



CALLANDER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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Board Meeting of 29th October 2024 in Callander Connect, 43 Main Street

MINUTES

Present: F. Park (Chair), G. Kerr (Vice Chair), D. Moore (remotely), M. Moore (remotely) L. George, B. McKay, M. Griffiths

Attending: F. Bowen-Bate, E. Burroughs & C. Fingland from 10:00-11:30

Apologies: T. Kliskey (Treasurer), T. Thompson, S. MacKay, P. Prescott

1. Welcome and apologies

F. Park opened the meeting at 10:05. Apologies as above.

2. Conflicts of interest

No director conflicts to declare.

3. Health & Safety (any incidents to declare)

No incidents to report.

4. Minutes of September 2024

The minutes of CCDT Board Meeting of 24th September were proposed as presented by B. Mackay, seconded by L. George and approved unanimously.

5. CCDT Policies review (drafts circulated)

5.1. Sickness Absence Policy (1st draft)

This policy was reviewed and unanimously approved by the Board, subject to annual review.

5.2. Menopause Policy (1st draft)

This policy was reviewed and unanimously approved by the Board, subject to annual review.

For both (and all other) policies, M. Moore proposed adding a column to the Document Control table at the end of each, with the heading "Reasons for Change". This would allow a summary of any future amendments/revisions to be added to highlight specific updates.



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6. AGM – final preparations

F. Bowen-Bate confirmed all CCDT members had received notice and papers for the AGM with 14 clear days' notice, as per our Articles of Association. He summarised the agenda for the AGM, taking place later that day at McLaren Leisure Centre. He also informed the Board of the stalls that would be present: Callander Youth Project, Callander Amateur Operatic Society, Greener Callander, Callander Woodland Trust, the Visitor Information Centre, Callander Cycling Meanders and Callander Connect, including early design options for the Meadows/Station Road project.

M. Griffiths agreed to deliver the Treasurer report in T. Kliskey's absence. All member directors had confirmed their intention to continue. CAOS, Callander Heritage Society, Callander Community Council, Callander Primary Parents Council and Callander Enterprise had confirmed their renominations. Callander Youth Project will not nominate this year. And McLaren Leisure Centre's nomination for the coming year will be Marco Limonci. The Board acknowledged the great contribution from T. Thompson and wished her well.

Under Article 67 of the Articles of Association, the Board nominate Tracey McFall as Member Director of the CCDT Board. This will be confirmed at the AGM.

The Board discussed introducing further amendments to the Articles of Association such as maximum terms of service for directors, as well as office holders, for next year's AGM.

7. Matters arising/updates

7.1. Operations Manager update

F. Bowen-Bate gave a report on the usage figures for Callander Connect for October – noting in particular an increase in the number of meetings from 20 in September to 37. October had also seen new activities in the form of remote working space for co-workers, Spanish classes, children's felting workshops and a base for Callander Jazz & Blues Festival. As the start of a performance review of its first 10 months, F. Bowen-Bate provided some usage and attendance data, as well as PnL



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which showed 560 visitors, 179 bookings and operating deficit of just under £4,000 since January. This doesn't account for the saving of meeting room hire for CCDT's 98 meetings held in that time (up to 24th October).

He summarised other administrative and operational work such as policy writing, AGM preparation, and premises management issues. Work also continues on the Post Office application, which is submitted and undergoing financial review, as well as negotiation with LLTNP regarding our volunteer sharing agreement, and working with the steering group for the C60 bus service to promote its usage. Assistance is being provided to local businesses and individuals in the form of grant funding research support, technical advice, and linking up with others in Callander.

Following previous Board discussions, meetings have been facilitated between CCDT, Democratic Finance Scotland the Charities Aid Foundation regarding how best to invest CCDT's funds in an ethical way in preparation for a severe decrease in revenue in 2034.

Meetings have also taken place, with C. Fingland, between other community trusts in the McLaren catchment including Kilmadock (Doune & Deanston), Killin & Ardeonaig, Thornhill, Strathard (Aberfoyle & Kinlochard), Strathfillan (Crianlarich & Tyndrum), Trossachs (Brig o'Turk), Balquhidder, Lochearnhead & Strathyre, Port of Menteith and Gartmore to gauge interest in larger scale climate related projects which could bring cross-community benefit. FEL Scotland and the Countryside Trust have also been part of discussions, with McLaren High School also being looped in. The response has been very positive and enthusiastic, with the most common desires being around improved rural transport (particularly in light of the success of the Trossachs Explorer), as well as retrofit and adaptation. The Board were in agreement that these conversations continue towards an attempt at applying for the National Lottery Climate Action Fund ("Our Shared Futures"), for which CCDT should be the lead applicant, but also as an ongoing collaboration forum between development trusts.

Finally, F. Bowen-Bate reported he continues to offer support to the Development Officers with progressing LPP priorities, especially Meadows/Station Road study project, and staying in the loop regarding Stirling Council's proposed co-working hub in the Callander Library



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building, for which scenarios of estimated running costs are being worked up.

7.2. Development Officer update

C. Fingland & E. Burroughs gave a summary of their report, chiefly around the Green Adventure Gateway (Meadows Masterplan) project, as well as facilitating climate action conversations with neighbouring community trusts and supporting F. Bowen-Bate with AGM preparation. They asked for Board approval to coordinate another joint meeting between Callander Community Council and CCDT for a review of LPP priorities, which was given. They also asked for approval to liaise with Main Street business owners for attractive sequential Christmas-themed window displays after much community feedback that the street looks empty and unappealing. Approval was given in principle for CCDT funding to be allocated to this, if necessary. A. Boa to oversee.

C. Fingland and E. Burroughs also gave brief updates on LPP priorities:

1.i.a Pedestrian bridge: Stirling Council still preparing their feasibility study.

1.i.b & 1.ii Safe walking routes to school incl Creep Footpath: As above, with shortcomings around consultation with community members

5.i & 5.iii Regeneration incl Main St improvements: Invitation to be extended to new Callander Enterprise committee. Funding being sought for Christmas window displays to brighten empty units, in particular. Stirling Council Premises Improvement Grant to be shared with local businesses. Emerging conversations around installing an editable town map (with all businesses marked) at Station Road.

2.i Green Adventure Gateway (Meadows Masterplan): Project progress with the Meadows/Station Road project, including successful community engagement events, ongoing public feedback, weekly steering group meetings with a wide range of stakeholders and expertise, and initial designs – view at



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<https://padlet.com/callanderconnect/localplaceplan>.

DO also provided an outline time allocation for the month in their report.

- 7.3. Group reports – Greener Callander/Callander Woodland Group
CWG – Lesley Hawkins reported Andrew Clark will replace John Hair as FLS contact as of early 2025. On 31st October, there is a joint volunteer day in Coilhallan Wood with around 15 employees of Breendon Quarry at Cambusmore, which will be a great help in completing several tasks. Greener Callander – Work has begun on emptying summer bedding from containers, some being replaced with winter/spring plants. Hanging baskets are being taken down by Empardio to be emptied by GC and stored at CYP.
- 7.4. St Kessog's update
L. George reported ongoing community negativity towards the efforts to "Save St Kessogs". He opined that a sale was not looking likely and that the best way forward was to continue to petition the community to demonstrate their concern for its future. Chris Kane MP for Stirling, visited last month to listen to the issues being faced with the building.
- 7.5. Finance update
F. Muir had circulated financial papers up to September 30th. M. Griffiths noted that the Visitor Information Centre had made c. £3,700 surplus this season, with A'Chruinneag flat c. £9k in profit.

8. Any other business

M. Moore reported that Callander Enterprise had its AGM and appointed a new committee: Mark Nicols, John Martin and Neil McFadyen.

She also updated that Callander Flood Group were having meetings with Stirling Council regarding the plans for a flood defence wall to be built in the Meadows car park area.

Finally, she will be coordinating a 6-month review of F. Bowen-Bate in the coming weeks with G. Kerr and B. McKay.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26th November 2024 2pm Callander Connect