



## **Newsletter 7, 28 December 2017.**

Dear member

This is the 7<sup>th</sup> in our series of newsletters designed to keep our members up to date with the work being carried out by Rhynie Charitable Trust and to address any issues or queries raised by our members.

### **Congregational Church project planning**

The Congregational Hall project is continuing albeit at a leisurely pace. We are waiting for a formal offer from the Masons at the moment. The offer is still pending a valuation of the building and decision by the Masons on what should constitute their offer. We are hopeful that this can be sorted out shortly. This will enable us to seek the approval of members to continue and to start considering how and where to raise the necessary finance.

On the subject of community space in the village, enquiries have been received by Board members from groups interested in somewhere to host activities. We have had an enquiry from Slimming World and also been contacted by a prospective toddlers group. The board have agreed to support these enquiries, possibly to use the facilities of No.14 as a temporary measure until such time as we are able to progress a community hall..

### **Community Education Hall**

Also on the subject of community space, an enquiry has been received from Hazel Maclaren of Aberdeenshire Council with regard to a possible Community Asset Transfer for the Educational Hall. She is suggesting a meeting to gauge the level of interest, advise on the Council position and consider the best way forward. We have supported this idea which might open up a discussion on what people want for the village. Once a date for the meeting is set we can advise members, who may wish to attend or otherwise provide their comments. It is now most likely that this meeting will be in the New Year.

We feel that there are a number of issues with regard to the use of the Hall for a community space which need to be answered but also see no reason why the development of both halls might not complement each other to provide the most usable space, provided there is enough interest and people willing to work at it to progress both projects.

### **Trust officers**

Debbi has advised the Board that she is no longer able to give sufficient time, due to personal circumstances, to continue as Chair but would still wish to remain a Director. Mike has offered to take over the position but considered that the current positions of Secretary and Treasurer should be reviewed.

At the moment Averil is carrying out both these positions but is limited by work pressures from attending meetings. She has said that she would be happy to continue as Treasurer but would prefer someone else to take on the Secretary role.

Rhynie Community Facilities Development Charitable Trust  
Company registered in Scotland: SC309832  
Registered office: The Cottage, Cottown, Rhynie, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, AB54 4LX  
Charity registered in Scotland number SC037455





Colin M has offered to assist with membership duties. We would welcome anyone who may be interested in assisting the Board with some or all of the Secretary duties. Please contact Mike for more information.

### **Wheedlemont Wind Fund**

Mike (for RCT) and George (for TONCC) have attended a meeting with Huntly & District Development Trust in connection with a proposed Community Fund for the Wheedlemont Wind turbines. The meeting was also attended by Hilary Ridge (for Car Aid Rhynie) and Sue Cross & Tanya Reynolds (for Lumsden Community Association). The purpose of meeting was to discuss the formation of a panel to administer the distribution of funds for the Community Fund.

As part of the agreement for the development of the turbines the developer and owner are required to establish a Community Fund which will be used to further projects to benefit the communities of Rhynie and Kearns & Auchindoir. Due to a very tight time constraint HDDT have taken on the management of the Fund as they have relevant experience from the similar Fund for the Cairnborrow development.

Their proposal is that 65% of the profits from the second turbine at Wheedlemont will be used for community benefit. Of this, 25% will go to the two parishes and the remainder to help with funding of wider community projects through HDDT. A panel is to be set up to request applications for funding and to administer the distribution of the money. The next stage is for the attendees to meet, as a steering group, and agree their proposals for the mechanism for the consideration of applications for funding.

Mike is continuing to represent RCT in this matter, working with others on a steering group to set up the panel. The steering group are asking for any interested persons who would be prepared to serve on the panel to contact them. It is proposed to have two members from each parish and a chair person. Please contact either Mike ([mike@rhyniecharitabletrust.co.uk](mailto:mike@rhyniecharitabletrust.co.uk)) or Hilary Ridge (861631) for additional information.

### **Paths project update**

This project, which is now known as 'The Kingdom of the Picts Trail', was selected to receive the full £28000 of funding under the Participatory Budgeting initiative. The project will research and waymark paths which can connect six parishes in Strathbogie and Strathdon, from Gartly at the North end to Corgarff at the South.

Research is progressing into the route selection and a start has been made in identifying relevant landowners. This task will be assisted by Murray Swapp of Cairngorm Outdoor Access Trust. Many of the tracks have been walked or cycled to check their viability. Many of the tracks will be on existing estate tracks and forestry roads.

Aside from this, we were unsuccessful with our funding application for the improvement to the Tap o Noth path, but that this work might be facilitated by a grant from TONCC.

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## 100 Club

We are proposing that a small change be applied to the 100 Club payout. This will increase the total payment to winners to 60% of income from 55%, the remaining 40% being retained by RCT. We also plan to offer occasional double prize payments for specific events, such as Christmas.

We would also welcome any members who are not currently in the 100 Club and who would like to join. Please contact Colin Neesom (861004).

Finally, we would like to extend an invitation to any persons who wish to help with the work of the Trust. If you would like to serve on the Board or assist in any other way we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact any of the Board members below.

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Newsletters and other member communications will be distributed by email or post depending on the information provided by individual members. Please note, if you do not receive an emailed copy we do not have your email address. We would appreciate any members who have so far not provided an email address to do so, if possible, since this is our preferred communication medium as it is cheaper and quicker.

If you have not received our previous newsletters and would like to see copies of these or if you would like to check that we have your correct email address, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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