|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Meeting of Kenmore and District Community Council****Via Teams****26th May 2022 7pm****Minutes** |
|  |  |

**Present**

Peter Ely, Carol May, Olive Munro, John McGarry, Colin Morton, Alex Low, Xander McDade, John Duff, Mike Williamson and approximately 30 members of the local community.

**Apologies**

Peter Wishart

**Declarations of Interest**

None

1. **Closing of Post Office/Shop in Kenmore**

This was the only topic for today’s meeting. The closure of the post office/shop is causing great concern to the local community. It is vital for provisions, postal services and acts as a local hub for the area.

The community council is seeking views from the local community on how best to save the shop/post office.

The purpose of the meeting is to share with the local community what the Kenmore and District Community Council is doing to try and reinstate the shop. The 3 main avenues being explored currently were discussed as below:

1. Community Council discussions with current Owner

Initial discussions with the current owner have taken place and the reason for closure was cited as high running costs with considerable losses. The owner is currently overseas but has agreed to meet with representatives of the CC to discuss potential ways forward when he returns. This meeting is due to happen next week and Peter Ely will follow up on getting a firm date agreed.

Accounts for the shop have been requested previously by Wilma Harrison who had previously expressed interest in taking over the lease, but the accounts have not yet been shared.

A good understanding will be required of the current operating costs/income and any potential selling price if the current owner is willing to sell.

1. Identifying potential purchasers

The CC has met with representatives of the owners of the Castle to discuss whether they would be interested in purchasing the shop. They seem interested if the PO/shop comes up for sale and have suggested that they would keep as a PO/shop. However, a purchase may not be straight forward.

It was discussed that there had been an understanding that the Castle had previously agreed to purchase the shop but that sale fell through. If this was the case it is unclear what caused the sale to fall through. Peter Ely will try and clarify this point with the Castle team and explore further their interest in purchasing the shop if it goes up for sale.

1. Community Buy-out

The CC has been taking steps to ensure that any potential community buy out/asset transfer would comply with regulations. It has been confirmed that a community buy out through the Breadalbane Development Trust would meet all regulations. The CC is asking as many people as possible to join the Breadalbane Development Trust in order to take a community buy-out/asset transfer possible.

Links to the BDT can be found on the Kenmore and District Community Council web page <http://www.kenmore-and-district-cc.org.uk/home>under the Projects and Groups section.

[Kenmore & District Community Council | BREADALBANE DEVELOPMENT TRUST (kenmore-and-district-cc.org.uk)](https://www.kenmore-and-district-cc.org.uk/breadalbane-development-trust)

A link to the Membership application forms can be found on the link above.

It was agreed that the current momentum should be maintained if possible and Peter agreed to:

* Confirm date for meeting with current owner
* Discuss possible purchase options with LDC, the Castle owner
* Try and establish cost of potential redevelopment into holiday accommodation (understood to be one of the potential plans by current owner)
* Look at the best options for keeping people informed of developments. In the short-term people should use kenmore1760@btinternet.com to share email addresses of people who would like to receive updates on the subject. It was agreed that all people on the call would email Peter with their email addresses so they can be added to the group.

It was also agreed that people on the call should email their local contacts to garner further support.

Peter Wishart had planned to attend the call but had been unable to at the last minute. Peter will be happy to meet people of the local community at 10.30 on 27th May at Reading Rooms in Kenmore to discuss. Mike Williamson will also be attendance.