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CRIEFF Matters

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

Autumn 2014

As the year draws to an end, we can look back and see great achievements which take us well on the way to fulfilling some of the aims outlined in the Crieff Community Action Plan. In this edition read about:

- Community Right to Buy granted for the former Drummond Arms
- Positive results from the survey about the Crieff to Comrie path
- Formation of Strathallan and Strathearn Community Rail Partnership
- Latest news on the Crieff Succeeds BID

THE DRUMMOND ARMS Great news! CCT's application for a Community Right To Buy of the former Drummond Arms Hotel has been successful!



February 2013: Launch of Crieff Community Action Plan - the much-loved former Drummond Arms Hotel is identified by Crieff residents as their number one priority in developing the town centre

Spring 2014: over 1500 sign a petition in support of a Community Right to Buy (CRTB) for the building

Summer 2014: Crieff Community Trust submit CRTB application

Autumn 2014: Scottish Government approves CRTB! Crieff Community Trust discusses possible next steps with the Scottish Land Fund

The granting of the CRTB formalises the community's interest in the property and could enable its purchase at some future date. This would only be a possibility when:

- a full feasibility study has taken place
- a viable business plan is ready
- adequate funding is in place
- planning is approved

Other Developments

While this application was under way a group of volunteers has been looking at what might be done with the building.

With the support of funding from Perth and Kinross Council, this group is developing a set of 3D images and models which will be shown to the community in the next few months. This will allow the people of Crieff to see what future there might be for this building which was once a social hub of the community. As always, the feedback from local people will be invaluable.

The Scottish Land Fund

- set up to help rural communities buy property following a successful CRTB application
- provides practical support and funding to enable local people to work together to develop their ideas and aspirations and plan and complete viable land and land assets acquisition projects

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/scottishlandfund

Can Do Towns Innovation Challenge

Crieff isn't the only town facing the challenge of what to do with its derelict buildings.

We are one of twelve Scottish towns participating in the first ever Can Do Towns Innovation Challenge, aimed at helping community groups revitalise their town centres.

Early information meetings and a two-day workshop led to a visit to the "BIG TALK OOT" in October where Barry Hargrave and Ailsa Campbell presented a vision for the Drummond building to a panel of experts.

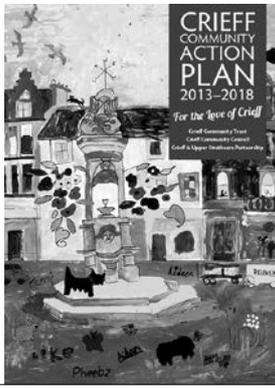
This vision was based on feedback received during the Crieff Community Action Plan consultation and also includes things to attract visitors which are currently lacking in the town centre.

CCT hopes that the potential solution will help to put the heart back into Crieff's centre by:

- providing community space
- encouraging new business
- increasing footfall for existing businesses
- enticing more tourists into the town centre
- providing opportunities for volunteering, training and employment
- promoting Crieff and Strathearn's heritage and its place in Scottish history

We understand that some people feel the regeneration of the Drummond Arms is not a viable project, but we have seen how other towns around the country have succeeded with similarly "impossible" projects.

With the support of our dedicated volunteers and of the wider community, we believe it's important to think that we, too, can succeed.



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!

Slow to take off after the launch of the Crieff Community Action Plan, the transport theme is finally leaving the station with plenty of work being done to try and improve our local bus services and make Gleneagles train station a more useful station for Strathearn.

GLENEAGLES STATION



GLENEAGLES STATION: Strathearn's new rail hub? Many people in the community are fed up of having to drive to Dunblane or Bridge of Allan

CCT's Roger Brickell and Ailsa Campbell are part of a newly formed steering group with other people from Dunning, Auchterarder, Blackford, Dunblane, Bridge of Allan, Braco and Greenloaning to form a Community Rail Partnership (CRP). The aim of the CRP is to make the newly improved Gleneagles Station a more useful commuter hub for Strathearn. More stops at this station, more competitive fares and better bus links are the main aims for the immediate future.

A CRP is the recognised way for local people to make their views and needs known to the big national operators such as ScotRail and the new franchise winner Abellio.

James Wilkin, Development Officer for the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) chaired a lively and interesting meeting in Auchterarder in October, where the whole process and its potential benefits were outlined.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP (CRP)?

- CRPs are relatively new to Scotland, but have existed for some time in England and Wales
- The Scottish Government agreed to establish a pilot and have provided financial support for this
- CRPs work with the rail industry and local authorities to help improve stations, train services, bus links and access and thus increase passenger numbers
- CRPs are grassroots organisations which aim to link local railways and the communities they serve. They are the means by which local people can get involved in the development of rail routes, services, stations and provision of extra services such as cafés, and the improvement of railway land

For more information on CRPs see their website at: www.acorp.uk.com

BUSES

CCT and CUSP continue to work together on improving local bus services and bus links to rail services.

Perth and Kinross Council has applied on behalf of several local groups (including CCT, CCC and CUSP) to the Bus Investment Fund for money to improve the No 15 service.

CRIEFF ON THE GO

Crieff On The Go, a PKC initiative, aims to help reduce traffic congestion and therefore pollution, in addition to encouraging people in Crieff to be a bit more active by:

- Walking or cycling: For the shortest journeys, walking will almost always be quickest. From the Community Campus to the High Street is only half a mile – around 10 minutes walk for most people.
- Going by bus: Crieff has its own town bus, Service 45, which serves most key destinations in town. Service 15 operates between Comrie, Crieff and Perth and Service 47 to Dunblane and Stirling.
- Sharing car journeys: this not only helps to reduce the number of cars in the town centre but it will save people money.

The campaign began in September with a range of activities such as working with Crieff and St Dominic's primary schools to encourage children and their families to use alternatives to the car for travel to school and for other regular journeys.

The Crieff On The Go team visited Crieff Hydro to engage with their staff, and to give advice about travel options to work and for other regular journeys.

A Crieff on the Go travel guide was sent to all households with information on local travel options. Inside is a 'Walking Treasure Hunt' to encourage people to explore the town centre on foot. Some local businesses have offers for treasure hunters. There is a grand prize of a meal for two at Crieff Hydro for one lucky entrant.

For more information visit:
www.pkc.gov.uk/criffonthego
or email: crieffonthego@pkc.gov.uk

STRATHEARN DEVELOPMENT TRUSTS WORKING TOGETHER Following the excellent example of Crieff Community Council creating the Strathearn & District Forum of Community Councils, CCT invited Comrie Development Trust and Muthill Village Trust to meet to share information and views, and to see if there were any common issues we could work together on. The groups met in September and had a very useful meeting identifying local transport, foot paths and cycle routes as key shared issues. The groups are planning to meet every few months with the next meeting set for early February 2015.

Whatever you think you can do or believe you can do, begin it; for action has magic and grace in it.
- Goethe



Crieff BID surveyed local businesses and with feedback from 79 local businesses are now starting to identify possible activities for the BID Business Plan. The BID team are holding an Open Meeting on 25th November at 7pm at the Crieff Hotel to discuss plans and take further comment from local businesses. The Crieff BID website is now live at www.crieffsucceeds.com where you can read more about what a BID might have to offer and see what has been achieved by the existing 27 Scottish BIDs.

If you have any questions about the BID, please visit the website or contact the BID Project Leader, Alan Rankin on alan.crieffsucceeds@gmail.com

CRIEFF MARKETING & WEBSITE



CCT's Marketing & Promotion Group presented the findings of their visitors survey to the BID Steering Group in October. As there is likely to be considerable overlap in the aims of the two groups, they plan to team up and work together.

The crieff.org website is now being completely redesigned to make it more user-friendly for the whole community. A template has been agreed and we hope to have a final design in the coming weeks.

Community Diary

A hard copy of the Community Diary is in the library and is updated weekly and added to the crieff.org. **To have your event included in the diary email is strathearnlibrary@pkc.gov.uk or phone 01764 657705.**

CRIEFF TO COMRIE PATH



CCT is delighted to report that the results of our recent survey show overwhelming support for improvement of the designated Core Path between Crieff and Comrie.

THE PROPOSAL:

To upgrade the existing path, which mainly follows the route of the old railway line, to provide a safe, off-road route between Crieff and Comrie. This would be fully accessible for walkers and cyclists of all ages and abilities.

THE RESULTS:

- 1316 questionnaires completed between March and May 2014
- 66% were locals, the rest were visitors
- 96% were in favour of the improvement
- 3% were against the idea or unsure

COMMENTS:

Most people said they would use the path for leisure purposes. 28% said they would use it to get to work or school or for shopping. The results showed the path would be well-used by locals and visitors alike. When asked for further comments, many felt the existing roads were far too dangerous for either walkers or cyclists with one person describing the development as "a potential life-saver".

The improved traffic-free link was seen as benefiting tourism and local businesses. Many also pointed out the potential benefits to health and the environment. Respondents against the upgrading were mainly concerned with potential risks to livestock and the cost of developing and maintaining the path.

Improvement of this path was identified in the Crieff Community Action Plan as one of the top priorities for people in Crieff. The survey shows strong support for the proposal and will help to support the efforts of PKC in negotiating with land owners to bring about the desired improvements and to secure funding for the project.

The full report can be read at: www.crieffcommunitytrust.org.uk

PKC has received a grant from Sustrans Community Links Programme to carry out a feasibility and design study. CCT is now trying to raise match funding.

CRIEFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

This has been a busy summer and autumn for Crieff Community Council, reflected in the growing public attendance at meetings. Local residents have raised many issues including:

- Traffic congestion and road safety on Broich Road
- The new road layout at Pittenzie Road
- The neglect of the former Community Hall and historic graveyard in Church street
- Litter at Penny Lane
- The proposed move of "T in the Park" to Strathallan Castle

CCC is also looking into the possibility of setting up a First Response Team in the town.

In September, CCC saw a presentation on the proposal to develop a further 300 homes on Broich Road. This met with a mixed response.

CCC takes its statutory role in the planning process very seriously and has decided to oppose any further applications for wind farms or other industrial developments on the north side of the Ochils. This decision is supported by the Strathearn & District Forum of Community Councils.

The Forum itself is proving very useful, providing an opportunity for all the local CCs to co-operate, exchange information and views and find common ground.

CCC continues its involvement with the Crieff Succeeds BID.

The traditional street event for Hogmanay is also being planned.

Interested in joining the Community Council? Please email crieffcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk

FUNDRAISING BAG PACK

The CCT Board will be rolling up their sleeves on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 November at our local Co-op. We are hoping to earn some money to help with the CCT's efforts to help make Crieff a better place to live, work and visit.

If you can spare an hour between 5pm and 7pm on the Friday evening or between 10am and 5pm on the Saturday, please email [Mhairi Rolin](mailto:mhairi.rolin@btinternet.com) on mhairi.rolin@btinternet.com with your availability.



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



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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 GARDEN

Would you like to be involved in the development of Crieff Community Garden?

Located in the grounds of the Strathearn Community Campus, this diverse green space runs from Duchlage to Monteath Street, and has huge potential as a place for learning, relaxing and enjoyment.

So far the work has been overseen by a small committee who have secured funding to build a path from the entrance along the first stretch of ground, have erected a storage container, added a water bowser, which has kindly been filled over the summer months by the local firefighters. The entrance area has also been given a facelift with new planting and there are three raised beds which are used by the school and partners.

However, there is plenty more work to be done, and the hope is to attract green-fingered members of the community to come along and give a helping hand. Help could be given in many forms – if gardening is your passion then we would be delighted to hear from you. However the committee are also looking for donations of tools and other gardening equipment that could be kept in the container for use in the space.

For more details or to find out how you can get involved contact **Trevor Rae at Strathearn Community Campus:**
TRae@pkc.gov.uk

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

2014 marks the 25th anniversary of Crieff's festive lights during the winter period. One of CUSP's partner groups the Crieff Community Initiative (CCI) was born out of the Lights Committee, which 25 years ago, was part of the Crieff Community Council.

Organisers have always aimed to brighten up Crieff over the festive period for residents and visitors alike. The first year featured a series of old-fashioned-style lights draped around the street lighting columns in High Street and King Street.

Over the years the scheme has grown greatly and new technology has meant that today's festive lights and displays are far brighter, more energy efficient and varied.

In 2014 the CCI initiated a programme to replace all of the tree lights in James Square – approximately 20 trees, their transformers and cabling. Sponsorship is being sought for the finance required to replace all of the equipment and displays on each of these twenty trees – once completed each tree will show the sponsor's name.

Once again this year, a large tree will be on display in James Square as well as Gallowhill Gardens. It is also hoped enough funds will be raised to allow for the lights on the Crieff Bridge to be replaced with new LED units.

WANT TO SPONSOR OR DONATE?

Cheques made payable to "Crieff Community Initiative" can be handed in to Bob Ferguson at Crieff Garage, Angus MacDonald at Arduthie House or Steve Rodgers at the Pretoria Bar.

www.crieff.org also contains relevant information on the CCI's pages.

NEW MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

A new mobile library service was launched by Perth and Kinross Libraries on October 14th. There will now be extended services for older people in residential or care homes and sheltered housing, plus a tailored service to rural schools. Mobile libraries will have one single stop in villages and small towns with the new service.

For further information please phone 01764 657705, email strathearnlibrary@pkc.gov.uk or visit www.pkc.gov.uk/library



Strathearn Library is delighted to have Elaine Millar join the team as the new Senior Library Assistant on the mobile library.

CCT MEMBERSHIP

Show your support for our work, 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