

1st Anniversary issue!

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CRIEFFMatters

All the Action from the Crieff Community Action Plan

Winter 2014

Welcome to the first anniversary edition of **Crieff Matters!**



A lot has been going on since the launch of Crieff's Community Action Plan on 16th February 2013 where over 300 residents turned out to **show their love for Crieff**. Eighty volunteers signed up on the day to help make a difference to Crieff.

Crieff Community Trust [CCT] was formed shortly after the launch and working groups were created to start making a change for Crieff – updates are inside but some exciting achievements to date are:

- a Business Improvement District [BID] steering group has been set up
- a Community Right to Buy is being organised for the Drummond Arms
- volunteers have been working hard to improve local paths
- a visitors' survey has provided useful information to create a meaningful identity for Crieff

In October, CCT was granted charitable status (SCO44348). Among other things, this will allow CCT to access certain kinds of funding.

CCT, Crieff Community Council [CCC] and Crieff & Upper Strathearn Partnership [CUSP] continue to work together as a team and appreciate the support of Perth & Kinross Council. CCT's membership is close to 500 and continues to grow showing that people in Crieff are getting behind the big effort to realise our vision:

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

DO YOU HAVE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE TO SHARE?

As the projects develop, the Crieff Community Trust will need lots of advice on all kinds of matters. We would like to create an informal "team" of people we could consult for help and guidance on an ad hoc basis. If you have expertise in any of these areas, we would love to hear from you:

- TRADES
- SURVEYING
- PLANNING
- ARCHITECTURE
- CHARITIES
- LEGAL
- HUMAN RESOURCES
- BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
- PRESS & MEDIA

Please email: crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com

**CRIEFF
CARES
A LOT
ABOUT THE
DRUMMOND
ARMS**

Find out more and how you can show you care inside!



GREAT NEWS FOR THE CROWN HOTEL!

In December, we were delighted to learn that the former Crown Hotel on East High Street is to be developed as affordable housing.

As part of a Scottish Government initiative to bring life back to the high streets of Scottish towns, Kingdom Housing Association were awarded £255,523 to develop 14 flats on the site of the former hotel which has stood empty for many years.

This is a welcome solution to one of our High Street's biggest eyesores.

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH ALL THE GROUPS! It can be a little confusing knowing what all the initials stand for and what exactly IS the difference between CCT, CCC and CUSP. Here we try to clear up the confusion and explain what each group's remit is and what part of the Crieff Community Action Plan they are working on. Inside, our colour-coded timeline and reports show you what projects each group is taking forward.

CRIEFF COMMUNITY TRUST

- formed in March 2013 after launch of Crieff Community Action Plan
- formed because CUSP and the Community Council not permitted to raise major funds or own assets
- primary remit to oversee the Crieff Community Action Plan and acquire funds for projects
- works closely with CCC and CUSP to make sure Crieff's voice is heard on important local issues
- is a company limited by guarantee and a registered Scottish charity SCO44348

CCT is sorry to report that, due to the demands of her day job, Dawn Griesbach has recently stood down as Chair of Crieff Community Trust. Dawn has been with CCT from the beginning and was one of several people who worked to bring the Trust into existence. Dawn remains as a Board member and we know that with her knowledge and experience, she will continue to make a very valuable contribution to our work.

Acting Chair: Ailsa Campbell

Secretary: Emmy Hargrave

Contact: crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com

The CCT Board meets once a month.

CRIEFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- is a statutory group
 - meets on a regular basis to hear, discuss and hopefully find solutions to issues concerning Crieff residents
 - makes sure the community's opinions and views are highlighted to organisations like Perth & Kinross Council
- Recently CCC has:
- responded to various local and Scottish Government consultations, including the Community Empowerment Bill and the Local Policing Plan 2013 – 2014
 - held two successful events in James Square at Hallowe'en and Hogmanay
 - formed the Crieff BID Steering Group
 - created a Strathearn & District Forum of Community Councils of the nine Community Councils from Dunning in the east to St Fillans in the west to share news and views, and deal positively with any common strategic issues

Chair: Stephen Leckie

Secretary: Jean Ann Scott Miller

Contact: crieffcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk

CCC meets the 1st Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the Strathearn Community Campus

CRIEFF AND UPPER STRATHEARN PARTNERSHIP

- formed in 2005 to act as a common voice for all the various community groups who were wanting to deal with PKC
- in 2010 CUSP carried out a survey which was the precursor to the Crieff Community Action Plan
- is a partnership of Crieff community groups
- PARTNERS: Crieff and Strathearn Tourist Assoc, Crieff Community Initiative, CCC, CCT, Crieff In Leaf, Sounds of Strathearn, Strathearn Vintage Ploughing Association
- ASSOCIATE PARTNERS: Building Bridges, Drivers Tryst Festival
- has been campaigning for 5 years for the improvement of Crieff's traffic, parking and painting of which we have begun to see the fruits of their labour

Chair: Angus MacDonald

Secretary: John Champion

Contact: crieffpartnership@gmail.com

CUSP meets the 3rd Monday of each month in Strathearn Community Campus at 7:30pm



CRIEFF COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

CCT – CCC – CUSP

ACTION GROUPS

Town Centre

Drummond Arms
Lead Group: **CCT**

BID

Lead Group: **CCC**

Town Enhancement

Lead Group: **CUSP**

Community & Recreation

Improve access to Campus
Lead Groups: **CCT** & **CCC**

Help establish a Sports Hub in Crieff

Lead Groups: **CCT** & local sports teams

Transport & Services

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Improve public transportation to & from Crieff
Lead Groups: **CCT, CCC, CUSP**

Environment & Heritage

Develop local foot & cycle paths in the area
Lead Groups: **CCT** and **CUSP** with Muthill Village Trust and Comrie Paths Group

Marketing & Promotion

Develop strong identity for Crieff
Lead Groups: **CCT** with Crieff & Strathearn Tourist Association
Improve visitor information & signage
Lead group: **CUSP**



Teamwork makes the dream work. - Bang Gae



BIDS  Steering Group formed
Project leader job advertised

Project leader candidates interviewed

CRIEFF CARES A LOT ABOUT THE DRUMMOND ARMS
Consult with Scottish Government,
prepare application, petition
and communications to town



Collect signatures



CCC, CCT and CUSP apply for funding for new
bunting, street banners, Wi-Fi and improvements
to James Square fountain for Ryder Cup and after



Investigate funding options and prepare research
for feasibility study of the Drummond Arms

Crieff to Comrie path: survey of local communities
Acorn Dell feasibility study



Visitor survey completed,
findings evaluated and fed into marketing plan

THE DRUMMOND ARMS

OWNERSHIP

The main part of the building is owned by Strathfare. However, a section of the ground floor is owned and was formerly occupied by the Royal Bank of Scotland. RBS were forced to vacate their premises due to its unsafe condition and are currently in legal dispute over this with Strathfare. This case is unlikely to come to court for several months and its outcome will affect the future of the Drummond Arms in a number of possible ways.

The Royal Bank of Scotland approached CCT offering to transfer their portion of the building to CCT for a nominal sum. Members of the CCT Board and Town Centre Group met with the bank's representatives in late December to explore this offer. Although it is not in the community's best interest to accept this offer at present, communications remain open and the offer still stands.

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUY

Both CCT and the Town Centre Group want to achieve the best possible outcome for the Drummond Arms on behalf of the Crieff community. With this objective in mind, CCT has begun the process of applying to the Scottish Government for a Community Right to Buy. If granted, this will formalise the community's interest in the property and could provide the opportunity to purchase at some future date. However, NO purchase would be considered unless a full feasibility study along with a detailed business plan and adequate funding were in place. These things will all take time.

The Community Right To Buy application requires the support of at least 10% of registered voters in Crieff. A petition will be available for signatures during February and March. Volunteers will be collecting signatures around town. See below for dates and times.



WHERE CAN I SIGN?

Volunteers will be in **James Square every Saturday until the end of March from 10am – 2pm** with the petition and to answer questions.

Petitions can also be signed at **Fun Junction** toy shop just along from the Drummond Arms between **9:15am – 5:15pm Monday to Saturday**.

For more information and updates on other locations to sign please visit www.communitytrust.org.uk



All great achievements require time. - Maya Angelou



MARCH

 New improved street lighting columns and pedestrian safety crossings installed at Drummond Arms and Post Office on High Street. Pavements improved.

Project Leader appointment

 Collect signatures

APRIL

CCT & CCC at Crieff Market Saturday, 12th April
CCT AGM Tuesday, 29th April

Begin consulting business community

X or ✓ CRTB signatures counted
Go or no go decision

£ Apply for funding for feasibility study of Drummond Arms

 Work party at Trowan, date tbc

£ Apply for funding for creation of Crieff identity and development of marketing plan to promote town

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUY?

A Community Right to Buy (CRTB) allows small communities in Scotland to register an interest in land and be given the opportunity to buy it when it comes up for sale.

- Communities must submit an application form to register an interest.
- After an application has been submitted and has passed initial checks, it is sent to the landowner for comment and at this stage a temporary Prohibition is placed on the owner preventing them from transferring or marketing the land.
- The "Right to Buy" can only be activated when the landowner has indicated that the land is to be sold.
- If the community which holds the CRTB confirms that it wishes to proceed, it has six months to conclude the transfer of land or longer if the owner agrees.

For more information go to <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Rural/rural-land/right-to-buy/Community>

TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT

New street lights are to be erected from the War Memorial on Comrie Street up to Lauder Park on the Perth Road starting in March. BEAR Scotland hope to keep disruption to a minimum and Crieff will have improved street lighting, freshly painted columns to match the colour theme and a new safer pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Hill Street.

TRAFFIC

In late October members of the local community observed traffic along the High Street [A85] for different periods of the day. Apart from air pollution, CUSP is also concerned about danger to pedestrians and other road users from the volume, types and speed of traffic passing through the town. Police Scotland have given information about accidents along the A85 in town during the last five years.

More monitoring of the High Street is planned and volunteers are needed. We do not want to embarrass or prosecute motorists – just show others, who perhaps don't live in Crieff, the dangers of traffic on this busy road.

MARKETING CRIEFF

A survey of visitors during the past few months showed that Crieff is seen as:
friendly • peaceful • welcoming • surrounded by beautiful countryside • in a good central location

The aim now is to develop these strengths into a strong brand to promote the town and all it has to offer. Crieff also needs a central, reliable source of information and the Marketing Group will be working more closely with CUSP to support and develop the crieff.org website. Other plans to promote the town and its events are also in the pipeline.



MAY

CCC AGM Monday, 5th May

CUSP AGM Monday, 19th May

JUNE



If ✓ CRTB application finalised



If ✓ CRTB application submitted

If funding granted, begin feasibility study for the Drummond Arms

If funding application successful,
advertise for marketing consultant

Interview and appoint consultant

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Since the last issue of Crieff Matters, CCC has made strong progress. A very successful public meeting on 23rd October was followed by a meeting on 18th November, attended by all those who had expressed an interest in forming a Steering Group to lead the project. The name "Succeed in Crieff" was approved, and a Working Party was delegated to start the process of appointing a Project Leader. The post was advertised throughout January with a view to appointing someone in March. Meanwhile, the Steering Group was formed in mid-January. CCC has also received support from PKC including office space for the Project Leader in the Council Building in James Square. This is all very positive news, but there's a long slog ahead to the ballot in May 2015, and the Steering Group knows it has some doubters to win over. It remains confident however, that should the BID go ahead, "Succeed in Crieff" will become a reality and not just a slogan.

COMMUNITY & RECREATION

This group is still working on and liaising with Perth and Kinross Council on the problem of flooding at Braidhaugh – something which the recent wet weather has highlighted.

A meeting with the PKC Environment Group is to take place this month and it is hoped that this will result in progress on the improvement of the drains at Braidhaugh.

CCT is working with the Sports Partnership to improve all sports facilities and availability.

PATHS

Volunteers are continuing the process of carrying out audits of the local path network to identify areas for future improvements.

The group is working closely with PKC Greenspace staff, potential funding bodies and local interested groups.

AUCHINGARRICH TO TURLEUM IMPROVEMENTS

On 7th December, a party of 9 keen volunteers, directed by our local Ranger Richard Armstrong, carried out remedial work on the path towards Turleum Hill from Auchingarrich.

Cross-drains were cleared and new ones dug out to direct water away from the path. In the wooded area, the path was cleared by cutting away overhanging tree branches and clearing undergrowth.

CRIEFF TO COMRIE PATH

Discussions continue on the development of this possible route. A meeting is to take place soon with PKC, TACTRAN (Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership) and Sustrans, together with community reps from Crieff, Comrie and St Fillans to explore funding options.

ACORN DELL

Acorn Dell (the land beside the Turret Burn leading down to the River Earn and Lady Mary's Walk) is now owned on behalf of the people of Crieff.

A separate Acorn Dell Group was formed in September to gain funding in order to construct a better path for wheelchairs and prams. The Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust has now secured a grant of £5,000 from TACTRAN and is working closely with the Acorn Dell Group to explore the options and costs of improving the path.

What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything. - Vincent van Gogh



CRIEFFCOMMUNITYTRUST

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

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

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

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Do you belong to a Crieff group or organisation whose members would like to know more about the work of CCT?

One of our "insiders" would be happy to come along and talk about the work in more detail and answer your questions.

If you are interested, please contact us at crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS GO TO...

Strathearn Artspace for their visionary project to provide facilities and encouragement for our creative residents and a valuable performance and meeting space. www.strathearnartspace.co.uk

Valentines for their elegant new shop frontage which gives this long-established Crieff business a contemporary look, but is also in character with the age of its buildings.



PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING!

Are you great at organising Bingo Teas or Quiz Nights?
A dab hand at bag packing or have other fundraising experience?
CCT could really use your help!

With a number of projects ready to take off, a big fundraising effort is needed to back it. The Board is looking for a team of people keen to support the huge volunteer effort being made to improve Crieff. A fundraising group is being set up to help raise necessary funds.

People power is crucial but unfortunately money makes the world go round! If you have fundraising experience or want to get involved in any way please email us at crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com



CRIEFF & THE RYDER CUP

The Ryder Cup at Gleneagles in September this year is going to attract a huge number of international visitors to our area. We want our town to look its best both to leave a lasting good impression on our visitors and to be a source of pride to its residents.

Here are some of the things that are already underway:

- new lamp posts are to be erected along the length of the High Street. These will give better light and will be painted in our theme colours of burgundy and gold to unify them with the existing paint scheme
- the pavements will be improved
- banners promoting the town are in the works
- plans are underway to bring Wi-Fi and 4G to Crieff to improve communications
- local artist June McEwen is leading the Great Crieff Bunting Project. This will brighten Crieff for the Arts Festival in August and she and her many helpers also hope to get their efforts in the Guinness Book of World Records!

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Following the good example of our Community Council, CCT are inviting other development trusts in the area (Comrie, Muthill and Braco) to form a Local Development Trust Forum to share information, experiences and expertise. The first meeting will be in March.

THANK YOU...

To **Mandy Moore of An Cnoc** in King Street for a donation of £75 raised from a raffle before Christmas. We are sad to report that Mandy has had to close her shop due to ill health – An Cnoc will be much missed in the town. We wish her well with future enterprises – those who know Mandy will also know that you can't keep a good woman down!