



Trust Directors

Andrew Gladstone
Bill Harkness
Charlie McNeill (Chair)
Colin Richardson

Martin Marsh (Vice Chair)
Lynne Melville
Hazel McWhirter
Hazel Johnston

Grant Applications

The Trust has recently had the privilege of awarding grants to five local organisations.

Education and Driving Test Schemes

Both schemes are still open for applications. You can find more information and application forms on the KCDT website or by contacting Nicki Chadwick, Support Officer.

Membership

Membership of the Trust is open to anyone who lives in the Kirkcowan Community Council Area and who is on the Electoral Roll. To become a member, please fill out an application form, which can be found on the KCDT website or by contacting Nicki Chadwick or any Trust Director.

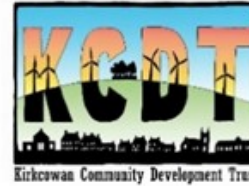
By becoming a member, you gain full voting rights at General Meetings and are entitled to stand for election as a director. To nominate someone for election as a director, you must also be a member of the Trust.

Becoming a member of KCDT is free and liability of members is limited to £1. For more information on how to become a member, contact Nicki on 01988 403450.

Contact us

Nicki Chadwick, Machars Action, 26, South Main Street, Wigtown, Newton Stewart DG8 9EH, tel. 01988 403450, kcdtcontact@gmail.com.

Website: kcdt.chessck.co.uk



Kirkcowan Community Development Trust

Newsletter

Autumn 2022

To our Kirkcowan Community Council Area Residents

Hello and welcome to another edition of the KCDT newsletter.

Whilst we have seen a downturn in new grant applications of late, the Trust has been busy with existing programmes which we have established to help support the community of Kirkcowan. The Education Grant is one such scheme and we have awarded grants of £1000 to 19 members of the Parish to help support their journey in Higher Education. These grants are available only once to students who are pursuing a university, college or Open University course and hopefully help with some of the associated costs, such as accommodation, travel, books and equipment. Another scheme that is helping to mobilise residents is the Driving Licence scheme, where the Trust will fund the cost of one theory and one practical test for applicants. We have helped five people with this.

We met with the Chair and Board of the Kilgallioch Community Benefit Company that looks after the Wider Fund - 40% of the whole annual Kilgallioch Community Fund. For clarity, as one of the 'primary communities', Kirkcowan receives 15% of the whole annual Kilgallioch Community Fund, which is the fund that KCDT manages. This was part of a general, regular review of the KCDT. There were no issues raised or problems with regards to the management of the Kirkcowan community benefit fund.

We look forward to hopefully bringing you some news on the progress of the park soon, in the meantime, if you have any issues or queries, please don't hesitate to contact the team at Machars Action or get in touch with me. Often concerns can be cleared up quickly and easily with a conversation.

Cheers

Charlie McNeill, Chairman, Kirkcowan Community Development Trust

Project updates

Winter fuel grant

The Winter Fuel payment will be paid shortly to those who have applied for it. The Trust reviewed the uplift from last year and has agreed to keep it uplifted at £200 per household. Application forms are available on the Downloads page of the KCDT website (<https://kcdt.chessck.co.uk>) and using the form enclosed with this newsletter. The deadline for applications is 7th December 2022.

Kirkcowan Post Office and Village Shop update

The Trust was requested by the Community Council to be involved with an intervention to stop the closure of the Post Office and Village Shop. It is considered to be crucial service to a large number of the community as a means of access to pension collections, receipt and deposit of money, postal services, groceries and newspapers. It has also been widely acknowledged as very important to some of the older members of the community as a part of their daily routine for exercise and fresh air, as well as the importance of the social interactions that result from that outing. The Trust has agreed to support the staffing costs of the Post Office and Village Shop, which will enable it to run with reduced losses and enable continued trading. The Trust has arranged appropriate legal documentation to support this and has agreed that this arrangement will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Play Park, Rest Garden and School Playground

The trio of projects that encompass the Play Park, Rest Garden and School Playground renovations has been struggling to make forward progress due to a lack of interest from potential contractors. We invited several contractors to tender for the project but have only received limited expressions of interest, despite follow ups. We are due to meet soon with one of these parties to discuss the project and hope to finally be able to move forward from there. The school has submitted a grant application to Sport Scotland Sports Facilities Fund to try to get some additional funding to support their part of this project. They should hear if they have been successful within the next six weeks. However, this would not affect any progress on this project before then.

The Annual General Meeting of the KCDT will take place at 7pm in the Kirkcowan Village Hall on Friday 28th October 2022. The AGM is open to all members of the KCDT.

Jenna Morra Woodland

We have engaged a local forestry consultant to draw up a felling plan for consultation with community members who are interested in the future of the wood, for which a public meeting will be arranged. Once we have a plan in place, it will be submitted to Scottish Forestry for their approval. The aim is to thin out parts of the wood to reduce the number of trees, to give those that are left more space to grow and to create open spaces to let the light and air into the wood. This will be good for biodiversity and will improve the experience of those walking through it. Felled trees will be cut up and left to rot in piles, which provides valuable wildlife habitat, although some which are closer to the road could be removed for firewood. It is hoped that improvements can be made to the surface of the footpath next year and it should be possible to make a small off-road parking area at Johnston's Bridge within the wood once some of the trees are removed. It will be necessary to employ suitably qualified tree cutters to undertake the work due to the size of the trees involved and the need to use power tools but there is scope for volunteers to deal with the rhododendron, which needs to be cut back and eventually removed to stop it spreading.

The Autumn Club

The Autumn Club welcomes members, old and new, to join them on Wednesdays at 2pm for a cuppa and a blether. On the first Wednesday of every month, there will be entertainment or a speaker. Everyone is welcome. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of refreshments. The Autumn Club meets at 5, Newton Stewart Road (opposite the garage). For more information, please contact Jim Adair on 01671 830465.

Youth Club

The Trust is actively looking into offering a youth club for Kirkcowan, in accordance with the Community Action Plan. Initial thoughts would be for two separate sessions for different age groups, with times and venue to be discussed. We would like to ask parents/guardians to speak to their children to see if they would be interested. Please give any feedback to Machars Action or to Lynne Dalglish, KCDT Director (ldalglish47@gmail.com).