

Johnstonebridge Centre and Community Development Trust Ltd



Newsletter – April 2019



There have been a few changes in Johnstonebridge recently with the disestablishment of the Community Council and a change of staff and volunteers at the Centre. It seems like a good time to restart the Newsletter to keep you all abreast of what is happening in the Parish of Johnstone. Please have a read and if there is anything you would like to comment on, ask about or get involved with then do drop into the centre and speak to the new Manager Carmen or one of the volunteer helpers.

Funding

The Trust has been approached by a few people to find out if there would be any impact on community benefit funding from windfarms for the village with the dissolution of the Community Council.

The Trust has investigated and is happy to report that the implications will be minimal. Most funds do not require a Community Council to work with. Those that do can be accessed by other means. The Trust will be able to cover, should the need arise, until a new Community Council is established.

If there are any groups looking for funding support in the village, please *contact the Centre* for further information. There are many funds available to support community activity.

AGM 2019

The Trust's AGM is happening on **Thursday 16th May at 6.30pm** and is open to all. Come along, enjoy some *free refreshments* and learn about the activities of the Trust and the Centre over the past year. Opinions are valued and it is not too late to become a member, please see overleaf. Any new ideas *welcome!*

It's your Centre!

There are a number of groups and activities held in the centre on a regular basis and you are all encouraged to join in and make use of the space. Regular clubs include the Lunch Club, Youth Club, WRI and Bowling Club. There are groups using the *Mugga* on a regular basis and of course the *playground* is a big hit with the children.

The hall is available for functions, weddings, birthday parties and get togethers. The Trust is happy to support any idea to get up and running, this includes *help and advice with funding* applications. There are local jams and chutneys for sale and a free book exchange library too!

Use it or Lose it

There has been a lot of mixed opinion about the Centre over the years. The fact of the matter is that the old hall was no longer viable and inaccessible for many. The Parish now has an *amazing facility* that many communities would love to have.

However, the design was not perfect and the financial projections were unrealistic for a community of this size to sustain. The Trust is working hard to make the most of this amazing facility, cut the costs of running where possible and invest in the community through groups and organisations that can provide valuable services to the community and help to sustain the Centre through time. The Trust *needs to hear from you* about what events and groups you would support and attend.

There are some funds remaining from the original lottery grant which help with running costs and several community benefit funds which cover the geographical area that the Trust and other community groups can apply to for grant funding. This leaves Johnstonebridge in a positive position, it just needs some more *input* from community members.

The Community Centre Trust is looking for new Trust members and Board members who will have an active say in the running of the Centre and the various projects it supports. Current Board Members are Lord David Johnstone, Billy Lockhart, Julia Barnard, John Graham, George Muirhead and Associate Director Lesley Farrell. It would be especially helpful to have a Board that was representative of the community, all age brackets and both male and female members.

There is a membership form overleaf – please fill it in and join in – the future is in your hands!

Community Action

The Community Action Plan is in action.

- Headway is being made with road signage for the village
- The Trust is working with the Youth Club and Lunch Club as well as other organisations to encourage more events and opportunities for local people
- A project to build a secure storage shed for the Centre and its users is well underway with funding secured and tenders being obtained. This will free up space to allow for more activity in the Centre
- New local affordable housing is being investigated with the Rural Housing Trust which would help to support the School, Centre and Post Office in years to come.
- Funding has been applied for to fuel and service the mower which our helpful volunteers use to keep public areas looking tidy and well maintained.

Many other projects are ready to be explored as time allows.

Due to the vast amount of work and awareness of volunteer fatigue, plans are afoot to apply for funding to support a project development officer to oversee the projects from the Community Action Plan.

If you would be interested in getting involved with any of the projects in the Community Action Plan or indeed anything else for the community then please do get in touch.

Contact Details

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Johnstonebridge Centre and Community Development Trust Ltd

Membership Application Form

Johnstonebridge Centre and Community Development Trust Ltd (JCCDT) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. It is run by a Board of Directors, elected from its Membership.

JCCDT are keen to build up a strong local Membership to help ensure that the community has a real say in how the charity meets its aims and objectives. There are no mandatory obligations to Members, but membership does give you the right to attend and vote at the general meetings of the organisation and volunteers and helpers are always welcome.

To be a Full Member of the company and have a say in how the Centre and its various projects are run you need to be over 18 and live in the Parish of Johnstone. Annual Membership is free for full members, Associate Members (those who support the purposes but live outwith the Parish) and Junior members (those aged between 11 and 17 with no voting rights).

If you would like to become a member of the Trust, then please fill out the following information and return it to the Centre:

Title:	Forename:	Surname:	
Address		Postcode:	
Mobile	Landline:	Email:	
Membership Type:	Full	Junior	Associate
Signed:	Date:		
By signing this form, I agree for my details to be kept on a membership register and occasional contact by email.			