



CRIEFFMatters

All the Action from the Crieff Community Action Plan and more!

Summer 2014

Since the last edition of Crieff Matters our groups of volunteers have been very busy pushing forward on a number of initiatives. Here you can read about what has already been achieved and plans for the next six months. Highlights include:

- Over 1500 signatures were collected to support the Community Right to Buy for the former Drummond Arms Hotel and the application is being submitted to the Scottish Government.
- Crieff BID Steering Group has appointed a Project Leader
- CCT's first Annual General Meeting took place on April 29th
- An initial concept study of what could be done with the Drummond Arms building has been completed. We are now planning to show these as part of a thorough community consultation. Watch out for further details.
- Street banners and bunting are up around the town.

CCT FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CCT's first AGM took place in the Strathearn Campus on 29th April where Chair Ailsa Campbell outlined the Trust's achievements in the past year. The Treasurer's report was given by Harold Gillespie.

The current Board was re-elected. Roger Brickell was also elected to the Board and will lead the Transport Group. Anyone keen to help with this project should contact CCT at crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com.

At the following board meeting on 15 May, Graham Donaldson and Mhairi Rolin were also co-opted onto the board.

PULLING TOGETHER FOR CRIEFF

The visit of the Earl and Countess of Strathearn to Crieff on 29th May certainly raised the profile of our town as it was featured widely in the press and on TV. Thanks to the efforts of many groups and individuals, Crieff looked great on the day, and, with Homecoming, The Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup all coming up soon, the festive look will continue.

We have to thank CUSP and BEAR Scotland for the new improved and freshly-painted street lights which has been SEVEN years in the making, but the High Street now looks much smarter as a result.

Crieff in Leaf have installed new flower tubs on the High Street and improved the Gallowhill area with lovely new planting as well as all the other baskets and floral displays around the town. June McEwen, is behind the production (with many helpers) of the bunting which adorned the town for the royal visit and will shortly, we hope, feature in the Guinness Book of Records! Crieff in Leaf also commissioned June to

create her fantastic heilan coo sculpture on Burrell Square which has already attracted a lot of interest. If you haven't already seen it, you MUST have a look! Take your camera and share online.

CCT's Ailsa Campbell donated her design skills for the banners around Crieff. They are to be an annual feature during Crieff's main tourist months. Their printing was paid for with Community Challenge funding.

A huge thank you to all the people who supported this initiative and a very special thanks to Jenny Williams and Isla Dewar at PKC and Alan Copland of Tayside Contracts.



The hard-working crew putting up the new banners.



James Square all cleaned up and dressed with bunting and baskets.

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



ACTION!

Here's where the action is! Volunteers [your family, friends and neighbours] are working hard to make the changes detailed in the Crieff Community Action Plan. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the projects even in a small way please get in touch!

BID STEERING GROUP



In April the BID Steering Group appointed Alan Rankin as project leader. Alan is no stranger to Crieff having been schooled and subsequently lived in Crieff for several years. Alan has a strong background in developing business and community based collaborations and is now working two days a week on the Crieff BID. He is based at the Learning Centre in Lodge Street.

'Crieff Succeeds' has been chosen as the name for the Crieff BID. Alan has been busy looking at what has worked and what has not worked in other BID areas across Scotland. Over the coming weeks he will be preparing a consultation phase with local businesses to gather views on the priorities to be included in the Business Plan and will aim for a ballot in June 2015.

Perth and Kinross Council continue to support the BID and are currently working on 'legals' and arrangements as to how they can best help to take the BID forward.

Alan will be out and about in the coming weeks meeting local businesses and gathering views and thoughts as to how the BID can be taken forward.

Alan can be contacted at
alan.crieffsucceeds@gmail.com

CRIEFF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

New CCT Board member Roger Brickell is leading the Transport Group! Roger has very valuable professional experience in public transportation. Two main issues being investigated are:

- Improving the Town Bus Service service by reducing journey times and simplifying timetables. As it is also a priority to reduce traffic in the High Street, see below, we may be able to kill two birds with one stone.
- Looking at how Crieff, along with other communities in the area, can put pressure on the appropriate authorities to improve the rail service between Gleneagles and Glasgow from Gleneagles train station.



Roger is looking for anyone who has an interest or expertise in these issues. Even if you can spare only a little time, it all helps.

FRESHER AIR IN CRIEFF



Pollution in parts of Crieff's High Street is in breach of national standards and it has therefore been declared an Air Quality Management Area.

Work will be carried out over the next few months to develop a plan to reduce pollution levels. Residents will have the opportunity next year to give their views about the best ways to do this.

In the meantime, the Scottish Government has funded PKC to carry out a campaign in Crieff to promote sustainable travel in the town. Recent survey work has shown that

Crieff's pollution problem is caused mostly by local vehicles; starting and/or ending their journeys in the town. It is exacerbated by the 'canyon' effect of the narrow street and tall buildings.

By encouraging people to use public transport, cycle or walk, especially for short journeys, the amount of traffic on the High Street could be reduced. Less traffic could produce a more pedestrian and cycle-friendly environment and air pollution could be reduced. JMP, the company leading the campaign, have already consulted with local bodies including CCT, CCC and CUSP to look at how this could work for Crieff

More details about air quality in Crieff are available from www.pkcairquality.org.uk

What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything. – Vincent Van Gogh

THE DRUMMOND ARMS

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUY



The Community Right to Buy application is in the final stages of submission to the Scottish Government. Thank you to all those people who signed the petition and helped with the collection of signatures. We hope that the strong support [22% of the electoral roll] demonstrated and the hard work undertaken by the team to provide all the necessary documentation, will lead to the application being granted later this summer.

WHAT COULD BE DONE WITH THE BUILDING?

Since undertaking the Community Right To Buy the CCT Board and the volunteers focusing on the Drummond Arms have been asked this question a lot.

While the team was gathering signatures and completing the application, preliminary investigations were simultaneously being carried out to see what could be done with the building.

An architect's report has been completed that gives an overall vision for the Drummond Arms building. This was partially funded by Perth and Kinross Council.

The report provides some conceptual ideas about how the building could be transformed to regain its heritage as a hub for residents and visitors to Crieff.

The group are now planning for the community consultation to hear everyone's views on how the building could be best used to suit its needs and bring people back into Crieff's town centre.

TESTING FEASIBILITY

We are working towards an application for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable this next phase.

Ailsa Campbell and Rona McCarra attended the 'Scotland Can Do Innovation Challenge' meeting on 10 June in Edinburgh.

"The Scotland Can Do Innovation challenge is open to people who are either already in a Development Trust Association or Business Improvement District or moving towards one who want to help open up the entrepreneurial opportunities of our town centres. This Innovation Challenge is about looking at our town centres in a different way in order to open up new opportunities to help the centre prosper. It might be using a much loved building in a new way..."

They plan to attend further workshops at the end of the summer with the hope this exciting initiative will lead to some help with testing the feasibility of what could be done with the Drummond Arms. Watch this space!

TOWN CENTRE

PATIENCE PAYS OFF

Five years after CUSP proposed new Welcome signs for Crieff, they finally arrived!

Seven years after CUSP suggested a refurbishment scheme for the town centre we now have:

- Freshly painted street furniture in our burgundy and gold scheme
- New LED street lighting columns on the High Street

PKC continue to support this refurbishment work and we hope that the final stage will see repainted street lights on Comrie Road.

PARKING

A 2007 survey, confirmed by further work in 2010, clearly showed that residents were strongly in favour of free parking in central car parks and an on-street charging system in the shopping areas.

Now, after a series of meeting with CUSP's Traffic Group, supported by local councillors, it seems likely that parking meters will arrive later this year.

PATHS

CRIEFF TO COMRIE PATH

The Crieff to Comrie Path survey is now complete. Full results will be published in July, but we are happy to say over 1200 people, of all ages, responded.

The vast majority (96%) wanted to see better access to the path and an improved surface to make it more usable for all.

A majority of respondents were from Strathearn (62%), showing strong local support for an improved path. The fact that such a large number of respondents from outside our area also took part, indicates how this path might also benefit tourism.

MUTHILL TO CRIEFF PATH

The development of the Muthill to Crieff cycle path is progressing well. Muthill Village Trust [MVT] have part of the funding in place for the design of the route and bridge investigations for the crossing of the River Earn and are actively pursuing other sources of funding. MVT hope to make a start on this later in the summer, subject to securing funding.

The proposed route will come into Crieff near to the Strathearn Community Campus and will hopefully therefore allow people to directly access this and will be particularly useful for pupils who wish to cycle to school.

For more information please visit:
www.muthillvillagetrust.wordpress.com

CRIEFF WEBSITE

CUSP has secured funding to improve our community website – crieff.org – and is looking for suggestions on how the site can be changed and improved. We would also love to hear from you if you have skills in:

- Reporting events
- Advertising online
- Developing websites

Please email community@crieff.org

CUSP's member groups share a desire to bring benefit to Crieff and the surrounding area.

If your group is based in Crieff or Strathearn, is keen to work with like-minded people and would like to see your group's views given wider airing, then please join CUSP.



CRIEFFCOMMUNITYTRUST

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

Crieff Community Trust is a company limited by guarantee SC445952 and a registered Scottish charity SC044348.

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GETTING IN TOUCH

Here are contact details of the three groups working together to implement the actions from the Crieff Community Action Plan.

Crieff Community Trust

Chair: Ailsa Campbell
Secretary: Emmy Hargrave
Email: crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com
CCT meets the 3rd Thursday of the month

Crieff Community Council

Chair: Stephen Leckie
Secretary: Jean Ann Scott Miller
Email: crieffcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk

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

Crieff & Upper Strathearn Partnership

Chair: Angus MacDonald
Secretary: John Champion
Email: crieffpartnership@gmail.com
CUSP meets the 3rd Monday of each month in Strathearn Community Campus at 7:30pm

CRIEFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

As well as driving forward the BID process and keeping a watchful eye on planning and other issues affecting Crieff, here are some of the current projects of CCC:

- The traffic on Broich Road is a serious concern, especially now that work on the new Primary School is underway. PKC has been made aware of the extent of this problem.
- Together with CUSP and CCT we were closely involved in the efforts to tidy up Crieff for the Ryder Cup and other forthcoming events. For the banners now enhancing the town, we thank PKC for Community Challenge Funding and Ailsa Campbell for her striking designs.
- CCC continues to take an active part in the Strathearn & District Forum of Community Councils and recently attended a Planning Training session conducted by PKC Planning officers.
- We work closely with CUSP and CCT to help improve our area.
- We now have our own page on the Crieff website – www.crieff.org – where you can keep up-to-date with our activities.
- At the Crieff Market in April, we asked whether people were in favour of a Hogmanay Street Party in the town, or whether an event on Ne'er Day might be more popular. Results to follow.
- Plans for a commemorative event – Crieff Remembers – to be held in July/August 2017, are well underway.

NAME THE COO!



What shall the coo be called?

Crieff in Leaf are holding a competition to name the characterful heilan coo in Burrell Square. They are encouraging schools to participate before the summer break.

Suggestions should be sent to:
crieffleaf-cinl@yahoo.co.uk

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE CAMPUS

The staff at Strathearn Community Campus are keen to hear the community's views on their facility so they can improve the service and facilities on offer.

Everyone is encouraged to take this opportunity to provide feedback by filling in a survey either online at <http://pkc.Strathearn-Campus-Users-2014.sgizmo.com/s3/> or paper copies are available at the Campus reception.

Everything you say in the survey is confidential and no personal details will be used in any of the findings.

FUNDRAISING BINGO TEA

A great turnout of over 80 people attended our very successful Bingo Tea and Raffle in May. An entertaining evening was had by all and over £700 raised.

A big thank you to everyone who helped organise the event – **very special thanks to Rhona and Ian Brock** whose expertise and energy were invaluable – to the kind folks who donated prizes and, of course, to all those who came along to support us.

This money will be of great help in funding the day-to-day running costs of CCT and its working groups.

CCT MEMBERSHIP

CCT membership now stands at 453 of which 361 are full members. Keep up-to-date, have a say in Crieff's future and maybe volunteer some time or expertise by becoming a member. Membership is FREE. Join online at www.crieffcommunitytrust.org.uk