



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meeting of Trustees - March 2021

We noted the resignation for personal reasons, from Gavin Creaney the Trustee appointed by Dunscore Community Council and thanked him for his contribution. Dunscore Community Council will now take steps to appoint a replacement Trustee.

The focus of the March meeting was on the following areas:

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Members for the year ended 31 August 2020 preceded the Trustee meeting. There was a good discussion on a wide range of issues and the Minutes will be circulated separately.

Funding Round and Fund Statement

The Blackcraig Fund is currently open for applications with a closing date of 6 April 2021. Foundation Scotland will then do their assessment process and the Trustees will then make the decisions on awards. Once the volume of applications is known we will finalise the dates for decisions, but the current plan is that these will be early June.

We reviewed the Fund Statement prepared by Foundation Scotland to inform us on the monies awarded and available for the new round. In response to a request from Members for Fund financial headlines we will now provide headlines for every Board meeting summary. The current fund balance is £117,860.50 with anticipated receipt of the year three payment from BWFS Limited in June of £264,500. A total of £45,465 is ring fenced for CAP 'implementation phase' projects (see below), the 2021 Community Council payments and the fund management costs, meaning that GDT is anticipating a maximum of £336,895 being available for distribution in 2021.

Community Action Plan

The Steering Group is meeting regularly with Community Enterprise to discuss the work underway on implementing the Community Action Plan.

A further £5,269 has been awarded from the ring-fenced monies set aside to support the initial implementation of the CAP, to Glenkens Community & Arts Trust Ltd to contribute to a match funded project to empower local young people to generate ideas, research and trial models for the provision of youth space within the area. This was clearly identified by young people as a short term priority in the consultation that led to the development of the Community Action Plan. GCAT will work with partner organisations to deliver this, working closely with young people.

The lack of childcare provision in the area has also been highlighted as a key concern. Following discussions with people from across the area we concluded that some research and analysis was required, particularly focused on supply issues and giving consideration to innovative rurally appropriate solutions. Due to the ongoing restrictions, we have decided to extend the timescale for tenders, so they are now due at the end of March. This is the link to the tender which gives more information and if you know of anyone who may be interested in doing this work please pass it on. <https://tinyurl.com/glenkenschildcare>

The Glenkens Summit

This took place virtually on 2nd March at 7pm. A report on this is attached. We discussed at the Trustee meeting how it had gone and what had worked well and not so well. The general consensus was that it had been a thought provoking and interesting event where the external speakers had brought interesting perspectives. However, there was also a recognition that some people felt it was not what they had expected as they had thought it would be much more focussed on what is currently being done and planned in the area. It was also felt that the breakout sessions could have been longer in order to facilitate more scene-setting and in depth discussion. The conclusion was that, for a first event in very strange times, we had generated great interest and enthusiasm and it is important to build on that. The learning from this event will be built into the planning for subsequent events.

Constitution and Governance

We reviewed the Trustee skills and sector audit and discussed the core requirements for additional trustees. It was agreed that absolutely front and central to the recruitment of further Trustees (we currently have three independent Trustee places to fill) is the ability to engage fully in the work of Glenkens & District Trust with both a passion for the area as well as the time to be able to contribute fully. There will also be a core skill set required of Trustees (as set out in the Community Council guidance offered earlier this year) and in addition, we recognised that there are some areas where we could usefully broaden the skills, experience and diversity of the Board and this will be reflected in the process to recruit new trustees which we will now develop - we hope to commence this process soon, recognising the current restraints on meetings arising from lockdown.

Under our Constitution we now have the ability to have Associate Members. These **are** different to the Community Council Members in that they have no voting rights, and they can be individuals, institutions, organisations and bodies who support, and wish to engage with, the purposes of GDT.

Having these Associate Members preserves the fundamental role of Community Councils while widening membership in a practical way ensuring the wider community can get involved with and stay up to date with the activities of GDT without having to be community councillors, Trustees or grantees. It reflects our desire to be accountable to the wider community and to ensure a sense of community ownership of the valuable resource that community benefit monies represent. Under the provisions of paragraph 8.3 of our Constitution we agreed Rules and Regulations for Associate Members. We also reviewed and agreed the format of the application forms and our approach to promoting this form of membership. Having done this, we now need to put in place the administrative

arrangements to manage the arrangements and to ensure compliance with GDPR. Once this is in place, we will be inviting applications for associate membership.

We are aware that there has been a bit of confusion about the different categories in our new governance arrangements as these bed in so it may helpful to have this short summary:

Community Councils (as an entity) form the **Members** of GDT. Each member Community Council nominates a Community Councillor to serve as a **Trustee** on the Board of GDT. In addition to this Trustee, each member Community Council can send a **representative** or representatives to general meetings, and these representatives can vote (one vote per member Community Council, regardless of number of representatives present). Finally the **Associate Members** have no vote but basically form a wider stakeholder group of people and organisations who want to engage with GDT and its work – these can be thought of as akin to a ‘Friends of Group’ and will be provided with updates on GDT’s activities and opportunities to engage.

Potential further developments

We continue to engage with wind farm developers in our area and, as ever, are careful to ensure we only discuss their approach to Community Benefit Payments, in the event of their projects being consented. We do not discuss the merits or otherwise of the developments, as this is a matter for the Community Councils.

Awards and Extensions

In addition to the amounts awarded from the money ring-fenced for the Community Action Plan work we awarded £5,000 to Loch Ken Trust to contribute towards the cost of a Ranger for Loch Ken and deferred an application from Crossmichael Memorial Hall to allow the Committee sufficient time gather all the information they need to deliver their proposed project.

We also discussed our wish to promote what has been funded to date and what benefits have been achieved from the funding. This would have the twin benefits of demonstrating the benefits as well as stimulating ideas for other community groups. We had planned to have a celebratory community event where people who had been granted monies could talk about what they had done and the benefits, but this has not been possible due to the pandemic. We however recognise that this is a priority for us as we move forward, hopefully, out of lockdown and will develop work on how we address this over the coming months.

Many a Mickle Maks a Muckle’:

The Inaugural Glenkens Community Summit

The Inaugural Glenkens Summit took place online, on Tuesday 2 March at 7pm.

The Summit was the first in what it is hoped will become a series of similar events and was organised by Glenkens & District Trust with the support of Community Enterprise. The event provided an opportunity to discuss and debate some of the big issues for the Glenkens communities and think about what these might mean for the review of the five year Glenkens & District Community Action Plan. While GDT took the lead in organising the event we, as a fund distribution body, have the primary purpose of resourcing and enabling community development rather than carrying out projects. Therefore natural next steps will be to identify and support, in an open and transparent manner, community organisations that want to get involved in implementing the Plan.

The Summit was open to the whole community and to anyone with an interest in the Glenkens. We were delighted that 102 people attended on the night.

During a busy and stimulating two hours, the audience got a brief update from Douglas Westwater, CEO of Community Enterprise on the early work underway with different community groups around short term priorities as set out in the Plan. There was helpful feedback about some areas that needed further consideration, such as work to maintain the biodiversity of the area, the outdoor ‘assets’ and the problems in some areas of poor broadband service.

We then heard from three inspiring speakers:

Ailsa Clarke, Development Manager of Inspiralba, a social enterprise consultancy based in Argyll and Bute and developer of the digital Rural Social Enterprise Hub, spoke about rurality and community development. Neil McInroy, CEO of CLES, spoke about Community Wealth Building and the positive move to create a more local economy in the Glenkens. And finally Phillip Revell, Chair of Scottish Communities Climate Action Network, spoke about community-led action to address the Climate Emergency.

There were questions from the audience on what is needed for effective community involvement in decision making, what practical steps we as a community can take to address the climate emergency, how we should think about the local energy economy and, in developing the Plan, how we ensure that benefits flowing from the work remain in the community for the long term.

Messages that really resonated with the audience including the need to have many small things working together to create something good (Neil McInroy reminding of us the good Scots phrase: “Many a Mickle Maks a Muckle”); the need to nurture and support community groups to take risks and try new things; and the imperative to make the climate emergency an essential part of our thinking. All the speakers identified community involvement as key to success and suggested different means to achieve this.

The thought provoking comments from the floor fed into smaller group discussions where people had the opportunity to get into some detail about the four thematic areas of the Community Action Plan.

The event was ably concluded by Jane Morrison-Ross, who has recently taken on the role of Chief Executive of South of Scotland Enterprise and who personally tweeted after the event “What an absolutely brilliant summit. The innovation, ambition and passion shines through. Fantastic speakers and really exciting plans.”

As one community member attending said later: “Last evening’s event was an excellent interaction, large number of people, lots of energy and ideas.”

We will consider the points raised in the meeting, as well as in other discussions, and feed these into on-going development of the Plan. An important next step will be to identify how delivery plans for identified projects can be created and what capabilities and organisations are needed to enable this. Underpinning this there is a need to agree how we as a community want to oversee, monitor and evolve the Plan. This will include considering the current Steering Group membership, processes and resources.

Please feedback any views to Douglas Westwater of Community Enterprise on douglas@communityenterprise.co.uk or Fiona Smith, Chairman of Glenkens & District Trust on Fiona.Smith1@btinternet.com

