

MARR AREA *partnership*

Annual Report 2011/2012



Cooper Café Youth Project at Community Ward Forum, Huntly, February 2012

Annual Report 2011/12 - Chairman's Report

At the end of this first full year of being an incorporated organisation, MAP continues with few outward changes of appearance. The collaboration between the Marr Community Planning Group (MCPG) partners and our own development officers is proving to be a successful means of improving service delivery in the local area. MAP has a positive reputation for supporting communities and representing their views at MCPG meetings. The relationship has provided value to the development of the Marr Community Plan so that it can reflect the needs and aspirations of local people.

The community action planning process has brought positive benefits to many communities, with the work involved in developing the plans being as important as the resultant documents. Many months of hard work by local people has not only led to the publication of their Community Action Plan but has sparked the initiation of new projects through engaging with fellow residents.

I am often asked what does 'community capacity building' actually mean? The theory can be described as – 'activities, resources and support that strengthen the skills and abilities of people and community groups to take effective action and leading roles in the development of their communities.' In plain English, this is how active people can build a positive community spirit and pride in their communities whilst gaining new skills. The result is projects, facilities and services which benefit whole communities. MAP has been supporting groups in a wide range of ways and, especially through the Community Ward Forums, by allowing people to meet each other and share experiences. Building the capacity of local communities is what MAP does.

Young people are becoming more involved in their communities and MAP has provided support for the development of the Marr Youth Action Plan and a number of youth groups. It is good to see the youth initiating their own projects and providing activities for their peers such as the Tarland Cinema Group, Banchory Youth Industries and the Aboyne Wheelers. An objective for the future is to recruit young people on to the board of MAP to reflect their needs in the way MAP supports communities as a whole.

As with many community-led organisations, funding for MAP has become more challenging. There was a reduction in core funding from Aberdeenshire Council this year but fortunately the challenge has opened new opportunities. The Cairngorms National Park Authority has utilised the services of MAP to support the consultation on their Park Plan and facilitated the development of community action plans. In recognition of our high standard of support for the action planning process, MAP has been supported to facilitate the community action plan process for the Kildrummy Wind Farm community benefit fund area. As it is unlikely that core funding will return to the previous level, the board will be seeking alternative funding streams for the future.

I would like to thank Northern Ecological Services and Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust for their generous support in providing office space for two of our Development Officers.

MAP has provided a valuable service to communities for the past fourteen years and as the Aberdeenshire strategic plan for the future development and regeneration of communities is based on localism and community led initiatives, I foresee that the organisation will be required for many more years.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow directors who also do admirable work in their own communities and our three development officers, without them, we would not be here today.

Jean Henretty – Chair

Treasurers Report for April 2011 to March 2012

This finance report relates to the annual accounts for the Marr Area Partnership for the financial year 2011/2012. The office of treasurer is held by Nigel Healey and Mike Powell provides support as part of his Development Officer duties.

Following the registration of MAP, as a company limited by guarantee on 10th Feb 2011, the assets of the organisation were transferred to the company on 1st April 2011. With approval from Companies House the first accounting period for the company was extended to 31st March 2012 to enable the financial year, in future as in the past, to be 1st April to 31st March each year. As a registered charity MAP is also accountable to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and submits an annual return and annual accounts.

The income of MAP during the financial year 2011-2012 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 project work MAP does 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 is treated as restricted funds and is accounted for, within the annual accounts, separately.

Summary of Income and Expenditure for 2011/2012 (with 2010/2011 for comparison)

Income	2011/2012	2010/2011
Core/SLA funding from Aberdeenshire Council/MCPG	£37,320	£39,849
Initiative Grant Scheme funds from Aberdeenshire Council	£8,500	£8,000
Cairngorms National Park Authority	£6,438	£5,640
Bank interest	£309	£304
Other income	£2,000	£1,415
Total Income	£54,567	£55,208

Expenditure		
Staff employment costs	£34,326	£33,478
Staff and Trustees expenses	£5,299	£5,322
Administrative costs	£2,457	£2,343
Meetings, advertising and exhibitions	£1,159	£1,792
Depreciation on equipment	£352	£452
Initiative Grant Scheme - grants paid	£9,719	£9,539
Total Expenditure	£53,312	£52,926

Surplus (Deficit) for the year	£1,255	£2,282
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The total funds held by the Marr Area Partnership as at 31st March 2012, as per the balance sheet) were £45,885; comprising £38,030 unrestricted funds and £7,855 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 2011/2012 - 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.
- **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 researched and written a document which provides key statistical sources for Marr to assist the work of planning partners and communities and are producing Community Capacity Case Studies for key projects.
- **Facilitating development of community action plans** with community councils and other groups in Kincardine O'Neil, Braemar and Kildrummy, Lumsden and Towie. Including guidance and advice on planning, engagement, and prioritisation with communities to identify needs and aspirations to improve facilities and services. Also facilitating review of community action plan in Alford.
- **Researching needs of communities** to inform and produce electronic newsletter. Provided other information regarding strategy, policies, funding, good practice etc to inform communities and community groups.
- **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: Active Aboyne, Banchory Youth Industries, Tarland Way Booklet, Ballater Squirrel Bridge, Towie Hall Decoration, Huntly Slow Marathon, and Aboyne Mountain Bike Track.
- **Maintaining and promoting "Your Hall Manual"** to support village hall management committees and enable them to fulfil the requirements of the public entertainment licence and **review of Public Entertainment Licence** completed.
- **Social audit of community planning activities** initiated, using focus groups, questionnaires and one-to-one interviews to evaluate MAP's work on the Marr Community Planning Group (MCPG), Community Ward Forums, and Village Halls.
- **Supported village hall committees** with Keystone quality management award mentoring and other support, incl. The Lonach Hall, V&A Halls, Crathes and Ballogie.
- **Facilitation for agencies with communities** including; input of communities to the National Park Plan; use of the Huntly Brander Building, and contribution of Inclusive Cairngorms.
- **Project support and advice** including a wide range of functions, as needed, in relation to strategy, constitutions and governance, financial and business planning, community engagement, funding sources and grant applications. eg. Tarland Park and Community Garden, Aboyne Wheelers, Banchory Advice Centre and Kincardine O'Neil Community Assoc.

We 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 2011/2012 - Who's Who

Directors (from AGM 24th September 2011)

Chair: Jean Henretty, Banchory and District Initiative/Banchory Community Council
Treasurer: Nigel Healey, Cromar Community Council
George Wordie, Strathbogie Community Council
Nick Mardall, Deeside Donside Development Project
Patricia Fraser, Crathie Community

Directors (co-opted throughout the year)

Ruth Sim, Ballater and Crathie community Council, West Aberdeenshire Access Panel
Donald Boyd, Development Manager, Huntly Development Trust

Other partners who have attended board meetings during the year and made a valuable contribution to MAP:

Les Allan, Representative of Aberdeenshire Council
Cllr Rosemary Bruce, Nominee of the Marr Area Committee
Alan Young, Chief Officer CVS Aberdeenshire – Central and South
Nicola Kenyon, Community Learning and Development, Aberdeenshire Council

Staff:

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



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