



CRIEFFCOMMUNITYTRUST

Crieff Community Trust Board Meeting 7pm, 21 September 2023 on Zoom

Present: Brian McVey (BM), Jane White (JW), Ailsa Campbell (AC), Ian Christie (IC), Jim Anderson (JA)

Invited: David McCann (DM)

Apologies:

Andrew McLean (AM), Ann Ross (AR),

1. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the August board meeting had been previously circulated and were approved as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Action	By
Thank you letter to Sir Brian	JW - sent
Organise 10th birthday party	AOB
Distribute leaflets	all - still to do
Accountants: JW to discuss with SO and forward details to DARL board. VAT to follow on from move to new accountants.	JW - treasurer's report
Follow up comments on TP&E proposal to Jim	Done
Ethics policy	DMC has drafted. To be circulated
Link path consultation event	JA/ DMC - see path report
Lord Lieutenant's award scheme? <i>DM reported back - need to be nominated by 1 member of the public and endorsed by 2 more. DM to draft model text.</i>	DMC - see CEO report
Video clip of why people like working at CDC.	DMC to do
Community Council	Someone to attend every meeting if poss

4. Operational Report - DM submitted a report prior to the meeting

CCT continues to make positive progress on a number of projects and initiatives which are broad ranging, innovative and impactful. It is important that the breadth of work which is being initiated and developed by the Trust requires to be continually communicated to the wider community as well as to both local and central government to emphasise and reiterate the importance and necessity of a strong community-based approach to town centre regeneration and enhancement.

1. Can Do Crieff

1.1 August and September have again been positive in terms of usage and income.

1.2 We are still looking to develop additional member benefits including “soundproof booths”, local discount schemes on food and drink, improved décor etc.

1.3 DMC has arranged a meeting with representatives of Strathearn Arts to discuss the CDC and future agreements.

2. Funding

2.1 Application submitted to the Community Investment Fund - decision shortly.

2.2 We are developing a Gannochy Trust 3 x year funding application.

3. Town Team

3.1 At an initial meeting of various local third sector organisations in the Crieff Campus in May there was an informal agreement that, going forward, all would aim to begin to support and collaborate with each other for the betterment of Crieff and its wider community and develop a strategy that will aim to deliver the priorities as outlined in the Community Action Plan, as well as maximise the potential successes of all the agreed actions and projects, including existing Capital projects. As the Board are aware CCT has facilitated the establishment of a town team looking at a strategic alignment of the major capital projects proposed or being developed in Crieff along with funding plans and ambitions. Professor Peter Flett is now the independent facilitator of this group, supported by myself. A meeting of the group was held on September 21st in preparation for a meeting on October 3rd with representatives of Perth & Kinross Council.

DMC has also chaired an initial meeting between the Boards of Strathearn Arts and Creative Crieff to better understand historic issues, work towards a mutual and transparent awareness of both groups plans, and seek to achieve an improved combined strategic approach, particularly around the cultural offer, of both groups. The meeting was positive and constructive and a successful first step towards achieving these goals. A further meeting to begin to detail a collaborative approach, along with a united public facing united front, is planned for early next month.

3.2 We will be planning another Uniting Crieff Forum meeting for October/November.

4. Murray Fountain

4.1 Crieff Community Trust is part of a multi-agency partnership approach which is working towards the restoration of the historic Murray Fountain. CCT submitted an application to Historic Environment Scotland for the £25,000 shortfall required to facilitate the complete restoration of the monument, including lighting and running water, which has been successful. The £120,000 project will begin soon.

4.2 We will ask for written confirmation that CCT retains no responsibility in respect of the care and maintenance of the Murray Fountain or any liabilities therein.

5. Drummond Arms

I attend the meetings of the Drummond Arms regeneration Company who are overseeing the

redevelopment of this significant historical site. There remains a preferred partner in the frame however the cost of developing the site to a condition acceptable to this partner, whereby they will invest a significant sum of money to further develop and repurpose the site, has increased. This may, if confirmed, have an impact on fundraising plans and will need to be considered and may affect the position CCT takes on their ambition for the building.

6. Events

6.1 As part of the ethos of the Trust to work together to bring about improvements to the physical, economic, and social environment of Crieff, DMC is exploring the options of fully funded events which will not only be for the enjoyment and benefit of the local community but also attract visitors to the town.

6.2 We have had confirmation of a funding package of £16,400 to create Scotland's only Santa's Post Office. It will be located in the Old Town Hall and will run from Monday 20th November – Sunday 24th December. We will be transforming the space into a Victorian themed post office. which will be run by Santa's Elves, recruited from local teenage school students and overseen by an adult volunteer. Visitors to the post office will be able to post a letter they've already written or write one with the help of the elves. Completed letters will be posted into the magic post box and children can watch them winging their way from Crieff to Lapland on a special illuminated route map. Writing paper, envelopes, pens, and stickers will be provided and use of the post office will be free of charge however we will include a donation box and the proceeds of this will be divided between local charities. We expect significant number of visitors during the life of the project, 2019 saw over 10000 visitors and the site announcement had over 40,000 hits. We can also take the opportunity to promote other projects and initiatives and to raise awareness of the work of CCT.

6.3 "Light up the Town" would be a walking trail through Crieff with historic sites and buildings lit up and projected onto. The walk would involve the story of the town being told to participants in an artistically exciting, vibrant, and memorable way. I am currently creating a proposal and budget in order to submit a funding application.

6.4 Invitations to the Trusts 10th Anniversary celebration event have been issued. The event will take place on the 26th of October @ 7.00pm in G's Bistro. Plans for the evening are underway. As of the date of this report there are 17 confirmed attendees.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1 We now have a draft Fundraising ethics policy which is awaiting approval from the Leadership team.

7.2 We recently made a presentation to the Crieff & Strathearn Rotary on the work of CCT.

7.3 The opening date for nominations for the Kings Award for voluntary service is June 1st, 2024. The nominator, who must be independent of the group must also provide two letters of support from two people who are independent of CCT and who are aware of the work of CCT and must not be written by a volunteer, employee, trustee, or anyone involved with the running of the group.

8. Meetings

I have recently had meetings with representatives of PKC, Creative Crieff, Remake, Strathearn Arts, Crieff Community Council, Crieff Highland Gathering, Crieff Town Team, and Crieff Museum

5. Live funds update

- Gannochy funding £15,000 towards development manager salary costs for a year, now conditions have been met, money has been paid into our account. **Report due April 2024.**

- Garfield Weston Foundation for help with core costs. £5,000 unlimited funding for a year. **Must report back by 12.1.24.**
- Paths for All IFPF for design of link path successful - £24,474 - accepted and contract awarded to TP&E. Payments 1,2 and 3 claimed and payment 1 and 2 paid.
- Fountain - PKC CECF - accepted £10,000 for fountain refurb - PK Heritage fund offered £5,000 and received £5,000 from SGN. Heritage Environment Scotland application successful for £25,300
- **CLLD applications made for 23/24 to support CEO salary costs. Also to support DARL coordinator costs and possible part-time fundraiser.**
- **Application made for £6k to Community Investment Fund for help with UC.**

DMC also plans to submit an initial 1 year lottery application.

6. **Treasurer's Report** - JW submitted update prior to meeting.

- Insurance has been paid £834, twice monthly railway embankment reports required.
- Still awaiting independent examination of final accounts but this has at least begun now.
- Need update on DARL also moving to proposed new accountant, then JW to ask for quote from them for DARL work too, then if ok will move.

VAT registration, figures for last 3 years reviewed. Need to come up with a way to review pricing structure for CDC, but looks like a beneficial move to register.

Virgin Money linked savings account - paperwork submitted again this week.

7. **Paths** - JA submitted a report prior to the meeting

Oakbank to MacRosty Park Link Path

TP&E have reviewed CCT's comments and forwarded the Outline Design Report v2.0 which incorporates an updated section on ecology (Report Section 4) reflecting the findings from the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal [PEA] which has been added as an appendix. CCT's query re potential saving if the 3.0m path width were to be restricted to 2.5m was not recommended by TP&E as saving was small ~ £16k. The design is for the 3m wide path with Routes A2(Meadow 2 side of Embankment) and B1 (using Cutting in Meadow 3) and with unbound surfacing option S2.

TP&E's Valuation No 2 was received and paid. Valuation No 3 has been received and is being processed. CCT preparing Progress Report No 2 to issue to Paths for All to support the sums claimed to date.

Insurance policy CRIE08CS01, obtained via our Brokers Keegan & Pennykid from insurers RSA has been renewed including the additional sections of disused railway from Sir Brian and Lady Elizabeth. Despite submissions from CCT pointing out that this additional land has been disused since the Beeching Cuts in the 60's and that live sections of railway elsewhere in the UK where the railway is currently carrying rolling stock, passengers and freight is only required to be inspected at best annually and often once every 12 years CCT now have a requirement to inspect the disused railway fortnightly. We shall set up a data base and record our inspections so that we are certain to comply with these new requirements.

A new Hazard Warning Sign has been ordered to replace the existing one CCT provided in 2015 which is now looking water damaged. To be chased up [has signwriter folded?]

Turretbank Wood [TBW]

Despite the meeting held on site 3 Aug.'23 to discuss the shortcomings of Scottish Water's activities at TBW - attended by Clive Duncan and Peter Chriton plus JAA and Robert Bone for CC there has been no progress other than for P Chriton (SW) to suggest and request CCT to arrange for the remedial work to be carried out and SW would pay. This has stalled due to holiday delays within SW and CCT and the difficulties that will fall to CCT if we start this process. The only actual progress since previous Report is that CCT has replaced the missing PKC key lost by SW.

The H Balsam area in Meadow 2 near the purple buddleia was attacked by Robert Bone

whilst I was on holiday and great progress was made despite poor weather (rain).

Coop funded Bench – Bench to be purchased for siting in Meadow 2 – Action outstanding but now awaiting design input from TP&E to make sure new location works in their new design.

Crieff Paths Group

Outing on Saturday 16 Sept was successful clearing River Earn path from Crieff Cemetery round to Sauchie Park. Next outing is scheduled for 30 September at the Knock – please come along.

Proposal to replace wooden benches near Distillery/Hosh being progressed.

Proposal for TBW is to obtain use of PKC Flail for one (or 2 if possible) days to open up Meadow 2 and mark those trees/shrubs that we wish to preserve – rest to be trimmed and eventually shredded – hence hire of chipper timetable now later Oct/Nov.

Create a monthly rota to check fortnightly

- the west end
- the cutting
- the embankment to the Turret Burn

Create a proforma to tick off and prove the check.

Quarterly photos.

Agree a date to meet up and be briefed by Jim on what to check.

8. Drummond Arms - IC submitted a report prior to the meeting

Building update

Nothing substantive has occurred since the last report; however, parking rights and demands has raised its head again, strategy required to manage the problem.

The Memorandum of Understanding has been returned and signed by the hotel group.

As a precaution, a pre-winter inspection of the roof and chimneys is being arranged with our structural engineer Narro.

Grant Applications

DARL have just been awarded £5000 (+vat) by Architectural Heritage Fund, towards refreshing a cost / viability / options / cost estimate report for the Drummond. This is needed to input into grant applications.

DARL has a first stage bid into the Gannochy Fund for £105k to demolish the former Staff Building and Garage outbuildings. The position and condition of these buildings contributes to dampness that is damaging the main building. The buildings also block bringing to site larger machinery / equipment for inspections and future works to the main building.

Via CCT, DARL has a bid into Perth and Kinross (CLLD Fund) for £45k to pay for the DARL Dev Coordinator role and for grant writing support. Currently DARL are funding this role from their VAT returns. A decision on the application should be made at the end of Sept / early Oct 23.

DARL Board Strategy

The Board has now put in place two major assessments to help guide decision making with regard risks associated with both building integrity and funding options.

The later of the two assessments will outline a timeline dependant on funding outcomes:

- RISK - Not attracting any major grant sums within the next 2 years. The board have agreed that this effectively "do nothing" position is not sustainable for DARL.

- ACTION - Attracting sufficient major grant money to make the building safe. The default option is still to retain and utilise the existing structural fabric of the main building. If this is not viable the preferred option would be part demolition with a facade retention.
- ACTION - Attracting further grant monies to deliver a viable shell building, (refurbished or new build), for market investment and the completion of an operational hotel. This is the desired outcome from the current partner.

Financial Position and Insurance

DARL remains solvent at present with sufficient funds to carry on with the inspections of the scaffolding and to pay the project officer.

No decision made re the insurance; however the cost of the premium is currently un-affordable and the potential return has not been defined.

9. Leadership team / Governance of CCT - nothing to update

10. AOB

- 10th birthday party - Gs supper club. 4 big tables - each with a CCT theme. Our board will host each table. Decorate with bunting and photos. Some quizzes. Aim is to be a fun, social night and celebrate.

Next board meeting - Thursday 19 October in person.

Action	By
Approaching businesses to support a town-centre card for CDC members.	Leadership team to discuss.
Incorporate all reports into David's one report. Ian and Jim to send reports to David before the meeting please. Create a new agenda structure to support this.	IC/ JA JW
Create a rota for fortnightly inspection of the west end, embankment and cutting - include a proforma of what to check. Meet at Taylor Park car park on Thursday 5 October at 10am for Jim to brief board members on what to do during the check.	JW/JA All
Proactive management of St Michaels and other vacant buildings. Express concerns to PKC.	DMc
Link path communication. Now we have the plan to share, not consult on, as to what we plan to do on our land. Model is being made. Need to plan how to publicise .TP&E will organise a meeting in Crieff. Invite PKC - we will pay to upgrade the path but PKC will still own.	JA/DMc/JW