

*BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY
COMMUNITY COUNCIL*

BULLETIN

November 2008-February 2009

We are grateful to the following funds for their financial support for the production of this Bulletin, enabling it to be issued free of charge:

- **Awards for All**
- **Community Voices**

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Community Council members have increasingly been receiving requests for action from members of the community and have followed these up by connecting with the authorities best placed to direct the action. Sometimes this means requesting help from the Council's officers and often the local Councillors have put their contacts to good use, for which we are very grateful. One recent instance was a request to have the Loon Braes tidied up by Community Service people, a request which has expanded to a much more major project.

We have been involved with the activities of the Blairgowrie and Rattray Regeneration Company (BARRC) whose report is included in this Bulletin. We see this as a great opportunity for the community to benefit from the voluntary efforts of a group of influential executives, many of whom have held very senior posts in national and international organisations; some are well-known local business

BARRC—BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY REGENERATION COMPANY

Community Consultation

On 4 September 2008, a public meeting was held in the Royal Hotel, Blairgowrie, to hear the community's views on the way forward for the regeneration of the town. A wide variety of ideas were submitted by the audience of around 100 and two existing projects—collectively the Ericht Project—were described. These were:

- a proposal for a Visitor Centre worthy of international interest,
- a Hydro-electricity Scheme providing both financial income and a demonstration of carbon reduction through renewable energy.

The ideas recorded by those present are summarised below.

2.1 Facilities

Many responses ask for new facilities or enhancements of existing ones including the retention of the Hill Primary School building when the school moves to the new campus. The need is to extend the provision already available in Rattray Halls, the Town Hall and other venues for leisure and social activities.

Up-to-date resources are needed for indoor sports, training, youth events, competitions, provision for the elderly, a caf  area and more.

3 Outdoor activities

The range of outdoor activities aimed at exploiting the features of the area is large:

- Walking;
- Biking—both mountain and cycle-track;
- Riding;
- Adventure projects;
- Golf, track and field events;
- Skate-boarding;

owners. This Board of Directors has the function of taking the ambitions of the community and working them up into practical projects. They need the help of local people in teams to manage the implementation of the ideas contributed—the Board appreciates the willingness of those who have already volunteered their skills which cover a very welcome range.

While some suggestions have been in circulation for years, many good ideas have not actually been implemented. Now is the time to press home the advantage of having people with influence, experience, access to funds and the enthusiasm to make it all happen. If you can help, please contact any of the Community Council's executive committee listed below or the Chairman of BARRC, Colin Stewart at 01 250 875000.

- Allotment scheme where mature-aged and youth can apply skills in growing produce.

3.1 Culture

Great imagination has been shown in the range of attractions and events envisaged:

- Festivals of music, art, drama;
- A modern cinema;
- A museum recording the history of the area, its population and estates, its industry, geology, sporting history, and other collections relating to Blairgowrie and Eastern Perthshire. The museum should also describe particular aspects such as the wealth of wildlife—its birds, the salmon life-cycle and much more.
- National and international events encouraging tourism, as well as appealing to the local folk.

3.2 Tourism

While the hydro project is designed to provide a substantial income, any projects which involve large investments also need a steady and growing tourist trade to support the investment and to ensure the maintenance of the physical assets. We need to rely on the effective promotion of the area, whether by official services or local organisations.

3.3 Human resources

The community listed human resource issues as important in the regeneration of the area. This will involve:

- Sustainable employment prospects in:
 - o New and existing industry,
 - o Hospitality,
 - o Services;
- Support for new start-ups;

- Motivation for school leavers to remain in the town, or return after qualification.

3.4 Other needs in the area

There were suggestions for the improvement of the attractiveness of the town. These included:

- The cleaning up of ugly sites and green areas
- Changes to the traffic management arrangements, such as the one-way system and parking.

BLAIRGOWRIE & EAST PERTSHIRE TOURIST ASSOCIATION (BEPTA)

BEPTA is arranging a programme of activities and events over the weekend 29th & 30th November, in celebration of St Andrew's Day. This will be a "bigger and better" programme than last year's, with the aim of developing the St Andrew's Day weekend as the start of a "Winter Festival". The details of the programme, for which we have received funding support both from the Scottish Government and from Perth & Kinross Council, are still being finalised, but will be publicised in good time in the local press and also wider afield. There will be attractions for all ages, ranging from Brass Bands, Fireworks and Children's Storytelling to Ceilidhs.

We are continuing to develop and enhance our Website at www.beppta.com, with the aim of attracting visitors to the area and holding them here for a while longer. The website is packed with information about the local area and will encourage visitors to use Blairgowrie and East Perthshire as a short-break base to explore the surrounding attractions. The local community will also find something of interest here.

BEPTA is now working on a 25-point Action Plan based on the recently developed 3-year strategy to grow tourism in the area, for the benefit of the local economy. We are working with VisitScotland, PKC,

BLAIRGOWRIE & EAST PERTSHIRE WALKING FESTIVAL

The recently completed fifth Blairgowrie Walking Festival, organised through Blairgowrie and District Next Steps (BaDNS) builds on success after success.

This year has been no exception with over 80% of available spaces taken up over the 6-day event. It has had almost universal acclaim from participants and they all have one thing in common, and that is a new-found sense of intending to return to sample what East Perthshire has to offer at other times of the year. The Festival is organised and run on a voluntary basis, utilising the skills and experiences of many who had been considered as past their

BLAIRGOWRIE LIBRARY

BOOKS ON WHEELS

Blairgowrie Library works in partnership with WRVS to deliver books to people who are unable to visit their local library. WRVS Books on Wheels volunteers already visit many people in their homes, but we would like to extend the service to others who could benefit.

3.5 Volunteers

The participants were asked to consider working in the various projects on a volunteer basis and 18 members of the community have so far responded to this. Further offers of assistance would be very welcome.

Contact Chairman, BARRC:

Colin Stewart 01 250 875000;

colin.blairgowrie@btopenworld.com

the Countryside Trust and other partners to develop 4 key areas: "The Great Outdoors", "Short-Stay Breaks", "Golf Tourism" and "Events". Over the coming months there will be significant investment in marketing and promotion to raise the profile of our area as a visitor destination.

BEPTA's membership now stands at over 95 businesses, and is continuing to grow. Because BEPTA exists with the aim of encouraging tourism in the town and the East Perthshire area, all local businesses stand to benefit from a strong and successful organisation. Accordingly, we are continuing to seek new members from retailers as well as those involved in the accommodation and hospitality sectors, and indeed "private members", in the firm belief that strength-in-numbers adds weight in our dealings with potential funding partners. If you feel that you want to be part of this success story, please contact us!

For more information:

- visit www.beppta.com
- Secretary, Philip Smith, on 01 250 882200 (psmith@motomo.co.uk)
- Chairman, Mike Purdie, on 01 250 885217 (mikepurdie@onetel.com).

prime, and instilling in them a new found sense of worth and achievement.

The organisers are very grateful to Kirsty Knott of the Riverside Foot Clinic and Iain McLean of the Royal Hotel whose help was invaluable during the event.

A provisional programme has already been prepared for 2009 and will be available on www.walkingfestival.org in the New Year. Contact

Nick or Sue Cole on 01828 640763
or via www.walkingfestival.org

WHO CAN USE BOOKS ON WHEELS?

If you are unable to visit your local library because you are housebound, recovering from illness, have mobility difficulties, visual impairment or are a carer at home, we can bring the library service to you.

HOW DOES THIS SERVICE WORK?

When you contact us to join, your local library staff will discuss your interests and requirements. In addition to our regular stock, we have an extensive collection of **large print** and **audio books** available and we can supply music CDs and DVDs too. We

will select items for you and arrange for a WRVS volunteer to deliver to your home monthly.

For more information please contact Blairgowrie Library, 46a Leslie Street, or telephone 01250 872905.

BLAIR IN BLOOM

The Blair in Bloom committee has had a very successful summer. We were awarded Gold in the Take a Pride in Perthshire competition and Silver and a Most Improved Town award in the Beautiful Scotland competition. Thank you to all the businesses who supported us and the volunteers who helped us carry out all the work needed to make sure the town was up to standard. Now we have to plan how we can improve for next year!!

Our raffle- held in Tesco's - raised £360.50 which will be used to buy the winter pansies and crocuses which will be planted by local nursery classes, the Trefoil Guild and Blair in Bloom volunteers.

We are holding our prizegiving for our Garden, Sunflower and Photographic competition winners on 13 November. Our AGM will be held on Monday 2nd February 2009 in the Royal Hotel at 7.30pm.

We have had some new helpers this year but are always looking for more- so if you or your organisation would like to help us it would be very much appreciated. If you can even spare a few hours occasionally please give me a call.

Helen McCann, Chairman

Tel 01250 874000; Email blairinbloom@aol.com

COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Following the successes of the 3rd Strathmore Arts Festival in spring of 2007, the group are preparing for the next festival on 4th/5th April 2009. The committee offer high quality arts activities for people of all ages. We're always looking for new people to help out or give us some of their ideas.

Help is available for adults wishing to improve their writing and spelling skills by contacting Elaine on 874234. Help is available at a time and place to suit the learner and all provision is free and confidential. Community Learning also runs a group on a Tuesday evening in Rowanbank for adults wishing to improve their conversational English, whatever the country of origin. Contact Kathleen on 874234. This provision is free of charge.

The new Duke of Edinburgh Award groups start in November for young people of 14 and over. There will be an open evening at Rowanbank in mid November for all potential new recruits to find out more.

If you've got an idea that will help your community but are not sure how to get it off the ground then get in touch. We also offer help for community groups looking for funding, or help with constitutions—phone John on 874234 to find out more.

John Corrigan, Rowanbank Community Learning Centre, Newton Terrace, Blairgowrie PH10 6HD

Phone: 01250 874234; E-mail: JCorrigan@Blairpkc.org.uk

FRIENDS OF BLAIRGOWRIE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

The Friends is a registered charity SC004061. The object is to raise funds to promote the welfare of patients and staff at Blairgowrie Community Hospital and to provide aids, comforts and facilities which are not offered through the mainstream NHS Budget. In other words to help make the hospital a better place for those elderly people in the community who need it.

The main annual fund-raising event is a Strawberry Fayre held in Blairgowrie Town Hall. We also have coffee mornings in the hospital and at other venues. Most of our income however, comes from donations which can be enhanced if the donor is a tax payer. Funeral collections, at the invitation of next of kin who wish to show their gratitude for the kind care and attention given to loved ones during what is often the last days of their life, are also a very important source of income.

Last year was the 21st anniversary of the Friends' founding. It was perhaps fitting that it coincided with the completion and opening of two sun rooms and restructured gardens for use by the patients. This was a joint project by the friends and nursing

staff which cost over £300,000. Generously supported by the public and local organisations this money was raised over a period of four years. We are sure the sun rooms and gardens, which have been greatly admired, will remain for many years a peaceful and comforting place for patients.

In addition to the provision of material things for patients and staff, there are three groups of volunteers who operate under the auspices of the Friends who make a most valuable contribution to the well-being of patients. There is a thirty-plus group of ladies who, on a rota system, look after the cut flowers and pot plants in the wards. There is also a "Quality of Life" team who visit patients and also six gardeners who look after the gardens—all are Friends.

The Friends' management committee number 16. They liaise regularly with Senior Charge Nurses to assess and consider what is required to fulfil our aims.

Douglas Kidd, Chairman, 40 Woodlands Park, Blairgowrie

douglaskidd@btinternet.com; 01250 875816

GROWBIZ—ENTERPRISING EASTERN PERTHSHIRE

This innovative community-based project offers a business coaching service for people thinking of starting their own business, or wishing to expand an existing business. The service is free and confidential and the Enterprise Facilitator, Fiona McPhail can arrange to meet at a suitable time and place.

So if you have a dream to work for yourself but are not quite sure how to go about it get in touch. Phone Fiona on 07912 786 864 or visit our website—www.growbiz.co.uk to find out a bit more about this exciting local project.

HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

(soon to be Newhill Primary)

We have all had the usual very busy start to the school year and we can't believe that we are into the second term already!

The on-going big news is, of course, our new school which is due to open in July 2009—a mere nine months from now.

The management team, Mrs Patton (Head Teacher), Mrs McIntosh and Mrs Goodman (both Depute Head Teachers) were invited for their second visit on Tuesday 28th October. It was exciting to see how much the school had, quite literally, grown since the first visit. We were able to walk down corridors and recognise the various classrooms and offices. The grounds are also taking shape and we could see where the various pitches and play area are to be. We are soon to have a meeting with the landscapers to decide on the layout of trees, bushes, games, seating and so on.

The prospect of our new school is very exciting but we still have to get on with the day-to-day life of our present school. We have some plans for the year ahead and our first major event is our Christmas

Fayre which is to be held in the school on the evening of Thursday, 4th December. This is organised by HOST, our Parents' Council and different classes will be responsible for different stalls. There will be teas and coffees and we believe that it is very likely that Santa will find time to pay us a visit! The event will be advertised by posters in the local press.

Christmas (I'll whisper it!) is fast approaching and we are already making arrangements for our Christmas Service in Blairgowrie Parish Church which, this year will be a Carol Service.

Parents, grandparents and members of the public will be made very welcome at both of these events.

Meanwhile the normal school life continues and we are lucky to have such well behaved children who, encouraged by teachers and parents, work hard and are a credit to us when out in the community. These children are the 'real' school and they will continue to be so when we have moved to our new premises.

RATTRAY HALL

Ratray Hall Committee are delighted with the continued Community use of the hall.

Our Lunch Club on a Monday continues to enjoy a three course meal, e.g.

Leek & Potato Soup, Roast of the Day, Baked Rice Pudding
also a free game of Bingo, all for £2.50. Come and enjoy! All welcome.

Ratray Beginners Social Bridge Club on a Monday at 1.30 pm recently started have had an excellent response.

Silver Surfers Internet Caf on a Tuesday 1.15pm to 3.15pm is open for all over 50's to drop in. See how to use computers or enjoy a game of whist or dominoes etc or read the papers. Tea, coffee and scones are served. There is no charge so come along and enjoy the company!!

Other events in the hall are

- Buggie Club Tuesday & Thursday am
- Pallattes Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
- Crafts, Yoga & Creche Fridays
- Ratray & District SWRI Every third Monday of the Month at 7pm
- Ratray Church Guild Every second Tuesday 7pm

The hall can be booked for functions, meetings, parties etc. More details:

Tel Shonaidh 01250 870525;
Email ratrayhall@tiscali.co.uk

RATTRAY PARISH CHURCH

Sunday worship takes place every week at 11.15am, and Communion Services are held on the first Sunday of February, June and November, at which members of all Christian denominations are welcome.

On the last Sunday of each month there is a Traidcraft Stall before and after the service. Rev Dr Malcolm MacRae (01250 872462) is the minister, and

Andrew Hodge (01250 874441) is the Session Clerk.

Services are held at Hope Park on the first Sunday of each month and at Ashgrove Court on the third Sunday of each month, as part of the church's outreach to the community. Also, "Tea and Chat" meetings are run once a fortnight in Ashgrove Court, on Tuesday afternoons.

Ratray Guild meets fortnightly on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, in Ratray Hall in Balmoral Road, at 7.30. Recent events and speakers have included the Blair Bells, an illustrated talk on Mercy Ships, and a demonstration of card making, and meetings in the coming months will feature speakers from Riding for the Disabled and Ferngreen Nursery. The Guild Convener is Chris McLeay (01250 874122) and the secretary is Mary Nicholson (01250 875246).

Ratray Church is fortunate to have a flourishing Youth Forum, currently about 15 young people, led

by Evelyn Grieve (01250 874225). This autumn they have again held a very successful Impact Holiday Club during the school holidays, when primary school children from Blairgowrie and Ratray came along for fun, games, craft and Bible stories. The Forum also conducted a Harvest Festival service which had as its theme Harvest Help, a charity which promotes self-reliance in rural communities in Africa.

The Forum will again be playing a leading part in this year's Christmas Eve service.

RELAY FOR LIFE WRAPS UP

A wrap-up party for this year's Relay for Life was held in the Royal Hotel, Blairgowrie, on Saturday 27th September.

The committee presented Dorothy Rodger, Area Volunteer manager for Cancer Research UK, with a cheque for £43,831.59. A staggering amount! This figure represents all the fundraising, donations, Candles of Hope, Balloon Race, Sponsor a Post & on-line donations. Sandra Isles, Relay for Life Chair, congratulated the 18 teams who took part in the event, on 23rd & 24th August, for their fantastic fundraising efforts.

In all, 271 team members walked or ran round the track at the JJ Coupar Park during the 24 hours of Relay, 22 survivors walked the first lap & 316 Can-

dles of Hope were sold. Davidson's Diehards were the winners of the Ailsa Isles Memorial Salver for raising the most money per team member.

The committee would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to help us achieve this phenomenal amount. A cheque has already been sent to Cancer Research UK to help find new ways to prevent, diagnose & treat different types of cancer. More than 1 in 3 people in the UK develop cancer at some point in their lives & Cancer Research UK support the work of more than 3,500 scientists, doctors & nurses in over 35 towns & cities across the UK.

Our fundraising will make a real difference, so thank you for your support.

SPECIAL TREATS

The Special Treats continue to hold events in the Rattray Hall.

Recently we held a Quiz Night and Whist Drive.

Our Dinner Dance is to be on Friday the 28th November in the Rattray Hall. Tickets £12 include a 4-course meal and music by the Lighthouse Octet. Tel 01250 870525 for tickets

Our Hogmanay Party is on the 31st Dec in the Rattray Hall with only a few tickets remaining.

Our December Outing to the Christmas Markets in Germany, Holland and Belgium is fully booked.

Anyone over 55 years of age and not already on our list who would like to go on our 2009 outings and weekend breaks please telephone 01250870525

STRATHMORE CENTRE FOR YOUTH DIALOGUE

It has been a very busy summer at SCYD, Strathmore's Young People's Centre, with a full programme of summer activities that included an educational visit to Drumderg Wind Farm, a beauty session workshop, a Battle of the Bands, a visit to St. Andrews beach, beach games and BBQ, activities day at Compass Christian Centre, an origami workshop, visits to various skate parks taking videos/photos, Speak-up-Speak-out workshop giving confidence and a voice to those who are currently voiceless, CV writing workshop, Interview techniques, Job hunting skills followed by end of programme party. In addition we ran an alternative therapy taster session, a fun day and a couple of fundraisers.

We have also been busy with the ongoing projects of **RIP (Rural Information Project)** and are hoping for more community involvement. If you have an event you would like to advertise free please contact us and we will place it on our 11 screens throughout Strathmore. We will be reinstating the **Happy to Help** group (a young person led **inter-generational programme**) and are looking for participants/volunteers both Young and More Mature to swap skills across the generations. We are currently looking for premises suitable for computers and cooking and as soon as we identify one we'll be ready to roll.

Some of the young people at SCYD have identified the need to address the issues of alcohol consumption amongst teenagers and the unusually high instances of self harm in the Strathmore area. They are currently setting up a **Self Harm Peer Support Group** and an **Alcohol Peer Support Group** to provide assistance and information for those who are affected by such issues.

One unusual piece of fundraising that SCYD will be undertaking is a **Silent Art Auction**. Art will be placed in The Dome who have kindly agreed to let us use their premises to display the art from Wednesday 5th November until the day of the auction on Saturday 8th November. If you are an artist and would like to donate a piece of work for this great cause please contact us on the number below and please make the effort to visit The Dome and view the work of some local artists. Who knows you may even want to place a secret bid!

If anyone would like to participate in any of the above events or future events, please contact SCYD by popping in to 21 Leslie St. Blairgowrie or calling us on 01250 872121.

Craig Cantwell, Manager, SCYD, 21 Leslie St. Blairgowrie

STRIDE FOR LIFE WEDNESDAY WALKS

The next series of walks provided by Blairgowrie and District Next Steps Stride for Life Wednesday

Walks: Participants should meet at 9.15am at Blairgowrie Town Hall ready to depart at 9.30am.

Date	Walk	Time	Bus
29 October	Dunkeld - Hermitage	2 – 2.5 hrs	Yes
05 November	Kirkmichael - Enochdu	2 – 2.5 hrs	Yes
12 November	Kitty Swanson	2 - 2.5 hrs	Yes
19 November	Nether Kincairney	2 – 2.5 hrs	Yes
26 November	Alyth – Alyth Den	2 – 2.5 hrs	Yes

This is a programme run by volunteers from the Blairgowrie and District Next Steps walking group [website: www.badns.org] assisted by Strathmore and the Glens Rural Partnership [www.strathmoreglens.org].

There will be at least two walks per session: one suitable for those who prefer a slow pace, which will cover less distance, and another which will cater for a medium and/or fast pace covering a greater distance.

All times are approximate and will depend on weather, ground conditions and speed of walking, and do not include an allowance for the bus journey. Please note that there is no guarantee of a bus place unless pre-booked.

All of these events are open to all, however those coming for the first time are required to complete a

registration form and brief health questionnaire. If in any doubt about your fitness for a walk please consult your GP or other medical advisor or give Liz White (Health Visitor) a call on 01250 876668. Whilst most of the walk leaders are appropriately qualified outdoor first aiders this is not a substitute for qualified medical advice from a health practitioner. Unfortunately in accordance with normal practice, all children and vulnerable adults must always be accompanied by an adult carer. There is a small charge of £3 per walk to cover the cost of hire of venue, transport and refreshments. Further information regarding BADNS or Strathmore & the Glens can be obtained from:

Nick or Sue Cole on 01828 640763

or via www.badns.org or www.strathmoreglens.org

TAYSIDE POLICE

NOTES FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

SUMMARY

In early 2008 the Force Executive of Tayside Police identified that telephone call handling needed to be addressed in line with increases in call volumes and an acceptance that the level of service offered to the public, was not to the high standards which the Force wished to deliver. In April 2008 a Superintendent was appointed to the role of Head of Communications Centre to carry out a review of communications within the Force Communications Centre.

The review also examined how the Force responded to critical incidents and the Force took the opportunity to replace the Police Inspectors located within the Force Communications Centre, on a 24 hours basis, with Chief Inspector ranks, increasing the Force's ability to deal with critical and major incidents.

The review made numerous suggestions with respect to staffing, accommodation, technology and procedure separated into 3 distinct plans namely, short, medium and long term actions over the coming months and reaching completion in November, 2009. The short term actions have already been completed. These included:-

- Changes to supervisor's hours within the Call Centre within the Force Communications Centre.

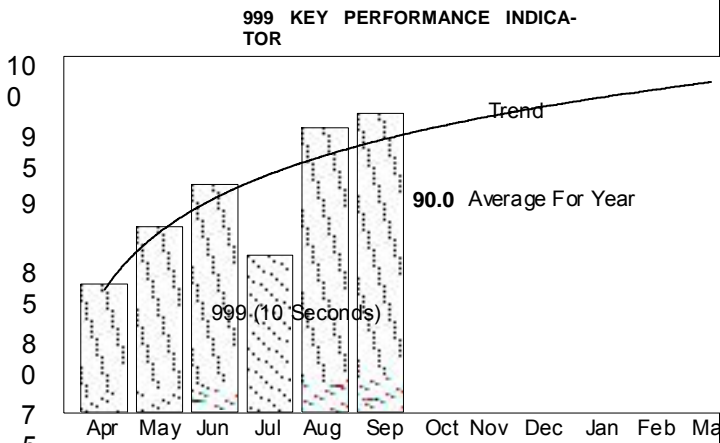
- The recruitment of an additional supervisor in this area who will come into post in October, 2008.
- The recruitment of 9 temporary call handlers by November 2008, to provide the public with a more efficient service during the transition period.
- Technical changes to allow calls to be dealt with more efficiently.
- Procedural changes within the Communications Centre to increase efficiency.
- The call handling area of the Force Communications Centre redeveloped to allow additional resources to be employed.

These changes have already led to an improvement in 999 call handling. In April, 2008 the key performance indicator of number of 999 calls answered within 10 seconds was 84%. This has now increased to 96% in September 2008.

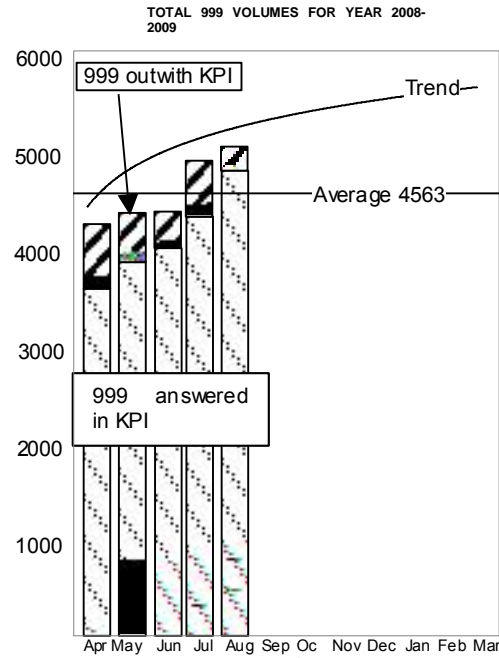
In April, 2008 the abandoned call rate was 25% compared to an abandoned call rate of 10% in September 2008. While the Force does not believe this figure to be acceptable and still above the target of 8%, it should be noted that in September 2008 there was no increase in staffing and this figure will drop as the new staff come into post in November, 2008.

The new staffing in this area represents a 56% increase in staffing dedicated to call handling.

The graph indicates improvements in this area.



These improvements have to be measured against a constantly increasing number of 999 calls as depicted in the next graph, which indicates a continuous rise in 999 calls a large number of which are caused by inappropriate use of the 999 system.



It is critical that all operational officers reinforce the emergency nature of the 999 system. It is not a system for use by members of the public who have simply run out of credit on

their mobile telephones.

The improvements within the Force Communications Centre have also seen the introduction of an SMS text alert system for the hearing and speech impaired community in partnership with the Tayside Association for the Deaf's Sound Sense Project. The longer term recommendations for Force Communications have also been supported by the Force Executive. These include:

- The formation of a new Force Communications Centre within Headquarters, Dundee, allowing the amalgamation of resources to better control all critical incidents under the command of the new Chief Inspectors.
- The formation of a new second call handling centre in Divisional Headquarters, Perth with the creation of 9 additional Call Handling Posts to deal efficiently with calls from the public.
- The introduction of a demand-led shift pattern within the Force Communications Centre
- The introduction of Police Staff Team Leaders and Assistant Team leader to allow the return to operational roles of 5 Sergeants and 8 Constables over a period between early 2009 and 2010.

While these improvements will be phased over a period the improvements in efficiency to the public are clearly being seen already and these will only improve after the new call handling resource is in place in November, 2008.

This briefing document is designed for community meetings to allow Community Officers, Sergeants and Inspectors to keep their communities updated with developments in this area and to allay some of the concerns which many community groups have expressed regarding call handling.

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Cllr Bob Ellis, 01738 475041/01250 873899; rsellis@pkc.gov.uk
Cllr Liz Grant, 01738 475014; E-mail: eagrnt@pkc.gov.uk

Cllr Caroline Shiers, 01738 553990; cshiers@pkc.gov.uk

MESSAGE FROM CLLR BOB ELLIS

In my last input to the Blairgowrie & Rattray Community Council's Bulletin, I spoke of the 2007 Walking Festival; the 2008 event has gone off very well and despite early indications, we were only 30 or so bodies down on last year. Organisers Nick & Sue Cole and their helpers have to be congratulated for their efforts.

I think that one year on it is great that your three local councillors are still battling together for every one in Ward 3 and that has come through on many aspects over the last few months.

We have had meetings with Roads regarding various complaints about parking problems in Balmoral Road, signage and other issues brought to our attention.

We have also dealt with several planning issues. The Burnhead Road Development has still to go to Committee to be approved or otherwise. I have

been involved with the development in Coupar Angus Road and it was good to see the developers having a public drop-in meeting and as a result, I have asked them to have one-to-one meetings with concerned residents if necessary.

One other development, which I have been involved in, is the proposed application concerning the re-siting of the tennis courts from their present site to the proposed one in J J Coupar Park. I have chaired the first meeting and look forward to the next one.

I have had a meeting with one of our Environment Officers concerning the Loon Braes. I (along with, I think, many others) am disappointed at the state that this once lovely area has been allowed to get into. A proposed get-together of various groups around the town should result in their restoration.

I have had a few meetings with members of Blairgowrie & Rattray Regeneration Company and attended the public meeting described earlier in this Bulletin. This meeting was well attended and many good points were raised, but we, as a community need to get behind this Company and their projects.

It would be great to see every person in Blairgowrie & Rattray enrolled as members of this Company and you can do this for £1, giving you a share, a vote and a badge. The group intend to continue to publicise their activities in this way.