



Chair of ACSR Trustees Report for AGM on 30th September 2020

As you will see from our Financial Statement, 2019/20 has been a busy and challenging year for ACSR, which all ended very abruptly with a lockdown due to the pandemic.

Throughout the year, the Board of Trustees met bi-monthly, in addition, several Trustees attended Meetings and supported activities for each of our three Working Groups. ACSR also facilitated two Community Forums and a Community Consultation, in response to Live Active Leisure's decision to withdraw from managing the sports facilities within the Community School of Auchterarder.

On 11th March 2020-25 ACSR held a Strategic Planning Meeting. This was an opportunity for representatives from all three Working Groups to review 2019/20 projects and to present plans for potential projects to be developed over the next 3-5 years. Gemma Simpson, our Community Sports Hub Officer, Lead the Meeting, noting all feedback which would be used to prepare a 3/5 Year Development Plan from ACSR, which was scheduled to be proposed and adopted at this Annual Meeting.

Document 1: 'ACSR Journey from 2012'

The lockdown resulted in these plans, along with all other ACSR projects going into abeyance and the early closure of the Sports Hub.

However, one of the outcomes of the Meeting was to investigate funding for a full or part time post as a Business & Project Development Manager/Officer. This would be to support ACSR Trustees and Working Groups, in addition to providing help and advice to other community projects and organisations.

Document 2: Revised Structure of ACSR illustrates how this role will help consolidate and then build on our achievements to further support the development for sport and active recreation, for all ages and abilities, within our rapidly growing community. It should be noted that, to date, there are no dedicated children's play areas in Robertson, Stuart Milne or Muir housing developments.

ACSR application process started with an initial discussion with Amy Maclaren, Funding Officer, from the National Lotteries Community Fund. Amy listened to our project and agreed that our application to fund a position for a Business & Project Development Officer for ACSR, would fit Communities Fund criteria and outcomes.

After a second discussion via Team, a full application, with supporting documentation, was submitted in July. Following another telephone Interview in August, Amy presented ACSR Application on 10th September 2020 for 'Decision'. On Monday 14th September, we received an email to confirm that ACSR had been awarded 100% funding (£104,150) for a 3 year full time post, for a Business & Project Development Officer. This we have accepted and with guidance from Amy, who will now become our Funding Officer, ACSR will start the process of confirming and advertising the Job Description, with an estimated start date mid - January 2021.

This is a significant investment in ACSR and for our community and I would like to acknowledge the help and support that Gemma Simpson as given throughout this whole process.

Gemma came into post as our new Community Sports Hub Officer on 20th October and was thrown in the 'deep end' as The Sports Hub only opened on 19th October. It was a steep learning curve with Gemma supporting the Sport Hub WG, as they formalised the structure of the group and worked with November Fitness & Coaching Ltd (NF&C) who were contracted to manage and operate the sports facilities at the Community School. The success of The Sports Hub, particularly over the winter monthly, clearly demonstrated the need for Auchterarder and surrounding area, to have access to these dedicated sports facilities at evenings, weekends and during school holidays. My sincere thanks to all involved.

Gemma, in her role of Community Sports Hub Officer, will support all development for sport and active recreation across our community linking up with all schools, Clubs and organisations.

ACSR continued to benefit from the support of local organisations, charities, and businesses who have provided financial, practical and professional services ensuring the success of several projects during the year.

From **'ACSR Journey from 2012'** you will see that it is the work of volunteers that have 'grown' ACSR to what it is today

Our Board of Trustees, in their various roles committed a significant number of hours ensuring the good governance and financial integrity of the Charity. The Members, supporters and partners of The Sports Hub, the Core Paths Volunteers and Parks & Community Green Spaces WG have all given their time, skills, and energy to ensure the success of projects and continue to plan for the future.

The upgraded and extended network of Core Paths have clearly demonstrated their value during these challenging times and especially for many of our newer residents. Recent evidence has shown that one of the consequences of the pandemic, is the decrease in numbers participating in formal sports and an increase in those participating in physical activities.

However, it should also be noted that to date, there are no dedicated play or recreational space provided within the Muir, Robertson, or Milne housing developments?

As Auchterarder continues to expand and our population increases, it will be important that ACSR continues to be a strong 'voice' within our community and are able to reflect these changes as we move forward and hopefully out of the current CV-19 restrictions.

Once again, thanking everyone for their help and support throughout this year.

Denise Jackson MBE

Chair of Trustees

Auchterarder Community Sport & Recreation

SCIO 048490.

30th September 2020.