

Penicuik Community Development Trust

Annual General Meeting 23 August 2022

1. Chairman's address & Financial Report for 2021-22

The Trust received grants from Scottish Government and the Lottery Communities Fund for the purchase of its HQ at Pen-y-Coe Press, to run the Carbon Challenge Project from a building in John Street and the Supporting Communities fund which was distributed to other community groups within Penicuik. Reduced income from our traditional activities due to the impact of the pandemic, means that the Board decided to increase our reserves to £9000 to ensure the survival of the Trust.

2. The Pen-y-Coe Press

The vintage style stationer and print shop continues to be managed and run by volunteers producing a small but important income to meet the Trust's overheads. A new radiant heating system has been installed in the building which it is hoped will make the building more comfortable for volunteers conducting the business of the Press. However running costs have increased as a result and this is being monitored.

3. Relaunching the Paper-making Heritage Museum

In response to an appeal a new group of volunteers has formed to run the museum. Amongst innovations planned are regular Saturday morning openings in the summer at least.

4. The Town Hall/Cowan Institute events

The Saturday morning Open House has continued to recover from the impact of the Covid pandemic. Open House provides a small but vital income to help support the activities of the Trust. New volunteers are urgently needed to enable the operation to continue.

5. The Community Garden Initiative

After the disappointments of the closing of the Lost Garden and the evidence of toxic materials in the soil at the replacement site offered by Penicuik Estate at Alderdean, we are now seeking agreement with Midlothian Council to establish a community garden in Angle Park. At present Penicuik Organic Gardeners are an informal Facebook group involved in the transfer of materials from the Lost Garden and development of the new garden.

6. The Penicuik Carbon Challenge Project

The project finished on 31 March. Our records suggest that 863 people took part in the programme of events delivered by the project team and 172 bikes were repaired and refurbished. The John Street premises have been offered to us rent free until a new tenant is found and so the bike repair operation will therefore continue there until further notice. The community meal making use of surplus food donations will also continue at Ladywood Centre. The Library of Things (tool hire) is being moved to Pen-y-Coe Press and an announcement about its re-opening will take place shortly.

7. Report on the renewed Penicuik Cinema

In response to an appeal a group of new volunteers are now running the Cinema. Initial results have been encouraging and the Cinema is now running at a small profit when popular films are shown.

8. Elections to the Board

The following members were re-elected to the board: Nick Bowry (Chair), Vicen Carrio, James Hepburne-Scott, Roger Hipkin (Vice Chair), Ulla Hipkin, Mose Hutchison, Anne Morton, John Robertson (Treasurer), Lynda Smith, Chris Sydes (Secretary).

The following members were elected to the board for the first time: Suzanne Lawrie, Stephanie Rebours-Smith.

21 Members were present at the AGM, 4 of these attending online.