

DEVELOPMENT TRUST BOARD NEWS

Welcome to our first Colintrave and Gendaruel Development Trust (CGDT) newsletter. We aim to produce one each quarter to keep everyone informed on our activities, proposed projects, progress of projects and how you the community can help.

This is your community trust and it's for you to decide what you want and how we can work together to improve, develop and create possibilities and opportunities to make the community better. The volunteer directors are part of our community and are keen to progress things for the benefit of all.

Cathleen

Cathleen Russell (Chair)

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Directors: Cathleen Russell (Chair), Harry Andrews (Vice Chair), Paul Bulmer (Secretary), Calum Maclean (Treasurer), Ros McGhee, Gary Kirby, Charles Dixon-Spain, John McNaughton. John Allan (Co-opted), Graham Curran (Co-opted)

Forest Ranger: Charlie Collins

General Manager: Amber Llovet

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GOVERNANCE UPDATE

The board have decided to undertake a full governance review of the Trust and how it's managed. For that we are participating in the Good Governance Awards Scotland. The program was developed to support small charities strengthen their core governance and carries out an independent assessment to SCVO standards. This will take several months to complete and at the end ensures we will have taken the appropriate measures and have good robust systems in place.

COLGLEN BROADBAND SELF-HELP

It is increasingly unlikely that there will be an improvement in our current landline network in the next year. We therefore are faced with making best use of what is currently available to us now until things improve.

This initiative is to help Colglen residents and visitors who are not satisfied with their current internet access obtain the best available cellular internet network access using locally available help and resources, on a willing volunteer basis.

If you live in Colglen and want help with broadband, contact us by the 15th March 2021 and, with some assistance from others in the community, we can try to help you improve that. We don't need to enter your house and are aiming to get you to a standard to enable you to download a live film at up to 30Mbps. Where we cannot suggest an immediate improvement, we are working to find an alternative solutions from suppliers who can help, under the government voucher scheme.

If you would like help send us an email with your name and contact details, using the title "IMPROVE" to broadband@cgdt.org or leave a message on 01369 510 015 giving your details and we will contact you.

If you have some technical background and are willing to volunteer to help others in the community, send us the same information with the title "VOLUNTEER" and we will contact you. You don't need to be an expert,

we will help with some simple instructions.

There is no charge for the help and volunteers give their time freely, just helping out neighbours in the community. We are also working with suppliers to accelerate better communications in our area.

To improve your broadband or volunteer to help email broadband@cgdt.org or leave a message on 01369 510 015 and we will get in touch!



M O D A N ' S W E L L

Modan's Well Forest Trail is dedicated to the the well or spring which first appeared on an 1869 map of the area and that has eluded visitors ever since as it disappeared from subsequent maps. The site of the marked Well has been furbished with a protective covering to secure the Well's legacy for decades to come and provide a focal point for pilgrims and visitors alike.

Modan's Well Forest Trail was part of wider works for the development of Stronafian Community Forest.

The trail is 0.3 miles in distance and takes on average 30 minutes to complete, walking at a leisurely pace. A round trip from the village is about 2 miles and will take 1h 30mins. The trail is also suitable for running and cycling.

The Trust plans on hosting a socially-distanced community walk in Spring/Summer 2021 as part of our Community Recovery program to re-open after the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Stronafian Forest

Charlie Collins has been working hard on improving the forest and the paths. Noticeably more people are now making use of the forest and its a useful asset for the school too. The next stage is to develop signage for the different historical monuments etc. If you are a keen historian and would be keen to help with the wording and development of the signs please contact us via Amber Llovet.

COVID-19

The Development Trust as an anchor organisation and able to access funding to support the communities response to the pandemic. The Trust has been working closely with the Community Council and the Resilience group to try and meet the needs by delivering prescriptions, food boxes etc. We have managed to obtain a small grant as part of the Recovery phase to enable us to build 2 covered outdoor spaces. One in Glendaruel and one in Colintrave. These open sheltered spaces will be very important as we begin to move out of lock down as places where people can safely meet outdoors, children can play, we can have stalls to sell goods. If you have some ideas about where these could be placed please contact Calum Maclean or Ros McGhee.

Kickstart

The trust is exploring this initiative as a means of supporting businesses in the area to employ and train a young person for 6 months. The placements are fully funded, but they need to be new jobs, so if you know of any businesses in the area that would be keen please ask them to contact Amber Llovet.

International Dark Skies

We have been working on this project for some time. There are different grades for the Dark Sky Project that we can apply for and we have identified an area in the forest which would be suitable. All we need now are some nice dark nights to take some readings. For more information on this project please contact Andy White or Chris Leigh. This project could encourage tourism and economic activity.

PROJECTS

CONSULTATION

Projects that have been suggested by the community will be investigated by the Trust and if they are feasible they will be written up in more detail.

These projects will then be listed as short, medium or long term and the community will be consulted. These opinions will be taken into consideration and respected by the Board in considering the projects to fully develop. The projects will be fully costed, including financial sustainability and form the basis of our plan that will be shared with the community.

To date these are the projects that have been suggested: Farmers Market, Water safety, Transport, Electric charging points, Food security, Affordable Housing, Forest Crofts, Hutting, Hydro, Child care, Pontoon, Hub, Energy. If you have other suggestions please contact us so we can add them to the list. Once we have a list we will write a short description of the projects and then consult on which we should take forward. If you have any questions about this or anything pertaining to the work of the Trust please don't hesitate to contact us.

COLGLEN

RESILIENCE PAMPHLET

Over the last months the Resilience Group has been working extremely hard to deliver prescriptions, liaise with the GP surgeries, support the vulnerable in our community and identify actions which will help us come through the COVID pandemic.

As the group looks to the future, and the ongoing challenge of responding to personal, local, regional and national emergencies, it has produced a Resilience Advice Pamphlet for everyone included in the distribution of this newsletter.

With essential contact details, advice on what to have prepared in your grab bag, and a list of details to fill in for every eventuality, this is a really useful guide to become more resilient – just remember to have a copy in your grab bag!!

W H A T 3 W O R D S ...

... divides the whole world into 3 metre squares and gives each square a unique combination of 3 words. These 3 words make it very easy to find and share exact locations via an app.

The Resilience Group with the help of others in the community have mapped every house in ColGlen using what3words to enable delivery of prescriptions and food boxes, the quick response of emergency services, and easier postal & courier deliveries. The app has also been

used by lost or injured walkers to help direct rescuers to an exact position.

Colintrave & Glendaruel Community Council, the Development Trust and the Resilience Group have created a card with the what3words co-ordinate for your property. Please put it somewhere that you can use it quickly and easily in an emergency and if possible download the what3words app to your smart phone or other mobile device.