



CRIEFFMatters

All the Action from the Crieff Community Action Plan and more! Autumn 2015

Welcome to the Autumn 2015 issue of Crieff Matters where you will find updates on projects identified in the Crieff Community Action Plan 2013–2018. We are now past the half way mark in carrying out the community's priorities in the five year plan and things are progressing, some faster than others. In this issue read about:

- Crieff Succeeds BID successful and raring to go!
- Strathallan Community Rail Partnership soon to be launched – great news for Gleneagles railway station!
- Much anticipated parking improvements for the town centre are underway
- Path upgrade to begin at Acorn Dell
- An exciting co-working space in Crieff's town centre planned for 2016

All of these actions are down to locals giving their time and energy in order to achieve the shared vision of **Crieff 2018: A united community reclaiming our heritage as the proud and vibrant heart of Strathearn** as set out in the Community Action Plan.

If you would like to become involved in any of these projects please email crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com. A copy of the Crieff Community Action Plan can be found at www.crieffcommunitytrust.org.uk.

GLENEAGLES STATION



We should soon see the formation of the Strathallan Community Rail Partnership. The Steering Group on which Crieff is represented by Ailsa Campbell (CCT Chair) and Roger Brickell (CCT Board, Transport) has submitted the formal application to the Scottish Government and is just waiting for formal approval.

The Partnership will include representatives from ScotRail, Network Rail and our local Tayside transport partnership, TACTRAN, as well as representatives from communities served by Gleneagles, Dunblane and Bridge of Allan stations. The Partnership will give communities a chance to develop projects to benefit the railway and its customers.

By working together, we hope rail services and fares from Gleneagles will be improved. After approval from the Scottish Minister the Steering Group will hold two public meetings, one in Auchterarder and one in Dunblane with presentations about the new Partnership and how to get involved. Look out for news of these meetings early in the new year.

BUS SERVICE 15: PERTH - CRIEFF - COMRIE - ST FILLANS

The public are being asked to give instances of overloading on Service 15 in support of PKC's bid for funding for an improved service. One response has been received complaining about the two hourly evening service providing for some poor rail connections. **Comments should be left on www.crieffcommunitytrust.org.uk.**



PARKING CHANGES

It has been a long time in the making but the new parking scheme Crieff & Upper Strathearn Partnership organised with Perth & Kinross Council for Crieff should be up and running by the end of November. Some waiting and loading restrictions will inevitably happen while the work to install pay-and-display machines takes place, but this will be staggered to cause as little disruption as possible.

Once complete, parking will be:

- Free in Leadenflower and Union Terrace car parks
- Free for two hours in King Street car park (with payment for longer periods)
- Restricted by pay-and-display meters on the High Street and James Square

It is hoped these changes will relieve some congestion on the High Street and simplify parking for visitors and locals alike. New signage will make the existing car parks easier for visitors to find.

ACORN DELL

As reported in the last Crieff Matters, work will begin soon on the upgrading of the path through Acorn Dell. Crieff Community Trust is working together with Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust and Perth & Kinross Council to complete this work. Invitations to tender for the work went out in October and we expect to be able to announce the contractor shortly.

WHERE IS IT?

Acorn Dell is the area of woodland between Mungall Park and Lady Mary's Walk. The path through Acorn Dell is part of the designated Core Path from Crieff to Comrie and will eventually become a section of the Pilgrim's Way running from Iona to St Andrews.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

The path gradient and surface will be improved so that it will be accessible for all who wish to enjoy this very popular walk. In addition, some of the small (blackthorn) trees beyond the railway abutments will be removed to create a new path on slightly raised ground beside the old path (which often gets flooded – see photo below).

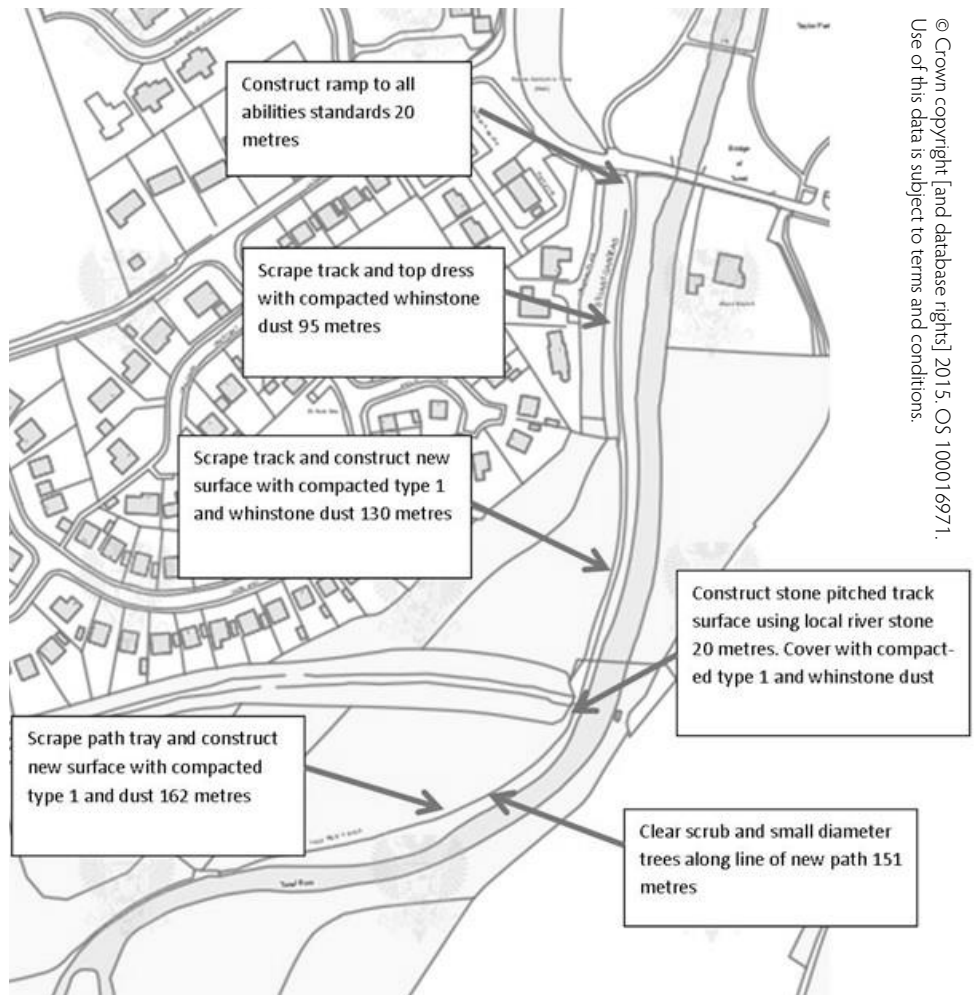
During the work, the path will need to be closed to the public for a period of time. Announcements will appear in the press and signs will be erected at the start of the path at the appropriate time. There will also be notices and maps showing alternative access to Lady Mary's walk via Laggan Road.



A new path will be created beside the old path seen here, which frequently floods, on slightly raised ground.

CRIEFF TO COMRIE PATH

Perth & Kinross Council are continuing in their efforts to come to a voluntary agreement with landowners regarding the development of the Crieff to Comrie core path. We really hope the landowners will grasp the opportunity so that they can benefit from the investment available as part of a Path Agreement.



MORE INFORMATION: If you have any questions about this project, please contact Andrew Barrie, Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust on 01738 475239.

KEEPING OUR LOCAL PATHS LOOKING GOOD

Do you enjoy walking in the beautiful countryside around Crieff? Have you ever wondered who looks after our local path network?

The Crieff Paths Group is a very active group of volunteers involving people from Crieff, Comrie and Muthill, who do just that. With support from our local countryside ranger, the group meets every few months to clear overgrown vegetation, improve drainage, and repair the surface of local paths.

Some of their recent work parties have involved clearing and repairing the path at Bennybeg, improving drainage on the Maam Road, and building stiles at fences on the Knock Mary path.

The group welcomes newcomers. So if you're a keen walker who would like to give something back – or if you'd just like to find out more about the group – email crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com.



CRIEFF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FUN FESTIVE QUIZ NIGHT

Keep Crieff twinkling at Christmas!

**Saturday 5th December, 7pm for 7.30pm
Crieff Bowling Club, Coldwells Rd**

Fun for all: Speed Bingo / Quiz / Food Break
Raffle / Auction / Quiz / Special Raffle

Tickets £5 each. £12 for each team of 4
Call 01764 653113 or email
BrighterCrieff@yahoo.co.uk

Arranged by the Crieff Community Initiative

All our dreams can come true - if we have the courage to pursue them. - Walt Disney



CRIEFF SUCCEEDS BID IS HERE!

The BID was overwhelmingly voted through in June with 70% of the votes cast in favour of the 5 year Business Plan. Since then a new board has been elected and is meeting on a regular basis to get the BID up and running. The BID has recently launched two grant schemes worth £158,000 aimed at helping local event organisers and local businesses. The grant awards will look to support local event organisers cover costs such as event management, insurance, promotion, website development, equipment hire or feasibility studies for new events. Applications will also be welcomed from local businesses for staff training, building

business capacities such as a new website, help in opening up online trading, business planning, marketing and improvements to premises. The scheme also aims to assist businesses looking to open up closed-down shops or business premises with higher levels of funding available. Details of both schemes are on the BID website at www.crieffsucceeds.com.



DRUMMOND ARMS

Just over a year has passed since the Scottish Government approved the Community Right to Buy on the former Drummond Arms Hotel. The following month the Royal Bank of Scotland sold its portion of the building to Strathfare which now owns the whole building. Strathfare has said it has no intention of marketing the property for sale, and therefore activating the CRTB, while the current market value of the building is significantly less than what was paid for it. Perth & Kinross Council continue to have robust discussions with the owner of the Drummond Arms.

As a result, Crieff Community Trust decided to keep a watching brief on the Drummond Arms and take the work it had been doing for it, as reported in Crieff Matters Autumn 2014, to a new location [see story on right]. CCT plans to test these and other ideas in the hope that one day it can come back to the Drummond Arms as it was the number one priority for the community in the Crieff Community Action Plan.

The Drummond Arms was always going to be tricky. Things ARE progressing, just slowly.



CRIEFF TOWN CENTRE CO-WORKING SPACE PLANNED FOR 2016

Crieff Community Trust is part of the Scotland Can Do Places project supported by the Scottish Government. The aim of the project is to reinvent Scotland's town centres by providing space where people can make work together, try out new ideas and just can do! Falkirk's first Can Do Space was opened by Housing Minister Margaret Burgess in September and it is anticipated that it will bring over a million pounds into the local economy.

The plan is for Crieff to have such a space with shared facilities for people to collaborate on projects and make work with and for each other. Instead of having to leave Crieff and Strathearn to work in offices in Stirling, Perth or further afield, people will be able to work in a co-working space in Crieff's town centre.

This is great news for the town. The money these people make stays in the local community, being spent in local shops. CCT has learned that £1 made locally means £3 to the local community, this is called 'the multiplier effect'. If we were able to provide the opportunity to grow 10 – 20

small businesses, this could make a massive difference to the town's prospects.

This was originally part of the vision for the former Drummond Arms Hotel but unfortunately the Royal Bank of Scotland sold its part of the building to Strathfare which has no plans to sell the building. This meant Crieff Community Trust needed to find a new location. CCT can confirm they recently met with PKC Head of Planning and Development who offered a short term occupancy of the recently closed Primary School. PKC sees this as a great opportunity to support CCT to test the Can Do Space philosophy and other ideas that could fill the empty premises. The shared working space is due to open in Spring/Summer 2016.

Falkirk created a Vacant To Vibrant Facebook page to ask people how they would use the space and on what basis. So how would you use the building? A cool bunkhouse for walkers and cyclists? A learning hub with coding classes for kids? A mixed space for artists and accountants? Yes really it works! The possibilities are almost endless! Look out for more information in the new year.

They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself. - Andy Warhol



CRIEFFCOMMUNITYTRUST

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

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GETTING IN TOUCH

Here are contact details of the three groups working together to make things happen from the Crieff Community Action Plan.

Crieff Community Trust Scottish Charity SC044348

Chair: Ailsa Campbell
Secretary: Ann Ross
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

THANK YOU!

CRIEFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

The recent election saw the return of all 12 sitting members of the CC, with Dr Roger Cartwright being elected to the 13th slot, so the CC is once more at full strength. The Office Bearers will be elected at our next meeting on 7th December.

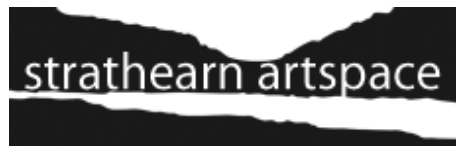
Broich Road. The recent tragic accident at the junction of Broich Road and King Street highlights Perth & Kinross Council's failure to provide a comprehensive solution to the problems of access to the three Schools. We have been asking for years for a radical solution to this narrow and dangerous corner, and for years have been fobbed off with the "professional" judgement that "the corner is not dangerous". Some minor improvements have been carried out, including the installation of street lighting and surface upgrading of the footpath. But the footpath is still too narrow, as is the road itself, and our preferred solution of a roundabout at the triple junction with King Street and Burrell Street seems as far away as ever.

Development. Amongst other actions, we've provided a detailed response to the proposal to develop up to 300 houses and some light industry on the south side of Broich Road. While recognising that the scheme is in the Local Development Plan and will eventually go ahead, we are keen to influence its delivery in a way that will be sympathetic to this extremely important historic site and will genuinely benefit the whole town. Once again, we highlight the need for the road infrastructure to be genuinely improved before any large-scale development is approved.

Charrette. We've shared meetings and conversations with our community partners, CCT and CUSP, on a variety of topics, notably the charrette which was held in the town – an attempt, not entirely successful, to provide yet another blue print for the revival of the town centre.

BID. The Crieff Succeeds BID project, led by the Community Council, several of whose members played an active part in the Steering Group, was brought to a successful ballot in June. The BID is now of course a stand-alone not-for-profit Company, with its own Board of Directors, but the CC takes quiet satisfaction in having played a leading part in its foundation.

Response to the Community. We've listened to the concerns of residents in Montearth Street, and set up a meeting with Police Scotland, the Safer Communities team and the PKC Housing Department. We heard as well from the residents of Strathearn View and Hebridean Gardens and arranged a meeting with Stewart Milne and PKC to talk through some of the problems. Our door is always open. We are delighted that public attendance at our meetings is growing, and while we can't provide solutions to some of the issues raised with us, we do what we can to help, even if it's just referring the problem to the Council or other agencies.



Crieff now has, once again, its very own cinema run by Strathearn Artspace. Though attendances have been relatively small for the films already screened, we hope that audiences will grow as word spreads in the

community. So why not come along and join us for:

15 November: CHAPPIE - a sci-fi film from the director of DISTRICT 9 and ELYSIUM

27 November: THE SECOND BEST MARIGOLD HOTEL - a not-to-be-missed sequel starring Judy Dench, Bill Nighy and Maggie Smith.

28 November: Crieff Drama Group's charity panto – NOT TO BE MISSED!

Check out www.strathearnartspace.co.uk for more details and join us on Facebook

Our September bag pack at Crieff Co-op raised the fantastic sum of £778! A huge thank you to all those who helped out on the day: the volunteers who helped pack, the shoppers who so generously donated and the management and staff of the Co-op who cheerfully helped us along. The money raised will be invaluable in helping CCT with ongoing costs such as public liability insurance, training and Development Trusts Association Scotland membership.

UPDATE. BLOG. TWEET. REPEAT.

The CCT communications group is looking for help keeping the community up to date on what is happening with its various projects through social media and the press. Are you able to help? Please email crieffcommunitytrust@gmail.com.