



TWEEDSMUIR COMMUNITY COMPANY

A Tweedsmuir Community Project

Chairman's Report for Annual General Meeting

Saturday 9th July 2022

There has been a great deal of activity since the last AGM in 2021.

Firstly, the Wee Crook and the capital developments at the Crook Inn site. James Welch will expand on the story; on the work of Board members, the architects WTArchitecture, and through them, the Planning Department of SBC, QS consultants, archaeological surveys, asbestos removal, wildlife surveys. We have enjoyed also helpful collaboration with Graeme Johnstone, from the SBC, facilitating the processes.

The overall costs of the project have increased greatly was developed in 2018-9. Revised costs rose to £590,000 including professional fees and VAT. Tweedsmuir Community company became VAT registered in order to reclaim VAT.

Construction work by J Lawrie has now been completed. The manager's house has been demolished, (slates and slabs preserved for future use) and the leaking flat-roofed extension to the Crook removed also.

Phase 1 Café Project

Funding Summary at 25th June 2022

Funding secured to date:

SSE Clyde Borders Community Fund	£94,000
S Borders Sustainable Development Fund	£35,000
Ventient Glenkerie Community Fund	£72,500
South of Scotland Economic Partnership (SoSEP)	£380,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	£25,000
Total	£606,500

Construction costs:

Lawrie construction tender	£474,800
Design team fees	£24,438
Subtotal	£499,298
	(say £500,000)
VAT	£100,000
Total cost	£600,000

Funding of the project has been a recurring concern. We have been fortunate to obtain grants, as outlined above: £380,000 from the Scottish Government under South of Scotland Enterprise Partnership (SoSEP), together with funding from the SSE Scottish Borders Sustainable Development Fund (£35,000), the SSE Clyde Borders Community Fund (£94,000), the Ventient Energy Glenkerie Community Fund (£10,000) and £62,500, and the Garfield Weston Foundation (£25,000). Then we have had vital additional support of a further £62,500 from Ventient Energy Glenkerie Community Fund.

Heritage. Lesley Mason has been going a great job developing the heritage project, *Discover Tweedsmuir*, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Grant Fund together with a grant from SBC. The website and graphic design and the database of the ecomuseum can be found at the link: <https://tweedsmuir.scot> This work has been inspiring other local communities to start their own ecomuseums.

We have a Tweedsmuir Community Company logo created through community competition with the involvement of a graphic designer. Very importantly, we welcome the participation of volunteers participating in contributing to content of the website: images, texts, edits.

Mr Bruce Clarke worked previously for the Tweedsmuir Community Company as a part-time Community Development Officer and was pivotal in obtaining the grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund for £67,000 and a grant of £6,700 from the Scottish Borders Community Fund to enable the '*Destination Tweedsmuir*' project. He has recently undertaken review for the National Lottery Heritage Fund of the work undertaken by the grant. His final report to the National Lottery Heritage Fund is awaited.

Community Development. Lesley Mason also works as a part-time Community Development Officer, funded by an Investing in Communities grant. She is working with members of the community on important developments at the Crook Inn site: the historic garden, a productive garden, and recreation

opportunities using the designs created by the garden design consultant, Liz Thomas, from *Here and Now*. This is an exciting development for the community and visitors. The progress is also thanks to the hard work of volunteer gardeners, the expert leadership of Caroline Matthias and the support of various funding sources for equipment.

Another development has been identifying and describing walking opportunities for visitors and residents. A number of community members have participated in walks in various weathers.

Community talks on interesting subjects relevant to Tweedsmuir and a wider Upper Tweed community have been organised, held via Zoom or, recently, in person.

I would like to pay tribute to the Board members that have put their time, energy and skills into these developments, and to the many volunteers who assist in the developments. The recent successful Rhubarbfest was a revelation in the number of volunteers and in the community participation.

We end this year with optimism that there will be the start of the bunkhouse construction and installation of camping pods, and that the Garden/landscape project will continue to make progress. Also that the Wee Crook can become a centre of community meeting and activity and a sustainable business.

Finally, the Tweedsmuir Community Company supports the development of the proposed new Tweedsmuir Community Action Plan. There will be much for all to contribute, so that Tweedsmuir provides attractive resources for residents and for visitors. These will have projects to sustain our community, increase our skills and help us learn more about our lovely valley.

Duncan Davidson, Chairman, Tweedsmuir Community Company