



CALLANDER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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Minutes of meeting of CCDT Board on 30 July 2024 in Callander Connect

Present: F. Park (Chair), A. Boa, M. Moore, P. Prescott, D. Moore, L. George

Attending: S. Bell, F. Bowen-Bate, E. Burroughs, C. Tobin (SCOTO) from 12:00-12:30

Apologies: G. Kerr (Vice Chair), T. Kliskey (Treasurer), M. Griffiths, B. McKay, T. Thompson, S. MacKay

- 1. Welcome and apologies** F.Park commenced the meeting at 10:00. Apologies as above. F. Park added that he would like to invite Tracey McFall to the next meeting for consideration to be co-opted to the CCDT Board. Tracey has experience of working for the Scottish Government, as well as in senior executive positions for Stirling-based charities including Stirling Community Enterprise.
- 2. Conflicts of Interest** No director conflicts to declare.
- 3. Health & Safety** No incidents to report.
- 4. CCDT Policies review**
 - 4.1 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy was hereby approved by the Board of Directors without amendments. This will be reviewed annually.
 - 4.2 Risk Policy and Register were hereby approved by the Board of Directors without amendments. These will be reviewed annually.
- 5. Minutes of the June Board Meeting**

One amendment had been made since the provisional minutes were circulated – correcting a detail on the names of the organisations working on the Stirling Heritage Survey.

Amended minutes had been circulated and were unanimously approved.
- 6. Matters arising/ updates**



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6.1 Collective findings from Post Office enquiries

There was a preliminary discussion around concerns made in T. Kliskey's report in absentia, echoed by P. Prescott, that CCDT should not be undertaking further projects which do not have the potential to be self-funding. Once the Hydro Scheme Feed In Tariff expires in 2034, the trust will not have enough finances to sustain even its current activities, unless replacement income can be found. P. Prescott pointed out that proactive efforts should be made to invest the capital we have now. A. Boa added that cash interest accounts could help with this.

That said, all were agreed that Callander cannot lose its Post Office. M. Moore, D. Moore and F. Park had met with Post Office Area Change Manager, Brian Turnbull, as well as the outgoing Callander postmaster Callum Menzies, to discuss options, and agreed to submit a formal expression of interest for the Visitor Information Centre. However, it is understood that other business owners in Callander have done the same. Concerns have also been raised about the practical challenges of incorporating post office equipment into the VIC. Therefore, it was agreed that if a local business can make a successful and sustainable business case for hosting Callander's Post Office, CCDT would be entirely supportive of them. In the meantime, the trust will continue to go through the process of putting together a business plan for incorporating the post office into the VIC, in case it is needed.

6.2 Operations Manager update

F. Bowen-Bate had circulated his report. It summarised the usage and social media performance of Callander Connect in July. Most notably – the number of bookings had increased from 12 to 23. But our Instagram reach and impressions were down by c. 65%, although this is believed to be due to an uncommonly strong performance in June around the E-Bike Scheme Launch event. He added there have been 12 E-Bike rentals so far, with 16 people inducted and 5 annual members signed up.

F. Bowen-Bate ran through a summary of communications activities, including a CCDT newsletter with an open rate of 62% (the highest yet). The Board agreed that the newsletter schedule going forward should be monthly – a combined CC, CCDT and CCC mailshot, advertised on the InCallander website, social media and shared across our associated and affiliated organisations.

On Company Secretarial duties, F. Bowen-Bate relayed findings from a recent review of the CCDT Articles of Association with P. Prescott. Clarification is needed as to who our current associated and affiliated organisations are, and the criteria for each. He



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also queried whether the AGM could be seen as a communication opportunity – inviting those organisations to have a more active role, and make the event more engaging to current and prospective members. S. Bell reported that she hoped to hear back from the Accountants about our accounts audit in the coming week, after which a date can be set for this year’s AGM, likely in late September or early October.

F. Bowen-Bate also reported that he and M. Moore had joined a task group with transport and community officers from Stirling Council, LLTNP and Killin Community Council to promote the recently returned C60 bus service. They will meet every month to share ideas and set actions to market the service and promote patronage to both residents and visitors. They hope to also involve representatives from Balquhider, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Community Trust. F. Bowen-Bate also continues to work alongside Imagine If in progressing Local Place Plan priorities and forming links with neighbouring community/development trusts in Kilmadock, Strathard, Fintry, Braehead, Killin and Brig o Turk. Finally, he shared a summary of applications received from five candidates for the role of Finance Officer to replace S. Bell. A subgroup is to be formed to review applications, conduct interviews and recommend an appointment to the full Board.

6.3 Development Officer Update

Imagine If had previously circulated their report. E. Burroughs gave a verbal summary of recent activities as well as upcoming events. This included plans to promote the E-Bike Share Scheme with a family-oriented activity day and film screening of a recent Active Travel promotional film from Trust in the Park in August. Also collaboration with Friends of Canmore Trust to support the hosting/coordination of the annual Gathering Event on 31st August, bringing together groups and organisations in Callander with stalls and information, before the Street Ceilidh.

On the Local Place Plan priorities - Stirling Council are in the process of commissioning feasibility studies for both the Pedestrian Footbridge (1.i.a) and upgrades to the Creep Footpath (1.i.b & 1.ii). Quotes are still being sourced for painting Main Street business frontages (5.i & 5.iii). And CLLD funding has been approved for a feasibility study into the Meadows and lower Station road car park areas (2.i). A steering group (representatives from CCDT, CCC and a local resident) have shortlisted and interviewed landscape consultants to lead on the project. E. Burroughs presented the selection criteria and collective reasoning for recommending the appointment of Raeburn Farquhar Bowen. P. Prescott strongly



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objected to the project as a whole, citing repetition of fruitless efforts made by the Callander Landscape Partnership in recent years.

Imagine If had also circulated information regarding three potential funding applications: Climate Action Fund (£500k-£1.5m), FEL Climate Seed Fund (£1000) and Braes of Doune (£tbc).

See item 7 for board decisions on Imagine If commission extension and appointment of a Landscape Consultant of the Callander Green Adventure Gateway (Meadows Masterplan) project.

6.4 Group reports

Greener Callander and Callander Woodland Group reports had been jointly circulated prior to the meeting. CWG have been clearing sides of the arboretum loop and main track at Coilhallan Wood, improving visibility and sight lines. They also hope to clear a new circular route to Ben Gullipen. And they are hopeful a pond can be reinstated by FLS. GC have asked CCDT and CCC if there are any objections to them repainting the large grey floodlight boxes outside St Kessog's which have rusted, since Stirling Council claim not to own them. The Board agreed to proceed with painting.

A report on the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) was also circulated. As at 25th July 11,267 visitors had been counted this season, with 716 clocked volunteer hours. The report also reiterated the opportunity to use some of LLTNP's large roster of volunteers to help cover gaps in the rota. The Park recently shared their terms and conditions for their volunteer sharing scheme, which was discussed at length by the Board over email and deemed to be one-sided and inappropriate for the VIC's purposes. It was, therefore, decided that M. Moore and F. Bowen-Bate should negotiate with the Park for a more appropriate contract and suggest a trial period to help inform this. A. Boa pointed out that a thank you lunch for the VIC volunteers should be budgeted for and organised for the end of the season.

6.5 Callander Enterprise

M. Moore reported that Callander Enterprise would be having a meeting in September to discuss its future. With two out of three committee members wishing to stand down, it is at present unclear what form that future might take.

6.6 Finance Update

S. Bell had circulated papers prior to the meeting including CCDT Accounts and Funds summary, CCDT Unrestricted Funds PnL and Outline of CCDT Budget vs Actuals. T. Kliskey had also distributed a report to advise on the trust's current financial position, including current income streams from the Hydro Scheme,



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holiday let rental and bank ATM service till, budgeting an approximate total of £313k/year up to 2034. He also outlined current annual operating costs across the Hydro Fund, Citizens Advice Bureau Community Support Fund, VIC support, staff, insurance, lease for Callander Connect and other projects including the Meadows Masterplan project totalling £196k/year. Meaning surplus income for investment should be about £117k/year for the next ten years, after which the financial landscape will change dramatically.

6.7 St Kessog's

L. George had previously circulated a paper drawn up by a local resident proposing CCDT should put in a note of interest in a Community Right to Buy for St Kessog's. The paper laid out the process of developing a case for a sustainable societal benefit as well as previous interactions with Stirling Council, and estimated business rates and costs. There was discussion around this and whether following the process would at least buy some time. E. Burroughs recommended looking into Community Land Scotland as well as DTAS, who would both be able to provide further information and resources to us on the process.

6.8 Carron Tobin from SCOTO – “Press Pause” Programme proposal

Carron Tobin presented the “Press Pause” Programme, as devised by Scottish Community Tourism (SCOTO). In summary, it is a facilitated workshop of local tourism stakeholders to explore how to manage and promote a given area as a tourist destination. It brings together businesses and community groups for discussions on themes to do with current challenges and perceptions, what defines the geographic destination from a local and visitor perspective, the profile of visitors past, present and future and a destination competency appraisal on 16 different criteria. After a thorough assessment and conclusions drawn from a multi-stakeholder input, a report is drawn together which contains feedback and identifies projects, next steps and early actions which can be taken towards a more intentional, community-led approach to our own local tourism. C. Tobin is offering this at a discount of more than 60% - at a cost of £1,600 to CCDT. Board members felt it could be of great benefit to Callander, but would prefer to seek funding for the fee and have CCDT and Callander Community Council each contribute a nominal fee of £200 each to cover venue hire and catering costs.

7. Imagine If Contract Review and Masterplan Project Proposal

Imagine If had presented their proposed scope for August 2024-February 2025 to a subgroup of CCDT directors, which was recommended for full board approval. In



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short, this involved continuing to work alongside F. Bowen-Bate on LPP priority progress, funding opportunities and community engagement events. The bulk of their time, however, is to be spent managing the Callander Green Adventure Gateway (Meadows Masterplan) project, as presented in item 6.3. The Board approved the extension of Imagine If's proposed scope up until February 2025, when it will be up for review. The Board also approved the recommendation to appoint Raeburn Farquhar Bowen as Landscape Consultant for the CGAG project, commencing 1st August 2024.

8. Any other business

There was no other business to report