
Business Plan 2015/16

This is the business plan for the Trust's operation. It is based upon the ethos of the villages ' approved Community Action Plan (available on the website). It is only 6 months since the approval of the previous business plan so limited progress has been made and changes are minimal.

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. Our charitable objectives

- To manage community land and associated assets for the benefit of the community and the public in general as an important part of the protection and sustainable development of Scotland's natural environment
- To promote the creation of training and employment opportunities
- To promote the provision of housing for those in need
- To promote the maintenance, improvement and provision of public amenities
- To promote the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural or local importance
- To promote the provision of recreational facilities
- To advance the education of the Community about its environment, culture, heritage and/or history
- To promote the protection or conservation of the environment

4. 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. This consultation continues to be updated by using opportunities such as the summer fair, special events and articles in the Blane Valley Bulletin which is circulated to all residents 10 times a year. We are in the process of consulting the community on our continuing priorities and vision. This should be complete by the end of the year and form the basis for our next business plan.

5. 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.

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.

c. Over the coming year we will continue to review this method of operation and our governance arrangements. We are interested in exploring whether it will be useful to other groups in the village to work more closely together for mutual benefit.

d. It is becoming increasingly apparent that it would be helpful for grant applications and for our administrative burden if we had a regular income stream.

6. 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. We are keen to encourage a more bottom up approach from within the villages. 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 the Blane Valley Bulletin and specific member wide emails as required.

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

Working Groups in Existence

a. The groups in existence are:

i. Greenheart: to preserve and enhance the rural environment, with particular emphasis on improving recreational facilities. Robert Davy is the SCDT Director working with the group to achieve the final phase of the Play Park and facilities for teenagers.

ii. Path Development Group. This group is exploring funding opportunities to develop paths around the village. Alan Hutton is the SCDT lead Director

iii. Property group: reviewing opportunities for physical development and protecting assets for the community such as the graveyard bothy and toilet triangle. Dai Hutchinson is the lead SCDT Director.

iv. Sports Fields Hub group - drainage/surface enhancement for a range of activities - Gordon Ash is the SCDT lead Director

v. Heritage group: production of Photo History Book with a phase 2 –production of coasters, place mats etc – Ann Balfour is the lead SCDT Director. This includes the First World War book.

Future aspirations for the trust, through direct action, with either existing or new working groups will relate to the Community Action Plan which is the subject of current community consultation to ensure that our priorities and vision are up to date. We expect groups to inform and consult the whole community on any proposals they wish to make.

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 or consider acquiring any community assets should they be declared surplus (subject to resources)
- iii. New groups will be encouraged by the Board provided that they do not contradict or compete within an existing group.

7. 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.

A table with 2014/15 targets and achievements and 2015/16 targets is attached as appendix 1

8. 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.

9. Equal Opportunities Statement

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

10. Risk Management

The directors have not carried out a formal risk assessment. However, they have considered the major risks to which the company is exposed, in particular, those related to the operations and finances of the company, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Objective	Task	Who	2014/15	Target 2015/16
Governance	Recruit new directors	SCDT board	3/4 new directors to be elected at 2015 AGM	For election at 2016 AGM
Governance	Increase membership	SCDT board	Membership is 273	50% village as members
Governance	Membership communication policy	SCDT board	Communication with members is now electronic. The BVB is used for members without email.	Ensure email addresses for members are up to date
Governance	To ensure financial viability examine opportunities to create revenue income streams	SCDT board	Toilet triangle being investigated for PV panels to allow public toilets to be reopened	Continue to Identify projects which will produce income streams
Governance	Protect charitable status	SCDT board	trading subsidiary "SCDT trading" established	Use subsidiary as needed
Governance	Maximise funding opportunities	New liaison group	Chair in regular contact with DTA and other CDTs	Continue to research funding opportunities and improve links with other CDTs and DTA. Funding advisory group to be established
Maintenance, improvement and provision of public amenities	Complete playpark and facilities for teenagers	Greenheart	Bike track operational	Woodland bike trail being examined

Provision of recreational facilities	Improve railway track for walking and cycling	Path group	Feasibility study complete. Sustrans funding in place	Grant applications to be completed for match funding Start work (AH)
Maintenance, improvement and provision of public amenities	Establish a path maintenance group	Path group	Scary path complete	Continue upgrade of paths (AH) Annual walking of paths to check for problems and issues
Maintenance, improvement and provision of public amenities and Promote the creation of training and employment opportunities	Become a member of "Walkers are Welcome"	Path Group		Become a member of "walkers are welcome" to help local businesses benefit from our paths network.
Maintenance, improvement and provision of public amenities	Upgrading and improvement of paths	Path group	Feasibility funding in place for Danny's brae. John Muir link path funded by Scottish Water	Continue to make grant applications as appropriate (AH) Danny's brae feasibility complete John Muir link complete by autumn 2015
Maintenance, improvement and provision of public amenities	Consult on a paths strategy for the villages	Path group	With Stirling Council develop and consult on strategy	As 2014/2015 (AH)
Manage community land and associated assets for the benefit of the community	Achieve the transfer of the graveyard bothy for community use	Property group with the church and heritage society	Stirling council has agreed to transfer bothy	Funding applications to be completed. Bothy opened for use as heritage centre following local consultation in summer 2016 (RB)
Manage community land and associated assets for the benefit	Consult on uses and achieve transfer of	Property group	Proposals being developed to achieve	Business plan to be submitted to Stirling

of the community	toilet triangle		transfer for community use	Council and consultation to take place
Manage community land and associated assets for the benefit of the community	Explore and consult on opportunities around school refurbishment	Property group, parent council and community council	Established as a clear priority at village summit.	Achieve funding and carry out feasibility study
Provision of recreational facilities	Allotments project	Allotments group	Funding complete	Ongoing monitoring and dealing with any community concerns (Board)
	Summer Gala week	SCDT board/CC and parent council	Assist with summer fair 2015 if asked	Reinstate the gala for summer 2016 aim to have weeklong activities involving all groups(MV)
Provision of recreational facilities	Produce a map of local walks for sale in the villages	Village signage and interpretative map group	Map produced and selling well. Signage boards up	Continue to sell map
Provision of recreational facilities	Increase activities for young people in the villages	Sports hub group	Limited success due to council cutbacks	Drainage of all pitches being explored.
Promote the creation of training and employment opportunities	Provide opportunities for local businesses to advertise	On line business directory group	Business directory available on village website	Promote the website to new businesses. Explore better ways to publicise local business
To advance the education of the community about its environment, culture, heritage and/or history	Produce a photo history book	Heritage group	Book produced and sold out Publish on line "E-Book " version of Then and Now	Continue to explore opportunities to maximise income such as 2 nd book and/or place mats/coasters
To advance the education of the community about its environment,	Produce First World war book to	Heritage Group	A village remembers published	

culture, heritage and/or history	commemorate local people			
To advance the education of the community about its environment, culture, heritage and/or history	To explore the feasibility of bringing Craigend Castle back into use	Craigend castle group	Feasibility funding unsuccessful and group disbanded. Mugdock country park committee remains supportive	