412.35		
Accounting Fees	£600.00		£550.00		
Advertising & Marketing	£413.17		£172.80		
AVA Mental Health etc.	£4,483.70		£2,578.16		
Board Members Expenses	£0.00		£0.00		
Board Member travel	£0.00		£0.00		
Café costs - Johnshaven	£582.00		£0.00		
Catering	£291.84		£401.93		
Coastal Community Fund	£100.00		£7,200.00		
Community Cash Back Award	£0.00		£500.00		
Community Collective	£6,000.00		£0.00		* Note 2
Conference Attendance	£0.00		£0.00		
Consultancy Services	£0.00		£1,579.50		
Edzell Woods Engagement	£0.00		£42.02		
Hall hire	£140.00		£290.50		
Insurance	£482.99		£452.06		
IT Expenditure	£252.37		£838.75		
Membership of external organisations	£458.00		£156.00		
Miscellaneous	£0.00		£107.75		
Office Expenses	£0.00		£0.00		
Office rent & service charge	£717.60		£564.00		
Stationery, Printing & Postage	£205.66		£509.46		
Photocopying	£0.00		£0.00		
Telephone	£350.77		£293.98		
Training	£0.00		£0.00		
Staff Expenses	£0.00		£0.00		
Staff Travel	£1,408.27		£1,541.48		
Staff Wages & Pension	£42,718.54		£41,147.86		
Website & Social Media	£144.00		£84.00		
Total		**£61,268.91**		**£75,422.60**	
Balance c/f	**£36,257.40**		**£47,862.09**		

Note 1 These funds are ring fenced until these 3 organisations set up their own bank accounts
Note 2 Held briefly on behalf of Community Collective and then released later in year

Who We Are and What We Do

KDP are here to help you achieve your aims. Our purpose is to support and encourage community organisations throughout Kincardine and Mearns. We were set up as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in 2014, with the aim of promoting sustainable community development and economic growth in the area.

We are governed by a Board of Trustees, nominated by community councils and voluntary organisations throughout K&M. We have 2 members of staff both working flexible part-time hours. Staff work from home (we do not have an office) but are always keen to get out and meet groups.

We also administer the Community Funds for several local windfarms on behalf of windfarm operators.

We have over 100 member groups, with free membership open to any constituted, non-political organisation within K&M. Members benefit from a range of practical help and support as well as a fortnightly information bulletin, detailing funding opportunities and other relevant local news.

KDP can offer help with:

* **Funding Enquiries and Applications**
* **Community Consultation and Engagement**
* **Governance**
* **Volunteer Support**
* **Project Planning**
* **Facilitation**

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Funding & Windfarm Officer
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KDP Re-Branding and New Website

Last year we underwent a process of review and planning for the future, working with a consultant to re-evaluate our key objectives and to identify potential future income streams. That led us to think about how we communicate our values and services and to undertake a re-branding process. This was possible due to funding from the Aberdeenshire Council Rural Partnership Challenge Fund.

You will have seen our new logo, flyers and banners and we hope you agree this refresh represents our positive, enthusiastic approach to the future.

We are now delighted to announce the launch of our new website!

We have worked hard to bring together a range of help and advice within the site, that we hope will be of real value to local groups. The site offers information on a wide range of topics and we will continue to work on developing this on an ongoing basis.

The redevelopment of our website was made possible thanks to funds received from YPI, after a winning presentation on KDP from a group of Mearns Academy students.

Community Cafes

Last year, thanks to funding from the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, we worked with a team of volunteers to get community cafes up and running in Johnshaven and Auchenblae. With a second allocation of funds, this year we have been able to support the setting up of community cafes in Inverbervie and Stonehaven.

The cafes have proved to be very popular, providing a welcome opportunity for people to meet and socialise locally. We were able to provide training for volunteers as well as help developing procedures and publicising the cafes. Funding meant we could pay for hall hire and refreshment costs for a 20 week period for each café, as well as supplying basic start up equipment.

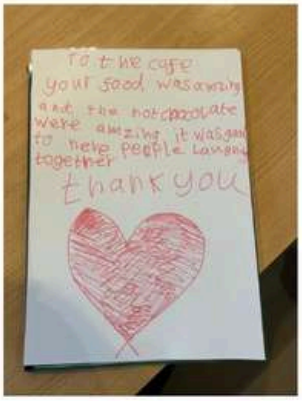
We are delighted to report that all 4 cafes are still going strong and are being run by local volunteers, with each benefitting from generous donations towards ongoing costs. KDP are pleased to offer ongoing support and advice when needed.

To assist other community groups who may want to open their own Community Cafe, a start up Guide has been created and can be found on the KDP website.

'Amazing atmosphere, so lovely to chat to other people'

'Lovely welcoming space for meeting new people and having engaging conversations'

'Very enjoyable way to spend a morning'



Friday 27th October 2023.

It's good to get out on the bus,
all dressed up without a fuss.
To the "Scout's Hut" I will go,
stepping out a "quick quick slow"!
Hoping there's some friends to see
to join and have a cup of tea.
They're all so nice and make you smile,
and makes you want to stay a while.
So bring a friend and come along,
We'll maybe even sing a song!?

By Marjorie Fae Stonie.

'Well done everyone who made this happen. So well attended.'

'Nice atmosphere. Caught up with so many people'

Community Planning

We have a service level agreement in place with Aberdeenshire Council to undertake local community planning work. This has allowed us to be an active member of the K&M Community Planning Partnership and to contribute to ongoing work aimed at achieving outcomes within the Local Community Plan.

This year we helped organise a Food Forum, bringing together those involved in all aspects of local community food provision; from local larders to community food grower and council officers. The aim being to facilitate a holistic conversation about food accessibility in K&M.

A very positive discussion was had, with it becoming obvious that the issue is a complex one with many inter-related causes including financial hardship, transport challenges, supply issues and mobility factors. Further work is needed to look for workable local solutions and the group plans to meet again to discuss the way forward.

'Thank you KDP, it's been so positive working together. The profile of Edzell Woods has improved since your involvement, and we are seeing a lot more support for our wee estate.'

Our Community Planning work has also allowed us to undertake some targeted project work with the Edzell Woods Community. The estate is unadopted and this poses a number of unique challenges. Through a series of community engagement events and in partnership with the Edzell Woods Community Trust, we identified the key issues affecting the estate and started developing a plan to find solutions and identify funding.

Over the last 2 years we have conducted several engagement sessions, taken part in AGMs, joined in with community gardening days, researched potential solutions, and helped develop funding applications. It has been a pleasure to work with the community and in particular the EWCT. Together we have had some real successes. Securing funding from the Rural Communities Challenge Fund for an edible trail/nature walk. And from the Shared Prosperity Fund for feasibility work on the sewage works and the community building. A further application is in for the initial stages of a community hub.

Volunteer Recruitment Event

Volunteers are vital to the work of the third sector and many groups have told us that they have struggled to find enough volunteers lately. So KDP organised a local Volunteer Recruitment Event, with over 20 groups represented on the day. They had a wide variety of volunteer opportunities on offer at the event and feedback was positive, with many groups signing up new volunteers.

'You get so much back from volunteering, you feel you are taking part in something worthwhile, you meet new people and learn new things.'

'If you believe that the most important thing in life is to be kind, then volunteering is a great way to go about it.'

Halls Network

KDP has for many years supported the committees who run our local halls and community spaces. We organise meetings of the Halls Network to allow face to face discussion and information sharing and facilitate a closed Facebook page for ongoing communication.

Recently we held a networking event at St Cyrus Hall, with a presentation on a solar power project undertaken by a local hall.

Community Wind Farm Funding

In the last financial year, £91,532.79 was awarded to local community groups within Kincardine & Mearns from three Windfarm Community Funds administered by KDP.

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

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.

We are delighted to show a selection of images of some of these successful projects.

St John's Hill - £38,982.08 was awarded to 15 successful projects.
Hillhead of Auquhirie - £15,951.41 was awarded to 13 successful applicants.
Meikle Carewe - £36,599.30 was awarded to 21 successful projects.

Future Projects

KDP aims to be proactive in offering support where communities most need it. This can lead us in new and interesting directions. Over the course of the last year we have played a part in a water resilience research project with academics from Glasgow Caledonian University. This looked at barriers faced by communities when dealing with issues such as flooding.

Many local communities are dealing with the effects of climate change. Recent storms and increased rainfall have left many trying to cope with flooding and storm damage. Looking towards the future we aim to form a climate adaptation network, whereby communities can share their experiences, learn from each other and benefit from the advice and support available. Recently secured funding will allow us to hold climate adaptation community workshops.

“A place based approach is about understanding the potential of a place and coordinating action to improve outcomes, with community participation at the heart of the process.”

We are also increasingly aware of the importance of “place” and hope to introduce the concept, in a holistic and straightforward way, through a number of local workshops. Communities are more than ever required to have a plan in place that outlines community aspirations, many funding applications require this. A grasp of concepts around all aspects of place planning is vital and we aim to provide support and learning opportunities.

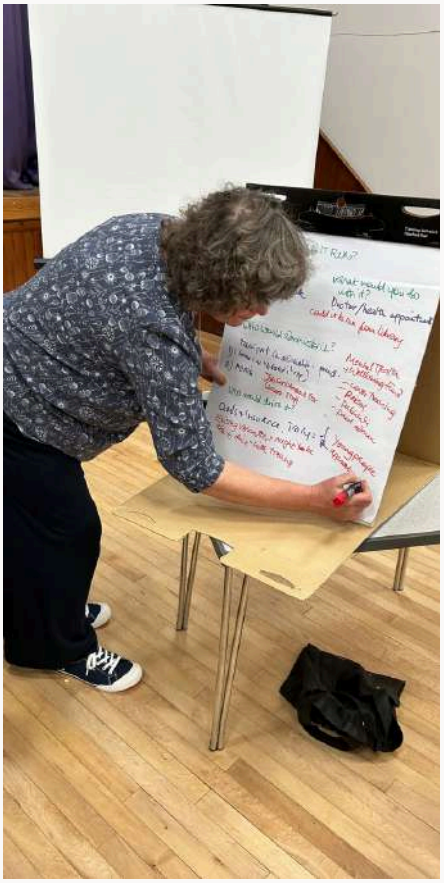
Community growing projects have many benefits. They are valuable in so many ways, not just the mental health and well-being benefits of being outside and amongst nature, but the opportunity to work with others, to share resources and to be more aware of where our food comes from and what we eat.

We hope to set up a growing network in the Mearns, helping to connect groups so they can learn from each other and share resources. If you are involved in a growing project in the Mearns or would like to start a project in your area, please get in touch.

Kincardineshire Development Partnership

Who's Who

Our Trustees	
Name	**Representing Organisation**
George Cruickshank (Chair)	Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore Community Council
Bridget Scott (Secretary)	The Bettridge Centre
Andrew Newton (Treasurer)	Stonehaven Tolbooth Association
Robyn Campbell	Drumoak & Durris Community Group
Ian Hunter	Stonehaven & District Community Council
Eeva-Kaisa Arter	Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar Community Council
Peter Flockhart	TRAK
Starkeeper Morton	The Haven



Kincardineshire Development Partnership

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KDP does not have an office, however mail can be sent to our postal address:

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Dunnottar Avenue
Stonehaven
AB39 2JD

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