



# Newsletter

## Spring 2021

### To all Kirkcowan Community Council Area residents

I hope you are keeping well and that you enjoyed our previous newsletter. The Trust is keen to keep you informed about the work we are doing and I am pleased to announce we have some really exciting projects going on at the moment.

The Trust is developing an educational grant scheme to support people who are planning to go to university/college or gain a new skill or qualification. The scheme will be open to anyone within the Kirkcowan Community Council Area.

There has also been a Steering group set up to get the Play Park project running. The group is made up of representatives from various stakeholder groups within Kirkcowan to encourage openness and transparency. We are in the process of commissioning a landscape architect and look forward to showing you the plans!

As you know we are still a bit a restricted in relation to holding public meetings and running groups but rest assured we are still here, working behind the scenes to keep the Trust running for you.

I also know that there has been some feedback in relation to the application process and that some find it complicated to understand. We take this feedback seriously and are looking at ways to make things easier for people to apply for Community Benefit Funding.

*Charlie McNeill*

Chairman, Kirkcowan Community Development Trust



# Project Updates

**Play Park** - There have been many interesting ideas and enthusiasm for the play park project which is great! A Steering Group of representatives from various local stakeholders have been established to help move this project forward. The group is made up of people from the Trust, the Community Council, the Primary School, the Church and the Village Hall Committee. This is to ensure that there is a small group with a fair representation of the different groups in Kirkcowan.

At the first Steering Group meeting it was decided to commission a landscape architect to not only draw some plans for the play park but also for the Rest Garden and the top end of the Primary School playground. This is to try to avoid duplication of ideas and to get a best overall fit for the village. The prime target for development will be the play park but the work will provide a clear plan for the three areas .

The Steering Group is looking forward to consulting with the community once there are various suggestions for the design of the play park. Due to the current situation it is anticipated that this might be done via putting the various drawings up around the village for people to vote on.

**Educational Grant** - The Trust is currently drafting a new scheme which will support members of the community of Kirkcowan planning to attend Higher Education or shorter courses. The grant scheme will be open to any permanent resident within the Kirkcowan Community Council Area and could award a grant of up to £1000 per person to anyone studying a full time College or University course with a grant of up to £250 for a short course. Further details will follow during the summer.

## **Jenna Morra Woodland**

Jenna Morra Woodland should be starting to green up a bit in the next month. The Woodland Management group will be looking to make some improvements to the paths and to start making suggestions and plans of action for any work or projects, which will then be taken back to the Trust for approval. The group is open to anyone. If interested, please contact Katrina at [katrina.kcdt@btconnect.com](mailto:katrina.kcdt@btconnect.com)/07508 879954.

# Village Hall update

The Village Hall Committee is continuing to work on the business plan which will enable it to put in its Stage 2 Community Asset Transfer application to Dumfries & Galloway Council, which will in turn allow the asset transfer process to move on with ownership of the hall passing to the community. This process could take up to six months due to Council processes but the committee will keep everyone informed about the progress of this as they go along.

Due to the Covid restrictions, the Village Hall has been closed to comply with the current Dumfries & Galloway Council regulations. Obviously it is not known when these restrictions will ease up for using the Village Hall again. As soon as they are allowed, the Trustees are looking forward to opening the Hall for organisations old and new, and restarting the popular programme of Community events which have been sorely missed over the pandemic.

The Board of Trustees would welcome volunteers to help with the upkeep of the Village Hall, which can involve anything from Health & Safety checks to DIY!

For feedback or questions please contact Mary Harkness on [mandwharkness@aol.com](mailto:mandwharkness@aol.com) or phone 01671 830535.

The Trust is still looking for a Youth Representative to join its Board, to represent the views of the young people in Kirkcowan.

We are looking for someone between the age of 16-25 and, if you are interested, send a video of you stating why you would like to represent the young people of Kirkcowan.

The Trustees meet approximately once a month, and are currently using Zoom to communicate.

If you think you might be interested but would like more information please contact Katrina on 07508 879954 or email her at [katrina.kcdt@btconnect.com](mailto:katrina.kcdt@btconnect.com)

## **Funding Guidance**

The Trust is aware that some groups can find it difficult to navigate through the process of applying for funding.

The Trust will in the next few weeks be adding more material on its website to try and address this by making it clearer what is required.

If you need help to start or proceed with an application for grant funding you can always contact Katrina and she can support you with your application.

## **Board Members:**

**Andrew Gladstone**

**Bill Harkness**

**Martin Marsh**

**Charlie McNeill**

**Hazel McWhirter**

**John Paterson**

**Colin Richardson**

**Joe Wright**

## **Membership**

Membership of the Trust is open to anyone who is living in the Kirkcowan Community Council Area and who is on the Electoral Roll.

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.

There is no cost to become a member of Kirkcowan Community Development Trust and liability of members is limited to £1. For an application form or more information on how to become a member contact Katrina or visit the website

## **Contact us**

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