



Ltd

## ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL RURAL PARTNERSHIPS

### FUNDING REPORT FOR 2012-2013

Submission: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013



**Formartine in Bloom 2012: Auchterless: Winner- Small communities.**  
*Attractive display, great effort and innovative recycling.*

Rod Gunson,  
Development Officer,  
Formartine Partnership Ltd.,

The Formartine Partnership is a company limited by Guarantee no, SC 301273  
29 Bridge St., ELLON, Aberdeenshire, AB41 9AA.  
Tel: 01358-720584, 01358-726452;  
E-mail: [rodgunson@formartinepartnership.org.uk](mailto:rodgunson@formartinepartnership.org.uk)  
[www.formartinepartnership.org.uk](http://www.formartinepartnership.org.uk)

## GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT.

The Formartine Partnership was formed in 1997. Since 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006 the Formartine Partnership has been a Company limited by Guarantee, (SC 301273). It is not a registered charity. Currently there are twelve directors on its Board including a Chairman and a Company Secretary. The Board meets approximately every six weeks.

The Formartine Partnership employs one full-time employee, a Development Officer, who 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 and Fisherford; Belhelvie; Collieston and Slains; Ellon; Foveran; Fyvie, Rothienorman and Monquhitter; Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot; Methlick; Tarves; Turriff and District; Udney; and Ythan.

The following fifty one (mainly) voluntary groups:-

1<sup>st</sup> Monquhitter Brownies, Cuminstown; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ellon Rainbows; Aberdeenshire Care and Repair Project; Aberdeenshire Council; Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum; Auchterless School; Balmedie Beaver Scout Group; Balmedie Christmas Lights Group; Balmedie Eco Group; Barthol Chapel Primary School; Better Balmedie Group; Busy Bees Playgroup, Turriff; Collieston Amenities Committee; Cultercullen Eco group; Daviot Playgroup; Daviot Primary School; Ellon Biodiversity Action Group; Ellon Can-do Community recycling; Ellon Civic Pride; Ellon Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Group; Fintry School; Formartine Oral History Project Group; Foveran Partnership; Friends of Haddo Country Park; Friends of MacDonald Park; Fyvie and District Amenities Committee; Fyvie Playgroup; Fyvie Scout Group; Girl Guide Association- Ythan District; Gordon Park Development Group; Gordon Park Playgroup; Gordon Rural Action; Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group, Methlick Community Garden Project; Methlick Under-fives; Millbex Public Hall; National Farmers Union of Scotland; Pages; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; Scottish Agricultural College; Scottish National Heritage; Scottish Rural Property and Business Association; Tarts and Crafts Limited; Tipperty Primary School- Parent Council; Turriff and District Ltd; Turriff and District Heritage Society; Turriff Baden Powell Centre; Turriff Brownies; Turriff Town Pride; Woodhead and Windyhills Community Trust; Ythan District Fishery Board; Ythan Project Volunteers Group; and Ythanbank Community Association.

And

Any resident of Formartine may also become a member.

The most recent AGM was held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012 and the audited accounts for 2011-2012 were approved. Three long-standing Board members stood down:- Mark Andrew (Vice-chairman), Councillor Allan Hendry and Matt Kaye while Dr John Loder was elected onto the Board. At the first Board meeting after the AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013, John Loveday was elected chairman, and Alisdair McRae, Yvonne Milne and Alan Smith were co-opted onto the Board.

## ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** the Partnership will need to help groups in their area with information, implementation, and community engagement, to build inclusive and sustainable projects.

### Formartine Beginning to Blossom/ Formartine in Bloom 2012

#### *Formartine Beginning to Blossom 2012*

Eight schools entered this year, an increase of one from last year, though at a late stage twelve were intending to enter. Ellon Primary School withdrew at the last minute and Auchterless and Slains were new entries- Slains racing right to the top of the field in its first year!

Again, the overall improvement in standards was amazing throughout all the entrants- this year the field was catching up with the previous leaders rather than the leaders moving the goalposts. Because the results were bunching this year, FP took the decision to change the classification and use Gold, Silver Gilt, Gilt and Bronze Awards.



Auchterless School: Ingenious hanging basket.



Slains School: Classroom in wildlife garden.

Amongst the highlights this year were:- new first Green Flags at Arnage, Daviot and Slains, second Green Flags at Fintry and third Green Flags at Tipperty and Udney Green; new/enlarged wild-life gardens constructed at every school; a poly-tunnel at Arnage; and new outdoor classrooms at Arnage, Auchterless and Daviot. Balmedie was noteworthy in directly addressing issues mentioned in last year's competition Report and opening a new, fenced-off, eco garden for wildlife, vegetables and fruit, built with the help of the local businesses, parents and Better Balmedie. Unfortunately, it was badly vandalised over the summer but repaired before judging.



Balmedie School: New Eco garden.



Tipperty School: Forest of Green Flags.

Yet again it is clear that the competition is practical as well as theoretical, linking the educational curriculum- ecology, sustainability, horticulture, maths, biology, with wider practical issues, such as cooking, food quality, healthy eating and community involvement. Daviot shows that schools with only tarmac or concrete playgrounds need not be at a disadvantage and have no excuse not to participate!

### *Formartine Beginning to Blossom 2012: Awards*

**GOLD AWARD & Winner** ~ Slains School;  
**GOLD AWARD & Runner Up** ~ Tipperty School;  
**GOLD AWARD** ~ Udney Green School;  
**SILVER GILT AWARD** ~ Fintry School, Arnage School, Daviot School, Balmedie School;  
**SILVER AWARD** ~ Auchterless School.

### *Formartine in Bloom 2012*

Fifteen communities entered this year, the same as last year. Better Balmedie returned but Rothern Norman withdrew at the last minute. Thus we are still awaiting entries from the sizeable communities who have never participated- Newburgh, Potterton and Belhelvie. Judging was in August and again followed a very poor, wet and cold summer which battered the displays. Nevertheless, they were still extremely impressive and up to previous high standards. However, it is the other criteria which tend to differentiate the entries not just the displays. Some entrants still do not systematically record criteria such as recycling, sustainability and community involvement. One aspect which would be mutually beneficial is for communities to work with the local school as both Udney Green and Better Balmedie demonstrate admirably. Indeed Better Balmedie see these aspects such as work with care homes, pensioners gardens, rearing plants for residents, litter picks, a project for tidying the Magic Wood and working with Balmedie School, as the basis of their activities.



Better Balmedie: Poly-tunnel and allotment.



Tarves; War memorial.

### *Formartine in Bloom 2012: Awards*

**Small Community**  
**Winner** ~ Auchterless;  
**Runner Up** ~ Udney Station;  
**Highly Commended** ~ Woodhead of Fyvie, Collieston, Ythanbank, Udney Green.

**Medium Community**  
**Winner** ~ Pitmedden;  
**Runner Up** ~ Methlick;  
**Highly Commended** ~ Tarves, Fyvie, Cuminestown.

**Large Community**  
**Winner** ~ Oldmeldrum;  
**Runner Up** ~ Ellon;  
**Highly Commended** ~ Balmedie, Turriff.

## Formartine Partnership Ltd Annual Report 2012-2013

The Awards Ceremony for both competitions was held on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept in the very comfortable staff room at Meldrum Academy and was again attended by over 100 people including representatives from most of the participants.

FP would like to thank the judges Carole Baxter from the Beechgrove Garden, Julia Paterson from Happy Plant at Mintlaw, Bill Elliott from Aberdeenshire Council and Bob Davis from Formartine Partnership. We would also like to thank the sponsors:- Oceangrove Geoscience Ltd., JRD Equipment, Taylor Design Services, Udney Station Hotel, Kairdson Business Centre, Rambos Tyre Services and Sinclair Contractors- who provide all the prizes and thus produce the competitive element to the competitions, and Aberdeenshire Council who cover the cost of administration.



Turriff: Turra Coo.



Ellon: Tranquil new flower bed.

### **Formartine Partnership AGM.**

This took place on November 21<sup>st</sup> 2012 in Udney Station Community Centre and was attended by over 30 members. Thanks to Neville Jones (Chair, Udney Station CC), who gave a presentation on “*Choosing Renewable Heating for Udney Station Community Centre*”, and Athol Duckett (AD Heating Ltd, Fyvie) whose presentation was entitled “*Renewable Heating for Community buildings*”.

### **Grants Administration: Town and Village Enhancement Grant Scheme and Rural Youth Transport Scheme.**

The Partnership continued to administer the above grant schemes on behalf of the Formartine Area Committee. This fosters Community engagement and helps the Partnership to develop positive relationships with the applicants. FP can also find additional match funding or alternative grants if the project doesn't fit with the criteria.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: 1. PLANNING FOR REAL<sup>®</sup> & COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS.**

### **1. Planning for Real<sup>®</sup> (PfR<sup>®</sup>).**

This widely used method of community consultation uses a public exhibition format where a model of the local community is displayed on which comment cards are placed. These suggestions are collated, analysed and the results taken back to a public meeting for endorsement and prioritisation into Actions. The community then take ownership, producing and championing the resultant **Community Action Plan**.

However, Community Action Plans were becoming rather delayed because of the workload of Community Councils. Accordingly, Formartine Partnership and the Formartine Community Planning Officer have decided to jointly produce draft Action Plans on the Community Councils' behalf, before the information becomes out-dated. The drafts are then sent to the CCs for approval. The following have initially been chosen, as their information is at an appropriate stage. They will be published as part of the Community Action Plan series (previously *Making it Real* series) which are produced by the Aberdeenshire Rural Partnerships and funded by Shell and CPP.

#### **1.1. Udney Parish Community Action Plan 2012.**

Udney CC held PfR<sup>®</sup>s, in 2008 and 2011. The first suggested a series of projects for the area but, significantly, it endorsed a proposal to develop a community-owned wind turbine to generate income to pay for some of these proposals. The second PfR<sup>®</sup> was held to endorse

the original proposals and inform a Community Trust which was formed to disburse the turbine income. The results have been analysed and the priorities confirmed. The turbine was commissioned in July 2011, the first wholly community-owned turbine in mainland UK. A third engagement event was held in May 2012 to confirm Community aspirations and mark the launch of the Udney Community Trust. The Udney Parish Community Action Plan, based on the second and third engagement findings, was completed and published in December 2012.

**1.2. Belhelvie CC PfR<sup>®</sup> Potterton, Belhelvie and Whitecairns, Black Dog.**

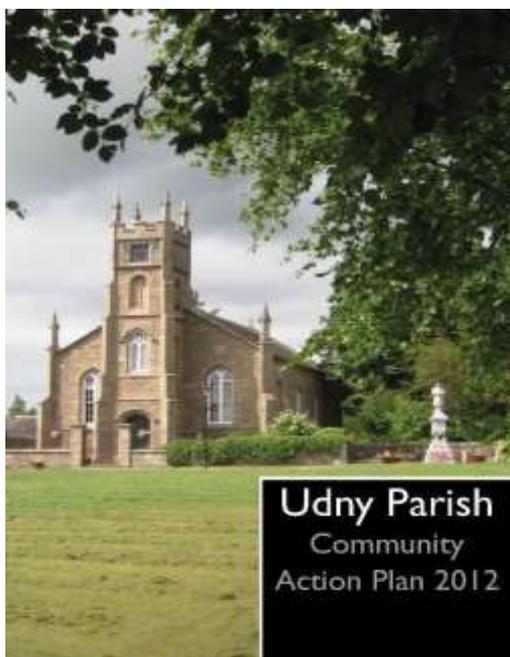
Belhelvie CC held a PfR<sup>®</sup> for the above communities in March 2010. Belhelvie CC collated and analysed the initial results and organised three separate prioritising meetings, held in March and April 2011. However the CC Secretary resigned through pressure of work and DO is currently producing a draft Action Plan for submission to Belhelvie CC.

**1.3. Cuminestown PfR<sup>®</sup>.**

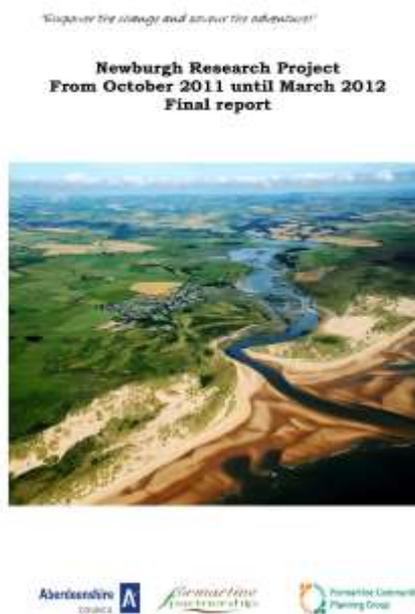
Monquhitter Amenities Association held the initial public meeting in March 2012 and the prioritising meeting in April 2012. This will be the next CAP to be published,

**1.4. Fyvie PfR<sup>®</sup>.**

Fyvie and District Amenities Committee is considering organising a PfR<sup>®</sup> consultation and has made initial approaches to FP.



Udney Community Action Plan.



Newburgh Research Project.

**2. Community Action Surveys (CAS).**

This follows the procedure pioneered locally by CLD in Balmedie and recorded in the document: *Balmedie Views*. The major difference is that locally-based researchers are employed to distribute and analyse questionnaires and to write up the Report and the Action Plan. Thus they go to the members of the community rather than the latter come to an exhibition. The suggestions are still put before the community for endorsement and prioritisation.

**2.1. Newburgh CAS.**

Newburgh CAS is now complete and the Report published:- *Newburgh Research Project*.

**2.2. Rothienorman CAS.**

Survey and questionnaire work is complete. The Community Profile and a Village Directory (of groups, activities and services) are both published. Analysis and prioritising is complete. DO is writing the Report and Action Plan.

**3. Community Profiles.**

DO works closely with CLD, Community Profiles have been completed recently for Rothienorman.

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES:** Provide a local advice service to groups seeking to develop Community assets and facilities.

**Collieston Community Centre.**

This group is planning to double the size and upgrade the Collieston Community Centre by incorporating the attached school house. The project has been awarded £40,932 from the T&V Fund towards the total estimated cost of £100,000 and £56,000 from SITA.

**Cultercullen School to Udney Station footpath.**

Foveran CC and Cultercullen School Parent Council want to provide a safer route to the school from Udney Station. They are investigating a route for a footpath in the field edge immediately south of the road at an estimated cost of £40,000.

**Cuminestown Play Park Make-over.**

This group has completed a £26,000 upgrade to the play park at the James Tennant Playing Field with the installation of new play equipment. It was awarded £8,948 from Awards for All and £15,000 from the winding up of a local football team.

**Daviot Community Hall.**

This is a £447,700 project for a new-build, timber-framed hall to replace the existing Community hall. LEADER has awarded a grant of £97,700, A Brick and Keystone campaign has raised £22,365 and it was believed the T&V grant of £59,323 had completed fundraising but it turned out that £86,000 was not confirmed, but dependent on planning permission for a new Wind Turbine, and this was refused on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012. Although the planning decision has been appealed the project is in danger of reaching the time limit for much of its other funding.

**Ellon: Friends of MacDonald Woods.**

This group will convert a derelict area of MacDonald Woods into a community garden. The group has obtained a formal lease from the Woods' Trustees and have been awarded £7,630 from Awards for All. New paths and stone dykes will be constructed; trees, shrubs and heathers planted; and four benches installed to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. The site is close to sheltered housing, care homes and children's playgroups and nurseries.



Ellon: Friends of MacDonald Woods.



Greeness Community Hall Portacabin.

**Foveran Hall.**

This hall is used by Foveran School for gym lessons. The project is to replace the roof. The project has received a grant from T&V Fund for £15,000 towards the quoted cost of £25,000. An application will be made to Hill of Fiddes Community Fund towards the rest.

**Greeness Community Hall Association.**

FP and CLD have been working with this group to develop a new community building to replace the very dilapidated portacabin which they use currently. The new building will be based on a modified new-build house, probably a kit house. Previous community facilities were destroyed when the school burnt down some years ago and the portacabin was previously that school's kitchen. It is hoped that a resulting insurance pay-out, held by Aberdeenshire Council for the Greeness Community and totalling £62,000, will form the core funding for this. The group have developed a strengthened Business Plan

to release this insurance money and have commissioned architect's plans with a view to obtaining planning permission and building warrant to be ready to apply for match funding. The quoted cost of £120,000 make this project an innovative approach which has a much wider potential by providing community facilities in small, scattered, isolated communities throughout Scotland and beyond.

**Meldrum CC Turbine Committee.**

DO has made initial contact with this group and agreed to meet to discuss approaches to establishing a community turbine group and to support them.

**Meldrum Park Users Group.**

DO has been consulting with this new group to draw up its constitution and help with funding applications. The group is formed of the Park user groups who intend to develop a co-ordinated and coherent development plan for the park. It includes Meldrum Play who upgraded the children's play park so successfully in 2011. It is hoped to use Planning Gain money towards the funding. All member groups are at the stage of drawing up plans and confirming costs for their own projects and it is not clear yet whether they will be successful in obtaining Planning Gain money, nor whether other match funding will be necessary.

**Meldrum Park Users Group: Park Drainage.**

The User Group successfully argued that the full benefits of the upgrades would be impossible to achieve without the park's drainage being upgraded and Landscape Services has already started this with completion due by the end of March 2013.

**Meldrum Park Users Group: Upgrade to the Changing Pavilion.**

This is a relatively modern building and the intention is to totally re-design its internal layout to provide public toilets for all park users, not just sports teams, and to use the internal space more effectively. The upgrade is being driven by the tennis club although it used more fully by Formartine United Football club for coaching local youngsters. A draft plan has been agreed with an estimated cost of £80,000 and is in process of being detailed and accurately priced.

**Meldrum Park Users Group: Pavilion.**

This is an old wooden building used as the headquarters pavilion on Meldrum Sports Weekend. A new single story building on the same footprint is being planned as a replacement and it will form an additional, comfortable meeting room for other Meldrum groups through the year. There will be a kitchen and covered outdoor tables and it could be used for a tea room and ice cream parlour for the park. Plans have already been drawn up and costs estimated at £69,000.

**Meldrum Park Users Group: Tennis Courts upgrade.**

Quotations are being invited to resurface the two courts with an all-weather surface, replace the fencing and add floodlights which may face two ways to include the football field as well. One of the courts will be for multi-use, particularly five-a-side football and basketball/netball, the other just for tennis. The initial estimated cost is £60,000.

**Meldrum Paths Group.**

This is a new group working to improve footpaths around Meldrum. It has received £12,000 funding for a feasibility study for its flagship project, The Meldrum Meg Way, a £2 million cycleway from Meldrum to Inverurie.

**Methlick Community Trust.**

DO has been working with Methlick CC to develop a constitution for a Community Trust to disburse income from a planned local turbine. Several meetings have been held and the group were investigating establishing a SCIO. However, discussions have not been completed and the CC may have decided to use Scottish Community Foundation, along with Tarves CC and Ythan CC.

**Methlick Community Garden.**

DO has held a meeting with MCG Chairman. Since losing support from Ellon Resource Group MCG Group needs more members, a larger committee and more funding to continue.

**Methlick Playing Field.**

*Phase 1: Reconstruction and drainage of football pitch.*

This project, costing £56,500, is complete. Unfortunately the top soil deteriorated over the construction period and the contractor has still to carry out remedial work in the spring.

*Phase 2: "Revival of Methlick Play Park".*

This is a £60,000 project to install modern pieces of play park equipment at the existing play park area. It has strong community support and is designed to reflect the community in the geography of its layout while the particular pieces of equipment reflect local services. It is intended to support social cohesion in a growing community. Fundraising is complete thanks to grants of £30,500 from T&V fund and £22,200 from LEADER and construction will start in the new financial year.

*Phase 3: All weather court.*

Future project



**Methlick: Old play equipment and football field.**



**Udny Green: Dr Spence Memorial Hall.**

**Newburgh: Gallows Hill Community Pavilion.**

This project, run by Foveran CC and the Foveran Partnership, is to build a new changing facility located between the modern full-size football pitch and the existing multi-purpose courts to serve both facilities. As well as changing rooms and toilets, there will be a galley kitchen and community room for educational and recreational use. Its total cost is £203,547 and fundraising is complete. Improvements to the courts' surface and floodlights will be funded separately.

**Tarves Community Garden.**

This broad group of Tarves residents, spearheaded by the Playgroup, are hoping to transform an overgrown area in Tarves next to the church hall, into a Community garden which will have different areas for the infants to learn about the environment and pensioners to enjoy. The church has already given the land and there are lots of offers of in-kind help and support and the group were ready to apply to Awards for All last year. However, a completely new Playgroup Committee has retrenched and amended the detail layout and it is unclear if this will progress at this time.

**Turriff: Baden Powell Hall.**

This project will provide a new community facility for use by local organisations and businesses at a total cost of £417,000, including £160,000 from LEADER and £72,000 from T&V, There will be a large stand-alone hall and 2 meeting rooms equipped with audio-visual and internet facility, located immediately behind the existing building. Funding is complete and it is hope to go to tender once building warrant is complete, with construction starting in May 2013 and completion in Autumn 2013.

**Udny Green: Dr Spence Memorial Hall.**

The Hall committee have completed two phases of a gradual upgrade to the Hall:- disabled access and toilet improvements. It is now embarking on Phase 3:- new, replacement, double-glazed windows at an estimated cost of £25,000. It intends to apply to Awards for All and the Udny Community Trust for funding.

**COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** provide basic, initial business and administrative advice to community and social enterprises seeking to develop economic opportunities.

**Balmedie Leisure Centre.**

BLC Committee are extending and upgrading the Leisure Centre. The project is divided into two phases:-

*Phase 1- New entrance and café.*

Funding of £265,600 is complete thanks to a LEADER grant of £119,600 and £30,000 T&V Grant. It is hoped to start on the new entrance in April 2013 with the café following in the summer of 2013.

*Phase 2- Multi-gym.*

Group is in discussion with sportscotland for this new facility with an estimated cost of £100,000.

An improved Playgroup facility will be funded separately.



Balmedie Leisure Centre.



Formartine Cycling Strategy: Ellon route along the Ythan.

**Community Benefit.**

Aberdeenshire LRPs have been investigating means of standardising and bringing transparency to Community Benefit from turbines.

**Formartine Cycling Strategy.**

Cycling was the focus of the Autumn 2012 Formartine LCPG Ward Forums and a Cycling Strategy Group has been formed to develop some of the resultant suggestions. FP is a member and it is led by the CPO.

One of the main suggestions is to upgrade the existing footpath along the Ythan from Ellon town centre, eastwards to The Meadows Sports Centre to become the preferred route to the new Ellon Academy via the proposed new footbridge. This would be conducive to cycling and form a safer route to the Academy, avoiding heavy traffic and the busy town centre. Costs and funding are being sought. It would be helpful if the completion of this project were to coincide with the school's opening in August 2015 to ensure its availability from the outset.

In Turriff and Oldmeldrum a number of cycle parking facilities are being considered, again following suggestions from the Forums.

**Formartine Tourist Map.**

This continues to be distributed around the tourist venues in Formartine.

**SSE Household Renewables Project.**

FP participated with Udny CC and Collieston and Slains CC in a last-minute SSE Project to encourage household take up of renewable heating. There will be a small payment for DO's time and expenses.

### **Walking in Formartine.**

This series of pamphlets has continued to be sold from Formartine libraries but stocks are now exhausted. Consideration is being given to updating and/or reprinting the series.

### **Ythan Way- long distance footpath.**

FP has applied to Energetica to develop a project to identify a potential route for a long distance footpath along the Ythan Valley from Forvie to Fyvie. This footpath would connect all the major tourist attractions in the area and link the existing long distance footpaths and cycle ways. The survey will also identify suitable access points with car parking, bus interchange and picnic areas; establish land ownership; estimate construction costs; and suggest phasing. It was understood it would be included in the 2012-13 budget but has provisionally been included in 2013-14 budget instead.

## **FUTURE CORE FUNDING AND REVENUE GENERATING: Investigate possible sources of future core funding and undertake revenue generating activities, to ensure the long term viability of Formartine Partnership Ltd.**

All FP's core funding comes from Aberdeenshire Council. Thus all our eggs are in one basket and, for several years, FP has been investigating alternative sources to become less dependent and more sustainable.

### **1. Wind Turbine Project near Arnage**

As was reported in last year's Annual Report, FP was presented with an exciting opportunity by David Smith, a local farmer, to share in a wind farm development on two sites near Arnage. This would help FP achieve long-term financial security, and, also, to offer additional financial support through a Trust Fund to Communities and Community Organisations throughout Formartine.

Over the last year we have set up a Joint Venture, *Formartine Renewable Energy Partnership LLP*, and applied for Planning Permission for the first site at **Cairnadailly**. But it has not been a smooth progress despite the application having received only one objection from the public, agreement of Landscape planners and Environmental health and no objection from MoD. NATS (National Air Traffic Systems), a Statutory Consultee, lodged an objection which stopped any progress. However, NATS were upgrading the Perwinnes radar near Aberdeen Airport giving it a capability to 'blank' turbines and discussions have been going on all year as to how this could be applied. In January 2012 FP understood that the new system would not be able to deal with the three turbines at the Cairnadailly site but would be able to deal with two- one 'blanked' turbine and one un-blanked. An amended plan to this effect was submitted and advertised but NATS immediately lodged an objection. Discussions between NATS and Aberdeenshire Council, about how the new system would be applied, continued until November 2012 when it was announced that single blanked turbines had to have a minimum separation distance of 20km. Again an amended plan was submitted and considered by Formartine Area Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Unfortunately, there were two other applications within that 20 km distance. All three were considered at the same meeting and all three were refused permission. Cairnadailly, and one other, have since appealed the decision and we await the Reporter's determination.

The second Arnage site, **Turner Hall**, received a CARES loan of £124,000 to cover pre- Planning expenses. It has been delayed by the Cairnadailly planning delays but a planning application will be submitted in March 2013.

### **2. Wind Turbine Project near Auchterless.**

In June 2012, FP was offered a further opportunity, by MacWind Ltd, to share in a wind turbine project at **Floors Farm**. This was submitted for planning permission in November 2012.

### **Trust Fund.**

The **Trust Fund** will serve both projects. It will probably be a Company Limited by Guarantee and a registered charity to benefit from tax allowances and so increase funds for disbursement. We believe that this will be a very effective use of Community Benefit because:-

- Every Community in Formartine will be eligible to benefit;
- It is not dependent on the presence (or absence) of turbines in the locality;
- It is not dependent on Developers' whims;
- It will be professional, neutral and transparent, and have clear policies and criteria;
- Income will be approx. £75,000/MW annually, rising over the 20+ years of the turbine's life.

## Formartine Partnership Ltd Annual Report 2012-2013

The Trust Fund will also allow FP to be more effective in the support we give to organisations for we will be able to:-

- Provide grant funding for projects which we are already facilitating- thus establish a 'one-stop-shop' and a 'bigger bang' for our facilitation;
- Provide 'seed-corn funding' and 'pump-prime' access to match funding- the initial grant is often the most difficult to raise.

**INFORMATION FLOW:** 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.

### **Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Joint Marketing Prospectus.**

FP is involved in producing a pamphlet to promote Aberdeenshire Rural Partnerships to partners in the Council services and Community Planning Partnership.

### **Formartine Community Council Forum; Formartine Community Planning Group.**

FP regularly attends the Formartine Community Council Forum and is a partner on the Formartine Community Planning Group. It is a member of the steering group for the various Community Action Surveys. FP also belongs to the Autism sub-group Of Formartine LCPG. The DO provides regular Reports which update FP's activities for these bodies.

## **LEVERAGE.**

2012 has been a bumper year because several long running projects were able to come to fruition thanks to the last round of LEADER and the new Town and Village fund from Aberdeenshire Council,

### **Leverage 2012-2013.**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Total cost</b>	<b>LEADER</b>	<b>T&amp;V Fund</b>
Collieston Community Centre	£100,000		£40,932
Cuminestown: James Tennant Playing Field- Play Park Revival.	£26,000		
Daviot Community Hall.	£447,700	£97,700	£59,323
Ellon: Friends of MacDonald Woods.	£7,630		
Foveran Hall	£25,000		£15,000
Meldrum Paths Group	£12,000		
Methlick Playing Field- Football Pitch reconstruction	£56,500		
Methlick Playing Field- Play Park Revival	£60,000	£22,200	£30,500
Newburgh: Gallows Hill Community Pavilion	£203,547	£80,000	
Turriff: Baden Powell Hall.	£417,000	£160,000	£72,000
Balmedie Leisure Centre: new entrance and café	£265,600	£119,600	£30,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,620,977</b>	<b>£479,500</b>	<b>£247,755</b>

## **NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION.**

FP is an active member of Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation (ARPF).

FP also works closely with Community Learning and Development on Community Profiles and Community Engagement exercises and on the latter with Formartine Community Planning Officer too. FP also works closely with Landscape services on Play Park makeovers and community gardens.

## Formartine Partnership Ltd Annual Report 2012-2013

FP belongs to The Development Trusts Association Scotland and the DO attended its Annual meeting in Cumbernauld in September 2012. FP is a member of Community Energy Scotland and attended its Annual meeting in Perth in October.

FP also is a regular attender of the Aberdeenshire Community Wind and Hydro Group.

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

#### **Increase in Aberdeenshire Council Funding.**

Aberdeenshire Council has just approved an increase of £60,000 pa in the LRP budget, thus reversing the cutback imposed in 2011-12. It is proposed- but not yet confirmed- that this increase will be distributed evenly between the six administrative areas. If this is approved, the LRPs will be much more secure and it will restore their ability to fully meet demand for their work which was becoming problematical. For FP this will mean an increase of £10,000 to approximately £36,000 pa. Thank you Aberdeenshire Council!

#### **Rural Aberdeenshire LEADER.**

Rural Aberdeenshire LEADER has now closed and is no longer accepting further applications for funding as the programme is completed. It has been very successful, supporting 142 projects in Aberdeenshire and contributing £4.725 million towards total project costs of approximately £20 million. In Formartine it has supported 21 projects with grants totalling £1.128 million towards total project costs of £6.138 million. It is intended that a new programme will start from 2014 but until it starts there will be substantial problems in obtaining funding for large projects because there are few alternative sources.

#### **Scottish Government support for Third Sector- Single Interface.**

The Aberdeenshire Rural Partnerships, despite their very significant contribution, are not recognised by the Scottish Government as being part of the infrastructure support for the Third sector in Aberdeenshire.

The ARPs have two areas of concern arising from this situation:-

1. The invisibility of the ARPs to the Scottish Government- the lack of awareness let alone recognition by Scottish Government that there is a very effective Third sector support mechanism in Aberdeenshire independent of the CVSs;
2. The exclusion of ARPs from current and future Scottish Government funding and, indeed, from communications, information and notices of relevant funding opportunities;

### INCOME and EXPENDITURE 2011-12.

The audited accounts for 2011-12 are presented as an **Appendix**.



A member of Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group?