

COUPAR ANGUS REGENERATION TRUST

Registered charity Number SC 034941



Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 26th June 2007

Project Manager's Report

Introduction :

This has been a challenging year for the Trust. On the one hand, delays with progress on the flagship THI project has to an extent eroded community confidence in realising the physical regeneration of the town centre. On the other, a period of four months between my predecessor's resignation and my effective commencement led to a loss of momentum and continuity. The year has, however, seen positive developments, if not yet realised in measurable outcomes.

Community Engagement:

A new Project Manager inevitably heralds a change in approach and certainly in skills base. This has particularly been the case with community engagement. During 2005-06 the focus was on community capacity building. In 2006-07 this has changed to providing support, advice, guidance and practical assistance to the community groups as sought as illustrated in our :

- Supporting and assisting in co-ordinating the successful fireworks display in November, attended by over 1,000 residents and visitors;
- Successfully leading the Awards for All grant application and providing 'banking' support for the Horse Fair Group;
- Advice on a range of funding, amenity and horticultural issues for the Pride of Place Group;
- Providing support to FoLP and acting as a broker to bring together various stakeholders in seeking to take forward the regeneration of Larghan Park;
- Providing advice and guidance to the Community Council Development Trust working group.

Communication :

The Bulletin continues to be the main artery of communication. During the year the print run has increased to 1,000 per month with printing since February being undertaken by Culross printers. The number of distribution outlets has also been increased. While not all community groups realise the opportunity provided through the Bulletin, others, notably Pride of Place and the YWCA, regularly take space to promote their events. Editorially, the Bulletin continues to evolve e.g. the introduction of Business in Focus.

www.coupar-angus.org officially went live in March and the number of hits on the site is increasing. However, relatively few groups and organisations

realise the full potential and it has proved extremely difficult to obtain and maintain content. It is particularly disappointing that one year on from initial development we still await input from the Heritage Association on the 'flagship' History of Coupar Angus pages.

Project Development :

From February of this year a greater focus was placed on researching and developing a number of latent or stalled projects. These have included:

- A detailed desk research investigation into the potential of developing a food technology and processing enterprise in association with Famine Relief Agencies.
- Assessing the potential and developing the promotion of an iconic multi-user new bridge across the Isla through an engineering-design competition.
- Investigation into the potential of developing small rural business units.
- Successfully engaging Perth & Kinross Council and Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust in the vision of promoting the Coupar Angus Rural Renaissance to realise the redevelopment of Larghan Park and various amenity and landscaping improvements in the town and along the main arterial routes. This has to date focussed on seeking funding, primarily through a £498k bid to Forward Scotland's Environmental Justice Fund.

CART has also increasingly been engaged in a wider role, supporting and liaising with other economic and social development initiatives in order to avoid duplication of activity. For example, through our membership of the East Perthshire Area Initiative; working with PHA to raise funds and promote the Care & Repair Scheme.

Trust Management :

Although the departure of Rachel Jackson as Administrative & Finance Assistant was a loss in terms of resource and continuity, I was delighted we were able to engage her to produce and distribute the Bulletin on a freelance basis.

A thorough internal audit led to establishing more rigorous accounting procedures and now provides accurate and timely financial information in support of the Trust's activities.

The office premises, while not ideal, at least provide a community base presence for the Trust and an effective meeting space for Community Groups.

And finally : may I thank the Trustees for their support, even if my sense of humour at times has 'missed the mark'!

GJY 19th June 2007

