



Our Aberdeenshire

Formartine
Edition

May
2009

— Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership newsletter —

Welcome to the new Community Planning newsletter

This newsletter will keep you in the loop about anything related to Community Planning in Aberdeenshire. We are planning to publish four editions throughout the year with both Local and Shire wide info and articles. We'd really like to know what you think of it from the layout to the content. Please forward any comments, good, bad or ugly, to the central Community Planning team - contact details are at the bottom of this page and we'll take it from there...

What is Community Planning?

Community Planning is all about ensuring that public organisations work together and with people in local communities. The Community Planning partnership listens to, communicates with and involves communities in decisions on how services can better meet local needs.

The aim of Community Planning Partnership is to work together for the best quality of life with happy, healthy and fulfilled people, living in a healthy, safe and sustainable environment with a vibrant local economy. Working together for everyone in Aberdeenshire by listening, involving and responding to the people in our communities and by working in partnership with our communities and local organisations to deliver more efficient and improved services, which meet local



needs. It is something that happened in Aberdeenshire long before it was officially called 'Community Planning', but has been made a statutory duty through the Local Government Act (2003).

The partners...

In Aberdeenshire, there are ten main community planning partners; Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeenshire Councils for Voluntary Service Network, Community Councils, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, Grampian Police, Local Rural Partnerships, Nestrans, NHS Grampian, Scottish Enterprise and Skill Development Scotland.

Are you already involved in community planning?

You may already be "doing" community planning without even knowing it if you, possibly as part of a community group or community organisation, put forward the views and wishes of your community into local projects. This could mean any project that affects your community and is being undertaken in partnership.

We are keen for the community planning partnership to be aware of these types of projects. The easiest way of making sure of that is to contact either your Local Community Planning Group, or one of our community and voluntary partners mentioned above, i.e. Community Councils, Councils for Voluntary Service, and Local Rural Partnerships. Support or advice may be able to be provided.

contact us

Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB tel: 01224 664308
email: communityplanning@ouraberdeenshire.org.uk
visit our website at www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk





Balmedie Community Action Survey

An exciting new project began in April in Balmedie. Three members of the community, Fiona Clark, Becka Gauld and Barbara Davies have been employed until July to carry out a Community Action Survey in the rapidly expanding village. The aim of the project is to empower local people to have a voice and input into the future of Balmedie. Funding for this initiative has come from Aberdeenshire Council and the project is supported by Community Learning and Development.

One of the main aims of the project is to identify individuals interested in initiating and developing activity and interest groups in the village and helping such groups to become established.

Another key aim is to identify gaps in Balmedie's facilities and services which can be addressed by investment.

Support will be available to access available funding to make these possible but projects will rely on enthusiastic members of the community coming forward to take responsibility for getting projects underway.



There will be many different ways for local people to become involved and have their say. The team are available at weekly drop-in sessions in either the library or the Leisure Centre and they will be distributing questionnaires, organising events and consulting focus groups.

The team have produced a

bulletin about the project which also included information on community groups and events. This has been delivered door to door in Balmedie village and it has been well received. Already, they have identified a group of people interested in producing a regular newsletter.

Graffiti boards for comments have been placed at the School, Community Room, Library, Leisure Centre and Nursery and these have been well used, and the Library staff have been excellent in enabling the children and library users to add their ideas.

Currently, the team have developed a questionnaire and are about to distribute them by hand to the residents. They intend do this by as much face to face interaction as is possible. For further details contact the team on:-

mobile no: 07789654273

Email:

balmedie@hotmail.co.uk

Field Of Dreams Autism Report to be launched

A report on the needs of young people on the Autistic spectrum has been produced by the Formartine Community Planning Autism group.

The report, entitled "Field of Dreams" was produced by community capacity building organisation Outside the Box with support from the Ellon PAGES group that supports parents of children who are on the autistic spectrum.

The report identifies the needs of young peo-

ple with Autism in the area and the desire for specific autism friendly services and access to mainstream leisure and recreational opportunities as well as employment and education.

The report will be launched at the end of June where interested individuals will be invited to form a steering group to take the work forward. The report will be available to download from the Community Planning website: www.ouraberdeenshire.gov.uk

contact us

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