

21.10. 20

Community Councils and Development Trusts

There have recently been a number of Facebook posts about both the CCDT and CCC. Some of these showed a degree of community confusion and misunderstanding, which the factual information below aims to correct.

1 Acronym confusion

There is some confusion over the respective roles and activities of a Community Council and a Development Trust. These were explained clearly in a post by Paul Prescott on the Callander, Scotland Events and Information Facebook page, which is reproduced below.

For ongoing information about both organisations, go to their websites: www.callandercdt.org.uk or www.ourcallander.org.uk

2 Community Council Meetings

The community council welcomes all members of the public to its monthly meetings. The agendas and subsequent minutes are posted on its website: www.ourcallander.org.uk. As these meetings currently have to be held digitally, there is a Zoom link so that the general public can participate in them. Questions, comments and suggestions for future community council action are all welcome.

Video recordings of these meetings are normally posted for the general public information soon afterwards.

3 Community Council Members - and elections

At the October meeting, following a recent resignation, there was an election for a new member, which had been advertised to the community in July. Following Stirling Council regulations and timescales, voting went ahead on the three applicants, two of who gave presentations of their reasons for wanting to join. Unfortunately, none of them achieved the two-thirds majority demanded by SC regulations, so none of them could be appointed. The vote will be rerun on 9 November.

4 Wider representation

There is now a second vacancy, which is being advertised with a closing date of 6 November. It is hoped that this will attract a wide range of applications from across the community.

Following SC regulations and timescales, it is hoped to hold this vote at the December meeting.

5 Looking ahead

Coming soon: a series of discussions about these and other community organisations based on a paper written by two community council members and currently being finalised. ***Watch this space and join in!***

Community Councils and Development Trusts

The Community Council is an elected body that is charged with representing the views of the Callander community to the powers that be. There are community councils throughout Scotland.

But there are restrictions on what community councils can do and on what they can own and manage. So in most communities of any size, a Community Development Trust has been established to work alongside the Community Council.

There are over 200 Community Development Trusts in Scotland, and Callander Community Development Trust is one of these. They all follow much the same pattern, set out by the Association of Development Trusts. They are all companies, and have charitable status. Their activities are regulated by the Scottish Charities Regulator.

Callander Community Development Trust(CCDT)

Callander Community Development Trust has several community bodies affiliated to it, such as Callander Enterprise, Callander Heritage and the Callander Youth Project. Callander Community Council is also affiliated, because it helped to set up CCDT.

Cross-membership of community councils and development trusts is the norm throughout Scotland. There is no conflict of interest, because the two types of body were set up to work together.

In most communities, the community council and development trust work together for the benefit of the community. All of the directors of CCDT want this to happen in Callander. A majority of the Community Councillors want this to happen too.

CCDT projects in the community

CCDT has carried out many projects for the community.

- It built the Bracklinn Falls Bridge.
- It built the Community Hydro, and hands out over £50,000 a year from that to community groups.
- Together with the National Park and other bodies, it has built the new path up to the Bracklinn Falls car park.
- It is planning to construct a bridge at the Falls of Leny, and bring back into use the old Victorian walkway.

- It helped establish the crafts shop, Creative in Callander.
- It set up the community-run VIC, which supports local hospitality businesses, working together with CCC.
- In conjunction with CCC, it set up the Callander Support Group at the outset of the Covid-19 epidemic. With the help of volunteers from across the community, and managed by the Town Coordinator, this group delivered 2,000 free meals to those self-isolating during lockdown.
- CCDT also runs the annual Summerfest and Winterfest festivals.

CCDT is open to all, and is always on the look out for people who can contribute to its projects and festivals. If you can help, please join.