

Portgordon Community Trust – Community Hub Phase 2/3

Overview:

Portgordon Community Trust (PCT) is a company limited by guarantee that brings together a number of local organisations including its predecessor organisation Portgordon Harbour Group which has a remit to support village aims identified in multiple community consultations since 2017. The trust have been involved in vision for the redevelopment of the historic harbour assets and surrounding area as part of the area's major regeneration and the RCGF project, if successful will create a community hub within the area. The project has strong environmental social, economic and regeneration outcomes. The request from RCGF is for £664,813 and match funding of £200,000 is to be confirmed in due course.

Background: The objective of the Trust is to regenerate Portgordon Harbour and the surrounding area for the benefit of the local community, by creating a Community Hub and providing opportunities for individuals of all ages to learn new skills. PCT purchased the former Richmond Arms Hotel in 2022 and plan to develop a Community Hub for use by community groups, as well as other local organisations.

What this project will actually deliver & regeneration outcomes

The need for a single Community Hub has been identified through profiling the area, wide community consultation and a period of market research and can be seen in detail in a feasibility study carried out.

The overall aim of the project is to deliver the multi-purpose shared space which includes provision of accessible toilets, a flexible café space with retail area, and a self-catering apartment.

The fundamental objectives of the hub are to provide accessible services for locals, particularly isolated people who encounter difficulty due the rural nature of the area; provide multi-functional community space & meeting rooms; create and enhance enterprise and volunteering and potential job opportunities as well as promote tourism through provision of facilities and accommodation to bring new investment into the village

Economic – The multi-purpose shared space in the hub will allow the community access to resources and services which are not readily available in the village, such as healthcare, educational programs, and job training. A single storey extension will increase the seating area and cover potential of the proposed café and it is hoped a high-quality catering tenant will provide an increased lease income to the community and provide ongoing funding for the Development Post. The café will also benefit from passing tourism trade during summer months. This will help boost the local economy by supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs whilst providing volunteer and job opportunities.

Environmental – The project will not only reinvigorate the redundant Gordon Arms Hotel, bringing the building back into use and encouraging new investment into the area, but the capital works sits within the wider vision of the harbour regeneration, with the project “turning the building around” towards the harbour; improving green space within the area and protecting the natural environment.

Social – A community hub can help address the social and cultural needs of the local population. It is evident from ongoing community engagement by PCT during Covid 19 and as we continue to recover from that pandemic that many people in the area experience social isolation and having a community hub where they can meet and interact with others will help combat this. Additionally, the hub will provide access to resources and services which are not readily available in the village, such as healthcare, educational programs, and

job training. This will help improve the overall well-being of the local population and boost the local economy by supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the hub will serve as a platform for cultural events and activities, which will help preserve the unique identity of Portgordon and foster a sense of community pride. In summary, a community hub can help to create a more connected and thriving community in Portgordon.

Costs

£887,813 with a request from RCGF of an estimated £664,813 and match funding to be confirmed in due course.

It is intended to approach:

Crown Estate Scotland
The Wolfson Foundation
The National Lottery Community Fund
Garfield Weston
The Robertson Trust
William Grant Foundation