

Largo Communities Together

LCT is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity No. SC048447

Dear Members,

Largo Communities Together – AGM Chair/Vice Chair report – 15th November 2021

Firstly, thank you for taking the time to read this. In this busy world packed with information, it is very much appreciated by the trustees.

We formed as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation or SCIO at the end of June 2018, existing before then as a steering group of like-minded locals since September of 2017. We have been continuing to learn from other community trusts in Scotland and the bodies which support us. We have been completely volunteer led, until now! Read on.

The whole landscape of Community Development Trusts in Scotland has mushroomed during the Covid pandemic, and while we are not behind the curve, we are not leaders, we are balanced mid-curve. We are able to learn from others, but not constrained by the way they do things either. Each community is unique and yet we all have similarities.

This year DTAS, in conjunction with the Scottish Government, has launched a scheme to help community trusts, especially those that are fully volunteer led. This scheme aims to step up what trusts are able to do in the community, by funding 3-year full time Development Officer posts. We were lucky enough to be one of two trusts in Fife to receive this award. We will be advertising this post in November 2021 with the hope of having the person/s in place in early 2022. But what will they do? The focus of their role will be to deliver the community benefits from the following engagement with you.

In January 2022, Largo Communities Together (LCT) and Largo Area Community Council (LACC) jointly wish to engage widely with local residents, groups and businesses through a series of events. The events will explore the issues that are important to our community, and the findings will form the basis of our own Local Place Plan (LPP). This is a community right, resulting from a government initiative contained in the planning act 2019. When completed, this will be an entirely community led plan involving the public, private and the community as partners, sharing the benefits and the burdens.

We propose to add a further layer of engagement, which we will call Community Needs and Offers. This will map our community assets and community needs, enabling us to assess how we can solve some of our issues ourselves. A recent example of this has been the sailing club sharing its changing facilities with a local swimming group, resulting in two clubs sharing resources and costs.

Our mission continues to be, “Bringing people together to build community groups of interest and sustainable assets”. Despite Covid being ever present, we have been taking the time to look at how we emerge from the Covid pandemic and grow stronger and more connected as a community. This is happening all over Scotland.

If you can attend our AGM on Zoom, 7 - 8pm on Monday 15th November 2021, you will be able to hear an update from each of the LCT sub-groups on their work last year and their plans for 2022. As you will see below, we have exciting plans to engage and consult with you on. We would like to learn what you love about where you live, and what would make it better for us as residents, and for those who visit, work, and play here. A brief snapshot of our activities in 2021 is noted below.

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1. Largo House

LCT have worked to maintain constructive communication with the Landowners (Largo Estate), and are fully supportive of their new commercial operations growing vegetables and flowers over the summer of 2021 and beyond. The Landowners are not ready to share their full plans with the community yet, but we are ready to assist when they are. Meanwhile, we note that planning has been sought to remove some of the trees from Largo House and the stable block. Then we will all get a proper view of the fantastic frontage of both buildings that we sincerely hope can be preserved.

2. Largo Pier

This year has seen the new owners take over the Crusoe which opened in time for Largo Arts Week in July 2022. The Pier group have developed an excellent working relationship with The Crusoe. Winter repairs have been made. Funding has been secured for the next phase of RIBA stage 3 work to move forward.

Jimmy Simpson, the chair of this group, comes up for re-election this year. We hope you can offer him your support to continue his good work.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Barbara Simpson for all the dedication, work and support she has offered LCT as a trustee over the last years. She is stepping down this November from the board.

3. Largo Area Coronavirus Response Team (LACRT)

This team provided key support services within our local community during the pandemic. They continue to do so as we can see the situation is far from over. They have established a "Friends and Neighbours" telephone befriending service which is working well for a growing number of our more vulnerable residents. They have plans to grow our services to cover a wider response to future emergencies.

4. Largo Arts Week (LAW)

July 2021 saw Largo Arts Week have yet another sun kissed 10 days of arts, music and food which was enjoyed by our community and many visitors to the area. They are planning to host smaller events over the winter. Announcement of the Christmas Arts fair will be imminent.

5. LCT Treasury (Funding/Compliance)

Our Treasurer, Emily Macdonald, has been on the board since our inception. Holding, reporting and accounting for our funds in a secure and ethical way is key for LCT.

This is a growing role, which includes a large amount of transactions and accounting, as well as a higher-level strategic role in being aware of tax implications and knowing when we need to call in expert help. The board aims to employ a bookkeeper to assist the Treasurer in early 2022.

6. LCT – Communications and newsletter team

Contact us by

EMAIL

You can email us on this email address; contact@largocommunitiestogether.org.uk

BY POST

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The 5th edition of Largo Links will be on your door mat soon. It is diligently produced by James Kay and his team of journalists and advertising agents. It is then delivered to you by another team of volunteers. Some 1,800 copies are hand delivered throughout our community every three months.

We recognise that a higher-level marketing and communications plan is required as we move forward. We will address this need in the new year.

7. LCT – Lead for Sustainable Community Development

Jill Miller joined the board in this role at the last AGM. During this year she has been making links and connections with people in organisations around our borders to forge working relationships both with other community bodies but also wider with council and national bodies. This work continues. Jill is also leading the team in the very exciting new Development Officer post project.

8. LCT – Membership

Membership numbers are now: 358 Ordinary, 43 Associate, 3 Junior. This comes from around 3,000 residents in our voting ward. This represents in excess of the 10% threshold required to be able to act on behalf of the community in aspects such as the legal “right to buy” for community land and assets, funding applications and much more.

9. LCT - IT Website/GDPR/Training/Docs/Office 365 Doc store/Microsoft Teams

In this year, Martin Schmidt has stepped down as a trustee with all our thanks, as he has been part of the board since the early days. He continues to support the back office in LCT, and we are very grateful for his help and guidance.

As we type this, our exciting new website is being developed and will go live soon. This is being built by a community member, Alan Thompkins (Alpha). We send our grateful thanks to Alan for all his help. We hope this offers you as members a portal where you can get up to date information on what is going on in your community more widely. Watch this space!

10. LCT Board Next Steps

Openness and transparency are key to representing the community’s views. Since November 2020, we have posted the meeting dates on the LCT website and members have been able to request a Zoom meeting invite for the first hour of our monthly board meetings.

Beau Russell, our youth member has, remained on the board and is also the minute secretary for the Largo House group. She has appreciated the guidance of Nora Conlin, our Company Secretary, on how to develop minute taking skills.

As our constitution demands, each trustee has a given time on the Board, and must then step down and put themselves forward for re-election. It’s my turn this year. I am delighted to put myself forward for re-election to continue the amazing work that reflects our communities’ potential at this exciting time.

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OUR COMMUNITY FUTURE.

We need your ideas. Please call us or email via the website or write to us at the library. We promise to continue to read and respond to all to your messages. Our community and how we work together has proved to be more important over these times for many of us. Let's see what we can achieve together, and to keep making our villages a great place to live, work and play for all.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support.



Louise Robb. LCT Chair



Stan Green. LCT Vice Chair.

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