

# **Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust**

## **Directors Meeting**

**6<sup>th</sup> December 2012, Glenlivet Estate Office, Tomintoul**

**Present:** John Shewan, David Toovey, Steve Smith, Mike Drury, Steve Sacks, Lindsay Robertson.

**Apologies:** Sean Marshall, Mike Fletcher, Charlie Ironside.

### **I. Correspondence**

Clive Meikle from Bidwells has been in contact on behalf of Glenavon Estates to arrange a meeting to get more information about the trust as they are keen to support the work of the trust and see the community regenerated.

### **II. Policies and Procedures for the Trust**

The policies and procedures required by the trust at this stage were discussed and it was agreed that the following policies and procedures would be developed:

- a. A finance policy regarding levels of spend is to be prepared on the basis that the Local Development Officer can approve spend of up to £100 without prior approval from directors, spend between £100 - £500 requires two directors approval and above £500 is a decision taken at the board meetings. Lindsay to prepare and circulate.
- b. The decision making/testing policy regarding the process the board would follow when assessing the feasibility of all projects was to be further developed by Steve Smith and Lindsay Robertson.
- c. Lindsay has received copies of template policies for Health & Safety, Complaints, etc so will amend and develop these further to be appropriate for the trust.

### **III. Project Updates**

#### **a. Heritage Lottery Fund**

The HLF application has been delayed to be able to put more time and effort into developing a more robust application. Sean and David to attend a meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> December, this is focussed on updating partners on the HLF feedback to the pre-application submission and also timeframes for going forwards. Lindsay to circulate an overview of the criteria to all directors.

#### **b. Caravan Park**

The Crown Estate have indicated that the discussions they had with the individual who had submitted plans for the Caravan Park have come to a standstill as they cannot access funding. The Crown are committed to delivering the caravan park and are keen to work with the trust. At present they plan to get outline planning permission for a generic site and then put the business opportunity out to tender. If the trust was interested in looking at developing the site as a community facility the Crown would perhaps look to have a care investment in the site where they would invest money for a percentage share of profit. Lindsay to look at the figures in more detail and also put recommendations forwards to the Crown in terms of what would be required.

### **c. Youth Hostel**

Steve has requested figures from the SYHA re the last 5 years running costs and income and is still waiting for this to be provided. Current lease with Moray Council extends to 2027 so the trust need to explore the position of a lease transfer further with the council to see if this is viable. Lindsay also to contact Father Colin Stewart to discuss the groups that use St Michaels.

### **d. Broadband**

A meeting was held with Community Broadband Scotland to update on the project, first stage is putting out a survey to everyone within the AB37 9 postcode area to gather information on the current service and scope out demand for a community service. Directors to provide feedback to Lindsay on survey amendments and FAQs for this to be issued in December.

### **e. Landscape Gateway project**

Ian White Associates has been appointed as the Landscape Architects to take the project forwards. Site meeting to be held wk commencing 10<sup>th</sup> December which all partners will attend to ensure their views are represented from the outset. Further community consultation has been scheduled to take place once the initial draft designs are formulated.

## **IV. Identifying Priorities for the Trust**

### **a. Broadband**

The directors agreed that broadband had to be a priority going forwards given that we have been selected as a pioneer community and will be supported through the process. The timeframe for developing the technical options and costings will be guided by the trust and getting the community responses to the survey.

### **b. Youth Hostel**

The directors agreed that given SYHA's intimation that they will cease to operate the hostel at the end of the 2013 season the hostel had to be investigated further as a priority to determine if it was financially viable and if it could generate income and jobs for the community whilst also providing accommodation for visitors to the area for a greater period of time throughout the year.

### **c. Caravan Park**

The directors decided that the trust needed to further explore the commercial viability of the caravan park and be involved in the planning process with the Crown but that it may be better for the Crown to progress with a business opportunity for tender to bring inward investment.

### **d. Gordon Hotel**

The directors agreed that the Gordon is a priority as it forms a central focal point within Tomintoul and therefore the opportunities for the building need to be explored both with the current owner and as a community trust. The building could encompass accommodation, training, attraction, retail, housing so the different opportunities and demand/viability of each need to be explored further.

### **e. Secondary School**

The directors decided that if the independent individual who had noted an interest in the building was going to deliver a commercially viable project that would create jobs and attract people to the

area it would be better to allow a business to take this opportunity on as otherwise it may be a longer term community project. Lindsay to contact the Moray Council and explore what the proposals for the building are at present.

**f. Transport**

The directors agreed that transport was a priority for all areas in terms of both locals and visitors being able to get around. The trust will explore other best practice from similar areas and look to how a community led transport facility could address the current issues. There may be potential to link this into mountain bike trails/lecht/speyside way/train pick ups.

**g. Retail & Services**

The directors agreed that retail and services were key to the regeneration of the area and where possible the trust needs to support the businesses in developing ways to meet both residents and visitors needs as a priority. Lindsay to explore what other areas have delivered successfully and also investigate potential funding streams.

**h. Communications**

Lindsay has met with the Cairngorms Business Partnership (CBP) to discuss using their website model as a platform to deliver the community site that would allow the trust to keep people up to date with the work they are doing. £2,000 funding has been allocated for us to deliver such a community site and the CBP model would allow us to have full content management to keep everything up to date. The directors agreed to progress as a priority, putting together a site map and getting a quote from CBP for delivering this. Lindsay is to approach other community groups and events to see if they would be interested in having a page or information on the website.

**V. Date of Next Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 7.40pm and agreed that the remaining priorities would be discussed at the next meeting in January, to be held prior to the community meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Lindsay to send out a doodle poll to confirm director's availability.

Minutes submitted by: Lindsay Robertson

Minutes approved by: John Shewan