

# Huntly & District Development Trust

Brander Building, The Square, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, AB54 8BR  
Tel 01466 799416 • info@huntlydevelopmenttrust.org •  
www.huntlydevelopmenttrust.org  
SC 358964 • Registered Scottish Charity SC043353



*"Working with others to build a resilient, inclusive, enterprising community capable of dealing with ongoing change."*

## Note of Meeting of Members, Board and Staff

Wednesday 21st January, 19.00-21.00, OAP Hall, Huntly

### Present and Apologies: (see Annex 1)

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Richard Hammock, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. Update on Key HDDT Projects

- **Greenmyres** Jill Andrews, Project Manager
- **Room to Roam Green Travel Hub** – Oliver Giles, Project Manager
- **Renewable Energy** – Donald Boyd, Development Manager

Jill, Oli and Donald gave presentations detailing the work carried out to date on the projects (See attached pdf for details).

#### 3. Reports on/from the HDDT Working Groups

- **Sports Hub:** Bruce Murray & Stuart Thomson  
Bruce gave an update on the Sports Hub, the working group have met regularly to take this project further. £25,000 funding secured via Legacy 2014 funding to develop vision to progress future funding requirements. (See attached PDF file for more details). A Ladies Exercise and Activity Taster Day is being held this Saturday in the Linden Centre to show what is on offer in the AB54 area.
- **Membership:** Stuart Thomson & Sharon Scapens  
The level of junior membership is too low (13 of 359) therefore Directors wish to encourage more young people to become members of the Trust and take an interest in the development of their community. To help, the Directors proposed a Change of Article 14(i) of our Memorandum of Associations relating to Junior Membership  
**Current wording:** 14. Members shall require to pay (a) a one-off payment as a Company joining fee and (b) an annual membership subscription. (i) unless and until otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, for Ordinary and Junior members the amount of the joining fee is £1 and the amount of the annual membership subscription is £nil.  
**Proposed change:** Members shall require to pay (a) a one-off payment as a Company joining fee and (b) an annual membership subscription. (i) unless and until otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, for Ordinary members the amount of the joining fee is £1 and the amount of the annual membership subscription is £nil. Unless and until otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, for Junior members the amount of the joining fee is £nil and the amount of the annual membership subscription is £nil.

A show of hands determined the outcome: 17 for and 1 against. The resolution was thus adopted.

- **Promoting Huntly:** Claudia Zeiske (not present at meeting) & Fiona Manson  
This newly established HDDT working group is open to anyone with an interest in and/or skills to offer in terms of Promoting Huntly and District. It has not met yet so its exact terms of reference have not yet been established i.e. what is it that will be done to promote the area and to whom? However, with the last funds of the Huntly Cultural Fund a short film has been created by Ash Branston in order to celebrate some of the great aspects of our community. The film was shown at the meeting and will be uploaded onto You Tube, social media platforms and websites. Members comments included, the film could be tweaked to include farming and other industry, also sport and healthy living. Anyone wishing to be part of the working group should contact [debbie.haefner@huntly.net](mailto:debbie.haefner@huntly.net) in the first instance.

#### 4. Finances

Stuart Thomson, Finance Director, gave a brief run through of the finalised 2013/14 accounts and the current financial status of the Trust. In summary, whilst we are currently in a more comfortable position than this time last year there is still work to be done to secure the future. The full audited accounts for 2013/14 can be found at [www.huntlydevelopmenttrust.org](http://www.huntlydevelopmenttrust.org).

#### 5. Other Plans for 2015

1. Fulfil our other commitments to DTAS/Scottish Government re Strengthening Communities Funds:
  - Identify a new approach to improving the town centre, inc funds to make it happen
  - Investigate Community Asset Transfer opportunities
2. Deliver Sustrans cycling work in Huntly for Aberdeenshire Council
3. Secure sufficient funds to keep staff in place
4. Review and upgrade internal infrastructure
5. Recruit new Directors
6. Review HDDT Strategic Direction & Business Plan

#### 6. Board Update and Call for New Directors

Richard gave a fresh appeal for new Directors to come forward. Anyone interested should contact [donald.boyd@huntly.net](mailto:donald.boyd@huntly.net) or [richardhammock@aol.com](mailto:richardhammock@aol.com) in the first instance for an exploratory discussion.

#### 7. Q & A / Discussion

- What has happened to the Heritage Group? Richard explained that due to lack of anyone wanting to take this forward in its intended form, the group dwindled. However the Huntly Histories page on Facebook, set up by Anne Murray, has proved extremely popular. There may be a proposal to display George MacDonald items in the Community Bookshop.
- What is happening with the Huntly Hub project? Donald and Richard explained that it is part of the wider town centre regeneration plan, but there is no clear path in achieving this at the moment. It can't be done without substantial funding and a sustainable business plan. Bruce added that the Sports Hub could include wider functions if that's what the community are looking for. Mintlaw has a good example.
- Is the Trust looking at any particular building for community asset transfer? No. Stewarts Hall, Linden Centre may be options as they have been suggested to us. Perhaps other Community Planning Partners also have premises that could be considered e.g. NHS Grampian. Given the demographics of our community we should be looking to provide more for the elderly. Further time and effort needed to explore.
- Mary Scott and Fiona Alderson said well done to all at HDDT for their hard work.

## **8. AOCB**

- Donald asked what members thought of the AGM format and if they have any ideas for a different format i.e. guest speakers. Those present felt that the current format works pretty well. Please email views to [donald.boyd@huntly.net](mailto:donald.boyd@huntly.net) before 5<sup>th</sup> February.
- Annabel Pinker of the James Hutton Institute explained that HDDT had accepted an invitation to be a case study in an EU research project and that she would like to interview members, staff, Directors and others in the wider community in the next few months.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

AGM - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015. OAP Hall. 19.00-21.00

Richard thanked everyone for attending, special thanks to Aileen & Annie of Huntly OAP Social Club for the refreshments. The meeting closed at 21.00.

## **Annex 1: Attendance and apologies**

### **Members:**

Winnie Adam  
Fiona Alderson  
Sandra Brantingham  
Mary Burgerhout  
Mike Cowie  
David Easton  
Rita Haefner  
Fiona Hill  
Ian Little  
Jane Lockyer  
Uschi Mitchell (20.15)  
Allan Mitchell  
Ronald Pittendrigh  
Peter Rawlings  
Pat Scott  
Ingrid Wylie

### **Non Member:**

Annabel Pinker (James Hutton Institute)

### **Board:**

Richard Hammock  
Stuart Thomson  
Fraser MacDonald  
Fiona Manson  
Bruce Murray  
Sharon Scapens  
Mary Scott

### **Board Apologies:**

Claudia Zeiske

### **Staff:**

Jill Andrews  
Donald Boyd  
Debbie Haefner  
Oli Giles

### **Apologies:**

Anne Forbes  
Joanneke Kruijsen  
Hazel McLaren  
Cllr Joanna Strathdee  
Margo Wordie