
Business Plan 2010/11

This is the business plan for the Trust's operation and it incorporates the ethos of the villages' Community Action Plan.

1. Mission statement

To assist in improving the quality of life for those who live and work in Strathblane, Blanefield and Mugdock, and also for visitors to the area, working in partnership or association with other organisations or individuals.

2. Background

a. SCDT was set up to facilitate village improvements of a physical, social and cultural nature.

b. The village has a need for an organisation that can harness local voluntary effort and make application for funds for projects.

c. The Trust is established as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and as such will seek to distribute any surplus in support of the mission statement.

d. The Company was registered with Companies house on 17th January 2008 Company No 336337. The Organisation received registration with the Charities Commission January 2008 No [SC039328](#)

3. Basis for operating

The Board was successful in gaining funding from Stirling Community Planning Partnership to carry out an opinion survey and consultation throughout our community to establish priorities to take forward in partnership with existing community groups and the statutory authorities. The plan is attached as an appendix to this business plan.

4. Method of operating

a. The company seeks to operate through voluntary effort, engaging local enthusiasm and skills in a practical way. We have no core staff, and limited funding.

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b. The company and the charity is managed and run by a Board of Directors appointed by the membership. The Directors are all volunteers and residents of Strathblane, Blanefield or Mugdock. The Directors receive no remuneration from the Trust.

5.. Working Groups

a. The Board has a series of working groups who recruit volunteers for specific purposes. They may be existing groups within the village who need to apply for funding. These groups will operate within the guidance of our Memorandum and Articles of Association. Any working group will:

i. Include a Director of the trust.

ii. Appoint a Chairperson.

iii. Define its remit and have it approved by the Board of Directors.

iv. Minute its decisions and keep the Board of Directors informed. The Company will seek to facilitate the ability of the working groups to operate and will hold funding for projects. Applications for funding will be made in the name of SCDT. The Board will approve projects and our membership will be informed through quarterly newsletters.

Groups are the main operating mechanism of the Trust, the Board of Directors acting as facilitators, support and monitoring activity

Working Groups in Existence

a. The groups already in existence are:

i. Greenheart: to preserve and enhance the rural environment, with particular emphasis on improving recreational facilities.

ii. Blane Valley Carbon Neutral Group: seeking to reduce carbon emissions and address energy, environmental and sustainability issues.

iii. Property group: reviewing opportunities for physical development

iv. Blane Valley Community Allotments

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(b) There are a number of existing networks or possible working or project groups which we are encouraging including:

- i. Summer Fair group: running of the fair/gala day
- ii. Village signage and interpretative map for walkers group
- iii. Music/Meeting Facility for Young People
- iv. On-line Business Directory
- v. Paths Group

Future aspirations for the trust, through direct action, with either existing or new working groups will relate to the Community Action Plan which will evolve as new opportunities arise. The trust will assist with:

- i The collection of relevant information for business planning consultation and funding applications
- ii. The Trust will also be prepared to be a support agency should any facilities in the village be under threat of closure (subject to resources)
- iii New groups will be encouraged by the Board provided that they do not contradict or compete within an existing group.

6. Targets

The Board requires each of the existing working groups to produce proposals for their operations and programmes. These will be approved by the Board.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

a. The company will seek to monitor and evaluate its performance against its targets.

b. Targets will be set by the Board of Directors after the membership approves the business plan at the AGM. The Board will monitor progress during the year and provide support where possible to working groups to achieve progress.

c. The Board will provide an annual report to the AGM which will be sent to members, funders/sponsors and other relevant parties.

7. **Equal opportunities statement**

The Trust will not discriminate in terms of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation.

May 2011