

Peebles Community Trust – AGM board elections and volunteering opportunities

Joining the Board and/or Steering Group of the PCT

Board positions: We are now seeking nominations for new Board members. Please contact the Secretary for nomination forms (PCT secretary – Myriam Baete, 01721 729839; myriam@PeeblesCommunity.org).

The PCT is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, and its operation is covered by The Companies Act 2006 and the specific Articles of Association of the PCT Ltd. These require that the company has a minimum of three company directors (maximum nine), elected annually by PCT members. Up to five Directors can be elected by members each year for a term of one year; one Director position is reserved for a nominated Community Councillor; up to three Directors can be co-opted. Directors can present themselves for re-election, but cannot hold the post for more than two consecutive years without a break.

The current Board has four directors – **David Pye, John Swanson, Myriam Baete** (Company Secretary), and **Crick Carleton** – each of whom has served two consecutive terms, and are not available for re-election.

After 5 years intensive contributions to the management of the PCT, Myriam Baete and Crick Carleton are stepping back from both their positions and roles on the Board and on the Steering Group.

Steering Group positions: The day-to-day work of the PCT is managed by a Steering Group.

There are no hard and fast rules over who can be on the Steering Group; the main criteria are a combination of enthusiasm, interest and skills. It is also expected that the management groups of each of the projects and initiatives of the PCT is represented on the Steering Group.

We are actively canvassing for volunteers to join Working Groups to take forward:

- the business network project
- the co-working space project
- the redevelopment of all or part of the March Street Mills site
- the town Team – securing funding for a paid facilitator and anchor person, plus rental of office premises
- the Whole Town Master Plan
- the Town Action Plan.

Please contact the PCT Secretary if any of these are of interest.

The role of volunteers in PCT operations

The PCT has achieved much in its short existence, but it is at a stage where to take forward its Work Programme it is going to require more hands-on support from members. There are many and varied opportunities to assist – whether taking responsibility for maintenance of the membership list or posting information to its Facebook page, joining the Working Group for a project or initiative of particular interest to you, or contributing to decision-making as a member of the PCT Steering Group, or as a director of the not-for-profit PCT Ltd.

The graphic overleaf shows the structure and current activities of the PCT. We have an active Board and Steering Group, but some members are stepping back at the forthcoming AGM and it is important that others take their places, plus we also need to add to the skills base of these



funding received to date:

- £8k to administration – £5k start-up funding in 2012/13 – equipment, consultation, website; £3k community engagement 2015/16
- £7k, 2015/16, for editor to draft the Town Action Plan (£5k) and the 1st stage draft Master Plan (£2k)
- total of £33k to hire-in professional services for specific projects – business plan for woodfuel group (£8k), 2015/16; business plan & valuation for Esheils woodland group (£5k), 2018; viability assessment and valuation and legal services for acquisition of parts of the March Street Mills site (£22k), 2017/18

governance bodies and support a process of ongoing renewal. We are particularly keen to encourage younger volunteers and enthusiasts to the PCT. That doesn't just mean people in their middle ages, but people in their twenties and thirties – the age groups that form the target beneficiaries for many of the projects and initiatives of the PCT.

As matters stand we have very active groups behind some of our projects (the wood groups and the March Street Mill¹ allotments), but less so for others (the project for acquisition and redevelopment of some of the buildings on the March Street Mills site, and the project for development of a supported co-working space for small businesses; this despite broad community support for these initiatives). Whilst project working groups take most of the strain on these projects, they still need to be supported by the basic administrative functions of the PCT. We struggle to keep up with some of the more crucial underlying functions of the PCT – communication (updating website and Facebook page), membership, funding and book-keeping. Inputs need not be significant, but they do make a difference, so please think about volunteering.

In terms of guiding the strategic direction of the Trust, we have done very well with early community engagement exercises which contributed to the development of the Peebles Town Action Plan and a start on the Whole Town Master Plan. But we need more “push” to actually translate these plans into actions and outcomes – we need more hands-on input. So if you have particular interest in any elements in this grouping of activities, volunteer to join the Working Group for that activity.

The big message is – if you have a particular interest in the work of the PCT (or one of its projects) and are willing to contribute some time and energy to the cause, big or small, please talk to us (PCT secretary – Myriam Baete, 01721 729839; myriam@PeeblesCommunity.org).

The current composition of the Steering Group is as follows:

name	skills set	PCT focus
David Pye, Board member (acting chair)	business development / financial advise	strategy / MMM re-development (rep)
Myriam Baete, Board member (Secretary)	business development / company administration	administration
Crick Carleton, Board member (acting coordinator)	sustainability / development planning	strategy / co-working space (rep)
John Swanson, Board member	volunteering / all things to do with Peebles	third sector / project grounding
Steve Dube	writer / editor / sustainability	sustainability / allotments
Lawrie Hayworth	third sector mentor & entrepreneur	sustainability & economic development
Mike Boyd	digital technology / entrepreneurship	co-working space / business network

¹ March Street Mill – abbreviated to MMM elsewhere in this document

Joe Wilton	sustainability / environment	wood fuel & Eshiels Woodland (rep)
Ian Mewett	community development	MMM allotments (rep)
Ross Lowe	community / business development	re-development of MMM site
Ruth Noble (observer)	youth training / environment	woodland projects
Anna Lawrence (observer)	forestry / sustainability	Eshiels woodland