

FREE! Please take one and share when you're done!



We hope that the lovely weather this summer has lifted everyone's spirits and allowed you to enjoy the beautiful area we live in.

Our growing group of enthusiastic and determined volunteers has been hard at work (with a few well-deserved holiday breaks) on the various projects identified in the Crieff Community Action Plan.

Although it is still too early to see many of the results of their work, the Action Groups are meeting on a regular basis and establishing priorities and methods which will enable them to achieve the best outcomes.

One thing that is common to them all is making positive links with other community groups in order to learn from their experiences, establish best practices and be inspired by what committed and enthusiastic groups can achieve. Check out some of the Case Studies on the Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) website (www.dtascot.org.uk) for some examples of the amazing things that can happen when a community works together. We in Crieff can do it too!!

DTAS CONFERENCE

In early September, four members of the CCT Board attended the annual DTAS Conference in Cumbernauld – a visit made possible by a small grant from Perth and Kinross Council. The conference was a valuable opportunity to learn more about how other areas have used their Development Trust status to create and run community enterprises in response to identified community needs.

One clear message from the various groups present was that the most successful were those which had a passion for their cause to drive them forward. Even mature projects which were able to employ several people, still relied on this enthusiasm and the invaluable input from their many volunteers.

Funding was also crucial to the success of most projects – often obtained from a wide variety of sources including grants and income-generating schemes. It was clear that most major funders look for a balance of community development and long-term sustainability.

The experience gained at this conference will be put to good use by the CCT Board in its future plans. Two Community Trusts were particularly inspiring:

Machrihanish Airbase Community Company was formed in 2008 with the aim of creating sustainable businesses for the future of the local community on the huge redundant airbase in Kintyre (www.machrihanish.org)

Mull and Iona Community Trust has been running since 1997, now employs 14 people, runs a Charity Shop and Mull Eagle Watch and through these enterprises has been able to distribute over £26,000 to local organisations. (www.mict.co.uk)

The websites of both these Trusts are well worth visiting to see examples of what can be achieved.



FED UP WITH TRAFFIC PROBLEMS ON CRIEFF'S HIGH STREET?

Crieff's week of monitoring traffic on the High Street begins on Monday 21 October. Volunteers who can spare a couple of hours are still sought. If you have concerns about traffic dangers in the town centre please try and find an hour or two to help. You can contact the organisers via community@crieff.org

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

REDUNDANT & DERELICT BUILDINGS

The main focus of the Town Centre Action group has been the Drummond Arms. We know from the results of the Crieff Community Survey, and the community engagement work we did in developing the Action Plan, that sorting out the Drummond Arms is the top priority for the people who live in our town.

The group is working on design concepts and the production of a viable plan of action to deal with the Drummond, bearing in mind that the issue is very complicated, i.e:

1 The building's current and future condition

PKC are in communication with the owners about this.

2 Ownership

The building is not currently on the market. Could we purchase it at some future date? If so, what would be the cost?

3 Legal status

This is a complicated situation involving RBS and the present owners which will need to be resolved before any further action can be taken.

4 Grant Funding

We are in the process of identifying where funding for the different stages of the project may come from.

5 Sustainability

In order to obtain funding, we need to be able to demonstrate that there is a need for this project within the community. It must also have some ability to generate income in order to make it sustainable in the future.

Just Saying...

Congratulations are due on the completion of the rebuilding of Cee Gee's premises at the corner of High Street and Mitchell Street. After the fire which destroyed the whole building it is wonderful to see such a high-quality and sympathetic rebuild completely in character with the area.

Work has also started on refurbishing Valentine's shop front. This is being completed with the help of PKC's Shop Front Improvement Scheme and we look forward to seeing the results very soon.

TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT



Crieff's Town Centre is already looking smarter with the repainting of lighting columns, railings and street furniture. This work is almost completed, with the finishing touches of gold still to be applied.

The change of contractors responsible for the A85 trunk road through Crieff seems to have brought with it a new and positive perspective on the needs of the town. BEAR Scotland want to refurbish all of the street lighting columns along the High Street within the Crieff Colour Theming area.

This is the reason that the existing lights on the High Street have not been painted. If the new scheme is implemented as planned, brand new burgundy and gold columns will adorn Crieff's High Street in Spring 2014.

LOCAL POLICE STATION DOORS CLOSE

Many local residents will be disappointed that our Police Station in Crieff is to close its doors to the public. Officers will, however, still be based in the local office and will work from there.

We are concerned that the closure of the public desk may result in a loss of some services to the community eg lost and found property.

Please tell us what YOU have gone into the Police Office for in the past so that we can assess how it has been used and look at ways of ensuring that essential services are not lost.

Email us at crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com



'The journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.' - Lao Tzu



SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SHOPS & BUSINESSES: A BID FOR CRIEFF?

Following on from our report in the summer edition of "Crieff Matters", Crieff Community Council has been successful in obtaining £20,000 from the Scottish Government to go towards forming a Business Improvement District [BID for short] for Crieff. The Community Council has sent invitations to everyone on Crieff's non-domestic valuation roll to come to a general information meeting on 23 October at the Strathearn Community Campus. This meeting will give them the opportunity to:

- learn more about what is involved in a BID
- hear first hand experience from three different BIDs in Scotland
- discover what its advantages will be for local businesses and how it could benefit the community as a whole

We hope the meeting will help to answer any questions people may have and gauge the level of support for a BID. With this support, a steering group would be formed to move the application forward through consultation, leading to a ballot in 2015.

In addressing the issues we are working together to make Crieff a better place to live, work and welcome visitors. A BID is a trusted model that has worked for towns in Britain and across the world. The hope is everyone will get behind this initiative and work together to create a robust business plan for Crieff that will deliver results.

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



MARKETING & PROMOTION

The main focus of this group over the past few weeks has been to undertake a survey among visitors to Crieff to establish what it is that brings visitors to our town and what their experiences, both positive and negative, are of their visit.

The study has initially focused mainly on visitors to Crieff Hydro, most of whom were attracted to Crieff by its excellent facilities. However, 78% of the Hydro respondents had also visited Crieff town centre during their visit and the comments made were largely positive. The general appearance and cleanliness of the town were frequently mentioned as well as the friendliness they had experienced as visitors – a vital and often overlooked attraction!

The fewer, but important, negative comments mainly related to the choice of shopping in the town centre and a perceived lack of activities for children. Naturally, most visitors commented on the beauty and serenity of the surrounding area and its accessibility for a variety of outdoor pursuits.

This survey is still in its early stages and will be extended over the next couple of months to ensure that it obtains as wide a range of opinions as possible. The information derived from this study will ultimately be put to use as part of a strategy to enable Crieff to build a strong identity and market itself most effectively.

ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

Community groups, including the CCT Paths Group, and other interested parties recently met and agreed to work together to improve an important part of the local path network.

The section of path between Taylor Park and Lady Mary's Walk, known as Acorn Dell, is in great need of improvement, especially for those with walking difficulties or anyone pushing a buggy. Likewise, the further section between the end of Lady Mary's and Trowan Farm is narrow, often muddy and difficult to negotiate.

These groups, with help from PKC, hope to bring these sections up to the high standards of the rest of the path. After surveying has taken place to determine the exact requirements, a joint funding application will be made to enable the work to be carried out.

COMMUNITY & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

As explained in the last newsletter, this group's activities are dependent on many external factors, one of the most important of these being the development of the new Primary School at the Campus site.

Public consultation has recently taken place on the plans for the new school and concerns have again been raised about the inadequacy of the roads infrastructure around the Campus and insufficient parking.

The results of the recent Campus Users survey will be made available shortly, and we will make them available on our website when they are.

*A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work.
- Colin Powell*



CRIEFF COMMUNITY TRUST

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

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VISIT US ONLINE

www.crieffcommunitytrust.org.uk



Where you can:

- join CCT
- download the Crieff Action Plan and this newsletter
- see minutes of Board Meetings
- read about other inspiring projects which other communities have managed

FUNDRAISING

While fundraising to finance the many projects CCT will be undertaking is a major task, in the short term we need funds for basic running expenses and cannot rely on grants. All our team members are volunteers but we still need money for basic things such as hiring meeting rooms and training. Here are some ways people are helping us with this. Any other fundraising ideas are also welcome!

An Cnoc

Watch out for an evening event at An Cnoc, 16 King Street on 8th November from 7pm. It is sure to be a fun night with:

- a silent auction of Rita the Recycled Raleigh [bids can be placed at An Cnoc]
- raffles and prizes
- drinks and nibbles
- a chance for some early Christmas Shopping

Proceeds from the auction and raffle plus a percentage of the evening's takings will be donated to CCT.



Rita the Recycled Raleigh could be yours!

IN THE PIPELINE:

Bag Pack at Crieff Co-op

In addition, CCT Board will be doing a bag pack at the Co-op in the new year. [Date to be confirmed.] If you are prepared to do a one-hour stint to help us raise money for CCT, please get in touch by emailing crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com.

Sponsored Swim

One of our junior supporters, 10 year old Isla Campbell, a keen swimmer, is planning a sponsored swim to raise funds for CCT. She plans to swim a mile and aims to raise at least £500! She will undertake this challenge in the next few months once CCT is a registered charity.

MEMBERSHIP

CCT now has 430 members! We need to keep growing and many people in Crieff may still not be aware of our existence, so please mention us to your friends and family and encourage them to join.

12 – 17 year olds can join as Junior Members and non-Crieff residents can also join as Associate Members.

Recently, a group of visitors from Slovenia were very interested in hearing about the CCT and they subsequently joined as Associate Members – our first overseas members!!



To become a member, please complete this form and pop it in the CCT box at 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.

MEMBERSHIP