



## Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of the Maryburgh e-bulletin. It is nearly two years since the Maryburgh Amenities Company Ltd was registered with Companies House on the 18 June 2013. The company board members now feel that those who signed up as members of the company should be kept better informed in the future. This e-bulletin will therefore be sent out regularly to all members of the company by email. I apologise for those without the benefit of email, but important information will still be published in the Maryburgh Roundabout and appear on the village web site for all residents.



*Figure 1 - Conceptual design proposal for the renovated Community Centre*

## Organisation

The Maryburgh Amenities Company Ltd. was formed to take over the responsibility and functions of Maryburgh Amenities Association. The new company is in the process of being recognised as a Scottish Charity with the same charitable purposes as the Association and will take over governance of the community assets and the future developments within the community. The company works closely with both the Highland Council and the Maryburgh Community Council.

In order to fulfil its dual role two new committees have been formed within the company.

The first is the Maryburgh Amenities committee that will take on and continue the functions of the previous Maryburgh Amenities Association. Its role is to organise fundraising, oversee the hire of the community centre and arrange for ongoing maintenance of the building.

The second committee set up is the Maryburgh Futures Group. This group is a community-based liaison team established to act as a steering group for development of the Amenities Centre, old school building and the green space between the two buildings.

## Financial condition

The first financial statement for the company was submitted to Companies House in March. These accounts indicate that between June 2013 and June 2014 the company had an operating income of £15,303.00 and administrative expenses of £9,045.00. This has provided a profit of £6,258.00 for the Community Centre after several years of deficit. While this appears good news, this profit is nowhere near enough to carry out all the repairs needed to the building.

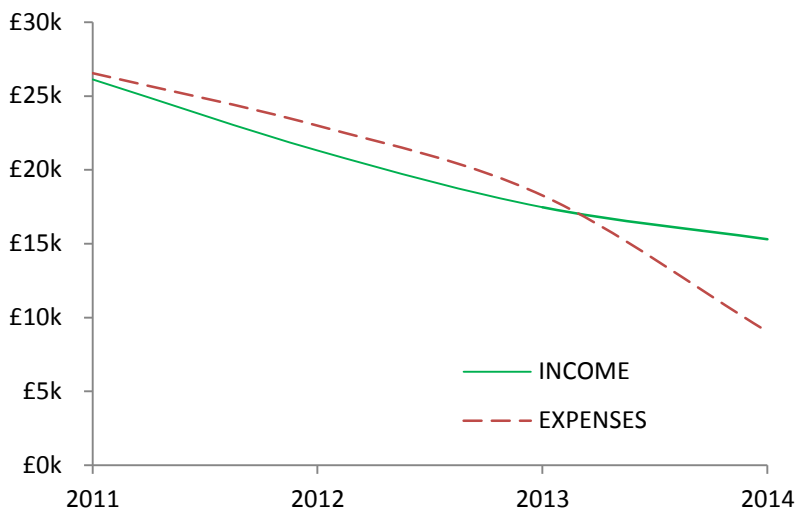


Figure 2 - Chart comparing income against expenses since 2011

### Community assets

At the moment the two community assets are the Community Centre in Back Road and the Football pitch adjacent to it. All the land including the land that the centre is built on belongs to the Highland Council. The Highland Council also own the old school building and open green space between the school and the football pitch.

Once the Maryburgh Futures Group develop a fully detailed business plan it is hoped that the Highland Council Asset Board will transfer the school building and all the land mentioned above over to the community. This will allow the community to develop the whole area for the benefit of everyone in the village.

The main concern the Board of Directors have at the moment is the condition of the Community Centre. Urgent maintenance is badly needed. The Centre is no longer fit for purpose. Over the last 4 years the income to the Centre has reduced as fewer groups make use of the building. This is partly due to the poor condition and partly due to the

heating during the winter months. The chart above compares the drop in income against the expenses of running the building. The drop in expenses is due to less being spent on ongoing maintenance and the heating not being used so often in the main hall.

### The community hub

The work is progressing by a small group of volunteers to obtain Stage 1 funding to develop the fully detailed business plan for the community hub including the Community Centre, old school building and greenspace in the centre of the village. A draft application has been submitted to the Big Lottery Fund, but the response has been we need to show there is a need in the community for our proposals and it is just not to renovate an existing building and what would be nice to have.

The Maryburgh Futures Group feel that the development of the Community Hub is about improving the community and a real need exists. A few of us in the village feel there is need to keep the community spirit alive

and provide improved facilities that will encourage residents to meet up for community activities such as sports, drama or even for just a cuppa and chat.

### The Youth of Maryburgh

The younger members of the village are just as important as all the other age groups and the Board of Directors are now working hard to involve the youth in the future of the village. This month Anna Beaton volunteered to attend our Board meetings as a junior representative. Under the Articles of Association of the company a junior member between 12 and 17 years can attend Board meetings in a non-voting role to put forward the views and interests of young people in the community.

### Volunteers

We still need more help; the Maryburgh Amenities Committee responsible for fundraising recently had a meeting. Only four people attended. We want residents to get involved. Don't wait until it is too late. A little of your time could help our community and avoid the loss of an active community and Maryburgh becoming just a suburb of Dingwall or Conon with only a stone monument on the road between Dingwall & Conon to identify the community. If you wish to get involved drop a note into the Community Centre letterbox or email us.