



Chair: John Lewis
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Dear Community Group/Partner Organisation

October 2010

Marr Area Partnership - A Community Organisation

The purpose of writing to you is to tell you about a proposed change to the Marr Area Partnership (MAP), and to seek your support.

First, a bit of background – MAP was set up in 1998 by community councils and other community groups in the Marr Area, with support from Aberdeenshire Council and the Scottish Executive. MAP's purpose then, as now, is to help community groups to plan and deliver projects, to represent and advocate for communities and to support their sustainable development. MAP is managed by a board comprising of representatives from community groups and partner organisations.

MAP was set up as an unincorporated group (with a constitution but no legal status) and, in 2000, became a registered charity. It has continued to operate on a fairly informal basis, with all community councils and community groups being treated as members with a right to attend the AGM and vote on any issue. However, we have no membership list as such.

In addition to the board members and partners who, as volunteers, support MAP we now employ three part time development officers and have a turnover of over £60,000 a year. In light of this situation the MAP Board want to formalise its status, as similar organisations have done, and become a company limited by guarantee. We have prepared a draft Memorandum and Articles of Association which you can see on our website (www.marrareapartnership.org.uk).

The new organisation will require a formal membership list, and we hope community councils and community groups will continue to offer their support and become registered members, along with any individual or organisation supporting the purpose of MAP. The intention is to allow MAP to continue supporting and helping any group in the Marr Area as at present. We would like as wide a range of members, and member organisations as possible, to be involved. This will reinforce the fact that MAP is genuinely community owned, and ensure that we understand and continue to respond to the needs of communities and community groups.

The benefits of being a member of MAP will be:

- The ability to influence the services MAP provides and its strategic direction.
- The rights to attend general meetings, nominate and elect directors, and vote.

The only requirements to become a member will be:

- To complete a simple membership application – with no membership fee
- To indicate support for the purpose and work of MAP
- To guarantee payment of £1, if MAP were wound up, and had any debts.

At the MAP AGM on 2nd October a resolution was passed to enable the current organization to be wound up and the new MAP, as a company limited by guarantee, to be created by 1st April 2011, subject to approval by both Companies House and OSCR (the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator).

If you would like to discuss membership, please contact me or Mike Powell at mike@marrareapartnership.org.uk or on 013398 87577 or 07803 897 424.

I look forward to continuing the work of MAP, with your support.

John Lewis, Chair

(membership form attached)

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

Charity Number SC 031462

Marr Area Partnership
Membership Application Form

I/we wish to become a member of the Marr Area Partnership (MAP) when it is constituted as a company limited by guarantee. I/we support the aims and purpose of MAP.

Name of individual member, or the group or organisation to be listed as member;

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Name of individual contact for the group or organisation, to receive communications and/or represent the group/organisation;

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Contact information – Email address and telephone number - for the individual named above;

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Date of application;

Name of applicant;

Please return this application form to Mike Powell; preferably by Email, or to the following address;
Marr Area Partnership
Gellan Cottage
Coull
Aboyne
AB34 5JU

Membership information will not be made available to others and will be maintained in accordance with Data Protection principles and requirements.