

Locally...



Balmedie Views

During early 2008 a Community Planning Sub Group was set up in Balmedie following issues of anti social behaviour and a lack of community spirit in the village furthermore the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route is due to merge with the A90 near Balmedie, therefore this area will become a hotspot of economic activity in years to come. In April 2009, 3 Community Action Researchers were employed from Balmedie by Aberdeenshire Council, Community Learning and Development, who planned, organised and evaluated the project. It was felt that the community should be given the opportunity to contribute

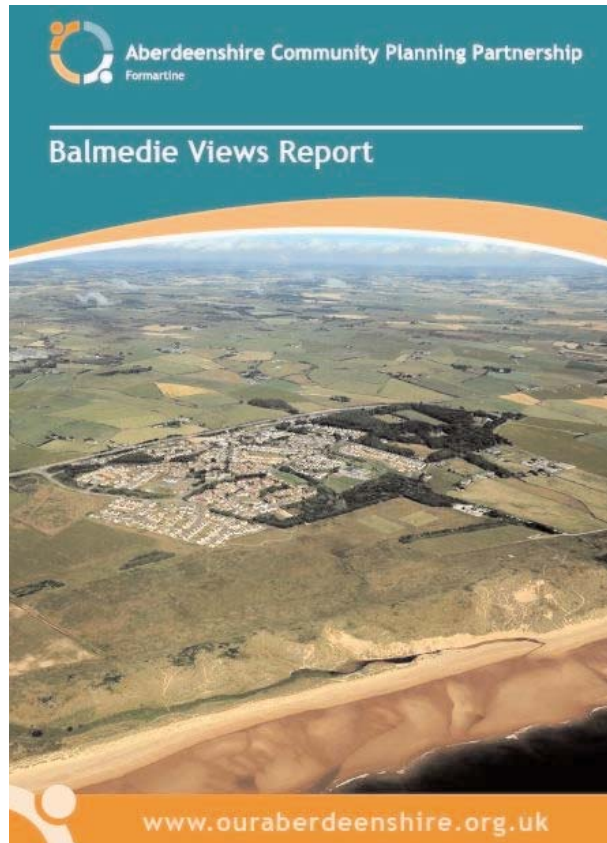
their ideas, issues and concerns and to have a say on how Planning Gain allocations are spent. The project aimed to assess local need, identify key gaps in provisions and facilities and to establish a community action plan. This was achieved by holding twice weekly community surgeries in popular community locations in the village, this allowed public interaction with the researchers and even lead to interest in starting new community groups. A community newsletter was delivered door to door to promote the project and to increase awareness, this included existing groups that meet. Graffiti boards were populated by the community at busy local venues to gather more feedback.

Questionnaires were sent to all 1158 households, including 118 young people. From all this information that was gathered this gave direction for the planned World Café events to tease out aspirations. There were two events held, one solely for young people and the other for the general population, from this new groups were formed, a Christmas Lights group, Newsletter Group and Better Balmedie who maintain the village by planting flowers etc. This large community project followed on from the Planning for Real exercise held previously in the community. All this information gathered was pulled together to form the Balmedie Views Report and feedback

given to the Community Planning Sub Group. From here the report forms the basis of Community Action Plan and a steering group has been formed to explore the feasibility of employing a Balmedie Development Worker to implement the community aspirations. In tandem to this project Youth Workers from Ellon Community Learning and Development were working with the young people to gather their thoughts and to increase youth participation in their community.

An electronic copy of the Balmedie Views can be viewed at

www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/library





Locally...

Balmedie All Weather Pitches

A successful partnership has enabled a fantastic new facility to be open in Balmedie. The work of locals and the Balmedie Community Planning Sub group has culminated in an all-weather football pitch made from 3rd Generation Astroturf which has the bounce



Balmedie All Weather Pitch with 3G Astroturf.

and texture of natural grass. Consultation was carried out with young people and the community throughout the Balmedie Views project which stated that 27% of young people didn't feel involved in their community because of a

lack of activities for their age group. Young people have been looking for better football facilities and this has come at the right time. Funding was allocated from Planning Gain money which allowed the existing basketball courts next to the Leisure Centre to be

refurbished into this state of the art complex. The facility was opened by First Minister Alex Salmond and Aberdeen Football Club Manager, Mark McGhee on Sunday 18th April 2010.

Formartine in Bloom 2010

The Formartine in Bloom competition is back and with a new category!



Formartine in Bloom will be running this year with some minor changes. A meeting to review the competition was held late last year at Fyvie and was attended by ten participating communities. After discussion the marking criteria will remain unchanged, however, there was unanimous agreement to change the judging date to the later part of August and there were decisions to change the judges every two years and to review the competition every two to three years. This year a new category for Formartine Primary schools is being introduced, which will be called Formartine Beginning to

Blossom. All twenty-five Formartine Primary Schools have been invited to enter and this year the Formartine Area Committee have offered a grant of up to £100 to each school that enters to buy plants and materials for the competition. It is hoped to strengthen the involvement of the schools and their pupils in their local communities and give them a pride and sense of belonging. It would also widen their environmental and outdoor education.

Please contact Rod Gunson, Formartine Partnership Development Officer on 01358 726406 for further information on the competition.

Ward Forums

In addition to the annual Formartine Forum, the Formartine Local Community Planning Group intends to hold Ward Forums across the area this year. The three wards in Formartine are Ellon and District, Mid Formartine and Turriff and District. It is hoped that this will make community consultation even more tailored and relevant. These forums will be held in late summer in time to feed into the Formartine Forum held in the autumn. Further details will be available on the Community Planning website, www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/formartine and via the local press in due course.

Locally...



Summary Leaflet to be produced

A summary leaflet of the Formartine Community Plan 2010 - 2014 is to be produced to summarise the work being carried out in the local area by the Community Planning Partners. The leaflet is designed for the community to give a flavour of what is happening locally and will supplement the Community Plan. The leaflet will become available later this year.

Community Planning Partners



- ◆ Grampian Police
- ◆ NHS Grampian
- ◆ Grampian Fire & Rescue
- ◆ Aberdeenshire Council
- ◆ Community Councils
- ◆ NESTRANS
- ◆ Skills Development Scotland
- ◆ Formartine Partnership
- ◆ Scottish Enterprise
- ◆ ACSEF
- ◆ Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP)
- ◆ Council for Voluntary Services (CVS)

Community Council Focus

There is money available from Planning Gain to spend in the Potterton, Belhelvie and Whitecairns area and Belhelvie Community Council would like to hear the views of the residents in the parish on how best to spend

this. It is envisaged to hold a Planning for Real event on Saturday 4th September 2010 at the Potterton Community Centre where locals can come along and express their views on how best to spend the money in the area.

Youth Work on Tour (YWOT!)

Ellon Network of youth workers has moved into Newburgh to deliver exciting workshops to P7- S3 age group. Workshops were held on DJ training, Street Sports, First Aid and much more. The sessions ran from 7.30 - 9.00 on Tuesday evenings in the local primary school which started on 27th

April with the last session that looked at youth achievement awards was on 1st June 2010.

If you would like any more information on Youth Work within the Ellon Network please phone Annette Holland, Senior Community Learning & Development Worker on 01358 721946.

Autism Sub Group Update

The Community Planning Autism Sub group met on Friday 7th May to look at the way forward after the launch of the Field of Dreams report late last year. The group have made some progress since then as work has started on a directory of services for families living locally with children and young people on the Autistic Spectrum. The use of a room at Esslemont School has also been looked into for use as a

social space for young people as well as having scope for work skills / employment opportunities. A pilot social group will also be set up in the near future at the Ythan Centre, Ellon for young people between PAGES (Parents Advisory Group for Education and Socialisation) and Community Learning and Development to offer young people on the Autistic Spectrum a social space to interact with friends.

contact us

FORMARTINE Community Planning:
Mark Mitchell Mark.Mitchell@aberdeenshire.gov.uk





Our Aberdeenshire

Formartine
Edition

May
2010

— Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership newsletter —

community planning working together for
the best quality of life for everyone in aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire Youth Council

The Aberdeenshire Youth Council represents young people from all over the Shire on issues important to young people. The membership is made up of the 6 additional Youth Councillors - usually one for each council area - who are elected. The election process is carried out through Aberdeenshire Youth Forum who currently have over 150 members. The job of these 12 young people is to make sure that politicians and decision makers in Aberdeenshire know how young people feel and know what issues need to be addressed.

To do this, they meet every two months to discuss what problems young people in their area are facing and how they could be tackled and solved. They then present this information to the council and community partners in order to see if there can be changes or solutions to make improvements.

If you are a young person who lives, works, or goes to school or college in Aberdeenshire, AYC is here to represent you. If there is something you think should be changed in the Shire, get in touch with one of your local Youth Councillors and be sure we will work hard to get the solution you want.

Contact Details

dialogueyouth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Tel. 01467 624345



The current Youth Councillors are:

Chair - Alex Gaskin,
MSYP for Banff & Buchan
Vice Chair - Emma Maclean,
Kincardine and Mearns
Secretary - Yolanda Wilson, Marr
Treasurer - Grace Croft, Buchan
Mike Forman, MSYP for Banff & Buchan
Coral-Ann Birnie, MSYP for Gordon
Rebecca Cox, MSYP for Gordon
Andrew Deans, MSYP for West
Aberdeenshire & Kincardine
Conor McNeill, MSYP for West
Aberdeenshire & Kincardine
Emma Maders, Kincardine & Mearns
Catriona Robertson, Garioch
Conor McKay, Garioch

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

