

TGDT Newsletter June 2024

Welcome to the June 2024 newsletter for TGDT. You'll find updates on our campsite project, affordable housing, Glenlivet projects, Discovery Centre and Hostel as well as a list of dates for your diary

Campsite

Our proposal for a community run campsite in front of the Crown Estate Scotland Units on Conglass Lane has been dealt a blow as Scottish Government announced no projects would receive Capital Regeneration funding. This decision and the delays it has caused are a knock back for the project but the trust board remain committed to delivering the project. We're working with Crown Estate Scotland to identify alternative ways to complete the project including bringing the site into community ownership.

The campsite project is a key deliverable in our 2018 – 2022 community development plan and will provide a much-needed service in the area. It is intended to support local businesses by adding overnight capacity to the area and provide fully serviced camping facilities including waste disposal for touring campervans and caravans. It will also secure the financial sustainability of the trust supporting jobs and our other services such as the Post Office, community larder, Glenlivet Events Programme and Discovery Centre.

Heritage Ranger

We're delighted to welcome back Lydia who was due to finish with TGDT in May but thanks to a short notice application to Dorenell Community Benefit Fund we've extended the post. This is great news for this summer's Heritage Tours and for the autumn and winter dark sky events. We're extremely grateful to Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Association for supporting our request for an extension and to Dorenell for granting the extension allowing us to continue this important cultural heritage work.

Affordable Housing

We are one year on from completion and occupation of our affordable housing development and although there have been bumps along the road we're confident the issues some residents have are being resolved.

Locogen Consulting's report on the energy system installed in the houses has been made available to all residents and is available to view on our website here <https://www.tgdt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/8596-Tomintoul-energy-review.pdf>

It shows that the system installed was the best available at the time and that the installation is of a good standard. The Air Source Heat Pumps at the eight rented properties have all been serviced and found to be operating normally.

We continue to put pressure on our main contractor Alpha Projects to complete the snagging works and understand the delays to be associated with providing wheelchair access to nine of the twelve properties. We understand, and share the frustration of residents but working with the main contractor remains the best way to complete the project which it's

important to remember has provided 12 affordable homes and represents a significant asset for the Tomintoul and Glenlivet communities.

Glenlivet Projects

Following a submission to OSCR the Braes Hall became a Scottish Charity in May this year. This is an important step in the halls refurbishment plans and will allow the committee to progress their ambitious plans for the hall.

Planning for TITP 2024 has begun and we're seeking volunteers to help with the event which will take place between 4th – 18th August at Glenlivet Hall. If you're unable to help at the event please consider contributing in other ways such as baking, making soup or simply coming along for a coffee.

Speaking of events our event programme continued in Glenlivet with Coates and Cotterell providing an energetic night of live folk music and entertaining the 30 strong crowd. As part of the Glenlivet Wildlife Weekend we hosted a screening of the Scotland the Big Picture film 'Why not Scotland?' a small but enthusiastic audience enjoyed the film that shone a light of the Highlands and it's capacity for rewilding. The Braes Hall provided a perfect stage for the one man show 'Behold Ye Ramblers' which told the story of the Clarion Press through a combination of song and set pieces.

The success of the Coates and Cotterell gig has inspired us to put on a Ceilidh in the autumn and we're currently looking for a band so watch this space for an exciting announcement about an end of season celebration!

Finally some tentative good news on broadband in the Braes - TGDT and GICA have been working with a commercial broadband supplier to install fibre broadband in the Braes of Glenlivet. WiFi Scotland (www.wifiscotland.co.uk) have come up with a proposal to run fibre to up to 47 properties in the Braes providing superfast speeds of between 150 – 900mbps. The service should provide a more robust, faster connection compared to the existing 4G via mast. It's very early days and more info will follow hopefully at our members meeting in July.

Discovery Centre and Post Office

It's been a slow start to the season at the Discovery Centre and numbers paying for entry to our exhibition have been disappointing. The information centre and Post Office remain busy though and Sharon continues to do an excellent job managing the operations here and at the hostel.

We commissioned an 'Access to Cash' review for Tomintoul last year and we're hoping Link will install a cash machine outside the Discovery Centre. This will be a real benefit to the community and for visitors when the Post Office isn't open.

The Smugglers Hostel

We've had a good start to the 2024 season exceeding our forecast income in May by over 70% possibly boosted by the good weather. It's been a cold wet start to June but hopefully the weather won't put visitors off and we'll have another good month. June will also see the

EV charger installation at the Smugglers Hostel allowing guests to charge cars and providing another source of revenue.

Board update

At the AGM Linda Morris and Ellie Richardson we're elected to the board and both have already made an excellent contribution to the trust.

Membership

Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust are actively seeking new members to ensure it accurately reflects the aspirations and vision for our area. Membership of the trust is free and open to anyone who lives in the AB37 9 postcode area. As a member you'll be demonstrating your support for our communities ambition to be a sustainable vibrant area. You'll also be eligible to vote at AGM's and if you choose to, can get more involved by seeking nomination to the board. You can download a membership form below and return it to Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust, 43 The Square, Tomintoul, AB37 9ET. If you'd like to know more email oliver@tgdt.org.uk, call 07787436837 or pop past the Discovery Centre. If you know of someone who has moved to the area recently please forward this on to them and encourage them to join their local Development Trust, we rely on members for feedback and for our mandate for action.

And finally Our 2018 – 2022 Community Plan is due an update and we'll be kicking off a survey and focus group meetings later in July so please keep an eye out for more info about this important opportunity to have your say on TGDT projects.

Dates for the diary

TGDT open meeting 3rd July 7pm Glenlivet Hall (moved from 26th June to accommodate the Screen Machine)

TGDT guided walks every Saturday 10am from the Discovery Centre

TGDT Digital Drop In 11th July 9 – 10am in person by appointment at the Discovery Centre, Tomintoul

TGDT Stall at Tomintoul Highland Games 20th July 2024, Public Park, Tomintoul