

MARR AREA *partnership*

Annual Report 2010/2011



Orchid, courtesy of Tarland Development Group

Annual Report 2010/11 — Chairman's Report

It is with sadness that I undertake this report following the death of our chairman and founding member, John Lewis. I have known John since 1998 and he will be sadly missed by the local communities. The work of MAP continues from strength to strength as a tribute to the vision of John and the other founders who realised that great things can happen through partnerships as Bill Gates said - "Our success has really been based on partnerships from the very beginning."

This report covers the period since the AGM in 2010 and reflects our background, changes, achievements and some thoughts for the future of the Marr Area Partnership (MAP). From the early days of the organisation our overall aim has been, and continues to be; "Working with the diverse communities of Marr to encourage and enable the sustainable development of their economic, environmental and social future".

MAP was established in 1998 and registered as a charity in 2000. We are a voluntary sector organisation managed by a board of Community and Partner organisation representatives, who are volunteers and trustees of the charity. As the role of MAP had evolved considerably over the years, our constitution, membership arrangements and formal organisational structure needed to be reviewed and updated. At the AGM in 2010, following a year of preparation, we passed a resolution to form a company limited by guarantee. The Memorandum and Articles of Association were developed, consulted on, and approved by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Six inaugural directors (see page 5) were recruited and the company was registered with Companies House on 10th February 2011. All the assets, and liabilities, of MAP were transferred to the limited company from the 1st April. Although this was an important change for the organisation it does not change our aims, purpose, what we do, or who we support. We do encourage all groups, individuals and organisations who support our aims to become members – to contribute to the future of the organisation and ensure that we are accountable to the communities we serve.

MAP remains a full and active member of the Community Planning Partnership for Aberdeenshire (website at www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk). This comprises statutory agencies including Aberdeenshire Council, Cairngorms National Park Authority, NHS Grampian, Grampian Fire and Rescue, Grampian Police, and Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations. We are also active members of Aberdeenshire Rural Partnerships Federation (ARPF) and Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) Network.

This year we've continued to contribute at all levels, including the national debate about the future of public services, and across a wide variety of issues relevant to our area and communities. John Lewis represented us, and the ARPF, on the board of the Community Planning Partnership, the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Theme Group and the Local Action Group of Rural Aberdeenshire LEADER. The Development Officers undertake a broad range of work to further the aims of MAP and the needs and aspirations of our communities; informed and guided by the MAP Board and Partners. More detail can be found in the Development Officer's Report on page 4 and on the MAP website www.marrareapartnership.org.uk

MAP's contribution to local community development was recognised by Her Majesties Inspectorate of Education (HMIe) earlier this year with an excellent evaluation of capacity building in the Aboyne Academy Learning Community. The future holds many new challenges including the reduction in funding however there are also many new opportunities ahead. The potential for communities to manage their own assets could be a boost for the towns and villages of Marr who already have the social capital to develop major projects. MAP should continue to be the catalyst and a network hub where people can exchange ideas and solve problems. I hope that many more people will become members of MAP and that every community large or small will be represented.

Thanks again to Mike, Lizzy and Natasha; all of the directors and community representatives, past and present, and all our community partners for making MAP happen.

Jean Henretty – Vice Chair

Finance Report for April 2010 to March 2011

This finance report relates to the annual accounts for the Marr Area Partnership for the financial year 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011. The office of treasurer is vacant and Mike Powell currently fulfills this function as part of his Development Officer duties. As a registered charity MAP is accountable to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and is required to submit an annual return and a copy of the annual accounts.

The income of MAP during the financial year 2010-2011 was principally from three sources;

1. Core funding, and Initiative grant Scheme, from Aberdeenshire Council
2. Service level agreement (SLA) funding from the Marr Community Planning Group
3. Funding from the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

A summary of the income and expenditure for the year is given in the table below. The full annual accounts will be available at the AGM and thereafter on the MAP website at www.marrareapartnership.org.uk. Copies of both SLAs (see below) are also on the website.

The funding from Aberdeenshire Council is partly from Community Economic Development and partly from the Marr Area Committee. Both provide core funding for the organisation, are the subject of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) and are treated as unrestricted funds.

Another SLA is for the work MAP undertakes for Marr Community Planning Group (MCPG). Funding from the Cairngorms National Park Authority is for supporting communities in the Park and liaison between them and the CNPA. Funding for specific projects and grants are treated as restricted funds and are accounted for, within the annual accounts, separately.

Summary of Income and Expenditure for 2010/2011 (with 2009/2010 for comparison)

Income	2010/2011	2009/2010
Core/SLA funding from Aberdeenshire Council/MCPG	£39,849	£41,133
Initiative Grant Scheme funds from Aberdeenshire Council	£8,000	£12,000
Cairngorms National Park Authority	£5,640	-
Bank interest	£304	£279
Other income	£1,415	£750
Total Income	£55,208	£54,162

Expenditure		
Staff employment costs	£33,478	£31,710
Staff and Trustees expenses	£5,322	£4,465
Administrative costs	£2,343	£4,762
Meetings, advertising and exhibitions	£1,792	£2,147
Depreciation on equipment	£452	£393
Initiative Grant Scheme - grants paid	£9,539	£13,101
Total Expenditure	£52,926	£56,578

<i>Surplus (Deficit) for the year</i>	£2,282	(£2,416)
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The total funds held by the Marr Area Partnership as at 31st March 2011, as per the balance sheet) were £45,113. This comprised £34,977 unrestricted funds and £10,136 restricted funds.

The annual accounts have been compiled, independently examined, and confirmed as complying with the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, by:

AC Howat, Chartered Accountant, 50 Raemoir Road, Banchory, AB31 5XP

Annual Report 2010-2011 - Development Officers' Report

As Development Officers we report to the Marr Area Partnership Board at their bi-monthly meetings and work with a wide range of individuals, partner organisations, and groups to support, enable and advocate for the sustainable development of their communities. The following is a brief summary of the key areas of our work during the year:

- **Managing quarterly community ward forums** in each of the three ward areas in Marr, on behalf of the Community Planning Group. These have provided an opportunity for effective two way communication between communities and service providers, have covered a broad range of subjects for discussion and have provided a wide range of training opportunities for community representatives to increase community capacity.
- **Supporting and contributing to the Marr Community Planning Group**, which aims to oversee and improve the delivery of services provided to communities. As members of the group, we represent and advocate for communities, develop and deliver projects and support the work of the other Community Planning Partners. For example, we have been working closely with the Community Learning and Development teams in Marr to consult young people in order to produce a Marr Youth Action Plan.
- **Facilitating development of community action plans** with community councils and other groups in Torphins, Aboyne and Kincardine O'Neil. Including guidance and advice on planning, engagement, and prioritisation with communities to identify needs and aspirations to improve facilities and services. Also facilitated two year review session in Tarland with emphasis on jobs/enterprise and community projects.
- **Researching needs of communities** to inform and produce electronic newsletter. Provided other information regarding strategy, policies, funding, good practice etc to enable communities and community groups to be informed and respond to local needs.
- **Managing the Initiative Grant Scheme** for the Marr area and supported project groups to ensure benefit for communities. Grants this year have included support for: refurbishment of a number of village halls including Keig, Glass, Cairnie and Tullynessle; Cromar Patient Transport Group; Mid Deeside Ltd community transport scheme; Gartly Wildlife Garden; Wind Turbine Workshop and Alford Citizens Advice Bureau.
- **Maintaining and promoting "Your Hall Manual"** to support village hall management committees and enable them to fulfil the requirements of the public entertainment licence. **Review of Public Entertainment Licence** conditions is being undertaken for Aberdeenshire involving consulting hall committees, carrying out research and developing updated conditions to clarify and simplify the requirements on users and licence holders of community halls.
- **Website for the Marr Area Partnership** reviewed and updated to provide information about MAP plus on line news, information and links to other useful sites.
- **Cairngorms National Park Plan Review** process facilitated, involving survey of community views and public events in Ballater, Braemar and Donside resulting in vision statements for all three communities, to reflect communities' needs and aspiration for the future.
- **Deeside Donside Development Project**; working closely with the Development Manager to support the project.
- **Facilitated youth engagement in Tarland** and supported development of youth cinema.

We work closely with a wide range of partners and agencies for the benefit of the communities in Marr and respond to all requests from community groups and enterprises for any support or assistance they need. Anyone interested in learning more about our work, getting help with a community project or simply discussing ideas, please contact us via the website (www.marrareapartnership.org.uk) or phone 013398 87577 or 07803 897 424

We look forward to continuing to develop our work in the coming year and responding to the evolving needs of communities and community groups.

Mike Powell, Lizzy Shepherd and Natasha Pawlukiewicz

Annual Report 2010-2011 – Who’s Who

Partners (from AGM 2nd Oct 2010)

Chair: John Lewis, Donside Community Council (deceased 21st August 2011)
Vice Chair: Jean Henretty, Banchory and District Initiative/Banchory Community Council
Donald Boyd, Development Manager, Huntly Development Trust
Nigel Healey, Cromar Community Council
Alan Young, Chief Officer CVS Aberdeenshire – Central and South
Hilda Lumsden-Gill, Huntly Community Council
Nicola Kenyon, Community Learning and Development, Aberdeenshire Council
Cllr Rosemary Bruce, Nominee of the Marr Area Committee
Les Allan, Representative of Aberdeenshire Council

Directors (from incorporation of MAP as a company on 10th Feb 2011)

Chair: John Lewis, Donside Community Council (deceased 21st Aug 2011)
Vice Chair: Jean Henretty, Banchory and District Initiative/Banchory Community Council
Nigel Healey, Cromar Community Council
George Wordie, Strathbogie Community Council
Nick Mardall, Deeside Donside Development Project
Patricia Fraser, Crathie Community
Other partners continue to attend board meetings and make a valuable contribution to MAP

Staff

Mike Powell OBE, Development Officer
Lizzy Shepherd, Development Officer
Natasha Pawlukiewicz, Development Officer

A Tribute to John Lewis

This is the first AGM of MAP, since its inauguration, not attended by our former Chair John Lewis. It is fitting then that we acknowledge his passing last month and remember him together. As part of his work for MAP, John also represented the Aberdeenshire Rural Partnerships on the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership Board, and several other Aberdeenshire wide working groups.

John had many skills that he used for the benefit of his family and for the communities in which he served. But it is John’s personal qualities that we will remember most: his kindness, his loyalty, his commitment, his diligent service and his willingness to take on challenges. John worked quietly and effectively for the improvement of communities for their sake, not for his own. As such he was a source of strength, reliability and questioning good sense for those fortunate enough to work with him. I had that privilege from the very early days when MAP was being set up.

John will be sorely missed personally and professionally, but his contribution to partnership working will remain across Marr and across Aberdeenshire.

Dr Eleanor Anderson, Chair of the Marr Area Partnership 1998 - 2008

“Working with the diverse communities of Marr to encourage and enable the sustainable development of their economic, environmental and social future”