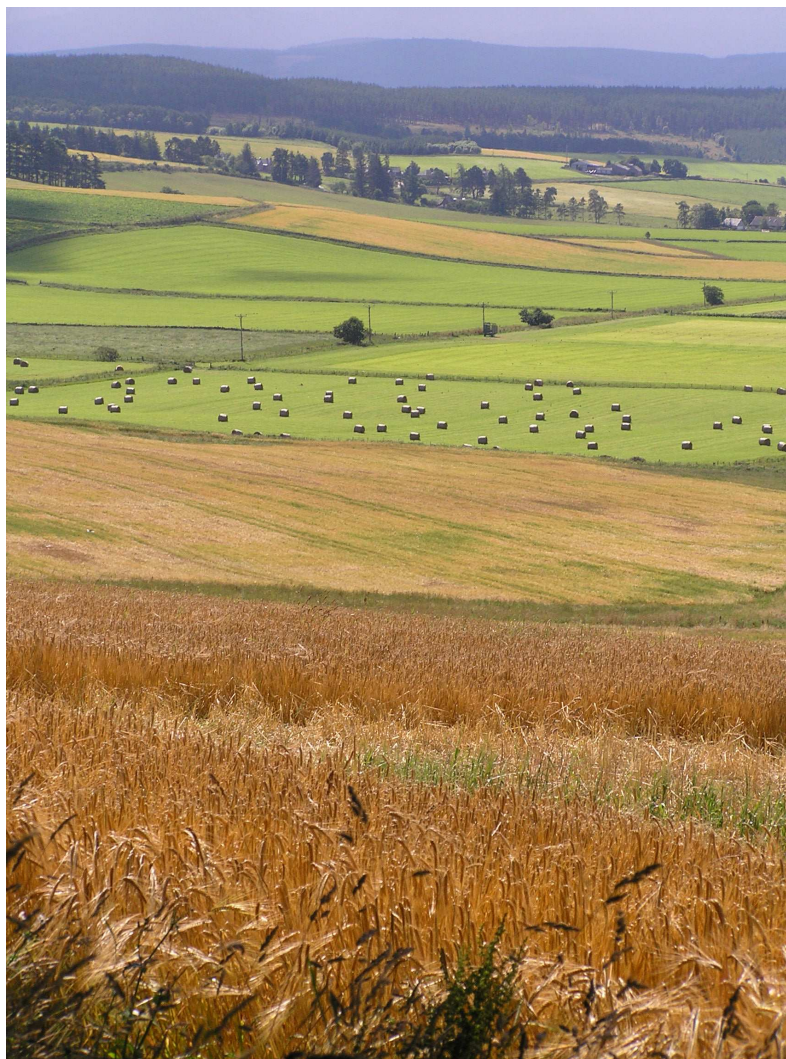


MARR AREA *partnership*

Annual Report 2009/10



Cromar in August courtesy of the Tarland Development Group

Annual Report 2009/10 — Chairman's Report

It is my pleasure to introduce the Marr Area Partnership (MAP) annual report for 2009 – 2010 in my second year as chair. This has been another good year for MAP. Again we have achieved a great deal, including; launching our website, www.marrareapartnership.org.uk; contributing more to the work of the community planning partnership; supporting communities with community action plans and projects; working more closely with the Cairngorms National Park Authority and helping to create the Deeside Donside Development Project.

Although funding was of concern last year, with an initial projected deficit of around £15,000, we made up most of it and are looking good for the current year. This has been largely due to the signing of Service Level Agreements with Aberdeenshire Council and with Marr Community Planning Group and a contract with the Cairngorms National Park Authority. However, with the cut-backs in public sector funding expected we can't rest on our laurels as there are tough times ahead. I represent MAP on the Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation and represent both on the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership Board and the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategy Group. As I remain Chairman of the Donside Community Council and still represent Ward 14 on the Marr Community Planning Group, this gives me a very broad view and understanding of what is going on and how MAP can play its part.

The last year has seen a lot of changes for MAP with our Development Officer, Suzanne Wall leaving in March and the appointment of Lizzy Shepherd in her place. I am pleased to report that Lizzy hit the ground running. She has successfully organised the Community Ward Forums and has been developing her role in other areas of our work. Mike Powell keeps me and everyone else well informed and diligently carries out all that is requested of him. Natasha Pawlukiewicz keeps us informed with her research and the preparation of our newsletters and is currently reviewing the website to ensure it's relevant and useful to our communities. I meet regularly with all three and I can say that we have formed a very close working relationship and I am proud to be a part of the team.

For those not familiar with the history of MAP, we were 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. The Development Officers undertake a broad range of work, outlined in their report on page 4.

As the role of MAP has evolved considerably over recent years, our constitution, membership arrangements and formal organisational structure needed to be reviewed and updated in order to move forward. As a result we have been working towards setting up the organisation as a Limited Company and this will now be progressed, subject to the resolution of the AGM, and we hope to have the Company in place by April next year.

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, NHS Grampian, Grampian Fire and Rescue, Grampian Police, and Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations.

I would personally like to thank Dr Eleanor Anderson, Willie Anderson, and Keith White for all the work they have done over many years for MAP and wish them all well in their retirement. Finally, I'd like to thank all the board members and staff along with all our partners for their continued support without which, we would not be here today.

We now need to look to the future with Members and Directors continuing to work on your behalf to form an even stronger and more effective Marr Area Partnership.

John Lewis, Chairman

Finance Report for April 2009 to March 2010

This finance report relates to the annual accounts for the Marr Area Partnership for the financial year 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010. 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 2009-2010 was principally from two sources;

1. Grant funding from Aberdeenshire Council
2. Project funding – including from Marr Community Planning Group

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 grant funding from Aberdeenshire Council is partly from Community Economic Development and partly from funds awarded by the Marr Area Committee. Both are to provide core funding for the organisation and are the subject of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) that specifies the range of work we have agreed to undertake. As this SLA reflects the overall purpose and objectives of MAP these grants are treated as unrestricted funds. Another Service Level Agreement has been developed for the projects MAP undertakes for the Marr Community Planning Group. Funding for specific projects can only be used for the purposes for which they have been granted and are treated as restricted funds. Unrestricted and restricted funds are accounted for, within the annual accounts, separately.

Summary of Income and Expenditure for 2009/2010 (with 2008/2009 for comparison)

Income	2009/2010	2008/2009
Grants and project funding from Aberdeenshire Council	£41,133	£39,624
Initiative Grant Scheme funding from A/shire Council	£12,000	£10,000
Bank interest	£279	£966
Other income	£750	£4048
Total Income	£54,162	£54,638

Expenditure		
Staff employment costs	£31,710	£36,115
Staff and Trustees expenses	£4,465	£6,034
Administrative costs	£4,762	£3,814
Meetings, advertising and exhibitions	£2,147	£5,453
Depreciation on equipment	£393	£590
Initiative Grant Scheme - grants paid	£13,101	£10,798
Total Expenditure	£56,578	£62,804

Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(£2,416)	(£8,166)
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The total funds held by the Marr Area Partnership as at 31st March 2010, as per the balance sheet) were £42,831. This comprised £30,692 unrestricted funds and £12,139 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 2009-2010 - 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 improved two-way communication between communities and Community Planning Partners, enabling communities to be more involved, contribute to planning services, and be better informed.
- **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.
- **Facilitating development of community action plans** with community councils and other groups in Torphins, Aboyne, Kincardine O'Neil and Glenbuchat. Including guidance and advice on planning, engagement, and prioritisation with communities to identify needs and aspirations to improve facilities and services.
- **Researching needs of communities** - produced and distributed an 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; community arts projects in Huntly and Lumsden; youth project in Banchory; composting project in Tarland; farmers market/food projects in Alford and Huntly; mental health first aid training; Befriending Service volunteers recruitment in Deeside; dance leadership awards in Huntly area; and development for six community halls.
- **Maintaining and promoting "Your Hall Manual"** to support village hall management committees and enable them to fulfil the requirements of the public entertainment licence. Also reviewed and updated the manual and provided ongoing support to village halls.
- **Website for the Marr Area Partnership** launched and maintained to provide information about MAP plus on line news, information and links to other useful sites.
- **Cairngorms National Park Plan Review** - facilitation of communities to engage their stakeholders and develop visions of their areas to contribute to the Plan.
- **Deeside Donside Development Project**; contributed to the funding applications, appointment of staff and currently a member of the steering group for the project. Working closely with the Development Manager to support the project.
- **Facilitated community engagement** for the biennial review of the Marr Local Community Plan for 2010-2014 and ongoing support for other community planning partners in working with communities to address their issues.

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 2009-2010 – Who’s Who

Current partners:

Chair: John Lewis, Donside Community Council
Vice Chair: Dr Eleanor Anderson, Strathbogie Community Council
William Anderson, Huntly Community Development Group
Alan Young, Chief Officer CVS Aberdeenshire –Central and South
Keith White, Banchory Community Council
Hilda Lumsden-Gill, Huntly Community Council
Nicola Kenyon, Community Learning and Development, Aberdeenshire Council
Marybell Macaulay, Ballater and Crathie Community Council
Donald Boyd, Development Manager, Huntly Development Trust
Cllr Rosemary Bruce, Nominee of the Marr Area Committee
Les Allan, Representative of Aberdeenshire Council

Staff:

Mike Powell OBE, Development Officer
Suzanne Wall, Development Officer (to March 2010)
Lizzy Shepherd, Development Officer (from February 2010)
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”

