

AGM and annual report

The Garioch Partnership held a successful AGM and summer forum at Kemnay Village Hall on Monday 18th May. We recruited a new board member, Nom Wright, to join our voluntary management committee. Our trustees contribute to the leadership of The Garioch Partnership, ensuring our activities are run in a way that will achieve our aims. On 2nd June we presented our annual report to the Garioch Area Committee at Gordon House. Copies of the AGM papers and the annual report are available on our website.



Health and Social Care Integration

TGP arranged two events on behalf of the Health & Social Care Board, in Inverurie and Insch in March 2015. These meetings were planned to raise awareness of Health & Social Care Integration and start a process of community engagement. "It was great to meet a variety of people and learn about their experiences of using local services." said Adam Coldwells, Chief Officer of Aberdeenshire's Health & Social Care Partnership. Local people had the opportunity to discuss the future direction of health and social care services. Information gathered at the events will inform the partnership's first strategic plan. A report is available and further meetings will be held in September. Details will be issued shortly, but the meetings are likely to be in Newmachar and Kemnay. Watch this space!

Grampian Opportunities (GO), one of our membership organisations is working with staff from NHS Grampian. They are working together to produce clear information for people who use support services, and their carers. The aim is to help people understand the changes for health and social care and provide an opportunity for individuals and groups to share their ideas about the changes. The main purpose of the integration is to improve the wellbeing of people. It also means that there will be changes in how staff work. The project title is Voices for Change ... people having a say on Integrated Health and Social Care. Grampian Opportunities is happy to talk to individuals and groups to give people the opportunities to share their experience and contribute ideas on how these services should develop. If you would like staff or volunteers from GO to talk to you or your organisation, they can be contacted on Tel: 01467 629675 or Email: info@grampianopportunities.org.uk

VSA Carers Service

The VSA Carers Charity is looking for premises to establish a carers' centre in Inverurie. Ideally this would be an accessible shop-front type building with space for carers to drop in/meet, as well as an office space. "If you hear of anything suitable, we would be very grateful if you would let us know" said Carla Angus, Carers Centre Coordinator Central Aberdeenshire.

Tel: 01651 873 953 Email: carla.angus@vsa.org.uk

VSA Carer Support, Unit 4 Oldmeldrum Business Centre, Colpy Road, Oldmeldrum AB51 OBZ

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The Community Empowerment Bill

Stage 3 of the Community Empowerment Bill went before the Scottish Parliament on 17th June and should become law by the Autumn. This important piece of legislation has the potential to transform the rights of communities and have a huge influence on the way public bodies work. As well as making community asset transfer more accessible for groups, it contains rights for communities to participate in the planning and commissioning of services at the highest level. It also means that rights for communities to buy land and access to allotments will be enshrined in law.

Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, in partnership with Garioch Partnership, has organised a Community Empowerment conference for **Thursday 01 October 2015** in Inverurie. This conference will be open to third sector organisations, community groups and the local statutory agencies (local authority, NHS, police, fire service) in fact; anyone that the above act will impact on.

The day will consist of presentations, workshops, and a plenary Q & A session. A session is also planned to look at Participatory Budgeting and what that could mean for communities.

Marco Biagi, Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment has agreed to be the keynote speaker. At a recent conference, Marco Biagi said:

“We have a unique opportunity to ensure that our greatest assets – the people who live and work in Scotland – are better able to make decisions about their future on their terms. Following approval (of the Community Empowerment Bill) in Parliament I look forward to working with communities across Scotland to implement the Bill”

Funding from Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership means that the day is **FREE** to attend but **please note that booking is essential**. To register an interest in receiving further information please email: mail@avashire.org.uk

Diane Miller, Development Officer, Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action

15a High Street, Inverurie Aberdeenshire AB51 3QA

Tel: 01467 629072 Email: Diane.Miller@avashire.org.uk

Road to Recovery and Return to Work Project



The Road to Recovery and Return to Work Project in Aberdeenshire provides SUPPORT for people affected by a trauma or a traumatic event in their life changing event such as an incident, injury or illness

Is this for you? Cornfields can provide 1-2-1 support to help with your recovery and help you regain your confidence and rebuild your resilience. They can assist with planning your return to work and ensuring this process is clear and that a structure is in place for a successful return to work. Cornfields are here to help every step of the way, please contact Fiona at Cornfields office on 01464 851539 or email fiona@cornfields-scotland.co.uk www.cornfields-scotland.co.uk

Are YOU an employer seeking help and guidance with an absentee employee who has suffered a trauma or traumatic event? Cornfields can assist and support you with this process and help create a successful return to work plan. They are here to support successful outcomes, please contact Fiona at Cornfields (No costs associated with this project)

Cornfields Scotland Ltd • Ryehill, Oyne, Inch, Aberdeenshire, AB52 6QS

Tel: 01464 851539 • Mobile: 07854 988283 • fiona@cornfields-scotland.co.uk • www.cornfields-scotland.co.uk

TGP's Community Initiative Grant: update

This small grants scheme was introduced in 2012/13, utilising the underspend in the partnership's budget caused by the delayed appointment of the development worker, and topped up in the year 2013/14 by £5k from the Garioch Area Committee's Area Budget. In 2014/15 the Area Committee agreed to provide £10k to the partnership to continue the scheme.



Eight recent successful CIG grants

TGP has continued to use its "grants panel" of local volunteers to assess applications and make recommendations to the Board, thus involving members directly in decision-making. The scheme has attracted applications from a wide range of groups. There is no doubt it is contributing to strong, resilient communities in Garioch, with local people leading, and taking responsibility for things that matter to them in their communities, whether geographic communities or communities of interest.

Sixteen awards have been made, from eighteen applications, in the last financial year. A total of £10,457.81 has been invested in these community projects. Further information is available on the partnership's website and Facebook page. Obviously TGP is keen for the scheme to continue and is delighted to now know it has continuing support from the Garioch Area Committee in 15/16.

CIG AWARDS 2014/15:

Group	Award
GATE (Good at the End)	£750
The Philosophy Café	£190
ICAN (Insch Community Association)	£750
SensationALL (Westhill)	£750
Footprints Connect	£750
Fly Cup Catering, Inverurie	£750
Foos Yer Doos Sing Song Club, Inverurie	£750
Inverurie Hockey Club	£150
Garioch Community Sports Hub	£750
Westhill Community Sports Hub	£750
Greener Kemnay	£750
Grampian Opportunities	£500
Aberdeenshire North Foodbank	£750
Kintore Child-minding Group	£617.81
Port Toddlers	£750
Bennachie Leisure Centre	£750

Pension Wise



The rules for taking personal and some workplace pensions changed on 6 April 2015. You can now access and use your pension pot in any way you want if you're aged 55 or over and have a defined contribution pension.

Pension Wise is a new free and impartial service to help you understand your pension options.

Visit www.pensionwise.gov.uk for information and guidance about your pension options and their implications. Appointments will either be face-to-face with a specialist from a Citizens Advice Bureau or over the phone with The Pensions Advisory Service. You can book an appointment if:

- You have a 'defined contribution' pension pot'. A defined contribution pension is built up over time through regular payments by you and/or your employer; and,
- You are close to, or over 55.

For a face-to-face appointment at a location convenient for you please Tel: 01224 747714. Alternatively you can contact Citizens Advice Direct on 0808 800 9060.

Details of Citizens Advice Bureaux throughout Scotland can be found at www.cas.org.uk .



To book a telephone appointment with the Pensions Advisory Service
Tel: 0300 330 1001.

Irene Smith, Pension Wise Guidance Specialist

South West Aberdeenshire Citizens Advice Bureau

01224 747714 or irene.smith@westhillcab.casonline.org.uk

Inclusive Inverurie... making connections

The Garioch Partnership shared a stand with Computers and Integration at an Inclusive Inverurie Networking Event held at the Kintore Arms, Inverurie on 25 June 2015. Many connections were made!

For further information contact Phyllis on phyllis.gordon@avashire.org.uk or annie.grant@avashire.org.uk or dawn@grampianopportunities.org.uk



Inverurie & District Men's Shed



TGP was delighted to attend the recent opening of the Men's Shed Polytunnel by Jim McColl of Beechgrove Garden fame. Shedders and their supporters gathered at the tunnel on a beautiful sunny June morning to mark the occasion. It's great to see this project doing so well, and a pleasure to work with such fantastic volunteers! Here's to continued success!

Stop Press: some recently announced funding opportunities

- Marks and Spencer's new community energy fund: <https://www.mandsenergyfund.com/>
- Zero Waste Scotland's training grant for recycling: <http://crns.org.uk/zero-waste-scotland-offers-new-training-opportunity-re-use-organisations/>
- Paths for all: <http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/pfa/support/community-paths-grant.html>
- Community food and health Scotland: <http://www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk/funding/cfhs-funding-opportunities/>
- Guardian Charity Awards: <http://www.theguardian.com/voluntary-sector-network/charity-awards>
- See Me community innovation funds: <https://www.seemescotland.org/our-movement-for-change/funding-and-grants/>
- And finally this one is not new but we hear there is money in the pot! <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/scotland/communities-and-families-fund>

Ward Forums

putting the *community* into community planning

Community planning is a way of working which makes public services responsive to, and organised around, the needs of communities. Implicit in this is the need to involve communities in the decisions made on public services that affect them. The overall aim of community planning is to provide better public services and to support communities in their endeavours to improve the local quality of life.

The Garioch Local Community Planning Group delivers community planning at the local level. It is made up of representatives from the major service providers as well as community and voluntary sector representatives.

Community Planning Partners:

Major Service Providers	Community/Voluntary Sector
Aberdeenshire Council	Community Councils
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	The Garioch Partnership
NHS Grampian	Police Scotland
Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action	

The partners work together to ensure that services are delivered to residents effectively and at best value. They also work with the communities of Garioch to ensure that local people and communities are genuinely engaged in the decisions made on public services that affect them.

Community Ward Forums will comprise part of that engagement process. The forums will be organised on behalf of the Garioch Local Community Planning Group by The Garioch Partnership as part of its Service Level Agreement with Aberdeenshire Council.

What are they for?

In the context of Community Planning, the main aims of the forums in Garioch are:

- To ensure that the views of communities and community organisations are fed into the formal community planning process
- To provide an opportunity for ongoing, two way communication between the service providers and the community; forums can be used to raise issues formally or informally
- To ensure that community representatives are kept up to date with new developments that may be of use and relevance to their communities
- To support the development of Community Councils and other community organisations - for example through training sessions on media skills, running meetings and police engagement.



Dates for Winter Forums to follow.

Community Ward Forums: Spring 2015



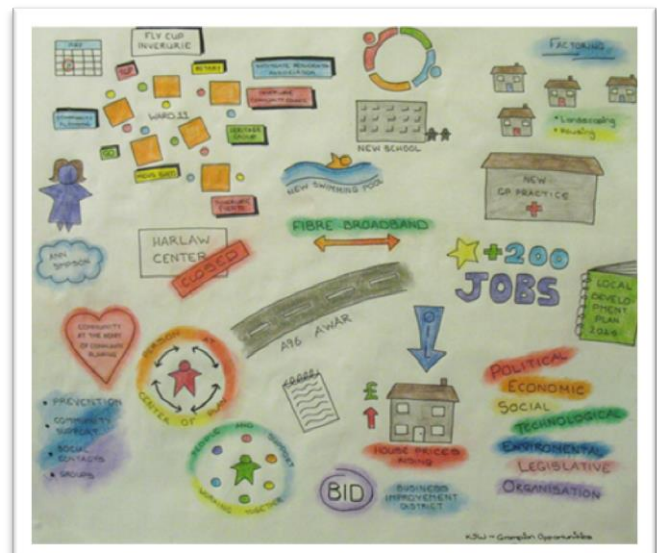
Spring ward forums were held across Garioch and this time in addition to our written record of meeting discussion, a graphic recording has been produced for the four meetings.

Jill Sowden, Community Planning Officer for Garioch facilitated discussion on the Local Development Plan, using the PESTELO framework. This gave people the opportunity to comment on the issues important to their area. It helped people think about Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legislative and Organisation issues.

Aberdeenshire continues to be one of the safest places to live with acquisitive crime, antisocial behaviour and road traffic offences all down on the previous year. Police Scotland provided updates at the meetings. Each local area has its own priorities based on what's important to that community. You can look up your community's plan on the Your Community section of the website:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/>

NHS Grampian used the forums to introduce the Integration of Health and Social Care. Two presentations were shown at the meetings; one gave an overview of demographic changes and what this would mean in terms of services in the future. The other presentation was a more visual story about "Mrs Smith" and what helped support her maintain her health and wellbeing. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KznIuv_kmRc



Members of the Garioch Partnership... building a connected community

Garioch Community Sports Hub	ORCA	Port Elphinstone Parent Council		Foos yer Doos	Insch PTA	1 st Stop Toddlers		
Action Kintore	Garioch Art Group	Garioch Youth Musical Society			Echt School PTCA			
Westhill Men's Shed	Fetternear Hall	Homestart Garioch	Cornfields Scotland Ltd.					
Friends of Garlogie Day Centre			Inverurie Angling Association			WEA Scotland		
Computers and Integration		Lawsondale Sports Centre Trust			Wartle Community Association			
Grampian Opportunities	Echt & Skene Community Council		Hatton of Fintray Community Association					
Inverurie Hockey Club	Kemnay Community Council		Inverurie Events	Smile Scotland				
Bennachie Community Council			Premnay Hall & Community Association					
Southwest Aberdeenshire CAB	Spectrum Singers	Fly Cup Catering Ltd	Scout Hall Playgroup					
Bailies of Bennachie	Inschy Winchy Spiders		Kintore & District Community Council				ICAN	
St Andrews Parish Church		RSPB Kemnay Wildlife Explorers				SensationALL		
Garioch Heritage	Business Matters Aberdeen		Gordon Dementia Services		Westhill Community Church			
Inverurie & District Men's Shed		Newmachar Playgroup	Garioch Under 5s Forum		Kiddiwinks			
Garioch Jazz Club	Kemnay Village Hall Management Committee		Port Elphinstone Community House		Greener Kemnay			
Westhill & Elrick Community Council		Bennachie Leisure Centre		Pitscurry Environmental Project				
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council			Inverurie Community Council		Newmachar Community Council			
Kingseat Community Association		Westhill Community Sports Hub		Fintray & Kinellar Community Council				
Logie Durno Hall Committee		Newmachar Community Hall Association			Bogbeth Pavilion			
Garidge Theatre	Friends of Insch Hospital and Community			Inspiring Insch		Westhill Golf Club		
Kemnay Breakfast and After School Club	Footprints Connect		Garioch Indoor Bowling Club		GATE	Old Rayne Hall Committee		73

Resources to share



The Garioch Partnership is building up a range of Resources that groups can borrow for free. This includes: **a data projector and a digital camera and will soon include a gazebo**



Your Help needed ... ACCOUNTANCY TRUSTEE NEEDED

Home-Start (home-start.org.uk) is the UK's leading family support charity with over 300 locally run schemes, whose volunteers support thousands of children and families through difficult times.

Home-Start Garioch (homestartgarioch.org.uk) is one of those schemes, based in Inverurie. It is governed by a board of eight unpaid trustees, and run by three (soon to be five) salaried part-time staff. The scheme is currently partly funded by the Local Authority, receives money through fundraising activities and donations, and has recently been awarded Big Lottery funding. The trustees want to recruit a new member with a financial background. The board meets about six times a year and is supported by various sub-groups, including a Finance Committee.

If you are interested and have the skills to help us, please contact Jackie Loder at jackie.loder@gmail.com

Diary dates 2015

July

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August

Saturday 15 August	Lourin Fair, Old Rayne
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September

To be advised	Health and Social Care events, Newmachar and Kemnay
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Sunday 6 September	Fintray Sheltie Stakes
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October

Thursday 1 October	Community Empowerment Event, KA, Inverurie
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