

The Kincardine & Mearns Area Partnership

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ending  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2007

## Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007

### Current Management Committee

|               |                         |                                  |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Chairman      | Mrs Isabella Williamson | Arbuthnott Community Council     |
| Vice Chairman | Norman Banski           | Mearns Community Council         |
| Secretary     | Susie Brown             | Mearns Area Partnership          |
| Treasurer     | David Wood              | SATRA                            |
|               | Norah Wiseman           | Aberdeenshire South Access Group |
|               | Lenny Lawrence          | K & Community Safety Group       |
|               | Robert Flann            | St Cyrus Community Council       |
|               | Andrea Hauxwell         | K & D Voice                      |

### Contact Address

Kirkton, Arbuthnott, Laurencekirk AB30 1NA

### Recruitment and appointment of Management Committee

All of the management committee are appointed or reappointed by the members at our annual general meeting, which is held in April each year.

### Governing Document

The Kincardine & Mearns Area Partnership is a charitable unincorporated association and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in our constitution.

### Purposes

Our purposes, as recorded in our constitution, are the promotion and support of community development, the advancement of education, the furtherance of health and the promotion of benefit for persons who are resident in the Kincardine & Mearns area.

### Activities and achievements

#### **Dynamic Drop In**

The year started with a real bang when in May we co-hosted the 'Dynamic Drop In' in the Town Hall, Stonehaven along with the Kincardine & Mearns Community Planning Group. The three day event followed the structure of a modified Planning For Real exercise with World Café style discussion areas. The themes used for the PfR aspect were those taken from Craig White's (our short term development worker) report. They were Heritage, Transport, Tourism, Young People, Older People, Employment and a general topic. The World Cafe discussion areas encompassed Community Planning themes including Community Wellbeing, Lifelong Learning, Sustainable Environment and Jobs in the Economy. The event generated a diverse number of items of interest to people in the area. There were 700 PfR cards completed and 160 comments from the World Café. Because it was held in Stonehaven, the majority of issues were understandably focused on the town but there was also a good number from other communities. For example child care issues were highlighted in Catterline, Drumoak, Fettercairn, Fetteresso and Lumgair, the need for a flyover at Laurencekirk was understandably

also brought up and the issue of impending Post Office closures throughout the area was highlighted.

With all such community consultation exercises it is essential that something is done with the information gathered, or else what is the point? And although it may not have been outwardly noticed that anything has happened with the information since May, this is not the case. Firstly all the comments generated on the day were diligently gathered together and recorded on spread sheets by Susie Brown. These were then discussed by a sub-group of the Local Community Planning Group who focused on the first 6 or 7 highest recorded issues as the most important to local people and these have been included in their Action Plan. In turn these items will be included in the Local Area Plan which is currently being compiled. It is by having issues included in the Local Plan and in the LCPG Action Plan that we should see a tangible difference happening with them. This is Community Planning in action.

The additional action needing to happen with the DDI results is for KMAP to look at the priority list and decide if there are any of the issues that we can act on or help others to take action with. This in turn will influence the job remit when employing a development worker.

As well as the results from the day the DDI event allowed KMAP to increase its profile in the area and to finally produce our own publicity leaflets, pens and notepads, as well as our own publicity banner, which is available for use at events by any of our members.

### **Planning for Real**

Following on from the success of the DDI, through the Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation, KMAP agreed to host a Planning for Real training event funded by Aberdeenshire Council. This was held over two days on 17/18<sup>th</sup> September in Oldmeldrum. Among the nineteen people attending five came from this area.

Five communities have since shown an interest in undertaking a PFR exercise in their own communities. They are St Cyrus, Arbuthnott, Auchenblae, Drumlithie and Marykirk.

St Cyrus has now almost completed theirs. They held two consultation events and took the map to their local school. They are now ready to prioritise the issues highlighted at the events. This will happen on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Local Councilors and Community Planning Partners have been invited to attend and they are also hoping for a good response from local people.

Arbuthnott held its open day consultation exercise on 15<sup>th</sup> March. There was a very good response to the day with the event well attended. The Map stayed in Arbuthnott Hall for a further two weeks when those who were unable to attend on the 15<sup>th</sup> had the opportunity to put forward their comments. The information gathered is currently being collated. A meeting to discuss issues and prioritise them is organised for 7<sup>th</sup> May. All relevant issues will then be forwarded to the LCPG. Auchenblae are currently building their Map. Drumlithie are still interested in PFR but have decided to wait until later in the year before moving forward with it. Marykirk have no dates planned yet.

KMAP are financially supporting all the PFR exercises in the area and we would be happy to help more communities who may be interested in this form of community consultation. In particular it would be wonderful to see something happening in the north of the area perhaps in Newtonhill or Portlethen. We would also like to see all the PFR consultations evaluated at some time in the future, perhaps next year, to ascertain if they have actually made a difference to individual communities, even if it is just to see if it has raised awareness of local issues in the communities and with Aberdeenshire Council.

### **Small Grant Award**

KMAP now has a small grant award available to members. The maximum is £200 and although not a very large sum it could be extremely useful for small projects. We have not had many applications yet but perhaps once the results from the PFR exercises are prioritised there may be some small projects in communities we can help fund.

### **Creative Waste Exchange**

We have membership to the Creative Waste Exchange in Aberdeen. Access is open to all our members you just need the membership number

### **Kincardine & Mearns Halls Association**

One of our main achievements of the year is the support we gave in helping to form the Kincardine & Mearns Halls Association. The group became constituted in the autumn and have now regular meetings organised. With the support of Aberdeenshire Council, Halls in area are now able to opt into Highland Regional Councils insurance cover. This has resulted in substantial savings for some. The additional cover for users of our halls is particularly welcome as it takes away the burden on users having to take out their own public liability insurance. The Association is currently undertaking an audit of fire equipment servicing in order to see if savings can be made in this area.

### **ENTRUST**

The management committee agreed a few months ago to apply for membership as an environmental body to ENTRUST. This would allow our members, particularly those involved with public amenities, who are within 10 mile radiance from a landfill site to apply for funding through us. The two landfill sites in our area are Crow's Nest at Banchory and Pitrichie at Drumlithie. The 10 mile radiance of Pitrichie includes Laurencekirk, Auchenblae, Inverbervie and Stonehaven as well as all the smaller settlements within that area. In order for KMAP to be recognised as an environmental body by ENTRUST we have to make a few additions to our constitution. These will be ratified at our AGM in April.

### **AC Forum and ARPF**

Throughout the year we have had representation at meetings of both the Aberdeenshire Co-ordinators Forum and the Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation. Having representation at these meetings allows us to keep up to date with everything that is currently happening with other partnerships throughout Aberdeenshire. Issues are reported back to the

management committee. As well as contact with the Chairs and Development Workers for the other Partnerships these meetings allow us a direct link to a variety of committees that the Federation is represented on including the Community Planning Board and Executive, NESTOURS, SINE, the Environmental Forum and currently Homecoming 2009. The theory being that any issue relating to these bodies that is raised by our members can be fed directly to them through KMAP.

### **Local Community Planning Group**

Likewise we are represented on the Local Community Planning Group. Again members can bring issues to KMAP to be brought up at the LCPG. For a second year the LCPG managed the Shell Grant Scheme which resulted in a number of groups in the area receiving funding. Funding was also available for groups directly from the LCPG funds. There is an application form for groups to use to access this funding called 'Community Project Input Form'.

KMAP has achieved a great deal this year and are making steady progress in establishing ourselves as a valuable Partnership in the area. We are currently working on a business plan which will help us with our development and help keep us focused on the future and we are committed to employing a worker in 2008 in order to further develop the work of the partnership.

### **Management Committee remuneration and expenses**

Members of the management committee did not receive any remuneration during the year. They did receive out of pocket expenses incurred in carrying out the business of the partnership and which are reflected in the annual accounts.

### **Reserves**

Within the surplus for the year of 29,423.58 a sum of £4,218.43 is committed for paying for community engagement activities.

The committee considers the general unrestricted funds of £25,205.15 will enable us to continue promoting and running activities throughout the coming year.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on their behalf

Mrs Isabella Williamson

Date: