

Crieff Community Trust Board Meeting

Thursday 29 October 2015, 19:30, at Carantas, Hazel Avenue Crieff

Present Jim Anderson (JA), Roger Brickell (RB), Ailsa Campbell (AC) (Chair), Ian Christie, Charles Crookshank, Dawn Griesbach (DG), Mirela MacInnes (MM), Mhairi Rolin (MR) (Minute Taker), Ann Ross (AR)

1 Welcome

AC welcomed Ian Christie and Charles Crookshank to the meeting.

2 Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by all, after agreed amendments.

3 Matters Arising

Crieff.org - AC met with members of the Marketing Group and they have agreed to pass the Crieff.org web site over to the BID. AC will set up a meeting with Emmy Hargrave, Ewen MacGregor and Stuart Cassells from the BID Marketing Group.

Cloud Storage - all agreed to continue using Dropbox.

Perth to Crianlarich Bus Survey - all to do survey to test before making public.

Crieff Matters Autumn Editions is nearly finished and AC will send to the printers in the next week.

4 Admission of New Members

There were no new applications for membership.

5 Treasurer's Report

MM circulated the updated accounts in advance of the meeting. The Bag Pack raised £778.

6 Ownership of Acorn Dell

There have been discussions about the possibility of CCT taking over ownership of Acorn Dell from Crieff Community Initiative. JA contacted John Glover, a solicitor from the Scotland Community Land Advisory Service, to seek advice on what aspects CCT should be aware of and consider in such a land transfer. Copies of extracts from the Land Register regarding Title to the land have been forwarded to John Glover and he is going to visit the site. He is retained by the Scottish Government and his advice will be free to CCT, but we would have to pay for any searches or registration fees. However his terms of reference are such that he cannot act as our solicitor. For discussion at the next Board Meeting.

7 Town Centre Charrette

All to email comments to AC ahead of meeting on 16 November.

8 Group Reports

Town Centre (AC) - AC, Barry Hargrave and Satch Campbell met with Linda Gillespie (COSS) on 15 October. Based on the COSS workshop 'Backing Winners' attended by BH in May, they would like to find out what services / activities / opportunities the community feels are missing from Crieff, what empty spaces are available and then do an options appraisal to determine the best match and which one to tackle first. The £5000 offered to COSS by DTAS is still available to CCT. LG recommended we ask PKC to match it, making £10,000, which was the expected cost of the work.

AC and BH met with David Littlejohn (Head of Development & Planning, PKC), Isobel Butt (Vacant Property Office, PKC) Iain Scott (Can Do Towns) and Matt Ronan (Scottish Business Resilience Centre) on 29 October. Prior to the meeting AC supplied the group with a map and current synopsis of the buildings and projects in the town centre, as well as another one looking 5 years into the future and what might be done with empty and derelict spaces by then. She also provided a summary sheet of some key points from the presentation BH and AC gave of the vision for the Drummond Arms at the Can Do Towns 'Big Talk Out' last October and also two pages from Neilston CDT's current newsletter which talks about their options appraisal. These papers were the starting point of the conversation.

The aim of the meeting was:

- 1) to find a location for a 'Can Do Space' – a co-working space in the town centre for which CCT has applied to the Town Centre Community Capacity Fund with Peebles, Falkirk, Clarkston and Callander.
- 2) to discuss the future of the primary school, possible uses, possible ownership
- 3) to discuss the Drummond Arms and make our vision a reality
- 4) to ascertain if PKC would match the £5,000 funding from COSS. IB agreed to this.

1) & 2) Can Do Space and Primary School - DL and IB brought maps of the footprint of the Primary School. They explained that PKC does not own all the land so it cannot sell or do anything with the building until the title deeds are sorted out. This could take years. Since the meeting, AC has had email confirmation from DL of the Council's agreement, in principle, to the Trust using the primary school, either through licence (rather limiting because we could not sublet) or short-term lease (we could sublet), provided we can cover the running costs of the building during the period of occupation, and have appropriate insurance in place. He also suggested the refectory as an alternative if we felt its scale was more deliverable. He has asked the Head of Property Services for a print-out of costs incurred in running the school over the past few years from which the Trust will be able to abstract the relevant data (heat, power etc).

Regarding any other PKC properties in the town, the Primary School was the only one they had to offer for a Can Do Space or any other enterprise. They confirmed there are no plans to move out of the offices in James Square or to move any more services out of the town centre to the Campus.

3) Regarding the Drummond Arms, IB said she had met with Sohan Singh recently and he had plans to develop the property into housing. He hoped there would be funding from PKC but IB said that would not be the case. DL said PKC could write a stronger letter putting pressure on him to repair the building. It was agreed this was a long-term project but things could be done to keep things moving. IS will set up a meeting with Stuart Heslop, Regional Managing Director, Real Estate Finance, RBS (who was on the panel BH and AC presented the Drummond vision to last October) to work on a financial plan for the Drummond Arms.

Paths (DG & JA) – Acorn Dell: The Invitation to Tender was issued and posted on line. A site meeting was held on 27 October with JA, Andrew Barrie of PKCT and several contractors. After discussion, two “improvements” on the original scope were agreed:

- It was agreed that the detail at the return wall could be simplified by ensuring no work was carried out between the wall and the inside of the handrail.
- The area between the railway abutments would be better improved by installing a mesh reinforced concrete slab rather than the aesthetically superior plan to provide stone pitching. The slab would be much more durable and provide a longer term solution in this location.

Andrew Barrie revised the Tender documentation to include the matters discussed at the site meeting and reissued them on the same day. The date for Tender Returns is Tuesday 3 November 2015.

Transport (RB) - Strathallan Community Rail Partnership - the Steering Group is still waiting for formal approval of their application from the Minister. The Group agreed to hold public meetings in Auchterarder on 18 January and in Dunblane on 01 February, where they would give a PowerPoint presentation about the Partnership and then have addresses made by representatives from Scot Rail and Tactran. Those present would be asked to express an interest either in becoming Board members or in doing other work for the Partnership. A meeting to form the Partnership would then be held in Auchterarder on 23 February.

Perth to Criannlarich Bus Service - covered in Matters Arising

Service 15: Perth-Crieff-Comrie-St Fillans - the public has been asked to give instances of overloading on this service in support of PKC’s bid for funding for an improved service. One complaint has been received about the two hourly evening service which provides for some poor rail connections.

Service 47: Crieff-Stirling - The Community Rail Partnership is in communication with PKC about improved connecting facilities between Service 47 and trains from Dunblane to Glasgow & Edinburgh.

Marketing - covered in Matters Arising

Community & Recreation (AR) – no further updates.

9 Any Other Business

Scott Russell, a communications expert, has offered to do the layout of Crieff Matters, in return for free advertising. AC is also looking into replacing Crieff Matters with a monthly e-newsletter sent out by Mail Chimp.