

Largo Communities Together

LCT is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity No. SC048447

Largo Communities Together (LCT)

Minutes of LCT (24) Board Meeting Monday 15 February 2021

Present: Nora Conlin, Stan Green, Irene Kay, Emily Macdonald, Dougi McMillan, Jill Miller, Louise Robb (Chair), Beau Russell, Barbara Simpson, James Simpson, Andrew Stenson

In attendance: Eugene Clarke

Apologies: Jan Kerr, Drew Morrison

1. Welcome, apologies, thanks and introductions

LR welcomed Eugene Clarke (EC) representing Levenmouth Taskforce to give LCT Board an update on the Levenmouth Rail development to the meeting.

Jan Kerr sent apologies. Drew Morrison sent apologies as he had been called to another Zoom.

2. Minutes of 11 January 2021 and matters arising.

Board minutes of 11 January 2021 proposed by SG and seconded by IK. Matters arising would be covered in the agenda.

3. Levenmouth Taskforce

EC provided an update on the Rail and Blueprint Project. He reported that construction seemed to be going to plan and that the vegetation clearing was complete. Timescales were highlighted: planning 2021; construction 2022; first train running from Leven December 2023. In relation to construction, the name of the company identified to take forward construction aspects was not yet in the public domain but was community oriented, keen to help the community and hoped to offer employment to local young people.

The Blueprint Fund had funding of some £10 million - £5 million from the Scottish Government and £5 million from Fife Council. It was hoped the rail line would benefit the local community, including the Largo area.

EC referred to the involvement of three separate groups in taking the project forward:

1. An Oversight Group chaired by a directorate level officer. They had a quality assurance role re the budget of the project.
2. An Officers Group of FC departments, e.g., planning, legal, communications. To take forward what was required re the Blueprint.
3. Task Group made up of Levenmouth Rail campaigners, local elected members, i.e., Cllrs from the area committee and members of local community councils.

EC noted there had to be more involvement of local communities, including young people. Suggestions could be made through the local area committee chair, Ken Caldwell. Decisions about finance required greater clarity.

There was a need to ensure that smaller organisations/businesses met funding criteria as well as larger organisations. Specific aspects carried different weightings e.g., local Levenmouth benefits, socio-economic benefits, financial case, legacy building and so on. Allocating funding was not yet settled. If LCT or a sub group were to apply for funding re the project, the community benefit would require to be highlighted and account taken of the local area plan, e.g., employment for local people.

The Task Group also required to have a corporate identity and organisation (could LMRC help with this aspect?) Noted that decisions/tasks go through FC.

LCT will hear about future developments through JM from EC. Communications will also come through FC.

Mike Drever, as the Project Manager, is the point of contact for the project known as the Levenmouth Reconnected Project. He created the funding application process.

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The application process would be subject to governance procedures. Discussion re funding applications would take place with Mike Drever or a FC colleague. Decisions would be decided by the Project Manager and Task Force, and then go to the Area Committee. Noted Dave Paterson, Area Manager is helpful. It is hoped to have processes in place by the second week in April.

Noted that local people, e.g., LMRC should have a role in holding officials to account.

LR has completed the recent LMRC survey on behalf of LCT, as well as other Board members also completing the document. EC is keen to use/link in with the skills and expertise LCT has re the Blueprint. EC was advised to contact JK re placing an article in the Largo Links newsletter. Noted the Chair of Largo Area Community Council has attended meetings re the Blueprint.

EC was thanked for his input. JM, as LCT Sustainable Lead, would continue to link with him re future developments and mutual support.

4. Pier update

JS had emailed his report previously. He updated the Board on recent activity. Ownership of the hotel is still not known but the sale is being concluded subject to the transfer of the premise's license. The Crusoe will operate as a hotel. JS has been informed that the new owner(s) want to encourage a positive relationship with the community. JS hopes to begin discussions early March. It is likely that a press release will be forthcoming in due course. It is also likely that repairs will begin to the surface of the car park and the adjacent harbour wall. The December repairs are holding up well. There has been little damage despite the recent easterly storms.

Discussion followed re community share schemes and the setting up of a community company – to be explored further. Ian Leaver of DTAS has offered good advice.

5. Largo Estate update

SG provided an update on developments related to Largo Estate. Kathy Becket, the Largo Estate's horticulturalist is creating a revenue scheme and maintaining contact with SG. The Estate sub group looked at aspects of 'Abandoned and Neglected Land' legislation. However, this would not fit with the developments now. The Estate would not fall into a neglected category. It is better for the group to move forward on sustainable development. Engagement with the owners is being maintained but requires work. Their vision for the future of the Estate still requires clarity.

There has been some confusion re a questionnaire posted on social media re vegetable growing and requiring volunteers. This post has subsequently been removed but remains on FaceBook re the Estate. SG reported that work is going on, e.g. contacts being made for tree surgeons but there is uncertainty around what is being planned.

Noted that the Church Rooms accommodation does not yet have the required planning permission for renovation.

Discussion returned again to community share scheme (see Pier above). What is meant by this? It is more than just council ownership vs. private for-profit ownership. There must be an identifiable community benefit to this type of structure. Further investigation required re the harbour/Pier and Largo Estate. Reference to Land Ownership and Reform 2019 and Public Interest required.

6. Largo Arts Week update

DM reported on LAW and The Aurrie development. This will no longer go ahead as first envisaged. Agreement could not be reached re the lease of the building. The owners will continue with their plans for a café project, while DM and AS are exploring another option involving the Durham Hall. Discussions are ongoing with IK and

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Gavin Boswell re this plan. The vision of Durham Hall as a community hub is being explored with Church partners and Largo Arts. A firm position has yet to be defined but those involved in discussion are optimistic. IK noted that a draft paper is being prepared for the Kirk Session on 16 March 2021.

AS reported that there is a good response thus far re applications for Open Studios – 41 have signed up to date. Venues are being organised. LAW organisers are taking a cautious approach regarding live performances. A decision will be made near Easter. Performers are keen to come for LAW but the situation remains tentative. Hopefully some workshops will run taking account of regulations.

7. LARCT update

IK highlighted points from her previously emailed report. Arrangements remain in place to support the community, as required.

The data show there is an improving situation. The Largo area remains low at 2 – 4 Covid cases. The vaccine rollout continues.

Largo Friends and Neighbours Befriending Project is ongoing. To date there are nine befriendees matched with our eight befriending volunteers. Two training sessions for the volunteers, including IK and NC are now complete. LACRT has received grant funding from The Befriending Network of £2,000 to support expanding the service whilst Covid restrictions are still in place. Another four volunteer befrienders have been recruited and training has been organised for March. A further three befriendees have also been identified. LACRT will trial the use of tablets and other tech to run virtual face-to-face befriending sessions for those interested in being connected in this way.

NC and IK attended a Resilience Planning Seminar on Zoom. The impact of Coronavirus on communities and planning gaps was the main theme of the session. How to access information on the vulnerable people in our communities has been raised at local and national levels.

LACRT has not yet had any application for the Support in Times of Need Fund. However, LACRT made funding available to our area primary and secondary schools to support home learning.

Delivery 2 U has had no calls. The community is good at supporting those who need it.

IK reported that a community member, Louise Shield, is running a clothing bank for families from her garage. Angel Share (Lundin Links), another local group, fundraise to support animal charities in Fife, and provide other services to our local community such as path clearing and dog walking (information on Angel Share on FaceBook).

8. Sustainable Development update

JM provided an update on developments. She has been liaising with Mike Drever, FC; the Leven Rotary; Robert Graham, Community Development to ensure LCT is connecting with local projects of interest, and to offer support if appropriate. Noted too - JM has been in conversation with EC (item 3 above). Noted also there has been a change to the areas eligible for funding applications and Largo is now included. Brian Turner, Silverburn, reported 200,000 visits to the grounds during 2019 – 2020. Our community is accessing local leisure/beauty sites more during lockdown.

LCT is supportive of such developments and would like to build further on our connections.

The development of a stakeholder map was suggested to map out all the connections and the benefits to our community. Positive response noted to this proposal.

8. Treasurer's report

EM provided an overview of LCT finances.

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All bank accounts are solvent and LCT is in a healthy financial position. EM has yet to receive the bill for the Pier winter repairs. She will email and request this.

LCT bank account balance – £1,862.97

- The main transactions have been receipts of advertising money for Largo Links magazine and paying for the printing of it – £180 shortfall which can be covered by LCT for this edition.
- Suitable grant funding being explored to support the next four issues.

LACRT bank account balance – £14,703.28

- £2,000 grant from Befriending Network to spend on supporting and developing LACRT befriending service. Funds to be spent by 31 March 2021. Funds to be assigned to training more befrienders, purchasing four electronic devices to enable virtual face to face befriending through FaceTime, and wi-fi to support delivery.

Largo Pier bank account balance – £22,184.20

- No transactions since last meeting.

DTAS Community Share Scheme

- Interesting and useful presentation
- Potentially relevant for several LCT projects

9. Membership update

Working group now engaged in updating the LCT members database to ensure as many email addresses entered as possible. Permissions being sought from members re entering emails on to our systems.

JM and RG should contact MS on Admin email to be linked in with 365 email addresses.

10. Communications update

IK reported that the distribution date of the next edition of the Largo Links newsletter would be Saturday 20 February. She has alerted the Community Police and all is in order. Thirty-four volunteers have come forward for the task.

LR and SG have been interviewed for a future edition.

11. Discussion and approval of Code of Conduct, Bullying and Harassment Policy, Grievance Issues.

Discussion of other Governance issues. Process for disseminating to all sub groups

The above noted papers have been revised in line with discussion at the previous meeting and emailed to Board members for scrutiny. Discussion followed. The meeting was asked to note the paragraphs in red in particular. No names to be included in the documents, only the purpose/task. Mediation role of SACRO explained if ever required.

Agreed that the policies provided clarity and outlined LCT processes re grievance, harassment and complaints. Complaints would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the Policies presented at this meeting and LCT's Constitution.

The Code of Conduct is to be downloaded and signed by all LCT Board members and the members of its sub groups. Signed copies to be held securely. Policies to be discussed at all sub group meetings. Small changes agreed at this meeting to be made then draft status removed and the policies disseminated to LCT and sub groups, and subsequently posted on the LCT Website.

13. Correspondence, AoB, Date of Next Meeting

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LR had written a letter of support to Fife Council on behalf of LCT re funding for repair of access to slipway at the Orry. Donald Aitken, Commodore of the Sailing Club, is leading on this proposal. Reported that funding for the repairs has been secured.

NC to attend a series of Zoom seminars run by FVA on Volunteer Management. She would report back to LCT.

SG to attend DTAS Fife seminar Thursday 11 March 2021. Three places available in total. LCT Trustees to contact SG re a place if interested.

LR provided positive feedback to BR re her work on minutes for the Largo Estate sub group.

Register of Members' Interests is being maintained and updated as required.

Note date of next meeting: Monday 22 March 2021 7.00 – 9.00 on Zoom.