



The Board and Staff at
The Garioch Partnership
wish you a very
Happy Easter!

Stop Press: Community Action Planning Update

Port Priorities Issues

- Christmas lights
- Inverurie events
- Recycling
- Community notice board
- Cleaner pavements - dog bins
- Improvements for local parks
- Upgrade play equipment
- Guides and information on local walks
- Traffic & traffic control
- ATM (that works)
- Out of school activities
- Community House
- Bigger school / new school
- Build more houses (not flats)



These are some of the Issues highlighted at the recent **Port Priorities** consultation event.

These pictures show the graphic recording that members from Grampian Opportunities drew up with people attending the second Port event.



Action Kintore: TGP continues to work with Action Kintore and Kintore & District Community Council to produce a community action plan for the town. Two community events took place recently to identify what would make Kintore an even better place to live and work and how the community and its partners could work together to achieve positive changes. The plan will be published by the end of June this year. If you would like a copy get in touch with anne@gariochpartnership.org.uk.

This month's content: Health and Social Care integration: page 2

Community Initiative Grants and Tough Mudder: page 6

This month's featured group CAIR Scotland - Befriending: page 2

How to perfect a funding application: page 3

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY INVERURIE: PAGE 4

Community Empowerment Bill: page 7

TGP AGM Save the date!: page 4

Ward Forum dates: page 8

Membership wall: page 5

and much more.....

Health and Social Care Integration

From April 2016 adult health and social care services will be delivered by the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, a partnership between Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian. The aim of this integration is to provide a seamless service for patients and their families.

Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, together with the Rural Partnerships, held a series of community engagement events throughout March to consult local people on the future direction of health and social care services in Aberdeenshire. The Garioch Partnership coordinated an event at the Fly Cup, Inverurie; and the Bennachie Leisure Centre, Inch. The Inch event was particularly successful in attracting community members, probably due to the efforts of the Friends of Inch Hospital and its future being high on the community's agenda.

The views given at these local events will help shape the Strategic plan. This plan will set out the priorities of the new partnership to ensure high quality person centred care is provided and health and wellbeing improvements are achieved in Aberdeenshire.

A follow-up meeting will take place in June 2015. Watch this space for further info!

Be a Volunteer Befriender with the Young Carers



CAIR Scotland and the Aberdeenshire Young Carers Service aim to help the Young Carers, aged 5 - 18 years old, in our communities across Aberdeenshire achieve a good quality of life.

We are launching a new volunteer Befriending Service for Young Carers across the Shire.

Befriending is a valuable resource for these Young Carers. Many of them have adopted adult caring roles and are growing up too fast; a befriending relationship gives them the opportunity to reclaim some of their childhood. They are missing out on many of the opportunities and experiences that their peer group have, thus suffer from lack of confidence, poor social skills and are socially isolated. However, the service is not able to function without volunteers. Giving just a couple of hours a week/fortnightly really can make a difference to a Young Carers life. The relationship and the opportunities it brings can be life changing for them.

We are currently recruiting volunteer Befrienders, who should be over 18 years old and will have to submit to a PVG check. Full training is given and support is ongoing.

If you would like to know more about the service or become a Befriender and provide valuable support for young people under 19 who have a caring role at home, please contact:

Andy Farquhar on 07725 593900,

Email: andy.farquhar@cairscotland.org.uk

www.youngcarersaberdeenshire.org.uk

www.cairscotland.org.uk



YOUNG CARERS SERVICE

How to perfect a funding application.....

Here are a few top tips professional fundraisers give for writing your application:

1. Write with passion about your work. Be factual, but also be enthusiastic & positive.

"If you don't believe in the work and the difference it will make, it's unlikely the funder will either". Although it's not something funders will assess, an application that is written in an engaging and passionate way will certainly stand out. Just make sure you also provide the necessary facts!

2. Read the criteria carefully! "It's amazing how many people don't..."

This is something funders say all the time! You don't need to read everything published on every fund you look at. But once you have narrowed down the field, reading the full guidance can save you time or even wasted effort before committing to fill in the form.

3. Share your users' perspectives

Getting some 'user voices' into your application can be very powerful, and talking about their 'journey' through your project is a great way to show the positive outcomes of your work.

4. Edit, edit, edit...

Where words are at a premium, try to cut out any redundant sentences and focus on what the funder needs to know.

5. Answer the question! "It's THE best rule."

Funders often get applications where the answers in the form don't marry up to the questions, and it makes it quite difficult to assess the project. If you aren't sure what the question is really asking, get in touch with the funder and ask.

6. "Don't make funders work too hard to understand what you're doing"

This comes down to editing, avoiding jargon, and making sure your application flows logically. Try to write as if you are explaining your project to a colleague who has good background knowledge, but doesn't know much specifically about your work.

7. Don't give up! Ask questions, get feedback, try again.

Great advice.. Funders will always offer feedback, and unless your application is fundamentally ineligible, there is usually a chance to improve your application and try again.

A few other great tips:

- "Say why your organisation is well placed to run the project"
- "Think from the perspective of the funder - what do they want to hear?"
- "If your project comes from the heart, is truly needed, explained simply, is well evidenced, has integrity and honesty, it will always shine through".

Good Luck! (info in this article from SPPA, now Early Years Scotland, thanks - editor)

Dementia Friendly Inverurie . . . raising awareness



A dementia friendly community is made up of the whole community - shop assistants, public service workers, faith groups, businesses, police, fire and ambulance staff, bus drivers, school pupils, clubs and societies, and community leaders - people who are committed to working together and helping people with dementia to remain a part of their community and not become apart from it.

How can you help people in your community?

| Yes please: | No thanks: |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ Smile and use lots of eye-contact | × Interrupt |
| ✓ Speak clearly, calmly and slowly | × Raise voice |
| ✓ Use simple short sentences with a friendly tone | × Crowd personal space |
| ✓ Help person find things and places | × Rush pace of conversation |
| ✓ Help person count money to pay for things | × Use direct questions |
| ✓ Try to re-phrase sentences to help person understand | × Offer too many choices |
| ✓ Try to chat somewhere quiet and well-lit | × Embarrass or contradict the person |

Whether you are directly affected by dementia, care for someone who has dementia or are interested in dementia research we have all the information you need. Find out more about living with dementia in Aberdeenshire: www.dementia-aberdeenshire.org

If you, or your family need to talk to someone about living with dementia. You can also, phone the **Dementia Helpline 0808 808 3000** to get in contact with your nearest Dementia Advisor.

Information on a wide range of services for people with dementia and their carers. www.alzscot.org

Lots of information about living with dementia and how we can all help each other. www.nhs.uk/conditions/dementia-guide

For further information contact Phyllis on phyllis.gordon@avashire.org.uk or annie.grant@avashire.org.uk or find Dementia Friendly Inverurie on Facebook



The Garioch Partnership's AGM and summer forum will take place on Monday 18th May in Kemnay Village Hall at 7pm. Dawn and Anne are working on details for the programme and these will be ready soon! This is great opportunity for our members and supporters to get together as a connected Garioch community so please put the date in your diary. Apologies to Inverurie Community Councillors for the clash with the ICC May meeting!



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

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Garioch Community Sports Hub | | Garioch Indoor Bowling Club | Insch PTA | St Lawrence Hall | |
| Action Kintore | Echt School PTCA | Garioch Youth Musical Society | | Garioch Art Group | |
| 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 | Garioch Under 5s Forum | | |
| Baillie's of Bennachie | Inschy Winchy Spiders | RSPB Kemnay Wildlife Explorers | | ICAN | |
| Business Matters Aberdeen | | Kintore & District Community Council | | SensationALL | |
| Garioch Heritage | St Andrews Parish Church | Gordon Dementia Services | Westhill Community Church | | |
| Inverurie & District Men's Shed | | Newmachar Playgroup | Scout Hall Playgroup | Kiddiwinks | |
| Garioch Jazz Club | Kemnay Village Hall Management Committee | | Port Elphinstone Community House | GATE | |
| Westhill & Elrick Community Council | Bennachie Leisure Centre | | Pitscurry Environmental Project | | |
| Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council | | | Inverurie Community Council | Newmachar Community Council | |
| | Kingseat Community Association | | Fintray & Kinellar Community Council | | |
| Logie Durno Hall Committee | | Newmachar Community Hall Association | | Footprints Connect | |
| Garidge Theatre | Friends of Insch Hospital and Community | | Inspiring Insch | Westhill Golf Club | |
| Kemnay Breakfast and After School Club | | | Bogbeth Pavilion | ORCA | Greener Kemnay 68 |

Can we reach our target of 75 members by the end of March?

Contact The Garioch Partnership if you want to see your group here:

info@gariochpartnership.org.uk or www.gariochpartnership.org.uk

Community Initiative Grant Scheme – Latest Awards



Flycup Catering in Inverurie recently received a cheque for £750 from the Community Initiative Grant Scheme. "Picture of two smiley trainees clinging on to a nice cheque, the money from the Garioch Partnership is to pay for trainee lockers where they will be able to store their bags and coats safely and securely, giving a sense of security, independence and control over their belongings. Thank you Dawn and Anne for putting us forward for this grant".

Foos yer Doos singing group received a cheque from the Community Initiative Grant Scheme for £750 towards instructor costs. The group meets weekly on Thursday from 11.00am at St Mary's Church Centre, High Street, Inverurie AB51 3NW. Singing starts around 11.00am for an hour, followed by tea and coffee. For more information about the group contact: Caroline Peter Tel: 07918 674 481 Email: fydsingsongclub@gmail.com



Inverurie Hockey Club also received an award for £150 for equipment for its junior section.

Inverurie Hockey Club caters for male and female players. Founded in 1985 with one Men's team it expanded to a second eleven and a ladies team by 1992.

Going the extra mile... or 12!



One of our development workers has decided to do a sponsored event to raise money to help charities across the Garioch area by fundraising for The Garioch Partnership's Community Initiative Grant Scheme.

Dawn has decided to do the "Tough Mudder" event in Dumfries & Galloway on June 21st to add to our kitty. She would be very grateful for any donations, ranging from pennies to pounds to spur on each step, and every challenging obstacle. It's a 12 mile, very muddy, challenging obstacle race - remember Krypton Factor? Yes, one just like that.

To make it easy for you, we have set up a "TextGiving" account. You can donate any amount by texting "TGPD13" followed by the amount you wish to donate to 70070 (costs your donation plus one standard network rate message.) Don't worry donating by text is already working hard for charities across the UK!

Now, for the first time ever, this service is free with JustTextGiving. It cost nothing to set up, there are no running costs and no commission is taken from the donations you receive. So every penny goes to your charity, where it's needed most. If you would rather give more traditionally, feel free to let us know, and we will happily accept any other donations too!



The Community Empowerment Bill: a guide

The Community Empowerment Bill is in progress through the Scottish Parliament.

The easy read version of the bill is available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/08/5194>

The full bill is available at:

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Empowerment%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b52s4-introd.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Empowerment%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b52s4-introd.pdf)

and you can keep up to date with its passage through Parliament at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/78599.aspx>

The Bill is likely to go through Stage three in Parliament around end April beginning of May, but that is for the Parliament to decide. The Scottish Government believes that "Scotland's people are its greatest strength. They know best what is needed to build strong communities."

What does the bill actually change?

People feel more attached to communities that they have a say in. People who live in a town or village are the best placed to make things better because they are the experts - they know best! When people in communities feel listened to and supported, they can do some fantastic things - like creating and accessing more employment and volunteering opportunities, less crime, better health and a more equal society with better, more effective services run for communities, either in partnership or by the community taking ownership.

The main part that communities will be interested in is around Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This is where communities can take ownership of publicly owned buildings. The buildings do not need to be on the surplus list, but there is a lot of work to be done regarding proving community benefit. This is an update to the policy already in place, and should be a more streamlined process for communities. It should help reinvigorate communities and allow them to control their own buildings and runs services from them.

There will also be **Participation Requests**. You can see more about these via the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVgICS_Rgro. Communities will have a right to have a say in the delivery and design of public services. Communities will have a right to talk to public bodies and make suggestions on how to improve services, and possibly even deliver services themselves. Public bodies involved in community planning - such as NHS, the Police, the Fire and Rescue Service and the local authority have a duty to ensure that they actively involve communities in their services. This should lead to an improvement in delivery and better services for everyone!

Community Right To Buy is going to be expanded to all areas and not just rural Scotland as it currently is. This will allow communities to buy land and buildings that are in private ownership so they can do something useful with them rather than unused and derelict sites, and put land to better use. This will make communities more vibrant and attractive to stay in.

Common Good Property management will be changing too. The local authority must list all common good property and what their plans for it are - and openly share this with communities. There will also be a duty on local authorities to consult with community groups and community councils before changing the use of, or selling any common good property.

There is a section of the bill about allotments too. The new law will mean local authorities have to keep waiting lists for allotments, and to have to try and provide more space for allotments if the waiting list is too long. Local authorities will have to ask for permission from the government to sell or change the use of allotment land.

All of these changes allow communities to be in the driving seat and really take control of their own destiny. It's a wonderful opportunity, and one that will take some time to bed in to practice and will require the passage into law to complete.

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.

The main topic for the next round of Ward Forums will be the local Garioch Community Plan. This will be your opportunity to influence the priorities for public services in the next year or so. Do come along!

Spring Ward Forum Meeting Dates 2015

| No: | Date: | Time: | Venue: |
|---------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ward 11 | Thursday 30 th April | 7pm for 7.30pm – 9.30pm | Fly Cup Inverurie |
| Ward 12 | Tuesday 5 th May | 7pm for 7.30pm – 9.30pm | Kinellar Community Hall, Blackburn |
| Ward 10 | Monday 11 th May | 7pm for 7.30pm – 9.30pm | Kemnay Village Hall, Kemnay |
| Ward 13 | Wednesday 13 th May | 7pm for 7.30pm – 9.30pm | Westhill Community Church, |

News from TGP.....

Resources:

The Garioch Partnership is building up a range of Resources that groups can borrow for free. This includes:

- a data projector
- a digital camera

Services:

- Independent Examination of accounts,
- support with funding applications



What else would be useful for you?

Your Help needed ... supporting the work of The Garioch Partnership

TGP is looking for some new Board members, and Grants Panel members.

Board members: To join our voluntary management committee, to contribute to the leadership of The Garioch Partnership, ensuring our activities are run in a way that will achieve our aims.

Grant Panel members: To consider grant applications and give feedback on the application to enable the Board to make a decision on awarding funding. All work done online – no meetings!

Please get in touch with one of our team if you would like to know more about these opportunities

Diary dates 2015

March

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| Monday 30 th March | TGP Board meeting at the Axis Centre Newmachar |
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April

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| Thursday 30 th April | Ward 11 Forum Meeting at Flycup Inverurie 7pm |
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May

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 5 th May | Ward 12 Forum Meeting at Kinellar Community Hall, Kinellar 7pm |
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|-----------------------------|--|
| Monday 11 th May | Ward 10 Forum Meeting at Kemnay Village Hall, Kemnay 7pm |
|-----------------------------|--|

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 13 th May | Ward 13 Forum Meeting at Westhill Community Church, 7pm |
|--------------------------------|---|

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Monday 18 th May | TGP AGM at Kemnay Village Hall, Kemnay 7pm |
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| Saturday 23 rd May | Kintore Summer Festival |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|

June

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| Saturday 6 th June | Westhill Gala |
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| Monday 15 th June | TGP Board meeting |
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| Sunday 21 st June | Dawn participates in Tough Mudder |
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| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 28 th June | Friends of Insch Hospital Strawberry Fayre |
|------------------------------|--|

A wee message about Digital Citizenship and Digital Inclusion.

Firstly an important message from the young pupils of Echt School....

I am a Digital Citizen!

When I'm at school, I will use my **PERSONAL DEVICE** for **EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES** only.

- *I will only use the assigned WIFI network when I'm at school.
- *I will keep my device safe and secure at all times.

I listen to my **HEAD!**
I will protect my **PRIVATE INFO** and the information of others.

- *I will log out, and not share my login or password with others.

I listen to my **HEART!**
I **RESPECT** myself and others when I am online. I use kind words, and remember that my "digital footprint" should not harm others.

I listen to my **GUT!**
I make sure that I am **SAFE & APPROPRIATE** when I am online.

- *I will visit appropriate websites that promote learning and are for educational purposes.
- *I will follow Copyright Laws, and will remember to cite the sources I use for all my projects.

I **STAND UP** and say "No!" to **CYBERBULLYING**.
I will tell an adult if someone is being unkind or harmful.

© Sandy Liptak at <http://www.thebookfairygoddess.blogspot.com>

Footprints Connect are offering **FREE** computer sessions for the over-55s in the Garioch area

Venue: **Computers and Integration**, Inverurie
 Dates: **18th & 25th March** (11.00 - 1.00)

How do I work this thing my son gave me??

To book your place and for more information call: 07771 296612
 OR
 email: info@footprintsconnect.org.uk

Find out more about us on: www.footprintsconnect.org.uk

And at the other end of the age spectrum these classes in Inverurie for older digital citizens organised by Footprints Connect and part-funded by a TGP grant were well received and may well be repeated!



Is this our average Garioch citizen?



The next edition of the Garioch Gazette, TGP's quarterly e-bulletin will be published at the end of June. Any articles should be sent to info@gariochpartnership.org.uk by Monday 22nd June. This newsletter is circulated to a mailing list of approx. 200 "active citizens" who in turn are invited to circulate it to their personal and community networks - caring and sharing!



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