

Oct 2017 Peebles Community Trust Report

Renewal

As part of our efforts to renew / expand the board and volunteer base of the Trust we are working up a promotional campaign for the autumn – newsletter, social media, press. We are also looking at the practicality of holding one of our annual Open Forums in the Burgh Hall this coming January – to provide an update on issues facing Peebles and on the projects and initiatives of the Trust (which may also have a bearing on how the community inputs to the drafting of the Peebles element of the Tweeddale Locality Plan).

Our immediate needs are for:

- At least three additions to the PCT board – to join existing board members (some are retiring), representatives from the Community Council (3 reserved places), and individuals representing specific Trust initiatives / projects (Esheils Wood, Co-working Space, March Street Allotments, Asset Purchase / Transfer)
- A PCT coordinator – to carry on the work that Crick Carleton has been undertaking (noting that applications are being made to secure funding for the position of a full- or part-time facilitator)
- A volunteer(s) to help manage the Trust's engagement with the community and membership
- A volunteer(s) to post Trust information to social media
- A volunteer(s) to manage the re-posting of third-party information items (events, funding opportunities, policy, and study findings) to the Trust's website.

Update on the development of the March Street Mills site

- The PCT has met with representatives of Eildon Housing to explore practical opportunities for development of care facilities and affordable housing on the March Street Mills site. Whilst recognising that a fair degree of risk attaches to any proposals for development of this site (most notably unforeseen costs of decontamination and demolition) discussion outcomes suggest that there is merit in further examination of this element of any development proposal for the site.
- Representatives of the site owners, Moorbrook, and their planning advisors met with members of the March Street Allotments Association to present their proposals for relocation of the current allotments to the eastern lower level of the site. The proposals are for fewer allotments of smaller individual sizes. The suggestion from the site owners was that without relocation of the allotments the site was most likely to remain undeveloped for many years. It would appear that this suggestion and the proposals for relocation were treated with some scepticism by the allotment holders attending.

If you would like to talk through any of the above, or for further information, please contact our secretary on myriam@PeeblesCommunity.org, or phone 01721 729839.