

Maryburgh & District ASPIRATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

Maryburgh and District is the largest geographical C.C. area in Ward 9 but the smallest population at 1400.

The area is rich in natural assets, history and heritage including:

- Loch Ussie and the associated S.S.I
- River Conon
- Archaeological sites such as the Vitriified Fort at Knockfarrel
- Extensive woodlands

2. EXISTING ACTIVITIES

The area is enjoyed by:

- Walkers
- Pony riders
- Archaeologist
- Ornithologists
- Fishers
- Cyclists

3. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

- Red Kite feeding station
- 9 Hole Golf Course.

4. EXISTING FACILITIES

- Maryburgh Amenities Centre
- Playing Field
- Free Church Hall

5. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- A residential housing development is proposed in the area between Birch Drive

and the A835

- The planned closure of Maryburgh Primary School may result in the availability to the community of the redundant Victorian buildings.
- With ever changing Life Styles and Interests (mainly Technology driven) it is difficult to determine the needs of all ages in any community. Maryburgh Amenities Association has identified the complexity of this issue and in collaboration with Conon Bridge C.C. is seeking funding to retain a Consultancy to undertake a

Community Facility Needs Analysis

This exercise will assist in the preparation of a development plan.

6. ORGANISATIONS

The Community has a wide range of leisure, sport and youth Organisations established to meet the needs of all ages. The two main Organisations are :

- The Community Council
- The Maryburgh Amenities Association

N.B. For a number of reasons the corporate status of Maryburgh Amenities Association is being changed from a non-incorporated voluntary organisation to that of a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. This change will include the option to establish a trading division allowing commercial activities to be undertaken all within the Charitable status of the organisation.

7. CONCERNS

The two main concerns of the community at this time are

- Road traffic on the A862 passing through the village
- The sustainability of the Maryburgh Amenities Centre.

8. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (energy)

- A potential opportunity was identified in 2008 for Community Benefit arising from a Micro Hydro Power Station utilising water from Loch Ussie. A Technical and Feasibility study confirmed the potential viability of such a scheme. It is now understood that Brahan Estate will progress this project and community benefit, if any, is not known.
- There may also be an opportunity for a *Run of River* electricity scheme on the River Conon but it is not known if any study has been carried.
- Following an energy audit carried out at Maryburgh Amenities Centre it has

been suggested that the Community should consider the possibility of generating electricity from Solar or ground source heating.

9. ASPIRATIONS

The overall aspiration is to develop Maryburgh and District to provide a community with an exceptional Quality of Life and a vibrant centre for all ages of:

- a. Learning
- b. Recreation
- c. Leisure

To realise the aspiration will require:

- Commitment
- Dedication
- Passion
- External support

Do they exist?