

# Huntly and 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."*

## HDDT Board Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 Minutes

- Present** Les Allan (LA), Neil Angus (NA), Richard Hammock (RH, Chair), Fiona Manson (FM), Bruce Murray (BM), Sharon Scapens (SS), Mary Scott (MS), Stuart Thomson (ST, Finance)
- In Attendance** Prospective Directors: Ronald Pittendrigh (RP), Iain Ralston (IR)
- Guest speaker: Janelle Clark (JC), Area Manager (Marr), Aberdeenshire Council (until 19.30)
- Observers/researchers: Annabel Pinker (AP) & Kirsty Halsted (KH), James Hutton Institute
- Staff: Jill Andrews (JA), Donald Boyd (DB), Debbie Haefner (DH, Minutes)
- Apologies** Claudia Zeiske (CZ)

Ref	Item	Action	By When
1	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>		
	RH welcomed all to the meeting, especially our guests, and noted the apologies. All present gave a brief introduction to themselves. The group agreed that the meeting could be recorded by AP and KH but that the recording would remain confidential.		
2	<b>Introduction to/by Janelle Clark, Area Manager (Marr)</b>		
	JC gave a brief background about herself and her role. She highlighted the budgetary challenges faced by Aberdeenshire Council and the Community Empowerment Bill as ways in which Development Trusts and the Council could and should work closely together. For example, she identified Community Asset Transfer and delivery of services on behalf of the Council as potential areas of collaboration. HDDT Directors made clear to JC that the Trust's immediate priority is ensuring financial survival/sustainability. Discussion then followed around identification of priorities for Huntly & District and improving information-sharing between local groups.		
	RH thanked JC for her attendance and support. JC then left the meeting.		

<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>		
	Approved		
<b>4</b>	<b>Finance Report - Stuart</b>		
	<p>The current 'end date' for funds running out has moved to nearer the end of 2015 but the focus still has to be on generating more/new funds.</p> <p>ST presented pie charts showing analysis of HDDT expenditure by postcode (47% of which is in AB54) and income per project. These are based on the new style finance sheet for which a further training session with DB and DH is to be arranged</p>	ST/DB/ DH	19/05
<b>5</b>	<b>Development Manager's Update - Donald</b>		
	<p>DB updated the Directors on developments since the last Board meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February (see appendix for his presentation).</p> <p>Key issues are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenmyres community wind turbine has received planning consent, subject to NATS issue being resolved and payment of £40,000 to NATS. Technical issue has been resolved and there are several sources to help find the NATS fee. Unfortunately, the turbine upon which the consent has been issued is no longer available. Discussions are ongoing with the Aberdeenshire Council Planning Officer to identify how we can proceed and these appear positive. The paper re turbine options discussed with Aberdeenshire Council Planning Officer will be sent out for info with the minutes.</li> <li>• The phase 2 report into the feasibility of solar PV at Greenmyres has been received (this afternoon). At first glance, the 2 options explored (250kW and 5 MW) look viable. If we want to progress either further we need to apply for a CARES pre-planning loan (ca £12,000 for 250kW option, ca £80,000 for 5MW option).</li> <li>• A follow up to the Strengthening Communities funding programme is looking likely and applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. LEADER doesn't open for applications until late 2015. Pre-work needs to be started well in advance to make sure we are ready for it. This could involve working with other Development Trusts in other LEADER LAG areas.</li> <li>• The coming weeks/months are going to be extremely busy as we progress the wind turbine project, along with everything else, including finding funds.</li> </ul> <p>The Board responded to DB's requests as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Authorise CARES pre-planning loan application for solar development at Greenmyres? Yes (but no drawdown of funds yet)</li> <li>2. Reserve <b>Tue</b> May 19<sup>th</sup> for Greenmyres discussion and agree sub-group for Greenmyres? Yes</li> <li>3. Delegate pension recommendation to sub-group for Board decision? Yes - ST offered to help</li> <li>4. Reserve <b>Wed</b> 17<sup>th</sup> June for AGM (OAPs Hall, 19.00)? Yes</li> <li>5. Is anyone prepared to volunteer for an HDDT stall at the HFC Fun day on 17<sup>th</sup> May (Sunday)? DH/DB to send out rota.</li> </ol>	<p>DH/DB</p> <p>DB</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>DB/ST</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>DH/DB</p>	<p>24/04</p> <p>30/04</p> <p>21/04</p> <p>19/05</p> <p>21/04</p> <p>24/04</p>

6	<b>Greenmyres – Jill, Project Manager</b>		
	<p>JA updated the group on key actions since the previous Board meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• path clearance works at Bahill led by RP – the route is now clear up to the Gartly Road. Phase 2 development work beginning.</li> <li>• securing support from the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP), inc investigating eligibility for Single Farm Payment (SFP). We are being helped in this complex area by a consultant named Olivia Donald. The SFP would be worth £3-4,000 p.a to the Trust and open up other support opportunities. The farm is now registered for the SRDP. Only one Director has declared an agricultural interest but this could affect the Trust's SFP eligibility. The situation must be resolved shortly to meet SFP deadlines.</li> <li>• community consultation phase 2. JA summarised the feedback from the 2<sup>nd</sup> consultation explaining the positives and negatives received from the public. She also revisited the decision-making matrix relating to the first community consultation.</li> </ul> <p>DB/JA recommended the next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Board meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> May to decide on which option to progress with and how;</li> <li>• That meeting to be prepared by a sub-group, which will make a recommendation.</li> </ul> <p>Both were agreed by the Board. As key partners, Networks of Wellbeing will be invited to send a representative to the subgroup.</p> <p>DH/DB/JA to invite NoW rep and confirm to all sub-group members time and place for preparatory meeting(s) prior to 19th.</p>	<p>FM/JA</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>JA/DB</p> <p>24/04</p> <p>DH/DB/ JA</p> <p>24/04</p>	
7	<b>Update from Working Groups</b>		
	<p><b>1. Greenmyres (Mary, Sharon)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to Ronald for all his work on the path</li> <li>• Meeting planned on 7<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the pond</li> <li>• Eclipse/first birthday event on 20<sup>th</sup> March went well</li> <li>• Pond now registered by the Scottish Government as a fishing pond</li> <li>• Proposal is to stock rainbow trout in pond as a trial</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Sports, (Health and Wellbeing?) (Bruce, Stuart)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding received at start of March</li> <li>• We should appoint consultant by 30/06</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Promoting Huntly (Fiona, Claudia)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Couple of businesses interested. Further meeting/update once CZ is back in Huntly</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Membership Development (Stuart, Sharon)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisional timescale of 'early June' to present to S5 at The Gordon Schools</li> </ul> <p>ST revisited the purpose and history of the working groups for the benefit of the prospective Directors. The group identified additional working groups (and those offering to join):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenmyres Vision Selection (short-life to 19/05) – LA, MS, SS</li> <li>• HDDT Renewables: IR volunteered to join.</li> </ul>	<p>BM/DB</p> <p>30/04</p> <p>FM/CZ</p> <p>19/05</p>	

