



Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

“Open Evening”

7.30pm until 9.30pm

Tuesday 1st July 2014

Stratherrick Village Hall, Gorthleck

Full information on the evening is provided overleaf and if you have any questions then please give us a call. Here are two of our contacts below:

Administrator Fiona Ambrose on 486717

Chairman Ed Ley-Wilson on 486642

Hello everyone

Your Community Trust are gathering for our first **Open Evening on 1st July** and we would like to invite everyone to come along and see what we have been up to and what are the plans for the future. Since coming into post as newly installed Directors, we have been working hard not only to get up to speed on how everything works but also to make all sorts of improvements and changes as required. By July, we will be ready to go and we very much hope that you will join us for an evening of chat and of finding things out.

On the night itself, we will provide a couple of short **slide show presentations**, one at either end of the evening, and then an extended **opportunity to chat informally** to any one of our Directors on any topic to do with all things 'Trust'. These include:

The updated Grant system.....how does it work, what can you apply for, how much etc.

The Apprenticeship scheme.....how does it work, who can apply, how to get involved.

Our Communications..... our comms strategy, what do you think, are you feeling better informed

Funding.....how does it work, what are the numbers, who are our funders, what lies ahead etc.

Administration and Membership..... getting information sent to you, becoming a member, what does it mean to be a company etc.

Accounts and Finance..... how do we manage the finances, what are the checks and balances in place etc.

The Future.....what lies ahead, addressing the 2013 Survey, how might we support your ambitions, what have other communities achieved

There will be tea and biscuits to fuel your energetic questioning and we will be organising the hall so that you can easily see who's who and what's being discussed where. We recommend that you arrive for 7.30pm sharp so that you don't miss the initial slide show and then you can wander around the various groups, engaging in discussion or just listening in as you prefer. There will be another slide show at the end too.

We look forward to welcoming you to this our first Open Evening. We will certainly have more of them during the years ahead.

So, please pop the date in your diaries and we hope to see you there on the night. If you have any questions then please do call either:

Ed Ley-Wilson on 486642

Administrator Fiona Ambrose on 486717

Best regards from all your Community Trust Directors

Sharon Ferguson
Hugh Nicol
Katie Ellam

Craig Lightbody
Ed Ley-Wilson
Jane Brown

Stewart Macpherson
Martin Donnelly

Graeme Ambrose
Peter Faye

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust Apprenticeship Scheme.

The Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust, (SFCT), are pleased to announce the launch of our Apprenticeship Scheme, (the scheme).

Run in conjunction with our neighbouring community companies, the scheme aims to benefit local communities in the advancement of education, training or re-training among local unemployed people, - Object no. (2) of our Articles of Association.

The scheme aims to place a young person aged 16 to 19, living within the Stratherrick and Foyers area, into a 3 year apprenticeship programme with a local employer. The Trust will fund, by way of a grant, the costs of wages and some travel expenses directly to the employer up to a total of £7,000 per year. There may also be an opportunity to help those over the age of 19.

The scheme is administered by the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company and includes the Glengarry Trust and ourselves. In recognition of the initial success of the scheme, it has been awarded an additional £85k from the SSE Regional fund to be spent over the coming three years.

The Trust is currently compiling a directory of registered employers in order to give the would be apprentice a concise and varied choice of opportunities to assist him/her in making an informed choice for his/her future career.

In order for the scheme to offer as varied a choice of careers as possible, the directory will consist of as many employers as possible. However, priority will be given to any local employers registered in the directory.

Our Trust director, Craig Lightbody is currently compiling the directory of registered employers and would ask any local employer or anyone in the community aged 16 to 19 who is interested in this scheme to get in touch to register your interest.

This is an exciting start to our Community Trust activities and we hope that, as funding increases year on year, we will be able to place more of the young people of our community into worthwhile training and employment whilst enabling them to remain within the local area. We also look forward to working closely with our local employers and helping them expand their businesses using a locally sourced and well trained skills pool.

If you are an employer and would like to register an interest in the scheme or if you are or know someone who is interested in becoming an apprentice in the scheme, please contact Craig on 01456 486754 or email him at ctdir-craig@stratherrick.net.

For full details please go to www.communitycompany.co.uk and click on to the 'Apprentice' icon at the top of the page.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust – Moving our community forward.



Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

Progress to date.

The new team of Directors have been working hard to build up the Company so it is fully fit for purpose and to start to address some of the desires expressed in the Community Survey completed in 2013.

The previous team of Directors left us with a strong and well considered set of Articles. These are our 'bedrock' and our job now is to build a solid house upon it. This process is well underway and our ethos is to ensure that, whatever actions we take, we will leave the Trust better than we found it. This process of continual improvement should become normal behaviour and we have a good positive direction and sense of purpose already underway. Here are some of the things we have been up to and achievements to date:

- All new Directors up to speed on all aspects of the Trust's business
- Set up new Director's Induction and Training package
- Created a new 'Question & Answer' document which is open to all and aims to answer all the questions anyone might have about how the Trust works etc.
- Created clearly defined goals with ambitious timescales
- New Funding team already making contact with funders
- Communications team focusing on communicating as well as we can with everyone
- Grants team rewriting our Grants system to better match our funders' requirements
- Grants data recording system is being upgraded
- The Apprenticeship scheme is already seeking business and young people to take part
- Actively seeking to co-opt a new Financial Director
- Rewritten our Administrator and Bookkeeper roles and clarified their responsibilities
- Producing budgets and cashflow to allow us to better project financial possibilities going forward
- Produced a number of key Policy documents including data protection, equal opportunities etc.
- Designing our own website which we hope to launch around July time
- Setting up our first 'Open Evening'
- And in amongst all of this, we continue to assess and award individual and group grants as ever

Our new 'Question & Answer' document has already been emailed out to all Members of the company and to Community Councillors. As soon as our website is up and running, it will be on there too, visible to all.

That's it. I hope you are feeling well informed about what your Community Trust has been up to and you can always secure more regular updates, including the Q&A, by becoming a 'member' if you wish. Please contact our Administrator, Fiona Ambrose, on ctadministrator@stratherrick.net or **486717** for information on how to join.

Kind regards

The Community Trust team

