

*BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY
COMMUNITY COUNCIL BULLETIN
March-June 2009*

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for their financial support for the production of this
Bulletin, enabling it to be issued free of charge

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Community Council continues to seek out the issues which concern members of the community and to follow them through to completion. In the nature of things, the result cannot always be to the full satisfaction of the request, but as far as possible we get the facts and, where it's relevant, a positive outcome.

Much of our attention at present concerns the community involvement in regeneration which has been the subject of a recent public meeting. The Community Council was involved in the preparation for this event and in the analysis of community opinion

reflected in the records. Of 180 recorded attendance, 66% expressed willingness to help with the regeneration programme, 20 recorded 'maybe', while only 3% were unable or unwilling to be involved; a further 11% gave no answer. The 86% in favour of helping show a remarkable and overwhelming desire to see positive change in the town's attractiveness to its residents and visitors and to be involved in bringing about that change.

The members of the Community Council look forward to action to build on what we have as a community, even with the current economic climate.

BLAIR IN BLOOM

The Blair in Bloom committee have lots of work planned for the coming year in Blairgowrie and Rattray. The gaps in the containers of winter pansies need to be filled to keep them looking their best for Spring and we will receive our summer bedding plants in Mid April. They will need to be potted on and kept in a warm greenhouse until it's time to put them out in June.

Children at Hill Primary Nursery planted up pots with crocuses donated by Blair in Bloom. Three of our members have taken part in a Craft Day at Rattray Primary School where the pupils will be decorating terracotta pots which will be filled with plants and put out in the playground later in the year

The Annual Spring Litter Pick in conjunction with Keep Scotland Tidy is to be held on 19th April, meeting at the Riverside Car Park at 1.30. We've made it a little later as people have said it would allow them

to join us after attending church. If you know of any areas which would benefit from our attention please let me know.

We are still looking at ways to improve the entrances to the town and to finish the site of the new dry-stane dyke at the end of Parkhead Rd. Any ideas out there? Coronation Corner will be worked on as part of the stART festival on 4/5th April. Look out for information nearer the time. Our aim is to improve our Beautiful Scotland Award from Silver to Silver Gilt

Doing light gardening work in your community is reckoned to improve fitness and reduce stress. So come along and join us; have fun—you'll enjoy better health and a more beautiful town.

Helen McCann, Chairman

Tel 01 250 874000; Email: blairinbloom@aol.com

BLAIRGOWRIE & DISTRICT NEXT STEPS: WEDNESDAY WALKS

Meet in Blairgowrie Town Hall 09:15 for 09:30 start

There will be at least two walk groups per session, one suitable for those who prefer a slow pace, which may also be shorter and involve a minibus, and another

which will cater for a medium and/or fast pace possibly covering a greater distance.

Please note that the walks may be re-programmed or changed at short notice. If this occurs it will be due to factors outwith our control.

Date	Walk			Duration (app)	
4 Mar	Hill of Gourdie		Bus	2-2½ hrs	
11 Mar	Meikleour Wood		Bus	2-2½ hrs	
18 Mar	Ardblair Trail			1½-2 hrs	
25 Mar	Northballo Hill		Bus	2-2½ hrs	
1 Apr	Whiteside Farm	Alyth	Bus	2-2½ hrs	
8 Apr	Caputh	Inchtuthill	Bus	2-2½ hrs	
15 Apr	Drimmie Wood		Bus	2-2½ hrs	
22 Apr	Pittendriech		Bus	2-2½ hrs	
29 Apr	Kirkmichael	Enochdu	Bus	2-2½ hrs	
6 May	River Isla	Coupar Angus	Bus	2-2½ hrs	
13 May	Loyal Road	Alyth	Bus	2-2½ hrs	
20 May	Airlie		Bus	2-2½ hrs	
27 May	Redmire Loch		Bus	2½-3 hrs	Small picnic
3 Jun	Meigle	Belmont	Bus	2-2½ hrs	
10 Jun	Drimmie Wood	Alyth Den	Bus	2-2½ hrs	
17 Jun	Dunkeld	Braan Walk	Bus	2-2½ hrs	
24 Jun	Bonnington Hill			1½-2 hrs	

General Information

Registration As we need to pre-book buses please put your name down in advance. There is no guarantee of a space otherwise.

Refreshments There will be time for tea/coffee and a chat in the town hall at the end of each walk. It is advisable to carry some water and a light snack with you during the walk. For a picnic (see above) a small flask of a hot drink and a sandwich/snack is advised.

Clothing All you need is appropriate clothing and footwear suitable for walking on all types of terrain. Some of the paths we walk on are occasionally rough, rutted or muddy.

Assisted Access Some of the walks are suitable for buggies and wheelchairs—please check with a walk leader in the town hall in advance. If you are prepared with a lightweight buggy and willing to carry it and your child over obstacles (with assistance) then most walks will be suitable. A

buggy with large wheels is strongly recommended.

Transport Most of the walks will use a bus. A minibus may be provided if available, to assist with the short walks. If one isn't available then the short walk will be a variation of the longer walk.

Cost £3.00 per person per walk which is payable in the town hall before the walk commences pays for the bus and refreshments.

Timing The times shown are approximate and may vary depending on conditions on the day, the exact route taken and also makes an allowance for bus journey times. Please note that we cannot guarantee we will finish at any specific time.

Information Please call Nick or Sue on 01828 640763, or email sue@strathmoreglens.sol.co.uk.

Full details also available on www.badns.org

Walking is a great way to stay healthy and active. It benefits weight control, blood pressure, cholesterol, helps to maintain healthy bones, muscles and joints whilst giving you more energy.

BLAIRGOWRIE & EAST PERTSHIRE TOURIST ASSOCIATION (BEPTA)

BEPTA continues to work 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, Perth and Kinross Council, 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.

In February we received the news that our funding applications to the VisitScotland Growth Fund, the P&KC East Perthshire ABI Fund, and the Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust had all been successful. As a result, we now have a fully funded, £60,000+ Action Plan which, over the coming year and beyond, will deliver the following major projects:

- Ø A brand new, state-of-the-art website;
- Ø A photo image bank of professional photography of the area, covering all seasons of the year, and all significant activities and attractions;
- Ø An upgraded local area Visitor Guide, harmonised with the website
- Ø Two separate Promotional Campaigns for the area ("Spring" and "Autumn/Winter"). These would entail direct mailing, online promotion and media insertion leaflets;

Ø Face-to-Face Promotions through the use of Stands at the Outdoors Show at the Birmingham NEC (March 2009), and at major Shopping Centres in the Central Belt.

BEPTA's membership now stands at over 100 businesses, and continues 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 ongoing dealings with funding partners. If you feel that you want to be part of this success story, please contact us!

The BEPTA AGM will be held on 14th May in the Red House Hotel, where current and potential Members will be warmly welcomed. More detailed information will be published closer to that date.

For more information:

- Ø visit www.beppta.com
- Ø Secretary, Philip Smith, on 01250 882200 (psmith@motomo.co.uk)
- Ø Chairman, Mike Purdie, on 01250 885217 (mikepurdie@onetel.com).

BLAIRGOWRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Business Link

Tracey Baxter from Roy Sim Antiques recently contacted Blairgowrie High School Rector, Gordon Miller, to commend the work done by the pupils and staff of the Music Department in preparing for a joint event before Christmas.

"Not only did they perform well and really add an ambience to the evening, they were extremely well behaved and good fun! They are a credit to the school and we enjoyed their company."

Ms Baxter expressed her hopes that the school and the business may cooperate to organise more events in 2009.

S1 Scriptwriting Event

On Thursday 15 January all S1 pupils at Blairgowrie High School took part in the third annual Modern Language Script writing event. Their task was to work in groups to make up a script in French or German which they will make into an animated film next year with their art teachers.

The school welcomed visitors from HM Inspectorate and Learning and Teaching Scotland to the event, as well as local native French and German speakers and foreign language assistants from Perthshire, who helped the pupils with their discussions and vocabulary.

The scripts are based on the topic of "where they live" and the best will be shown at the DCA Cinema in Dundee next year.

Pupils go Fishing!

Thursday 15 January was the opening of the salmon fishing season on the Tay at Kenmore.

Lindsay Johnston, S6 pupil, at Blairgowrie High School and a member of AFYD—Angling for Youth Development, was given the honour of taking the first cast from the boat on the river. Lindsay says that her experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and although she was nervous she has had a lot of help and advice from the adult coaches from AFYD—Grev, Graham, Gillie and Deek. Lindsay says that AFYD has played a huge part in her life over the last few years and she thanked everyone for the opportunity. She was accompanied to Kenmore with several other young AFYD members.

Blairgowrie High School Holocaust Assemblies

During the last week in January, Blairgowrie HS house assemblies were devoted to remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust. Mr Paul Nicholson, Principal Teacher of History, helped a group of S2 to S6 pupils devise a programme of poems and visual displays which commemorated the suffering of Jewish populations during the Second World War. Especially interesting was the description by Cheryl Laird, Head Girl, of a visit she made last year to Auschwitz. One of the assemblies was attended by MSP, Pete Wishart, and by Director of Education and Children's Services, and former Rector of Blairgowrie HS, John Fyffe.

BLAIRGOWRIE LIBRARY—SERVICES TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

Are you involved with a group in Blairgowrie and district and need some resources? Blairgowrie Library can help.

We can arrange for you to borrow a collection of books. Whatever your group's interests are, we can make up a collection of books and other resources to suit your needs. These are made up centrally and can be borrowed on a long loan of up to 3 months. Whether you are a Book Group, Playgroup, Adult

Learning Group or run a community facility, we can make up a collection for you.

All libraries can also offer groups and tutors a card allowing up to 20 items to be borrowed for six weeks. You can choose these items yourself from Blairgowrie or any other Perth and Kinross library.

For more information, or to obtain an application form contact Simon McGowan at Blairgowrie Library, 46a Leslie Street, PH10 6AW, or telephone 01250 872905, or email: blairgowrielibrary@pkc.gov.uk.

BLAIRGOWRIE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday Services are held at 11am with a Sunday evening Praise Service on the first Sunday of the month. There is a Family Service which is held in the Church Hall on the fourth Sunday of the month at 9.30am, in addition to the service at 11am; there is a crèche available at 11am and the Sunday School meets at 11.00 on the Sundays when there is no 9.30am service.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the morning and afternoon of the first Sunday of February, June and November with an additional Communion service on the first Sunday of every month in the side chapel of the Church. On Thursday afternoons following each main Communion, a small communion service is

held in the Church Hall to accommodate less mobile members unable to attend on a Sunday.

Our worship in the Church is enhanced by our enthusiastic choir and organist. Attached to the church is an active Boys Brigade company which draws boys from all over the town. Attendance at the Guild is strong and the church halls are well used for social activities such as bowling and badminton and a craft group.

There are four baptisms and seven weddings planned for the next few months in the church.

Our minister is still regarded as "new" to us having been with us now for six months. We will use the opportunity of the Community Council Bulletin to advise you of what we are doing in our church

At present we are planning to take advantage of the idea of Homecoming 2009 to celebrate the home that we feel we are offered by God in his church. We will publish fuller details as our plans progress.

We welcome all who wish to join our fellowship.

Church James Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6EZ
Phone: 01250 876797; Website:
www.blairgowrieparish.org.uk

Minister Rev Harry Mowbray
Blairgowrie Parish Church Manse, David
Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6HB
Phone: 01250 872146; E-mail:
hmowbray@viewlands.plus.com

BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY BRAEMAR ASSOCIATION

Last September, the Braemar Association, once again organised a busy programme of events to celebrate Braemar Day. A new addition to the day's entertainment was a Duck Race, organised by the Dundee Lions. The event attracted so much interest, that it was a sell-out before the day, raising over £400 for local good causes. The entertainment in the Wellmeadow attracted a smaller crowd than in previous years, but nevertheless, the entertainment was greatly appreciated by those who attended. The fireworks display was, as usual, a resounding success and 21st Century Celebration Fireworks presented a spectacular display. The ceilidh which

followed in the Angus Hotel was a sell-out and the dancers enjoyed the music of the Ken Stewart band.

The committee has been dwindling over the past few years and they desperately need more volunteers to help organise the events and also to give support on the day—Saturday 5 September 2009. The AGM, to which everyone is welcome, will take place on Monday 2 March, in St Catharine's Centre at 6.30pm. Anyone interested in offering their services, should come along to the AGM or call Dave (873839) or Dick (874326)

Margaret Wotherspoon, Secretary,
Blairgowrie & Rattray Braemar Association

BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY REGENERATION

Public Meeting on 16 February 2009

A very successful meeting of the Blairgowrie and Rattray Regeneration Company (BARRC) took place at the Royal Hotel on the 16th February to discuss the future regeneration of Blairgowrie and Rattray. As on the previous such occasion, the meeting was chaired by Mrs Sandy Bushby. This was BARRC's third public meeting and was undoubtedly one of the biggest public meetings ever held in Blairgowrie with about 250 or more people in attendance.

Summary of Historical Background:

Nov07 Stevens Report instigated by Merchants Association recommended the formation of a company to establish priorities, co-ordinate activities, raise capital, and drive forward initiatives.

Dec07 BARRC was formed. It is a not-for-profit charity set up to work alongside many other local groups for the completion of projects and activities benefiting the town. A number of active and retired local business entrepreneurs came together to form a working group to act on the report. They brought with them significant experience in tourism, retail, venture capital, renewable energy, manufacturing, local business knowledge, and involvement in the local community.

Colin Stewart was appointed chairman and the group was named the Blairgowrie and Rattray Regeneration Company (BARRC). Sir William Macpherson agreed to become its patron.

Jan 08 Public meeting was held endorsing plans, working closely with 18 main local committees.

Jan/Feb 08

Commissioned Gardens Project—Sir William Macpherson donated 12 acres

Hydro scheme initiated

Sep 08

100 people attended a Public Meeting convened to provide the community with an opportunity to contribute ideas to help regenerate the town.

18 volunteers responded to an invitation to offer services.

Dec 09 Fj's Gaelic Festival Committee established

Jan 09 Schools Project was set up,

The Community's Vision

The ideas recorded in the creative thinking session at the meeting in September were analysed and categorised with the help of the Community Council. Here are some of the key suggestions:

Facilities

We need facilities not already available to cater for recreation, events, socialising, training. These should cover all ages from the young to the elderly and those suffering from dementia. Sites of interest include Hill Primary, Hill Kirk, recreation centre/swimming pool, Rattray Hall.

Activities

Further development of provision for walking, mountain biking, cycle tracks, riding, including adventure projects and informative trails. Respondents included also golf, field and track events, skateboarding and other activities that need structures. An interesting suggestion proposed the co-operation of old and young in a community allotment scheme, growing produce for sale.

Culture

A wide range of suggestions included Festivals—music, art, theatre and youth, modern cinema, ways of developing local talent. These were seen as attracting visitors for national/international events. There were pleas for a museum of history and local activities.

Means to Achieve the Vision

Tourism

The items above would be intended for both local folk and visitors. There would need to be an evaluation of the contribution of tourism and ways of publicising the town's attractions.

Volunteers coming on board

Members of the community are encouraged to volunteer, adding to those who responded at the September meeting and subsequently.

The local schools have undertaken projects encouraging pupils to produce materials for use in publicising the programme.

Funding

Funding will be available only for projects which can be justified in business terms. However, the list below shows a great degree of success in attracting such funds.

What have we got so far and hope to get

- Ø Energy Savings Trust £7,191
- Ø Climate Challenge Fund £138,000
- Ø Leader Funding £4,500
- Ø P&K Council £10,000
- Ø 2 of the directors raised £1,000 through playing bagpipes
- Ø Bid for Lottery Funding of £750,000
- Ø Scottish Government allocated £60,000,000 for town regeneration and this was modelled on Blairgowrie

To be effective, teamwork is essential to evaluate, prioritise and implement projects. The team includes the committees involved and the whole community, extending much further than the BARRC Board.

Colin Stewart, Chairman of BARRC updated the meeting on the progress of the Ericht Project and the report presented by Land Use Consultants, the firm which carried out a feasibility study on this project.

Ross Peters, a BARRC Director, introduced Clare and Chris Brett of Inter Hydro Technology, the professional engineers who have been working on the Hydro Scheme. They presented the possible sites suitable for a hydro project as well as a report allaying any fears that the hydro project would cause any damage to the fish population.

Allan Proctor, director of BARRC and a local businessman emphasised the importance of community involvement. His contribution was received enthusiastically by the meeting.

Graham Reid gave an explanation and update about the Fife's Young Musicians organisation.

Contributions were made by politicians John Swinney MSP, Murdo Fraser MSP and Pete Wishart MP who are all in support of the aims of BARRC and will help in any way possible.

The Chair thanked everybody for their attendance and asked for a show of hands confirming their support for BARRC's aims. There was unanimous support. The audience was then asked for a show of hands regarding the Hill Primary Site and once again there was a unanimous show of hands.

Feedback from people after the meeting was excellent and many more people volunteered to help.

Contacts

Web: www.barrc.co.uk; E-mail: sec@barrc.co.uk

Mail: BARRC, c/o A. Proctor Group Ltd, The Haugh, Blairgowrie PH10 7ER

BLAIRGOWRIE & RATRAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Blairgowrie Residents Association is the product of the Perth & Kinross Federation who arranged the initial meetings with Tenants and Residents living in this area. From these meetings a steering group was set up followed by the present committee. The committee meets about four times a year with one Open Meeting and an Annual General Meeting being held yearly.

Although we deal with many tenant related issues, we also deal with environment, traffic, road and local interest topics. At each Open Meeting the Local Councillors are invited along with a Guest Speaker who will give a short talk on a chosen subject.

Phone 01382 442302 or email: pktrf@btconnect.com for further information

BLAIRGOWRIE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB.

The Club has been in existence for more than 60 years, over that period meeting in various venues in the town. We now meet in the Town Hall every Wednesday from the end of October until the end of March. New members are always made very welcome and can be sure that no matter their ability

they will always be dancing and to very lively music. We are a really friendly group and no one feels left out so do come along and give it a go, look forward to seeing you next term. Further information can be obtained on 01250 873341 or email

maurice791@aol.com

FRIENDS OF BLAIRGOWRIE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL (SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. 004061)

In my first contribution to this Bulletin I briefly described the objects of our organisation which is sim-

ply to raise funds to help make our hospital a better place for both patients and staff.

The current edition covers the Festive Season so I shall start by telling you what we did during that time to try and uplift patient's spirits. On the Sunday before Christmas the Friends hosted a Carol Service conducted by the Hospital Chaplain Rev Ian Knox. It was attended by about 60 patients, staff and friends who, at the conclusion of the service, enjoyed a cup of tea with mince pies and shortbread. During Christmas week we provided entertainment for patients in the Wards and gave a Christmas gift to every patient. During Burns week we held our annual Scots Night in the Hospital Day Room. This was attended by about 50 people made up of patients, staff, friends and a few guests who were treated to a traditional Burns meal followed by traditional Scottish entertainment. It was good to see the mixture of surprise and delight on the faces of the patients that evening.

Incidentally, it might be of interest to readers to know that on the second and fourth Sunday of each month a short informal church service conducted by the Hospital Chaplain is held in the Hospital Day Room at 2.15 pm. It is for patients and staff, but attended by members of the public who are made very welcome. The Friends support the service and, at the conclusion, they provide a cup of tea and a biscuit for those attending.

As I indicated in the last edition much of our support stems from private donations. Last year we received a substantial private donation which was dedicated to the purchase of three specially de-

signed beds for use by patients requiring palliative care.

It was then we were made aware of the increasing number of patients in this category. One of our own members, a former nurse, suggested to the Friends that it would be beneficial for these patients if we were to sponsor specialist training for a member of the staff. The Charge Nurses confirmed there was always a need for more nurses specially trained in this field and they gave strong support to the proposal. Since then a suitable candidate from the nursing staff has agreed to undergo this training and she is now enrolled in a two year part-time Degree Course in Palliative Nursing Care at Dundee University sponsored by the Friends. In the long run we are confident this will be beneficial to patients and other hospital staff.

On Saturday, 14th March between 10am and 12 noon the Friends are holding a Coffee Morning in the Hospital Day Room. A warm invitation is given to all members of the public to join them in support for what we do. For those who have not done so, it would be a good opportunity to view (externally of course) the Sun Rooms and Gardens which were the subject of our special project and completed last year.

Douglas Kidd, Chairman, 40 Woodlands Park, Blairgowrie.

douglaskidd@btinternet.com; telephone 01250 875816

RELAY FOR LIFE

The local committee of Cancer Research UK's Relay for Life have made a decision to take a year out from the event. This is due to changes in date, venue and also procedures from Cancer Research UK. We still intend to hold the event in 2010 and will be planning various fund raising ideas throughout 2009.

Over the past two years we have raised over £60,000 to fund new ways to prevent, diagnose and

treat different types of cancer and also to raise cancer awareness in the community. We are still committed to continuing our efforts, but over a longer time span. If you would like to be involved in this worthwhile cause please contact Sandra Isles by email: sandra-isles2003@yahoo.co.uk

For more information about Relay for Life log on to www.cancerresearchuk.org/relay

STRATHMORE SURGERY

Dr McNeill and Dr Humble would like to thank everyone who took part in the recent patient survey. The main criticism expressed was that patients found it difficult to get through to the surgery on the telephone at 8.30am to make an appointment. In response we have introduced several measures to improve telephone access.

- Ø Appointments are available to book from 8.00am instead of 8.30am.
- Ø Many more appointments are now pre-bookable up to 7 days in advance to save having to call first thing in the morning for non-urgent complaints. This will include late afternoon slots, which will benefit patients who work.

Ø Some appointments are available to book several weeks in advance.

Ø On the day appointments are still available for those patients needing to see a doctor quickly and can be booked from 8.00am.

We are glad to report that the feedback we have received from patients since introducing these changes in early January have been very positive.

We have also introduced a service to accept repeat prescription requests via email. Registration forms for this service are available at the reception desk.

If you are a smoker and would like more information on quitting please contact reception to make an appointment to be seen at our No Smoking Day event on 11th March.

SPECIAL TREATS

The Special Treats held their AGM on January 26th 2009, welcomed by Chairperson Rab Beattie who

reported that 2008 had been a very successful year for the Special Treats with many local seniors enjoy-

ing the holiday and weekend breaks etc. He went on to thank the public for their support at the fund-raising events.

Ratray Hall Committee were thanked for their assistance when the Special Treats had rented their hall for events.

The Treasurer reported that Audited Accounts Reports were being forwarded to OSCAR as required with our Charitable Status.

The Committee were re-elected.

Events and Outings for first half of 2009 were decided.

TUESDAY 10TH MARCH 2009

“GIRLS” Night Out—High Tea at Ratray Hall (served by the Men!!) followed by trip to Perth Theatre—cost £20

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 2009

Irish Night 3 course meal—tickets £12
Bring own refreshments

11TH MAY 2009

BINGO TEA: Eyes down 7.30pm

Star Prize £50

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2009

Bothy Night—tickets £10—bring own refreshments

For tickets telephone

SHONAI DH 01 250 870525

ADELE 01 250 873053

SPECIAL TREATS OUTINGS FOR 2009

MARCH Weekend Trip to Glasgow area

JUNE Visit to Scottish Parliament

JULY Trip to Northern Ireland

AUGUST Weekend Trip to Orkney

SEPTEMBER Trip to London

Interested? Contact Shonaidh 01 250 870525

STRATHMORE & THE GLENS COMMUNITY MARKETS DATES FOR 2009

“Opportunity to promote local producers”

10am-3pm on the following dates:

28 th March	Coupar Angus Horse Fair
11 th April	Blairgowrie and Ratray
Easter Fair	
23 rd May	Alyth Square
27 th June	Blairgowrie Wellmeadow
25 th July	Alyth Square

22nd August Blairgowrie Wellmeadow

26th September Alyth Square

24th October Blairgowrie Wellmeadow

28th November Alyth Square

5th December Indoor Christmas Market
Blairgowrie

Further details available from Sue Cole 01828
640763 or via www.strathmoreglens.org

MESSAGE FROM CLLR ELIZABETH GRANT

None of us could fail to be aware of the banking crisis and the fall out that is affecting jobs and businesses worldwide not to mention the social implications as our service industries strive to take the strain.

Councils have not been immune to the credit crunch. However, in Scotland we are fortunate to have received a better settlement from the Scottish Government than we had hoped and as a consequence we have been able to freeze the Council Tax for a second successive year.

We have prioritised our spending to support the future of our young people and hence £500,000 of additional funds to Education and Children’s Services.

The new Community Campuses are to receive additional funding for their libraries of £102,000 and a further £80,000 to give 21st century access to additional ICT within the new libraries.

To support the most vulnerable in our communities the Council proposes to co-locate the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Welfare Rights team to provide a single door access for financial advice. We will

also develop a credit union for the residents of our area who find things particularly hard in these difficult times.

The Council is committed to the best possible care for our increasingly ageing residents and we have provided an additional £150,000 for Housing with Care so that older people who wish to remain at home can do so for as long as possible. This is in addition to the huge commitment we made of £2 million in our previous budget.

As a result of a recent Economic Conference hosted by the Council an additional £250,000 was added to monies already allocated to support business expansion and social enterprise, to aid employability and boost tourism. In effect over £1million has been allocated to the local economy to ensure that it remains well placed to withstand the current downturn.

This is just a snapshot of the recent budget but I think it highlights that we have tried to address the current global economic downturn in a positive and creative way, invest in our children, sustain our services and protect the vulnerable in our communities.