



PEEBLES COMMUNITY TRUST
HELPING THE COMMUNITY HELP THE COMMUNITY



Annual Report & Accounts 2022/23

Charity contact information

Your charity's name: Peebles Community Trust

Scottish Charity Number: SC050520

Address School Brae Hub, School Brae, Peebles

Postcode EH45 8AT

Telephone number 01721 728448

Email address admin@peeblescommunity.org

Website www.peeblescommunity.org

[Peebles Community Trust | Facebook](#)

[Peebles Community Trust \(@PeeblesTrust\) / Twitter](#)

Charity Trustees

Name all your charity trustees for the period, and the date they left if they were not in post for the whole year.

1. Michael Ireland
2. Andrew Wright
3. David Pye
4. Adrian Lucas
5. Susan Lawton
6. Myriam Baete
7. Malcolm Bruce
8. Scott Rae resigned 3 March 2023
9. Leslie Turnbull resigned 3 March 2023
10. Robina Hutton resigned 5 September 2023

Objectives and activities

Peebles Community Trust (PCT) was formed to benefit the community of Peebles, which comprises the area of the Community Council of The Royal Burgh of Peebles and District (the community), with the following objects to be exercised following the principles of sustainable development (where sustainable development means development which meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs).

- the company's main purpose is consistent with furthering the achievement of sustainable development. To manage community land and associated assets for the benefit of the community and public in general;
- to provide, or assist in providing, recreational facilities, and/or organising recreational activities, which will be available to members of the community and public at large with the object of improving the conditions of life of the community;
- to advance community development, including urban or rural regeneration within the community;

to advance the education of the community about its environment, culture, heritage and/or history; and

- to advance environmental protection or improvement including preservation, sustainable development and conservation of the natural environment, the maintenance, improvement or provision of environmental amenities for the community and/or the preservation of buildings or sites of architectural, historic or other importance to the community.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

PCT coordinates and provides a focal point for strategic direction for community action and development in Peebles and surrounding districts.

PCT leads and has taken forward and/or actively supported a number of key projects/initiatives:

- School Brae Hub
- Eshiels Community Wood
- Eddleston water Path and wider Links Path project
- Peebles Railway Heritage Project
- Digital Doings
- March St Mill allotments

PCT provides ongoing and some expanded support to 5 community organisations in Peebles and surrounding districts (this support takes many forms and includes, administrative assistance, handling funds and banking).

Cycling without Age, Peeblesshire Paths Group, Peebles Salmon Anglers Club, Floral Peebles (formerly Bonnie Peebles Plus), Peebles Youth Voice

This year we have seen new activity/ initiatives.

School Brae Hub

With the assistance of Colliers (project managers) we finalised the master plan for the refurbishment of the School Brae Hub.

Funding was gratefully received from Local Energy Scotland (CARES), South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE), and a number of Scottish Borders Council funds.

The following works were achieved during the year:

- A new front entrance door and shutter.
- Construct an access ramp.
- Construction of an accessible toilet.
- Upgrade of our electrical connection.
- Removal of asbestos panels in the condemned gas boiler cupboards and stairs
- With the financial help of the Men's Shed we replaced flooring that were affected by rot

We were not able to finalise the installation of air source heat pumps as we were not successful in securing all of the funding needed to install the internal ventilation and heating distribution.

The PCT Board is currently working to refine and review a long-term vision and strategy for the School Brae Hub.

Anchor Tenants

The Peebles and District Men's Shed and the Peace and Justice Group remained tenants. Both groups are thriving.

Reuse Hub

The Reuse Hub has continued operations during the year. The income helps PCT to cover energy, insurance, supply match funding to this year's construction and necessary repairs of the building's fragile structure.

March Street Mill

The site has been sold to Whiteburn Ltd. During the year we maintained a dialogue with them, with a particular emphasis on supporting the garden allotments association in their discussions with Whiteburn over the continuation of the allotments as part of the overall development..

Town Action Plan 2022 (Peebles Place Plan)

A town team has finalised the draft Peebles Place Plan during the year. The next step will be to appoint consultants to review and suggest final editing before publication.

PROJECT OVERVIEWS

Successful grant income has supported the following projects:

Eddleston Water Path- the path was opened by Sir Hew Strachan, Lord Lieutenant Tweeddale and our Chair, Michael Ireland on Saturday 27 June 2023.

This exciting project demonstrates successful partnership working- various bodies PCT, Tweed Forum, Scottish Borders Council, South of Scotland Enterprise, and Sustrans who also are supporting the wider Links path project which is looking at travel methods around Peebles and infrastructure changes to support better walking and wheeling.

Links Path

This project was expanded to take a wider, more holistic scope after the initial community consultation to support active travel. We keep working on finding suitable funding sources.

Eshiels Community Woodland

The main aim of the management group is

- To maintain the wood in a safe condition.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity and the Moth in particular.
- Develop an income stream from the Wood.
- Develop the Wood in ways that add value to the Wood as a community asset commensurate with the other objectives.

Outcomes:

- Lampronia capitella population was sustained and PCT know how was widely disseminated. The opening up of the central portion has added light and greater diversity of ground flora.
- £515 was raised for Peebles Food Bank.
- While the wood has developed, the background Long term Management Plan, which would set the clear directions in a plan, only remained within touching distance of completion, despite the directions being agreed and established! Further while the assurance of PCT web site compatibility for mobile learning tool was achieved, the time for development was squeezed e.g. for the Long-Term Management Plan.

Challenges –

- The disappearance of the PCT Eshiels mail chimp list has complicated communication and advertising volunteers. Communication route challenges have resulted in hard work to re-establish these links (the mail chimp list was the history of our volunteering!) and stopped the Word of Moth Newsletter although this was partly because of personnel changes.
- The challenges of making technical plans – timber volumes, mapping
- January 2024, storms Isha & Jocelyn resulted in more remedial work than previous storms.

The management group works with 15 volunteers and they donate 30 hours each month.

Digital Doings

The Digital Doings' free assistance to the public on two mornings ended in April 2023 when the fund was used up. The volunteer helpers are very much missed.

Projects operating under the PCT Umbrella

Peeblesshire Paths Group

The Group maintains the Tweed Valley Rail Path (TVRP) between Peebles and Cardrona. We have 20 members and 12 members on a Whatsapp group. The tasks are mainly vegetation management and liaison with Scottish Borders Council re their contribution. We also report issues to the SBC to improve the safety and accessibility of the path. This is ongoing year to year.

Eddleston Water Path (EWP) is open and our intention is to help with the maintenance of this too. Awaiting input from the SBC re their maintenance schedule.

We have done a good job in maintaining the TVRP to a safe and accessible state. Servicing of our tools has been done by Tweedside Garden Machinery. Our tools are stored in a shed courtesy of Lawrie Hayworth.

It will be necessary to try to recruit more volunteers in 2024 and improve reporting of issues to SBC or other relevant bodies.

From Jan to Dec 2023, 91hrs 30min were logged. There was no work on the path in Jan, Feb and Sept so average hrs per month on the path were approximately 10 hrs.

Cycling without Age

We continue to provide free of charge rides on our trishaw and wheelchair bikes in the Peebles community to allow people who otherwise have limited access to outdoors the opportunity to get outside. We work primarily with Care Homes Dovecot, Riverside, Tweedgreen along with RVS and Dementia Friendly Society. 2024 we hope to increase the availability of our rides to include people who maybe more socially isolated and at home. We have 15 active volunteers. We plan to recruit more volunteers and currently seeking funding for an additional trishaw. All volunteer time is given freely, no salaries or expenses are received by any volunteer.

Our challenges, like most charities is finding further active volunteers and of course funding. We will be working hard to get our service out to a wider audience. We are often met with words like 'I did not know about your service', 'how much does it cost to book a ride'.

Floral Peebles (formerly Bonnie Peebles Plus)

Our main aim is to create floral displays involving the community of the town.

During 2023 our objective was to create a display for the UCI world championships.

Also to create a display as a poppy tribute to the soldiers who did during a war.

During the year we also include Interest Link Borders (vulnerable members) within our schedule.

All this was achieved along with the work on ongoing floral displays. All displays were very successful and much admired throughout the town. We pride ourselves that we have contributed to greater public awareness.

We also decided to change the name from Bonnie Peebles Plus to Floral Peebles.

Peebles Youth Voice

The Group has set the following strategic priorities in support of its vision that Peebles be a place where all young people thrive, have a positive engagement with and in the community and are encouraged and enabled to fulfil their potential:

- Multiple points of listening to what young people have to say.
- Publicity, lobbying and "bridge building".
- Engagement with/participation of all organisations which share the PYV vision.
- Sustainable funding model prepared and secured.
- A dedicated safe place(s) for youth, open each day.
- Ensuring pathways and opportunities are provided for less academically inclined young people.
- Seek to make youth activities in Peebles accessible to all.

Over the next year the Group will continue initiatives already launched and new ones aimed at supporting these objectives, with a strong emphasis upon improving our reach to young people

and understanding/helping fulfil their needs and speaking upon their behalf in and to the wider community.

Peebles Youth Voice only came together at the end of 2022 and so 2023 was very much a formative year. A regular meeting drumbeat has been established with networking between the various participant members/organisations progressing well. Peebles Youth Voice has begun to be known in the wider community and contacted in connection with Peebles youth issues.

Some initial objectives were set following a workshop session with some young folk and the following achievements are worthy of mention

- Approval of and funding obtained for the erection of a teen shelter in Victoria Park.
- The successful launch of teen events at the Eastgate Theatre, showing films and holding band nights with performances by young bands.

In addition, initiatives by individual organisations – for example, young people Costa Coffee events by the police and the launch of regular HUBs for young people at the High School by Social Care – were given support.

Challenges included the following:

- Funding to deliver the needs and opportunities which are identified
- Available time and resource to support initiatives and make them happen.
- Engaging as much as we would like with and hearing opinions from a wide range of the young people community.
- Communication with the community concerning who we are and what we are about.

Peebles Youth Voice has 10 participant organisations. Some attendees are volunteers, and some are paid staff. Several organisations participating in Peebles Youth Voice have a focus on vulnerable young people. Opportunities to help them cover a wide spectrum, from practical learning for the less academically inclined to assistance with mental wellbeing.

Peebles Salmon Anglers

The Club had a successful year in 2022 with an around average catch all of which were returned safely. They experienced an increase in demand for permits and at their AGM voted to increase the number available to 40 which we believe is the maximum number the beat can support.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Articles of Association

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees are appointed by election and co-option. One trustee is appointed by the Peebles Community Trust.

Financial review

Following on from the last accounts PCT has been successful in attracting significant levels of funding for various projects allowing us to support greater activity and greater community capacity.

September 2023 saw the end of financial year and our second year for charitable reporting. Our total income amounted to £2.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves are set at 3 months of expenditure.

Details of any deficit

No deficits.

Donated facilities and services

PCT has received pro bono services in connection with the planned refurbishment masterplan. The ReUse Hub benefits from the services of 17 volunteers who work on a rota system to man the sales floor and process the donations.

Future plans

The Board of PCT is commencing a fundamental review of the organisation's vision and strategy to ensure it has clarity on its future direction and participation in future projects and activities.

We aim to be a self-sustaining and financially secure organisation and further work needs to be done to ensure this is the case.

We also recognise we need to have the necessary management experience and resource to provide the necessary oversight for the PCT and its increasing range of activities.

The PCT directors are being supported in their strategy work by DTAS and other external expert bodies as necessary and this will consider various factors including structure, tax, resources, governance, funding and our role in supporting and delivering the community development priorities.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Print name

MICHAEL IRELAND

Designation

Chair, Peebles Community Trust

Date