



KPT Development Trust

NEWSLETTER Spring 2018 No. 1

Welcome to the first KPT Development Trust newsletter, which we hope you will find informative and interesting. If you would like to get involved, make contact or comment in any way, our contact details can be found overleaf.

Setting up the Development Trust:

Following on from the consultation exercise carried out in the autumn of 2016 we have begun looking at some of the priorities identified. Since August 2017 we have had four meetings with between 17 and 20 people attending each time. It has been decided to set up a company limited by guarantee. We are in the process of having it registered at Companies House and hopefully it will be up and running by the end of February. We can, at a later date, set up a charitable organisation if we feel that is required. The company is membership-based, requiring a minimum of 20 signed up members initially (See Membership). The members will elect the directors annually.

There can be up to 12 directors and the main objective of the Development Trust is the advancement of community development throughout Keir, Penpont and Tynron – which can be the priorities identified in the consultation or something completely different. Specific sub-groups will be set up to progress the work with the directors of the Trust, meeting only when necessary. We already have two up and running – see below!

Membership

As long as you live in the parishes of Keir, Penpont and Tynron you can be a member of the Trust. We can have junior members for young people aged 12 to 15 and associate members who are people living outwith but work within the area.

There is no cost to being a member but the advantages can be great. As a member you can get involved at a number of levels – just getting information on what is going on, becoming a volunteer to help at events; become part of a sub-group and/or a director (management committee member). It's up to **you**, the level at which you want to participate.

Sub-group updates

The first two sub-groups have been set up. A lead person was appointed and each group was asked to set out short, medium and long term aims to report back to the Development Trust at regular intervals.

Community Communications – mobile and broadband (Lead – Tim Simmonds)

The short term aim was to look at what broadband availability there is in the three communities. What was discovered was that, overall, the majority of the area seems to be well served, due to the Scottish Government's "Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme" which aims to provide faster speeds to 95% of properties throughout Scotland by March 2018. The "Reaching 100 programme" (R100) has now been launched to cover the remaining 5% by 2021. The Scottish Government had been contacted previously regarding Marrburn exchange and the response received stated that the reason why this exchange has not yet been upgraded is based on 'strict value for money', with the upgrade expected by 2020/2021.

The medium term aims that the sub-group are looking at are ways of supporting businesses to publicise free wi-fi hot spots in the area. The possibility of having broadband at each of the three halls is being researched. This was felt to be a good idea as when people's broadband went down, they could go along to the halls; and also the halls could utilise this in their activities. The sub-group are also looking at producing a help sheet to assist people in improving their broadband.

In view of the Scottish Government's 'pledge' for 100% Superfast Broadband by 2020/2021, the sub-group will monitor this before deciding whether further action will be required. For further information, please contact Tim Simmonds (tsimm22703@hotmail.com , 07834 065056, 01848 332494).

Connecting our communities: (Lead – Sue Hall)

The Footpaths Group has had several meetings and a group walk since its inception in October 2017. The group has been busy raising awareness of the Outdoor Access Code (www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/) throughout KPT, for dog owners and walkers, as well as identifying some of the best used paths in the area in order to improve access for all users (eg walkers, cyclists, families, limited mobility users). It is hoped to produce a map of walks in, and connecting, the three communities, which will be of interest to local folk and visitors alike, as well as creating new paths as highlighted by the recent consultations. There are plans for group walks open to anyone interested, using Dumfries and Galloway's core paths network, and incorporating areas of local interest such as Courthill, the Joseph Thomson House and Tibbers Castle, as well as highlighting the flora and fauna of the area. Anyone interested in joining the group in any capacity is welcome to come along to our meetings. Please contact Sue Hall at sue@oldk.co.uk for more information.



Other projects

HUB

At Development Trust meetings, there has been discussion around the possibility of a cycle museum at Courthill Smithy in Keir, to reflect its importance as the place where the first pedalled bicycle was made by Kirkpatrick Macmillan. The Smithy itself is too small to house a full-blown cycle museum and the lack of facilities and parking makes it not viable. This has taken us back to an idea raised during the consultation process - that we should be looking at how the three community halls could complement one another and whether there is there a need for a central 'hub' somewhere that could include a cycle museum. At the last meeting it was agreed this should be looked at. A leader and members for this sub-group is needed – **could it be you?**

RENEWABLES

For a number of years, some members of Penpont Community Council have been investigating the idea of a hydro scheme in the burn alongside the Marrburn Road in Penpont. This project could contribute around £13,000 per annum to the community. Recent investigations suggest that this *is* a viable project, which needs reviewed and taken forward. If you are interested in this scheme and maybe have other renewable ideas, please get in touch.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Again this is an issue raised from the consultation exercise. If you are interested in affordable housing, have ideas or want to get involved – get in touch!

KPT Joint Community Benefit Fund

This group is made up of 2 representatives from each of the three Community Councils and the main function is to determine how the windfarm money is spent. Currently they are working on an application form and scoring matrix to make sure the money is used fairly and in line with the criteria set out by the various wind farm companies.

You can contact us by e-mail: kpt.dev.trust@gmail.com, tel Sue King-Smith (acting chair) on **01848 200770** or Maureen Halkett (acting secretary) on **07765073913**. A website is being developed and you can follow us on **Facebook: 'KPT Development Trust'** and the **paths group on 'kpt tracks and trails'**.