

STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

REPORT BY CHAIR - AGM 28th May 2014

During the past 7 months the Trust has continued to carry out its aims and objectives. There has been a further increase in community involvement in projects over the past 7 months with the FWW group now having 14 members of the community helping to write the stories of those who fell and the Paths Group undertaking reconstruction of the path at Park Place footbridge and the the Play Park with Calum Craig leading 25 volunteers.

GREENHEART (Myself as lead director)

The latest phase has been completed comprising the installation of mini climbing frame , 2 springer mobiles , wooden trainset , balance beams , and story-teller's chair as well as public seating.

THE PATHS DEVELOPMENT GROUP (Lead director Alan Hutton)

Current

On-going negotiations with Scottish Water on the upgrading of paths around their turbine installation site

- which we expect will result in a much improved surface on the Strathblane end of the railway path and a good new path leading up to the Gowk Stane Track when work is completed later this year.

In cooperation with SC Access Officers we are now starting work to raise funding to complete the upgrading of the railway path and the link path with the aim of completion in 2015.

Future

The Group will attempt to organize a review of the whole of the core paths within our area with a view to identifying problems and, where possible, undertaking some maintenance.

THE WALKS AROUND STRATHBLANE MAP (Jude Gregor lead Director)

Copies are available for purchase in a variety of shops and visitor attractions in the area. A number of additional outlets have been added.

The John Muir Way has been opened and there has been a marked increase in walkers through the area.

SCDT provided an entry for the Church floral display (which was widely acclaimed) to celebrate the opening of the trail .

The group has been awarded Community Pride funding of £1119 to provide three new signage boards. These will show all the walks plus the John Muir Way and will be positioned to the side of the library , on the grass verge at St Kessogs and near the Church of Scotland.

THE PROPERTY GROUP (Dai Hutchinson lead Director)

Church Bothy

The group have produced a business plan for the project and Stirling Council have requested additional detail . Hopefully despite R Begg's recent injury and the workload of other projects the site will come into community ownership in the near future.

Kirkhouse Inn

As many of you will have read in the BVB the Trust has inserted a form in the BVB seeking to assess the views of the community as to the possibility of expressing an interest in taking the property into community ownership subject to consultation with all residents. To date approximately 70 residents have returned the form.

THE CRAIGEND CASTLE WORKING GROUP

In January of this year the Trust was approached by a group (the Friends of Mugdock) who were determined to seek a long term sustainable development of Craigend Castle.

The group were not motivated by financial gain but wanted to provide a project which brought benefit to the communities around Mugdock. They came recommended by Robert Flashman who has long been a respected member of our community.

THE YOUTH SERVICES GROUP (Gordon Ash lead Director)

Despite Council cutbacks the group is continuing to consider the various options concerning improving the drainage and upgrading the playing surfaces on the pitches.

FIRST WORLD WAR GROUP (Anne Balfour Lead director)

An Award of £3700 has been made by the Heritage Lottery Fund to produce this book. Some wonderful stories of the men from the village who died have come to light and the group felt that employing a professional designer could be the best way to do justice to the material. A successful application for £1000 was made

to the Community Pride Fund at Stirling Council for funding for this item. We are hoping for publication in October of this year.

THE BUSINESS PLAN has been updated and targets have been drawn up for the Groups for 2014 -2015

MEMBERSHIP The recent membership drive has resulted in 19 new households joining the Trust .

GIFT AID DONATIONS The membership form now includes a section on gift aid.

DTA Seminar - Beyond the Usual Suspects

I attended the DTA seminar held in Maryhill which was addressed by Lynn Molleson of Harlaw Hydro . This community raised over £300k to develop their local reservoir as a source of income

In conclusion I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow Directors and all the members of the Groups for the time and effort they have put in to the SCDT over the past year.

Robert Davy - Chair - 28th May 2014