



CRIEFFMatters

All the Action from the Crieff Community Action Plan Summer 2013

Welcome to Crieff Community Trust's (CCT) very first newsletter. This will be published quarterly to keep everyone up-to-date with what's happening. The past two months have been very exciting and represent a landmark in the history of Crieff!

After the successful launch of the Crieff Community Action Plan (CAP) with our partners Crieff Community Council and Crieff & Upper Strathearn Partnership in February, the CCT Steering Group, which put in an amazing amount of hard work over the past 18 months, was dissolved. CCT was then officially formed and incorporated as a company in late



March. Since then the Board has met regularly, the Action Groups have been formed and are all moving forward to bring about the vision of Crieff outlined in the Action Plan.

The CCT is working for YOU to help make Crieff an even better place to live. If you haven't already done so, please show your support by becoming a member of CCT. Being a member gives you a voice on the key issues arising in the town. Your views are important. We will be consulting with our members on hot topics as and when they arise. Don't worry, we won't bombard you with emails!



3400 copies of the CAP were delivered to every household in Crieff. Copies are available at the Community Library, the Council offices in James Square or to download at www.crieffcommunitytrust.org.uk

VISIT US ONLINE: www.crieffcommunitytrust.org.uk



Our website is in the process of being given a new look and will be a source of information for all. On the site you can:

- Join CCT
- See minutes of Board Meetings
- Learn more about the Board
- Read about other inspiring projects which other communities have managed
- Download the Crieff Action Plan and this newsletter

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

Becoming a member is really easy. We have put a copy of the CCT membership application on the back of this newsletter. Just fill it in, cut it off and pop it in a membership box at either the Strathearn Community Campus or the Council office in James Square.

Alternatively, people can sign up to be members online at www.crieffcommunitytrust.org.uk

Membership is free and you don't have to do anything else if you don't want to. However CCT welcomes anyone who would like to get involved in any way.

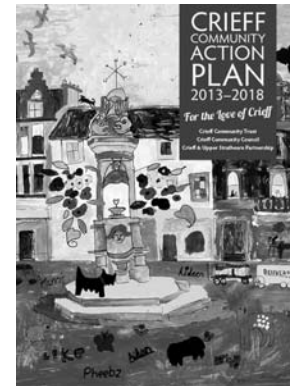


We're social! 'Like' Crieff Community Trust on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check out our 'pins' on Pinterest for more updates.

Crieff 2018: A united community reclaiming our heritage as the proud and vibrant heart of Strathearn.

ACTION!

Here's where the action is! Each of the five Action Groups is working on projects outlined in the CAP. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the action groups please email us at crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com



TOWN CENTRE

This group has probably the biggest and most challenging remit and is currently focusing on the top two priorities identified in the CAP.

REDUNDANT & DERELICT BUILDINGS

The first of these was to reinvigorate Crieff Town Centre, and, in particular, to find solutions to the problem of redundant and derelict buildings. A first, and vital step in this process was to undertake an audit of all these buildings. This has now been completed and covers:

- Current ownership
- The cost to purchase or lease the building
- Its planning status
- Information about its listing by Historic Scotland

Funding organisations all require this information before any application will be considered so, with this audit in place, we are now in a good position to move to the next stage.

Many towns around Scotland are already taking ownership of buildings which are then developed for community use. Funding is available from a number of sources for this type of project.

Douglas Westwater, Chief Executive of Community Enterprises led a very informative meeting in Crieff at the end of April. Since then, he has provided a draft project plan which will be useful as a model for how we should structure our plan, as well as a guide to minimising any risks involved in its implementation.

Members of the Action Group have also visited other community projects around Scotland to see how they work in practice.

www.communityenterprise.co.uk

SUPPORT LOCAL SHOPS & BUSINESSES

The Town Centre second priority is to support local shops and businesses by creating a Business Improvement District (BID) for Crieff.

A working party has been set up to start the ball rolling for setting up a BID in Crieff. The BID area has initially been broadly defined as lying within the town's 40mph limits, but significant contributors to the local economy outwith this area will be invited to take part. The precise BID area will be the subject of consultation. The working party is comprised of members of the Community Council: Stephen Leckie as Chair, Jean Ann Scott Miller, Chris McIntosh, Graham Donaldson as well as Ailsa Campbell, Vice Chair CCT. The group has met a number of times with BIDS Director, Ian

Davison Porter and John McCrone, Regeneration Manager, PKC.

The working party is applying for grant funding to employ a Project Manager who will first help to organise a general public meeting after the summer to further explain to people in Crieff what a BID is, answer any questions and create a Steering Group to work towards creating a BID for Crieff. This Project Manager will work with the Steering Group on consulting with the businesses in the proposed area, deliver a business plan based on this consultation and then arrange the vote on the

business plan. The vote will take place 12 – 14 months from receiving the grant.

Some of the things other towns have achieved with a BID are:

- Mentoring and supporting new businesses
- Providing a unified voice for businesses
- Property improvement
- Reduced vacancy rates
- Employing a manager to organise work and special events on behalf of the town
- Amenity and environmental improvements
- Improving business waste collection – representing a significant saving. (With new regulations coming out in 2015 this will be particularly relevant).

Where, in the past, efforts have stalled or failed due to lack of time and money, a BID would provide both finance, which would enable further funds to be accessed, and a person to deliver projects and services and reach targets.

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Crieff is the first and only town

in Perthshire working towards a BID. The town's willingness to support local shops and businesses was clearly expressed in the Community Action Plan.

With the support of PKC and BID Scotland already assured, Crieff's BID would be the trigger for enterprise and regeneration in the town.

WHAT IS A BID?



- There are currently 19 BIDs in Scotland with a further 19 in development.
- A BID provides an opportunity for local businesses to work together to collectively invest in local improvements.
- These improvements are of benefit both to local businesses and to the wider community.

- By working together, a BID can reduce costs and share the risks while looking at growth possibilities.
- The Scottish Government offers a development grant of up to £20,000 to help develop a BID.

For further information on BIDS visit www.bids-scotland.com

A goal without a plan is just a wish. . . . Trying times are not the times to stop trying.



James Square looking lovely with its new paint job

TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT

Crieff & Upper Strathearn Partnership (CUSP) is now in its sixth year of consultations and negotiations to ensure Crieff is colour themed and equipped to look its best. The process is complicated by the fact that the street lighting columns, pavements etc along the High Street are owned by the Scottish Government and not the local authority. Additional difficulties arise as the Government exercises its powers through Transport Scotland who in turn appoint contractors.

The first phase of painting in the town centre is nearing completion. In the midst of decorating the town looks set to receive new street lighting columns along the High Street.



Lovely thistle mosaics in James Square by the talented Katy Galbraith



CUSP has successfully negotiated three new town information signs. A fourth new sign will be installed in James Square; this will feature a push-button illuminated map of Crieff and on the reverse a community notice board.

TOWN CENTRE PARKING

Following two years of consultation, free parking in the town centre car parks and short stay paid parking in the town's commercial area looks likely to be implemented in the coming year.

MARKETING & PROMOTION

After a few initial meetings, a strong team has formed, of around 10 – 12 people who have the skills, time and ability to take the marketing theme forward.

This group is currently tackling various aspects of their main priority which is to develop a strong identity for Crieff so that the town can market itself more effectively.

- A SWOT analysis has begun. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). This will be based on the numerous pieces of research which have been carried out in the area over the past few years, as well as drawing on the knowledge and experience of the group members
- The wide range of groups currently running in the area and their various activities are being documented.
- The Marketing Group is keen to work with CSTA (Crieff and Strathearn Tourist Association) as their knowledge will be invaluable.
- The Group, together with CCC and CUSP, is also looking at a way of consolidating Crieff's online activity and developing a useful and attractive community website for Crieff.

ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

This group's remit is to develop and improve the network of paths and cycle routes around Crieff and, with an enthusiastic group of volunteers, they are working on:

- The Crieff to Comrie route. This is a high priority for many people, but is likely to be a substantial and lengthy project. There have been constructive discussions with staff from PKC who have already carried out considerable work on evaluating the improvements required and on issues affecting landowners. It is worth noting that St. Fillans Community Development Trust recently received a grant of £30,000 for a bridge and other works on part of the Locheamhead to Dalchonzie section of the old railway, and we hope to learn from their success.
- Carrying out an audit of the core path network to identify areas for improvement.
- Completing path improvements. The first work took place on 18th June, when a party of volunteers had a productive day assisting the local PKC Ranger Richard Armstrong in drainage and clearance work to improve a boggy section of the Laggan Hill to Baird Monument path.
- Investigating the possibility of joining the Walkers Welcome Scheme, possibly in tandem with Comrie. This could be a valuable way of pushing forward path development as well as contributing to the area's attraction as a visitor destination. Check out this scheme at www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk



Volunteers working on the path at Trowan

Looking to get involved? The group already has a healthy pool of volunteers interested in helping with path improvements. If you would like to get involved, please email Alex McLeod (alexmcleodnair@hotmail.com).

SERVICES & TRANSPORT Improving Crieff's Public Transport Links

Do you often have to travel to Glasgow or Edinburgh? Do you have views about how Crieff's links to national rail and bus services could be improved? Ideas that other people in Crieff have had are:

- Having a more frequent train service from Gleneagles Station (and having a bus link from Crieff to Gleneagles to link up with the trains)
- Improving the bus service between Crieff and Dunblane / Stirling
- Creating a bus service between Crieff and Broxden to link up with the inter-city bus services

We would like to put together a project team to work on making some of these ideas a reality. If you would like to be involved please email crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com



CRIEFFCOMMUNITYTRUST

Crieff Matters is produced voluntarily by the communications team of the Crieff Community Trust and its Board.

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www.crieffcommunitytrust.org.uk



Parking is often a problem at the Campus



Frequent flooding makes Braidhaugh unusable

COMMUNITY & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

This group is engaged in many preparatory activities before it can begin to address its various aims. In addition, some of its actions are dependent on other things happening first – for example, the work to develop a Sports Hub in Crieff is at least partly linked to the plans for building the new Primary School.

Improved access to the Strathearn Community Campus was identified as a major concern for Crieff residents. A survey of Campus users was recently carried out by Campus management and the results are expected soon. These will provide an initial basis for forming a Campus review group. Also, some of the discussions that have taken place, and will continue to take place with the architects and Primary School consultation group have focused on resolving the parking difficulties there have been at the Campus.

The establishment of a Sports Hub for the town will be a fairly long-term project, but, in the meantime, efforts will be focused on working with Perth & Kinross Council to address the damaged field drains at Braidhaugh – so that the playing fields there are more reliably usable.

Morrison's Academy is proposing to develop a state-of-the-art sports facility on their playing fields at Dallerie. This project would provide a 25 metre swimming pool, an artificial surface for hockey and football, tennis courts, a games hall and gym, dance studio and squash courts. These facilities would be available for use by the community.

The school has held two public consultation meetings in Academy Hall – 19 March and 6 June. Members of CCT attended the public consultation meeting held by the school on 6 June and we are keen to be involved in further consultation regarding this process.

For more information please call Morrison's Academy on 01764 653885 or email enquiries@morrisonssacademy.org



Possible new sports provision at Morrison's Academy's playing fields at Dallerie



To become a member, please complete this form and return it to either: the Strathearn Community Campus or the Perth & Kinross Council office in James Square.

FULL MEMBER

- I am a citizen within the designated CCT boundary
- I am 18 years or older
- I support the aims and activities of the CCT

ASSOCIATE BUSINESS MEMBER

- I own a business but do not live within the designated CCT boundary
- I support the aims and activities of the CCT

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

- I am 18 years or older
- I support the aims and activities of the CCT but do not live within the designated CCT boundary

YOUTH MEMBER

- I am aged 12 – 17 years
- I support the aims and activities of the CCT

I understand that membership is free and I will pay a maximum of £1 if the company ceases to exist.

NAME _____

ORGANISATION (IF APPROPRIATE) _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

DATA PROTECTION: This information will not be used for any purposes other than for Crieff Community Trust membership records, and to keep the membership aware of Trust activities. It will be kept strictly for the use of Crieff Community Trust and will not be passed on to any third parties.

