

Largo Communities Together

LCT is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity No. SC048447

Largo Communities Together – Chair’s AGM report

Firstly, a big thank you for taking the time to engage and read this. A very special thank you to those who have become members. Welcome, all of you.

It has been quite a first year as the charity of Largo Communities Together – referred to from now on as LCT. LCT was the brainchild of Alastair Sutton, who worked tirelessly on the formation of LCT and its initial trajectory. We incorporated as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation or SCIO at the end of June 2018, existing before that as a steering group of like-minded locals since the winter of 2017.

The main focus of our energy over the last year has been concentrating on gathering information and finding ways to represent the community’s thoughts, wishes and aspirations. These resulted in the following actions:

1. Largo House and immediate policies (40 acres)

The community consultation regarding the potential for Largo House and its grounds is now complete. We had discussions and gathered ideas at eight different sessions around the area served by Largo Communities Together. A summary is now available on our website and is currently being utilised in on-going discussions with the landowner. These discussions concentrate on your ideas of firstly opening up the pathways and walled gardens, and further to a potential phased use of the land and buildings as the ideas, access to funding and sustainability evolve.

2. Largo Pier

The Largo Pier Group joined LCT in the summer, headed by Jimmy Simpson and a very able team of passionate people who wish to see our pier restored possibly with a mission to make it more fitting for our present and future community needs. That future will be up to all of us. So far, they have secured a) a Memorandum of Understanding with the owner and b) £8000 to complete the preliminary civil engineering assessment as the necessary first stage before full plans to repair and rebuild are completed. The Pier Group have also been given a brilliant set of drawings for re-building of the pier from a local highly regarded architectural draughtsman, who has joined the team. Frustrating and complex issues have thrown up problems every step of the way but, that said, remarkable progress has been made at last and that has to be applauded. The Pier Group are all local volunteers and they have worked incredibly hard on behalf of the community. There is still a mountain to climb to secure the funds required to do the re-building work. We all understand the enormity of this task, but along with the very able people of our community we feel we will find a way through this. The Pier Group have also been conducting community consultations both with the general community in the Largo Arts Week main venues, but also with special interest groups whose homes or businesses could be directly affected if we were to lose our pier.

3. Largo Arts Week

In August this year after a very successful Largo Arts Week, one of its founding team, Dougi McMillan, has joined us as a trustee with a view to us all sharing resources and helping each other across our range of projects with media, people to help and possible ownership of community assets in the future.

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4. LCT Board

After being a board for just a year we are developing our constitutional processes and plan to open up our meetings and allow access to our documents via a portal on the web site. Openness and transparency are key to representing the community's views.

Two young people from our community, with the cooperation of Waid Academy, are in the process of being co-opted onto our board this month. What the young people have said so far is that what they most want in the community is a café they could "hang out" in, especially at weekends and evenings. How can we together make that happen? Possibly a safe haven that others can use too.

5. Communication

We also plan to improve ongoing communication with the members and the wider community via email, posters and newsletters. We are always looking for, and would enthusiastically welcome, any new members.

6. Membership.

So, what interests you? What do you need? What can you offer as skills, no matter how small that contribution might be?

Membership numbers are now: 341 Ordinary, 39 Associate, 3 Junior? This is all from around 3000 in our voting ward. Well over the 300 or 10% required to be able to act on behalf of the community (Scottish Government rules) in things like potentially, the legal "right to buy" for community land and assets. This makes the way forward with government bodies and the local council much easier.

It's your ideas we need, just call or email via the website, write to us at the library. We promise to read and respond.



Louise Robb. LCT Chair

Contact us by

EMAIL

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

BY POST

Largo Community Library & Hub, 7 Lundin Square, Lundin Links KY8 6BH