



ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL RURAL PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

REPORT FOR 2008-2009

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Formartine Partnership Report 2008-9

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Since 25th April 2006 the Formartine Partnership has been a private company, limited by Guarantee, (SC 301273). It is not a registered charity. There are twelve directors on its Board including a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Company Secretary. The Board meets approximately every six weeks.

The Formartine Partnership employs one full-time employee, a Development Officer, who started part-way through the year on July 14th 2008. The Development Officer submits a regular report and plan of work to the Board at each Board meeting.

The Partnership members include:

All twelve Community Councils in Formartine:

Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford; Belhelvie; Collieston & Slains; Ellon; Foveran; Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter; Meldrum, Bourtie & Daviot; Methlick; Tarves; Turriff and District; Udny, Ythan;

The following (mainly) voluntary groups:

Aberdeenshire Council; Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum; Collieston Amenities Committee; Ellon Biodiversity Action Group; Ellon Civic Pride; Formartine Oral History Project Group; Foveran Partnership; Gordon Park Development Group; Gordon Rural Action; Methlick Community Garden Project; National Farmers Union of Scotland; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; Scottish Agricultural College; Scottish Rural Property and Business Association; Scottish Natural Heritage; Turriff & District Ltd.; Turriff Civic Pride; Woodhead and Windyhills Community Trust; Ythan District Fishery Board and Ythan Project Volunteers Group.

and

Any resident of Formartine may also become a member.

The latest AGM was held on 27th Nov 2008. All current Directors and office bearers were re-elected and the audited accounts for 2007-8 were approved. The Annual Report is included with this report.

ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Acknowledgement

The Formartine Partnership was without a Development Officer from March 2008 until 14th July 2008, between Morag Wright's resignation and Rod Gunson taking up the post.

The Partnership would like to acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of Lorna Harris, Community Planning Officer for the Formartine Area and previous Formartine Partnership Development Officer, Robert McGregor, Formartine Area Committee Officer, who stepped into the breach and carried out the essential continuing work of the Partnership and Sandy Milne, who obtained the sponsorship for the Formartine in Bloom competition.

The Partnership will need to help groups in their area with information, implementation, and community engagement, to build inclusive and sustainable projects.



Formartine In Bloom 2008

Formartine in Bloom 2008

The 'Formartine in Bloom' competition is a good example of community engagement. It was launched by the Formartine Partnership in 2005 with the participation of twelve communities. The 2008 competition was completed successfully. Seventeen Communities entered this year including two first-time entrants and the Awards ceremony was attended by over 40 people. Each community made a considerable effort to ensure that their areas were clean, tidy, litter- and graffiti-free, environmentally sustainable and as attractive as possible, using floral displays in a variety of beds / planters / hanging baskets. Sponsorship was obtained from local Formartine businesses by Sandy Milne, and the prizes, that were available to the communities, came to a total of £900.



Formartine in Bloom 2008 Awards Ceremony

The Formartine Partnership organised all aspects of the competition including entry, judging, the Awards ceremony, certificates, press and publicity and notification of results. Funding for the competition was gained from the Formartine Area Top-up budget (tourism aspect), though it did not cover the total time involved in managing this very successful competition. The LRP fund aided this project to run. The competition enhances community identity, community involvement and community spirit as well as improving the townscape and aesthetics of the participating communities.

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Aberdeenshire Council's Sustainable Community Halls Initiative

Aberdeenshire Council's Economic Development Service has asked the Formartine Partnership, working with other Local Rural Partnerships through the Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation, to support and develop its Sustainable Community Halls Initiative. The aim is to make community buildings more sustainable through energy efficiency and perhaps incorporation of renewable measures to reduce running costs and ensure that the village hall, not only remains as a social hub for future generations, but becomes an asset that could generate an income for the community. The first stage is for the Local Rural Partnerships to apply to Climate Challenge Fund for funding to develop an energy audit for each hall.

Grants: Village and Town Enhancement Grants and Rural Youth Transport Grants

During 2008-2009 the Formartine Partnership administered the above two grants on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council. The Formartine Area Committee were pleased with the way the way these schemes were being administered and agreed that this would continue in 2008-2009. The administration of these grants fosters community engagement by allowing the Partnership to develop positive relationships with the community and youth groups in Formartine. In cases where the proposed community activities do not fit with the Village Enhancement Grant or the youth group are travelling outwith Aberdeenshire, the Partnership can help in identifying alternative funding for the group's project.

Community Transport

During 2008, the Formartine Partnership produced information on transport for disable people. Its pamphlet: *Community Transport in Formartine*, has been checked, revised and published in the Aberdeenshire Council pamphlet pack: *Helping People with disabilities to use public transport*, (Aberdeenshire Council Public Transport Unit).



Oral History Project

The Oral History Project was a successful project managed by The Formartine Partnership with support from The Heritage Lottery Fund. It consists of 120 hours of reminiscences recorded on 96 CDs by thirteen local oral history groups in the Formartine area of Aberdeenshire under the guidance of project leader and folklorist Fiona-Jane Brown. It was completed in April 2008.

Oral History Project Follow up

However, following representations from some of the participant groups, it became clear that access to the recorded material needs to be improved. The Development Officer has discussed the problems with Fiona-Jane Brown, the former Project Officer, David Atherton of Aberdeenshire Council ELL. He has also met Gavin Sutherland of the North East Folklore Archive in Aden Park, Mintlaw, who holds the master copy and transcripts, to explore possible technical solutions. The Development Officer still needs to meet with the Library Service, before a solution can be achieved.

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Provide a local advice service to groups seeking to develop community assets and facilities.

Community Facility: Rothienorman Bowling Club and Community Association

Rothienorman Bowling Club is the lead group, along with Rothienorman Community Association, which is planning to construct a new £250k building to create a community resource and meeting room in this expanding settlement for use by the Bowling Club and a wide range of other local groups. Rental income from user groups and private hire will cover running costs and the group have included a woodchip heating system in their plans to reduce running costs and minimise its carbon footprint. The Development Officer has held several meetings with the participants, advised on widening community involvement and on grant awarding bodies, and supported grant applications, including liaising with Vicky Thomson (LEADER), Reid Hutchison (Aberdeenshire Council Community Asset Fund), Walter Taylor (Aberdeenshire Council CL&D Capital Grant Scheme) and Keith Newton (re Planning Gain and Area Top-up Fund). The group has fund-raised over £26k in cash and £55k in kind, drawn up plans and obtained quotations, planning permission and building warrant. It has been granted £18k from Planning Gain and £2k from the Formartine Area Top-up Fund to kick-start matched funding for a successful LEADER Application of £112,975 (46%). The group have been awarded £10k from Entrust are only awaiting a decision from Aberdeenshire Council's CL&D Capital Fund for £10k to complete their fundraising. They are hoping to start construction in March 2009.

Beaton Hall, Methlick

The Development Officer attended the AGM of the Beaton Hall Committee at which a hall development action group was appointed to further the upgrading of the Hall. Although there have been several community consultations, including a Planning for Real, and specimen layouts have been produced from a resident architect, the Committee could not decide between upgrading what is there, or upgrading and enlarging.



Beaton Hall, Methlick: The hall celebrated its centenary in 2008

The Development Officer has worked closely with the sub group, attending several meetings. He prepared a short report on suitable grants and an application strategy. Also, he has supported the sub-group in producing a Bulletin to keep the community informed, a Prospectus to support grant applications and in developing a Consultant's Brief for a Feasibility study. He has liaised with Vicky Thomson of LEADER, who subsequently visited the hall to talk about LEADER. With the help of the Marr Area Partnership, he has arranged a group visit to other community halls in the Marr Area, which have completed their development and upgrading. This was attended by fourteen people who all found the visit inspiring. Currently, he is supporting the sub-group in their application for a grant to carry out the Feasibility study. The group have also been involved in fundraising: organising regular bingo nights, horse racing and the centenary ball amongst others.

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Daviot Community Hall

The Development Officer has had two meetings so far with the Daviot Community Hall Committee to discuss funding opportunities and grant applications. This committee has progressed quite far with the project, having consulted with the community and obtained architectural plans, planning permission and £75k planning gain money to match-fund this £500k project. They now need help to find and apply for the funding to achieve this.

Woodhead and Windyhills Community Trust

Woodhead and Windyhills Community Trust own and manage this SSSI woodland and wildlife habitat. This project, part of a continuous upgrade of the property, will make it more accessible to the public and allow for a greater level of knowledge transfer to be exchanged from the site to the public about wildlife and the countryside. The Development Officer supported a successful application for £3k to Area Top-up Fund to kick start matched funding for an application to LEADER. This was successful and LEADER awarded the project £6,566 (50%) towards a total cost of £13,131. The group has its own funds to make up the rest and the project is intended to start in spring 2009.

Potterton Playgroup

The Development Officer supported Potterton Playgroup's application to Aberdeenshire Council's Young Peoples' Project Grant for £1000 to construct a storage hut for playgroup equipment and advised on the application form. Subsequently, the application has been successfully remitted to the Community Development Group (CL&D) and the Playgroup is currently negotiating a contract for the work to proceed.

Ythan Project Volunteers Bird Hide

Ythan Project Volunteers have completed the construction of a bird hide on the Ythan near Tanglandford Bridge, partly funded by the Horace Gillman Trust. There will be a formal opening ceremony once internal photographs and signage has been completed.

Milbrex Hall Committee

The Development Officer met with a small, adhoc group from the Milbrex Hall Committee to explore funding opportunities and procedures for a comprehensive upgrading of hall. Subsequently, the full Milbrex Hall Committee decided not to proceed, but to carry on with small, piecemeal, independent projects with which they were familiar.

Turriff Playgroup

The Development Officer has held a preliminary meeting with Turriff Playgroup who would like support to obtain a sole-use facility.

Provide business and administrative advice to community and social enterprises seeking to develop economic opportunities.

Tarts and Crafts Community Café, Balmedie

Tarts and Crafts is a successful, eco-friendly, community café and craft centre in Balmedie, which is often bursting at the seams. It intends to expand and also improve the layout of accommodation within the café, but is hampered by only having a short lease from Aberdeenshire Council until the development of the central area of Balmedie is clarified. This Central Area Development is subject to a major Community consultation. The Development Officer recommended that they obtain the architectural plans, planning permission and costings, ready to start as soon as the decisions on Balmedie are taken. He recommended that they apply to the Shell Community Planning Small Grants Fund initially and, failing that, to the Area Top-up Fund or Awards for All. They have applied to Shell for £3k and are awaiting a decision.

Udny Community Wind Turbine Group (Udny CC) Phase 1

This group was established as a result of a Planning for Real consultation, and phase 1 was already well advanced before the Development Officer was invited to meet them. Phase 1 involved obtaining funding of £31,750 for a Planning Consultant to guide this complicated project through to planning permission. They have successfully obtained this from LEADER (£15,562 (49%)), SCRI (£6,594) and Investing in Communities (£6,594). They have also carried out a further in-depth survey to demonstrate support within the community which hand delivered the questionnaire to every household in Udny parish and obtained very high return and support! The Development Officer is advising on sources of funding for a habitat survey (£2k), a lease agreement (£10k) and for a connection fee, and he advised them of the urgent need to revise their legal structure.

Birds of Prey Centre, Kelly Sawmill, Methlick

This innovative project was to develop a Birds of Prey visitor centre and wildlife educational centre which would be an important tourist attraction and widen tourism in Formartine. Originally, the development had fallen foul of planning because of concerns over drainage quality and potential pollution of the Ythan, and then a second application was rejected because it was on contaminated land. The newest application was bogged down by perceived flood risk, a difficulty which was totally bemusing as it hadn't been mentioned in the previous applications and this site was significantly higher up the valley side! It was claimed to be below the 200 year indicative flood line and thus needed a flood risk assessment strategy, The Development Officer met twice with Mike McClellan and liased with Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department, SEPA Aberdeen, and SEPA Dingwall to establish what is required to move this planning application forward. He further consulted with Aberdeen University and Aberdeenshire Council Flooding and Coast Protection to identify suitable consultants; He also suggested two alternative ways to proceed but is concerned that the development might go into abeyance.

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Investigate possible sources of future core funding and undertake revenue generating activities, to ensure the long term viability of Formartine Partnership Ltd

Smart metering Project

Aberdeenshire Council introduced Logica to the Formartine Partnership and other Rural Partnerships and suggested that they could facilitate a trial programme of 'smart' energy meters, with SCARF and the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute providing training and expertise in analysis. (Smart meters will be rolled out as standard, UK-wide, after 2010.) These meters record energy usage every half an hour and can be accessed remotely, allowing consumers to measure and modify their energy consumption in real time and thus reduce their own bills and carbon emissions.

The concept had already been trialled in an urban context and Logica believed that there would be value if this was also done in a rural area. However, to apply to the Scottish Climate Challenge Fund, projects have to be presented by a Community or Community-based organisation such as the ARPF.

If a project was accepted by the Scottish Climate Challenge Fund, Local Rural Partnerships could obtain funding to administer the project. Partnerships were asked to submit basic details of possible participant Communities in their respective areas, who would like to be involved in such a trial. From this combined list, a number of Communities (six to ten) from across Aberdeenshire would be identified. The Development Officer notified the Formartine Community Council Forum and identified five interested communities in Formartine. Formartine Partnership Directors were also advised and two subsequent meetings with Logica and other proposed participants took place. Collieston and Pitmedden were subsequently 'shortlisted'. Collieston and Slains Community Council was particularly keen to be involved, they contacted Logica directly and attended one of the main meetings.

The Climate Challenge Fund indicated that the smart meters would probably be regarded as a capital expense that might not be covered by the grant. (On figures quoted by Logica this cost, including installation, was £280,000.) However, it was also clear that the Climate Challenge team were concerned about problems of meter ownership (e.g. who was to maintain them). They also expressed doubts as to whether the aims of the trial directly addressed their needs sufficiently. Because of these serious reservations, it was decided not to proceed further but instead to consider a new, related, but different project, the Aberdeenshire Rural Communities Carbon Reduction Project.

Aberdeenshire Rural Communities Carbon Reduction Project

It is proposed that an application be made by the ARPF to the Climate Challenge Fund for phase 1 of larger project to facilitate carbon reduction in rural communities. Scarf and the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute would also be involved. An initial stage would involve the employment of a project manager to:-

- Coordinate the project and ensure the project is truly joined-up and inclusive in terms of community engagement;
- Carry out a large-scale baseline survey of communities in order for reduction targets to be discussed and agreed, and also to get a better understanding of what measures are most appropriate in different communities. Examples of carbon-reduction measures include: awareness-raising programmes; green-travel plans; low-carbon food initiatives; energy-audits; energy-feedback technologies; micro-generation feasibility studies, etc..
- Further planning of initiatives and funding applications (including a phase 2 application to the Climate Challenge Fund, but also including other sources of private finance, such as energy-providers) for phase 2 community-based carbon reduction initiatives, including smart meters, to measure the reduction.

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Formartine Partnership Tourism Map

For some time now, the Formartine Partnership has intended to produce a map of Formartine (A2 size) for the use of tourists and visitors. It will highlight tourist/visitor aspects, which are sometimes not included on other visitor maps of the area, such as where Osprey can be seen near Oldmeldrum, and small visitor attractions such as a candle factory in the small hamlet of Garmond. However, this has not been completed because of the rapid turnover of Development Officers.

The current Development Officer is progressing this project. He has discussed it with Lorna Harris, Keith Newton, and Aberdeenshire Council Graphics, collected scattered previous materials and files, and has almost completed checking, correcting and updating the information.

It is intended to complete the project and publish the map during Homecoming year.

Tourism Projects

Formartine Partnership continues to promote the 'Walking in Formartine' walks packs, describing 16 walks across Formartine. These packs are available widely across Formartine.

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Act as an intermediary between Aberdeenshire Council, Community Planning Partners the Local Community Group and the wider community ensuring a two-way flow of information relating to needs and priorities as one of the voluntary sector partners.

Community Planning Partnership.

The Development Officer actively attends the Formartine Local Community Planning Group and its sub-groups for Balmedie and Turriff and District, and co-ordinates regularly with Lorna Harris, the Community Planning Officer. He also receives minutes, agendas and other communications from the Community Planning Executive via the LRP representative on the CPP Executive.

The previous Development Officer, Morag Wright, worked with Neil Ironside, CL&D, on the newly published Community Profile for Newburgh and the current Development Officer is working with Neil, Nicola Twine and Brenda Thorley (all CL&D) on Community Profiles for Balmedie, Pitmedden and Belhelvie.

Planning for Real (PfR)

The Development Officer is currently working with Lorna Harris, Nicola Twine and Brenda Thorley on a Planning for Real consultation for Balmedie and with Udney Community Council on Pitmedden.

Balmedie Planning for Real Consultation

A Planning for Real exercise was carried out by Lorna Harris (Formartine Area Community Planning Officer) in Balmedie prior to the Development Officer taking up position. He has collated the results, analysed, and discussed them with Lorna, who has produced a refined version. The Balmedie PfR is being further advanced by a Community Action Survey and the Development Officer is working with Nicola Twine and Brenda Thorley (CL&D) to implement this Survey and analyse its results. Three local residents have been interviewed and selected to work for Aberdeenshire Council over 3-4 months to carry out an in-depth survey of residents' views and these will be incorporated into the existing Planning for Real results and prioritised.

Pitmedden Planning for Real consultation

Udney Community Council has recently carried out a Planning for Real consultation in Pitmedden. They have collated the results and produced a report but this needs to return to the community for prioritisation.

Previous Planning for Real consultations

The Development Officer has gradually been making contact with communities that have previously carried out a Planning for Real consultation to consider whether any follow-up is needed. So far contact has been made with Rothienorman, Woodhead and Windyhills, Methlick and Foveran. Several seem to need prioritising. Despite this, several have been used subsequently to support projects such as the Rothienorman Community Facility, Woodhead and Windyhills Community Trust improvement project, Beaton Hall, Methlick, redevelopment and the Udney Community Wind Turbine Group (Udney CC) at Pitmedden.

List of current Community Consultations

Planning for Real:

Balmedie, Pitmedden.

Community Profiles:

Newburgh, Balmedie, Pitmedden, Belhelvie, Ellon.

Core Paths Consultation

With the aim of supporting tourism in Formartine, the Partnership submitted the following proposals:

- Construction of cycle ways focussing on a hub at Haddo House Country Park, and linking it to the other key Formartine (and Aberdeenshire) tourist attractions of Fyvie Castle- Pitmedden Gardens- Sands of Forvie NNR;
- Development of the Ythan Way, a continuous long distance footpath along the Ythan Valley;
- Development of circular routes and more continuous local systems between villages; and
- Construction of more links to the Formartine and Buchan Way.

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Consultation on Forestry Provisions in the Scottish Climate Change Bill

The Formartine Partnership responded to the above Consultation.

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Many of the projects mentioned in this report were well-advanced prior to the Development Officer's appointment, and had, already, substantially developed the groups' community capacity. For instance Rothienorman had raised £75k in cash and kind, drawn up plans, and applied for planning permission, identified some relevant grant awarding bodies and started to apply to these for their Community Facility. The Development Officer suggested further suitable grants for which to apply and advised on grant applications. The Udney Community Wind Turbine Group (Udney CC) had already successfully applied for grants for phase 1 but hadn't developed a suitable constitutional and legal structure. They will need support for further imminent grant applications. Daviot Community Hall has plans drawn up, planning permission granted and £75k matched funding in place but has not started applying for the major funding needed. They have asked for support for this.

The Beaton Hall group is probably the first group to be supported from scratch. So far the Development Officer has supported and advised them in producing a draft Prospectus for funding applications, a news Bulletin to keep the community informed, a Brief for a consultant to produce a Feasibility study, and organised a visit to other hall groups who have already succeeded in developing their halls. The group found this visit very inspiring and the four hall groups in Marr, who were their hosts, were very impressed with Methlick's commitment and enthusiasm, shown by taking fourteen members on the visit!



Beaton Hall group visit Tullynessle and Forbes Hall

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LEVERAGE

As described above, many groups were already well advanced in progressing their projects before the Development Officer was in place. However, the total cost of successful applications with which the Formartine Partnership has been involved in 2008-9 is **£291,556**.

The projects are summarised below:

Rothienorman Bowling Club and Community Association Community Facility (total £245,675)

LEADER (£112,975 - 46%), Fundraising (£26k), in kind (£55k), Planning Gain (£18k), Top-up (£2k), Entrust (£10k); Awaiting decision: Aberdeenshire Council CL&D Capital Grant (£10k tbc),

Windyhills and Woodhead Community Trust (total cost £13,131)

LEADER (£6,566 - 50%), funds (£250), in kind (£2,315), Area Top-up Fund (Tourism) (£3,000)

Udny Community Wind Turbine Group (Udny CC) Phase 1 (total cost, £31,750)

LEADER £15,562 (49%), matched funding: SCRI (£6,594) and Investing in Communities (£6,594)

Potterton Playgroup (cost £1000)

Community Development Group (CL&D) (£1,000)

TOTAL £291,556

NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

Aberdeenshire Co-ordinators Forum

The Formartine Partnership continues to be actively involved in the Aberdeenshire Coordinators Forum and Aberdeenshire Rural Partnerships Federation and regularly attends their meetings. LRP funding assists in enabling continued involvement of the Development Officer in the AC Forum.

Also, the Chairman and Development Officer were actively involved in meetings with other LRPs, Scarf, Macaulay Institute, Aberdeenshire Council, Logica and the Scottish Climate Challenge Fund regarding the Smart-Metering project and the Development Officer looks set to take joint lead in its successor, Aberdeenshire Rural Communities Carbon Reduction Project.

In addition, the Chairman and Development Officer were actively involved in meetings regarding the Scottish Government's Third Sector Funding initiative between Scottish Government, Community Planning, CL&D, CVSs and Volunteer Centres.

Formartine Community Council Forum

The Development Officer regularly attends this monthly forum.

E-Bulletin / Newsletters

There has been no e-bulletin produced since Morag Wright left. Instead, the Partnership has taken the opportunity of the discontinuity and a new Development Officer, to take stock and review its purpose, content, length and frequency, with a view to making it more relevant and useful.

It is believed that its most important purpose is to exchange news about the activities of the Partnership and its members regarding projects, activities and events, in which they have participated. A second important function is to relay information to members regarding important sources of funding and changes to them. A further function is the notification of important meetings, conferences and events of relevance to members and announcement of important initiatives and surveys. It is suggested that it should not be too long- perhaps 2-3 sides of A4, and the frequency should be approximately six weekly. Once this is agreed by the Board then every effort will be made to quickly restart production and distribution.

EXPLAIN THE MAIN CHANGES AND CHALLENGES TO BOTH THE ORGANISATION AND THE COMMUNITIES

Changes in Third Sector Funding.

There are significant changes about to occur in the short to medium term, which are likely to create uncertainty, even competition, for funding. By April 2011, The Scottish Government in its localism initiative is intending to fund the Third sector directly in each local authority area by developing a Service Level Agreement between the Third Sector and the Community Planning Partnership. The suggested timetable for the changes is as follows:

End March 2009: set out, as far as possible, the basic model of the interface to be set up in each area. Clearly, in many areas little detail can be given as discussions will have some way to go but stakeholders would find it helpful to have some idea of how you hope to progress the work.

March 2010: put in place the new arrangements to operate, at the very least, in pilot form for the year 2010-11.

April 2011: new funding arrangements come into operation. In advance of the next Spending Review, we have no information whatsoever on the likely level of that funding.

This funding will require that the interfaces meet a minimum set of functions, likely to be:

- Support to voluntary organisations operating in the area, both local and those national organisations that deliver services at the local level;
- Support to and promotion of volunteering;
- Support and development of social enterprise;
- Connection between the CPP and the third sector.

Initial response of Aberdeenshire Third Sector

At a meeting with Scottish Government on February 13th, the Third Sector in Aberdeenshire decided to investigate the option of formalising a new partnership body to draw down funding and to help the sector plan more effectively. It was decided to commission a small, representative, short-life working group to undertake the short term tasks 1 and 2 below:

1. Stakeholder engagement on the potential for a new formalised partnership;
2. Modelling how the new interface could work.

The wider group will then examine the options and agree on how the new interface will work.

Development Officer's comment

Trying to establish the workings of the interface in Aberdeenshire is likely to be a challenge, even a threat, to each component member of the Third Sector. In other local authorities there is a single CVS, together with a newly independent Volunteer Centre, which jointly carry out the functions listed above and they are funded to their central organisation directly by the Scottish Government. However, Aberdeenshire is different. It has three CVSs (though two are currently merging together) and six to eight LRPs, which only occur in one other local authority. The LRPs are funded largely by Aberdeenshire Council. The Scottish Government has asked that the Aberdeenshire groups come up with plan by March 2009 for a system to administer the grant. It may well be that this will engender competition and rivalries not only in allocation of funds but also in the functions too.

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STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS:

Walking the Talk Community Consultation.

This noted that the Partnership had a very low public profile and that it should increase this in part by publishing an E-bulletin and upgrading its website.

It also considered that a purely facilitating role had limited value in terms of meeting the expectations of the wider community. It recommended that practical delivery of projects should continue to be part of the Formartine Partnership's function and suggested that the following types of projects could be appropriate:-

- Planning for Real™ – delivery of spin-off projects;
- Community paths;
- Tree planting / wood fuel project;
- Renewable energy;
- History (understanding and developing);
- Community composting.

The Partnership needs to decide how its resources are to be applied between these two aspects:- practical delivery of projects and Community Capacity Building and facilitating. However, its core income is for the latter and is governed by a Service Level Agreement.

Become more Self-sustaining

The Partnership must try to increase its sustainable income with a view towards it becoming more self-sustaining and less dependent on grants.

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INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND RESERVES

Formartine Partnership Income and Expenditure 2008-2009

INCOME	£	£
Aberdeenshire Council - RYTG Grant	1,000.00	
Aberdeenshire Council - Top Up Fund- additional RYTG Grant	1,500.00	
Aberdeenshire Council - Community Planning	1,000.00	
Aberdeenshire Council - Economic Development Grant	5,000.00	
Aberdeenshire Council - Formartine in Bloom	1,000.00	
GRANT INCOME		9,500.00
Aberdeenshire Council Core grant	23,000.00	
Final instalment from HLF for Oral History	3,270.00	
EXPECTED GRANT INCOME		26,270.00
Formartine in Bloom sponsorship		750.00
Sales of Walks Leaflets		60.00
Gross Interest		276.73
HMRC - Overpaid tax		176.92
TOTAL INCOME		37,033.65

CORE RUNNING COSTS		£
Development Officer (PART YEAR)		14,715.05
Payroll Administration		428.08
Accountants fees		1,357.00
Recruitment costs		841.54
Sundries		87.90
Consultation on future of Partnership		3,181.10
Planning For Real		554.71
Insurance		497.44
Formartine in Bloom		1,336.36
Bank charges		39.49
Sub Total		23,038.67
Grant Distribution		
Rural Youth Transport Grants		2,250.51
Towns and Villages Enhancement grant		4,911.94
Projects		
Oral History Project		9,593.70
TOTAL RUNNING COSTS		39,794.82

Surplus/Loss		-2,761.17

Balances; Current account, 18th Feb 2009		9,567.00
Balances; Deposit Account, 23rd Feb 2009		22,122.36
Total Balances		31,689.36