



## ACSR AGM 2021 – Chair’s Report

Good evening.

It is good to once again be able to welcome everyone in person to our 2021 AGM and Open Meeting.

A year ago, due to the pandemic, and similar with other Clubs and organisations, ACSR Trustees were on a ‘steep learning curve’ as we strived to become more competent with online Meetings via Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

ACSR Annual Report and Accounts are available on our website and give an overall picture of the work of our Charity between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. There are also few printed copies available at the back of the room, with my Report giving a little more detail on our achievements over the past year.

Obviously Covid has had a huge impact, with Trustee Meetings going online and no ‘face to face’ meetings until July this year. Whilst this allowed us to continue with the governance of ACSR, it obviously had limitations, especially as we welcomed three new Trustees: June Ellen, Frank McGaffney & Sheena Munro, bringing the Board back up to our full complement of nine Trustees.

One of the outcomes from our Strategic Planning Meeting in March 2020, was to investigate funding for a fulltime post for a Development Manager for ACSR. In July an application was submitted to the National Lotteries Community Fund and in September we were delighted to receive an Award of over £100,000 to fund the post for three years. Gemma Simpson, (Community Sports Hub Officer), Derek Robertson and Jane McNicol, (MacNabs Solicitors) assisted the Trustees with recruitment for the post. This followed the usual HR process of advert, application, shortlist, interview, selection, summary report and appointment made. All this was achieved through various degrees of lockdown with Tim coming into post on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Following a successful six-month probationary period Tim was confirmed as ACSR DM in June this year. Once again COVID restrictions and lockdowns played a significant part as Tim settled into his new job which would normally have involved meeting a lot of different groups from across our community. Initially Tim worked from home, with regular online discussions, supported by a 100 Day Work Plan, and when allowed, travelling to Auchterarder to get to know a little more about our community. Tim’s appointment has made a huge difference to the management of our Charity and is our major achievement for this year. He is now getting his head around the workings of PKC and manages to keep a cool head, even if others, including myself, become extremely frustrated with the lack of progress, procedures and paperwork linked with the Park Redevelopment Project.

One of the other outcomes from March 2020, was for ACSR to improve our online communication. ACSR website is now fully established, with regular posts on Facebook and in Living Local Magazine. In addition, the Auchterarder Core Paths WG post regular updates on Facebook with photos showing volunteers working on maintaining the Core Paths. Whilst this was curtailed during lockdown, some ‘socially distanced’ tasks were possible as restrictions were relaxed. Auchterarder Core Paths network proved a huge benefit for our community throughout the pandemic, as travel restrictions resulted in many



of our newer residents discovering them for the first time. A 2014 Sport & Physical Activity Survey highlighted the need better for walking, running, and cycling paths within the local area and the Core Paths WG are to be congratulated on the success of developing, expanding, upgrading and maintaining our local paths.

The refurbished Community Area within Auchterarder Primrose FC Pavilion (APFC), has also proved to be an asset during the pandemic providing an alternative venue for the Rainbows, Slimming World, and a work base for Tim. A Covid Risk Assessment was carried out in addition to establishing a regular cleaning schedule allowed the groups to be active whenever restrictions allowed. A grant from the Energy Saving Trust enabled us to install double glazing and a new front door, with pull down shutter. In partnership with APFC, ACSR share the maintenance costs of the building from money raised from the Sponsors Ladder on the side of the building.

Increasing participation in sport and active recreation continues to be a primary aim for ACSR, but during this year this has been restricted to outdoor venues and facilities which continues to be an ongoing problem. ACSR Community Cycling Project continues to be in abeyance, however, plans for the MBT in the Park are progressing with Tim working with PKC to ensure progress is made before the end of this year. In addition, if regulations continue to relax, the Pavilion will be able to be developed as a Community Cycling Hub.

In June, ACSR former Sports Hub WG, made the decision to become independent of ACSR, becoming a SCIO to focus on the management and operation of the sports facilities at the Community School of Auchterarder and any future facilities located within the new housing developments. ACSR and A&D Community Sports Hub, will work in partnership to ensure that Auchterarder, as per Crieff & Kinross, has full access to local facilities for sport and physical recreation for all ages and abilities.

The AGM is also my opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved with ACSR during the past year.

- ✓ Our Board of Trustees, who give their time, skills, and commitment to ensure the management and good governance of ACSR.
- ✓ All the members and volunteers from our three Working Groups who continue to make things happen.
- ✓ Gemma Simpson, Community Sports Hub Officer & funded by sportscotland, who has advised ACSR on several major grant applications, in addition to supporting the recruitment and management of our DM and just being there to help.
- ✓ To local businesses and all who have offered their specialist skills at various times throughout the year.
- ✓ To Friends of St. Margaret's & A&D Community Trust for their continued support & patience.
- ✓ To Tim, as our first full time employee and DM, who has brought his skills, experience, energy, and 'cool head' to the overall management and development of our Charity.

However, there is one more person who I need to mention - Stuart Clark, who has been ACSR Treasurer, with overall responsibility for our Accounts, from when we applied to become a SCIO in 2018. Stuart has calmly guided ACSR through some challenging times, kept and recorded all our Accounts providing regular statements for the Board of Trustees. He has ensured that our Accounts are independently examined, produced, and submitted our Annual Report to OSCR and Company House as per regulations.



In addition, he has completed any financial information required for our many grant applications and ensured all Invoices are paid from ACSR online account. I think there may have also been some long waits on the phone to speak to various companies in relation to banking, energy bills and others.

In many ways 2020/21 has been challenging for all of us, but we should take time to celebrate our achievements of this past year and continue to work together to further develop the aims of ACSR.

Denise Jackson MBE.

27<sup>th</sup> September 2021



Achterarder Sports and Recreation is a charity registered in Scotland.  
Registered address: 11 Lundies Walk, Auchterarder, PH3 1BG.  
Charity Number: SC048490

