

Dec 2017 Peebles Community Trust Report

Core funding

The PCT continues its quest to secure financial support for a funded facilitator and office premises.

We made an application for this to the Locality Fund in late November. Whilst at its core the application was for a funded position and an office, we linked this to delivery of registration of a number of Community Rights to Buy associated with the March Street Mills site development (allotments, the former administration building, the whole site), and re-positioning of the PCT as a charity amongst other things. Our application was dismissed on the basis that *“Your application has received funding from Scottish Land Fund to undertake engagement and consultation, and we would therefore expect that much of the tasks you detail in your application will be covered by this funding.”* This is not the case – but in hindsight we made a mistake in packaging the submission in this way.

March Street Mills site development

Revisions to the development proposals have been submitted by Moorbrook and its agents, and the PCT will review and comment on these ahead of consideration by the SBC Planning Committee of the application for outline planning permission (PPP – Planning Permission in Principle), scheduled for February or March 2018.

AGM

A date has been fixed for the PCT AGM of 13th February, 7.30pm at the Peebles Rugby Club, Eastgate. A number of directors of the PCT are due to step down, and new board members are sought. The board is advised by a steering group of Trustees, and a number of these are stepping back and additions to the steering group are also sought. Application procedures for these posts are detailed on the www.PeeblesCommunity.org website.

The AGM is an open meeting, with voting (where applicable) restricted to subscribing members of the PCT. Voting members will be notified separately of the AGM, and voting by proxy can be arranged ahead of the AGM through the secretary (see contact details below).

Whilst it is recognised that the PCT and its work attracts significant goodwill across the community, the PCT has struggled to convert this into active engagement from its members. The PCT has been relatively successful in securing funding for individual projects, but unsuccessful in building and extending its core capacity – most evident in its failure to secure financial support for a funded facilitator and base (over the last two years five relevant funding applications have been unsuccessful). From its inception in 2012 the administration of the PCT has been taken forward by its trustees, with support from members in hosting consultation events. The current office-bearers of the PCT have indicated that they will not be continuing in these roles. Against this backdrop the AGM will need to address whether the PCT can continue in its current form.

It may be that establishing a SCIO – Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation – would enable the PCT to access sources of funding currently beyond our range and make it easier for us to progress our aims and aspirations. This would be a relatively straightforward exercise (we are advised), but it would not remove the urgent need for individuals to shoulder the responsibilities of office if the PCT is to continue.

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.