

## Lairg & District Community Initiatives

### Minutes from Board Meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

#### Lairg Community Hall

In attendance: Kaye Hurrion (KH), Robert Johnstone (RJ), Annette Parrott (AP), Chris Powell (CP), Jan Blackwell (JB), Catrina Cameron (CC), Kirstin Langlois (Project Officer) KL,

Apologies: Norman McLeod(NM), Dr Rosie Reid (RR), Alison Magee (AM),

Item	Action
<p><b>1. Approve Minutes/ Matters arising that are not on the agenda</b></p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were proposed by RJ and seconded by JB.</p>	
<p><b>2. Care and well-being project:</b></p> <p>KH reported that Project Manager Susan Clark has now received back the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). KH highlighted some sections of the MOU which did not reflect the discussions in the meeting that the board had with Albyn and Susan back in January 2021 and the bullet points that had been agreed by Morag Beers following that meeting).</p> <p>After the board discussed the MOU it was agreed that KH would ask Susan to go back to Albyn Housing regarding the number of issues raised at today's meeting.</p>	
<p><b>3. Coach House:</b></p> <p>The Coach House has been put on the open market. KH has shown a couple around.</p>	
<p><b>4. Ferrycroft Play Park:</b></p> <p>KH explained that she and KL had met with AM, the lead director assisting the playpark subgroup with the project and Louise Skinner (leading the playpark sub group). AM has now received an email from the council acknowledging that they own the land that the playpark is situated on. She is also waiting to hear back from Maree Todd MSP regarding how the Scottish Government funding for playparks might be distributed.</p>	

LDCI still needs to establish whether the Council will maintain the equipment if LDCI gifts the equipment. Louise Skinner is also hoping to get more volunteers to help out.

The board discussed potential funding streams that might be explored and how it would be preferable to have inclusive equipment in the playpark.

**5. Church Hill Wood improvements & Sustrans Art Roots Fund:**

KL advised that the new signage was finally installed by Acorn signs at the end of July – so the signage is finally complete.

The community payback team have been to oil the carvings and the picnic table, and to trim the area etc. They have very low numbers at the moment so may not be able to return frequently to do this.

The bike repair station has been ordered.

The recent application that LDCI made as part of a joint bid to the Communities Recovery Fund, to support community growing projects across Sutherland, has been approved in full. LDCI aims to create a covered education space for LDCI and LDLC to promote local growing in the community of Lairg.

KH will ask Light Up Lairg to clear the land in Church Hill woods. RJ suggested that it may be worth asking Sandy Allison to bring his digger in. Brian Martin has provided a quote to lay concrete.

**6. Aire Project:**

KL reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the funding application is in with the Highland Council and awaiting their feedback. There has been a good response to the online consultation form with over 101 responses.

There were some responses that were against the development – but there were less than 10. The form is still accepting responses on the website.

KH mentioned that letter of supports had been received from a number of organisations, however, the Lairg Sailing Club had sent a letter opposing the project. KH was disappointed but said that anyone is entitled to object to the project. However, the letter went on to criticise LDCI's work and various projects. KH said that she was shocked and intended to respond to the letter regarding the criticisms which she felt was unfair.

<p>The final draft of the application is on track to be submitted by application deadline, along with the application for the Community Asset Transfer application and the application for planning permission.</p>	
<p><b>7. Station Path Project:</b></p> <p>KL explained that she had recently received communication from Sustrans – LDCI had previously been told that the application that we submitted last November would be reviewed by the panel this September – but we’ve now been told that panel dates for all new applications (at our Stage 0) have been postponed for the foreseeable future basically, due to Covid, Brexit etc – their budget has significantly reduced, and they are oversubscribed so they have to see how much they’ve got in their budget for their existing projects. It is possible that new applications) <i>may</i> be considered in Spring 2022 at the earliest. KL said that she thought that the project should be put to the side for the moment as she did not think that it could be funded without Sustrans financial support.</p>	
<p><b>8. Helping Hands Fund (HHF):</b></p> <p>KL reported that since the last meeting LDCI has awarded one grant which went towards a white good, and has received another application for a white good from another client. We’re just awaiting their paperwork evidence before we can process this. KH and her family continue to collect and deliver food from KoSDT’s Community Larder to support 11 residents. LDCI has donated the sanitary products from the Larder to Golspie High and Lairg Primary, both schools were very grateful for the products. Andrea at the KoSDT Larder said we can collect more if and when needed.</p>	
<p><b>9. Lairg Public Toilets</b></p> <p>KH mentioned that NM has asked for the closure of the Lairg Public Toilets be on the meeting agenda but since he had requested this, the toilets had reopened.</p>	
<p><b>10. Walk &amp; Talk sessions:</b></p> <p>KL reported that she and Jan and had completed the ‘Paths For All’ Health Walk Leader training along with another lady called Caroline Still from Rogart. The first walk will be held on the 21st September with a view to holding the walks on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. KL asked if anyone knew of any reason why the walks should not be held on that day? Any clashes? KL is also going to do minibus Midas minibus training so that she can potentially take groups on trips in the future.</p>	

**11.AOB**

Publish a piece in the magazine to ask if anyone wants to volunteer to 'look after the carvings' in Churchill woods.