

## Next Steps...

The Steering Group recommends the following:

- A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8th September for further discussion. This is a final chance to ask questions of the Steering Group about their work and recommendations.
- A ballot will then be held, asking whether or not there is agreement to set up a Community Development Trust in Arncroach & Carnbee. The ballot will be open to all residents of the community over 18 years of age, as defined by the current Community Council boundaries. In the interests of fairness, all votes will be anonymous, and the ballot will be overseen by an independent assessor. The votes will be counted and the results announced on the night.
- If the vote is in favour (51% or more of votes cast), the existing Steering Group will formally disband, and a new group of Interim Directors will be formed. This group will be open to any members of the community wishing to become involved. Their remit will be to formally establish the CDT as a limited company, develop a detailed proposal on the CDT's structure and constitution, present a strategic assessment of proposed projects for the CDT and a detailed business plan. These will be presented and voted upon at the first CDT Annual General Meeting.

## Need Help?

Ballot papers for the vote will be made available at the public meeting on 8th September. However, please contact Adrian Snowball on Tel 01333 720225, or e-mail Adrian.snowball@phonecoop.coop if...

- ...you would like to vote in the CDT ballot, but find that you are unable to attend the public meeting. A postal vote is available to you, and we will be pleased to help you with that
- ...you have mobility difficulties and need assistance to attend the public meeting. We may be able to help you with transport arrangements

### Arncroach and Carnbee Community Development Trust Steering Group

## Public Meeting

Wednesday, 8th September 2010, 7.30pm at Arncroach Village Hall

- **Report back by members of Community Development Trust Steering Group**
- **Open Discussion and Questions** - a chance for all members to put to the Steering Group questions about its work and findings, and to express their own views and opinions
- **Ballot** - all members of the community get the opportunity to vote for or against setting up a Community Development Trust



South Baldutho looking towards Edinburgh

### Arncroach & Carnbee Community Development Trust Steering Group

Newsletter No.2  
Summer 2010

## CDT Information Days at Kellie Castle & Arncroach...

In our last newsletter, the CDT Steering Group reported back on its progress so far, and invited the Arncroach and Carnbee community to feedback their own views about the possibility of a CDT in the area, and ideas for future projects. Two information/consultation days were organized in May; one at Kellie Castle and one at the village hall, where further information about CDTs, their projects and what we could do here was made available. The events were attended by 44 members of the community, and members of the Steering Group were also on hand to answer questions.

We have now collated the feedback that came in to the Steering Group, and in this issue are reporting back our findings. These are based on what members of the community have told us about their ideas and concerns, and further information that the Steering Group has gathered about CDTs during the course of their work.

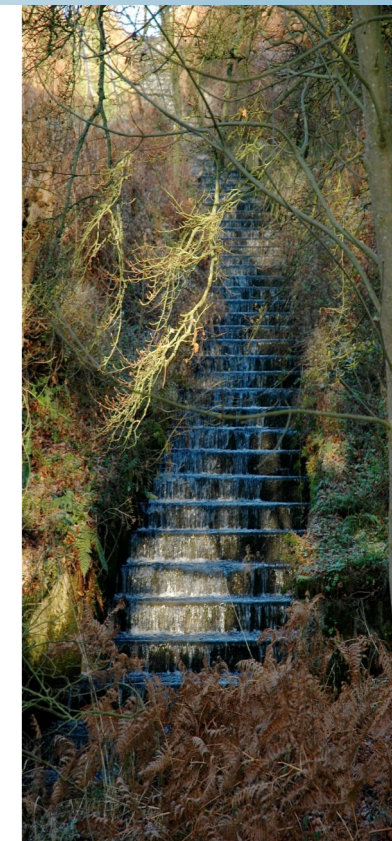
### CDT Aims & Objectives...

The Steering Group would suggest that the principal aim of a Community Development Trust in Arncroach and Carnbee should be...

*...to preserve and promote the quality of life in Arncroach and Carnbee for the benefit of local people, groups and businesses.*

This would

- involve everyone who lives and works locally
- address the economic and environmental needs of the community
- address the social and cultural needs of the community in consultation with existing local bodies which have one or both of these aims as their main function
- work with other private and public sector organisations



The 'Water Steps' at Gillingshill  
Nature Reserve

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## Project Ideas...

As would be expected from such a diverse community, a huge variety of ideas were suggested as possible projects for a Community Development Trust. These ranged from setting up a community web site, improving transport, safeguarding local amenities such as the Nature Reserve and Kellie Castle, to reducing our collective carbon footprint. Below is a list of some of these suggested projects.

### Project

#### Community Activity

- Organise a regular newsletter/website, detailing local events and activities
- Publicise local social events and build on their existing success, particularly in the summer and for the young
- Create a community centre and/or youth club
- Strengthen links between the community and the Scottish National Trust at Kellie Castle

#### Natural Environment

- Inventory of the natural environmental resources with a view to conservation and protection
- Landscape-related public art projects
- Footpaths and cycleways
- Acquire Gillingshill Nature Reserve for the community and improve on existing facilities there

#### Carbon Footprint

- Renewable energy projects, both for generating and conserving energy
- Recycling centres

#### Business

- Community-owned general store, farm shop, post office or café
- Set up a business centre/internet office to encourage existing local businesses, and to assist start-up for new small businesses in the area
- Set up an educational centre, providing classes in rural skills
- Investigate the possibility of using 'surplus' agricultural land to establish a community run market garden or allotments
- Co-operative purchasing schemes of goods and services

#### Housing

- Affordable housing
- Redevelopment of currently disused agricultural buildings

#### Others...

- Preserve the peace and quiet of the area
- Adopt the Kellie Law triangulation pillar as an historic monument
- Support the expansion of Carnbee graveyard

## Concerns...

The number of written responses received after the Information Days was not as great as the Steering Group had hoped—eleven in total. The question has therefore arisen: are there enough people prepared to become actively involved and carry out the considerable amount of work required to run a CDT and manage the CDT's projects? Without sufficient interest and support, the Steering Group feels that the CDT would become unviable.

**'You've got to take the local community with you...'**

**Andrew Arbuckle  
Chair, Newburgh CDT**

## Other Concerns... & Suggested Solutions

### Wind Turbines

The feedback process also highlighted a considerable level of anxiety about industrial-scale wind turbine development in the area; specifically that the Steering Group has been in contact with private developers, and is setting up a CDT as a 'stalking horse' for commercial, industrial-scale wind energy developments in the area.

The Steering Group is therefore issuing a statement, as detailed in the panel to the right. ↑

### Steering Group Position Statement - Wind Turbines

'Some concern has been expressed within the community that moves to establish a Community Development Trust are in some way connected with plans to develop a large scale wind farm within the Community Council area.

The Steering Group that has been undertaking consultations about establishing a CDT wishes to make clear that there has not been any contact between the Steering Group and any organisation or company that has an interest in developing wind turbine installations within the community council area.

Furthermore, the report that the Steering Group is producing, based on feedback from the consultation, will be recommending that if a CDT is established, there should be no involvement in any industrial scale renewable energy projects.'

### CDT Structure

Worries were expressed about the powers of the CDT, what limits there might be on its activities and what control the community would have over these.

The Steering Group recognise that the community includes many individuals who live either in single dwellings, or in houses clustered in small groups, away from the two main areas of settlement, Arncroach and Carnbee. It is these individuals who may be more vulnerable to being negatively affected by CDT activities, and we are concerned to ensure their views are heard and *taken account of* by a future CDT. ↑

The Steering Group discussed at length the possible structure of a CDT, and the checks and balances required in its constitution to protect the community as a whole, the individuals within it, as well as those involved in running the CDT.

Three founding principles emerged from these discussions and it was agreed a CDT should be based upon

- **transparency**
- **democracy**
- **accountability**

Any legal structure should promote these values, and help to foster inclusiveness, equality, good working relationships and trust amongst all the members of the community in order to tackle projects confidently together.

The Steering Group found that the best legal structure for such an initiative would be to set the CDT up as a Company Limited by Guarantee, with charitable status. This enables the CDT to apply for grant funding and enter into trading activities, and affords a higher level of legal protection for the members and directors of the organisation than other structures would. In addition, it still offers the opportunity for inclusive working practices and decision-making, allowing all members of the community to become involved and have a say in the CDT's activities.