



Kirkcowan Community Development Trust

Newsletter Summer 2021

To our Kirkcowan Community Council Area residents

Autumn is here and the nights are drawing in. It is also the one year anniversary of sending out our quarterly newsletter to the Kirkcowan Community and we hope it is of help in giving you information about the Benefit Fund.

First of all following our AGM welcome to our two new directors on the board, Lynne Fulton and Hazel Johnstone.

We are continuing to work on projects such as the play park and Jenna Morra Wood. The steering group for the playpark are refining their plans in readiness to present to the community - thanks for all their time and hard work on this. The survey for the Jenna Morra Wood has just arrived with us and will allow a woodland management plan to be created.

The educational and driving licence scheme have been receiving their first applicants and we are looking into expanding these schemes further in the future.

I am pleased to say that, in consultation with Scottish Power Renewables, the Winter Fuel Scheme allowance will increase this year from £150 to £200. This is in direct response to the inflation in fuel prices which have struck the country lately and will hopefully help with these rising bills. We are also looking into more permanent and sustainable measures to try and help people out of fuel poverty.

We have organised some open meetings to allow residents to come and chat about any ideas they may have, please see the newsletter for details.

Charlie McNeill

Chairman of Kirkcowan Community Development Trust

Project Updates

Play park - The Steering Group continue to work with the Landscape Architect in creating a new design for the play park as a result of wider community engagement in 2020 and as a result of individuals in the Steering Group visiting other play parks throughout Scotland. We are committed to getting this right and aim to have something to please any age or ability in the park. At present we are examining the second draft plan to ensure the wishes of the majority of residents are reflected. Once this is completed we will again engage with the wider community for comment and feedback.

Autumn Club The Autumn Social club for those over 60 has recommenced, with meetings held every second Wednesday between 2-4 in the Autumn Club (opposite the garage). Come join in for a cup of tea, a chat and occasional entertainment such as music or bingo. If you are interested in joining in or have any questions, please contact Christine Storm on 01671 830203

Development Officer Katrina will be present in the Autumn Club every Friday for anyone who has any questions or queries. It is recommended that you book to secure an appointment time to avoid any disappointment.

Katrina can help with applications, grant forms, setting up a group or answering any questions you might have.

Jenna Morra Woodland We have recently had a report back detailing the state of the woodland and indications of what we need to consider to ensure the woodland is kept in the best condition for both nature and people to enjoy. The woodland group are having a meeting shortly to discuss and gauge different ideas of what can be done in the woodland. If you are interested in joining the group contact Katrina.

History project The PLACE project which has been running for the last three years has finished. The Biosphere and some members of the community in Kirkcowan are keen to look into ways we can gather, talk about and preserve the history of Kirkcowan. If interested contact Katrina.

Education & Driving Test Schemes Both Schemes have continued to run and has seen 16 grants given out under these scheme. These schemes remain open to residents in the Kirkcowan Community Council Area Application who are studying higher education or taking a short course to learn new skills or for people taking their Practical or Theory car test. Forms can be found on the KCDT website or by emailing Katrina.

Yearly review & AGM results

Another year has gone and we are pleased that our AGM went well. It took place on 5th Oct 2021 via zoom due to current Covid restrictions. A postal vote was forwarded to all KCDT members to allow voting for the Resolutions.

The Chairperson's report highlighted that Covid had a big impact on the Trust as an organisation with some projects being put on hold. However, the Trust managed to administer the Winter Fuel payments and to continue with work behind the scenes.

We launched the Education and Driving Test Scheme, to support people through University and other courses to enhance employment opportunities and also to help people through their driving tests.

We carried out preparatory work on the Play Park project, with a Topographical survey and hiring a Landscape Architect.

The Trust is still looking for a Youth Representative to join the Board, in order to represent the views of the young people of Kirkcowan. If you are interested, please email Katrina (katrina.kcdt@btconnect.com) or Carol Lochrie (carol@macharsaction.co.uk) for further information

The New Board for the 2021/2022 is comprised of

Charlie McNeill - Chair

Martin Marsh - Vice Chair

Andrew Gladstone

Bill Harkness

Colin Richardson

Hazel McWhirter (Appointed Director)

Hazel Johnstone (Appointed Director)

The board is also supported by Carol Lochrie from Machars Action who does Administration and secretarial work for the Trust and Katrina Dick who is the Development Officer for Kirkcowan and helps with projects.



Open Meetings

A series of open meetings for all residents of Kirkcowan community will take place in the Village Hall on:

Monday 22nd Nov 2021 at 7pm

Wed 24th Nov 2021 at 7pm

Representatives from the Trust will be there to discuss your views and ideas for projects within Kirkcowan for the future. Please come along and have your say.

Due to restrictions, there are 30 places in each session in the Village Hall. Please contact Carol Lochrie on 01988 403450 or email carol@macharsaction.co.uk to book a place.

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.

To become a member you must complete an application form which can be found on the KCDT website or by contacting Katrina 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.

There is no cost to become a member of Kirkcowan Community Development Trust and liability of members is limited to £1.

Contact us

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Website: <https://kcdt.chessck.co.uk/>