AUTUMN 2017

BCIC Newsletter

BARRHILL COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Summer turns to Autumn

It's not going to be long before the wind rises and the air is wild with leaves. Summer didn't really arrive for Barrhill this year, but regardless of the weather the BCIC is approaching the third quarter of 2017 with great enthusiasm and hope for the future. New opportunities and fresh challenges face our community. We hope each and every one of you is going to join us on this exciting journey. Remember—you all have an equal voice in the decision-making. Together we can achieve so much. To quote Henry Ford *'Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success'.*

BCIC Chairman unveils plans to revolutionise Barrhill's future

If you didn't make it along to the AGM in August then you missed a great evening. With well over three times as many people attending compared to last year, the Chairman Simon Redman shared details of how the BCIC is going to change the way we approach future projects with the appointment of a Community Development Officer (CDO).

This individual will be brought on board to drive community projects forward, work alongside neighbouring communities and bring our hopes and dreams alive through aspirational and results-focused planning. Answerable to the community and reporting directly into the BCIC Board of Directors, the CDO will maximise the way we spend our money and steer our community in innovative and exciting new ways for many years to come.

Our Board of Directors will need all the help they can get—so if you're interested in getting involved and supporting the CDO and future projects please get in touch.

A BIG welcome to three new BCIC Directors

Voted for and appointed by the Community—we are proud to welcome Pearl McGibbon, Pauline Hewitt and Fionnadh Ratchford to the BCIC Board. This means there are now nine Directors currently working on a completely voluntary basis for the benefit of the whole community. As the Chairman Simon Redman said at the AGM 'Individuals don't have to wait until the AGM to raise questions, ideas or requests. These can and should be forwarded to the BCIC at any time of the year, either in person or via the BCIC email: bcicbarrhill@yahoo.co.uk—the BCIC Board only represents you—its *your* BCIC'.

You spoke—the Board LISTENED

There was lively discussion at the BCIC AGM with those present putting forward some really great ideas on how we can improve our community. From running tracks around the perimeter of Arnsheen Park, new benches, dog bag dispensers, raised plant beds on the spare ground between the Community Car Park and the school, to grates to stop dogs entering the Park.

The Board was delighted to see such a great turnout for this important meeting. For a 'quiet' year with no large projects undertaken, Chairman Simon Redman was surprised when he saw just how much had been achieved and welcomed the opportunity to reflect on the many successes of the past twelve months.

Fionnadh Ratchford gave an introduction to 'future projects' and summed up Barrhill as 'full of golden opportunities'.

Three Directors stood down in the past few months and Simon took the opportunity to thank Angela Blackstock, Philp Porter and Euan Allan for all their dedication and hard work during their tenure.

Special mention was made once again to Annie Clarke for her continued hard work and commitment to brighten up our village. Annie keeps the village bedecked with flowers and plants, for which the community is extremely grateful.

A sign of the times

Before

After

A stunning renovation undertaken for Barrhill by Jamie McDonald, Signwriter. This is only the second signpost transformation Jamie has worked on; his skill in restoration shines through. What was a very sad and neglected Victorian signpost is now standing tall and proud, having been restored to its former glory.

As always, the BCIC has its eye on the past as well as the future and the investment made in preserving this unique artefact ensures that not only are these features retained in Barrhill for today but cherished and maintained for generations to come.

Highlights of the past 12 months

£19,500 spent on 129 Winter Fuel payments

£844.00 spent on Educational Bursaries

A pledge made of up to £300,000 towards Memorial Hall renovations

New mower, shed, scarifier and midge machines purchased for Bowling Club £10,800

More accessible access route Created to Martyrs' Tomb

New Staging purchased for Primary School £5,371.03

Two new gardeners contracted for village

Tables, cards and tickets purchased for the Whist Club £1,066.00

70 trees planted at Arnsheen Park—with another 60 to follow this autumn

Village cast-iron signpost renovated £268.45

Trip to Kelburn Castle by Primary School pupils £437.00

Ask us about the FREE Mini-bus hire available through the BCIC for any group of people, club or organisation in Barrhill!

I would just like to say a very BIG thank you for the TV/DVD the BCIC donated to the Fun Day special raffle.

Many thanks once again,

Helen Allan

Secretary BMHCA

On behalf of Barrhill Bowling Club, please accept our thanks for the grant for the new machine for the green, the shed to house it, and 2 new midge machines. The new equipment will help bring the green back to a high standard for bowling, and further increase membership. This year has seen membership double with more villagers showing an interest for next year.

David McCutcheon—President

Our future - beyond the turbines

Barrhill is in an incredibly fortunate position due to windfarm community benefits. Over the last few years, we've been spending these monies on a number of projects and made great progress addressing issues important to our community.

This progress continues as we help to fund Barrhill Memorial Hall's renovations. What we'd like to do now is look to the future. We have a large amount of data and consultation feedback and we want to turn this into further concrete action.

The challenge now facing us is to translate strategic plans into more detailed proposals for action. Our next step on this journey is to appoint a Community Development Officer to enable Barrhill's plans to further develop.

This new post will enable us to listen, communicate and inspire; to address strategic objectives; to produce plans that will deliver visible results and meaningful improvements in the area; to develop assets and new funding streams. Through this, we hope to secure the future of Barrhill as we look beyond the turbines.

Fionnadh Ratchford, BCIC Director

Feeding their imagination

Our primary school children enjoyed a great day out at Kelburn Castle recently, all thanks to BCIC sponsorship. Originally built in the thirteenth century, Kelburn Castle is one of the oldest castles in Scotland and has been continuously inhabited by the same family for longer than any other. As you can see from these photographs a great day was had by all. The BCIC was thanked by Barrhill Primary School for their continued support.

Thanks and appreciation

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks and appreciation to Scottish Power Renewables, without whose financial support Barrhill would not have a community benefit fund to help finance so many worthwhile projects.

SCOTTISHPOWER RENEWABLES

Autumn Fun in Barrhill

Barrhill Bowling Club

Fun at The Green

RAFFLE

Sunday 10th September

1:45pm for a 2pm start

£2 person to play which includes refreshments

All ages and abilities welcome

Please come and join us for some fun games on the green including Target Bowling and 'Bowl for the Bottle'

Please wear flat soled shoes

Fireworks

SATURDAY

4TH NOVEMBER 2017

ARNSHEEN PARK, BARRHILL

Display 6.00pm

Gates open 5.00pm for Guy Fawkes Competition
Barrhill residents only
Rules from bcicbarrhill@yahoo.co..uk

Strictly no alcohol, dogs or personal fireworks please

BUILD A GUY FAWKES

Great prizes - so get stuffing!

JOIN US ON SATURDAY 4TH OF NOVEMBER

1st Prize - £50

2nd Prize - £25

3rd Prize - £15

Arnsheen Park, Barrhill

FREE ENTRY

Judging starts 5.30pm

Competition only open to Barrhill Residents

Find us on Facebook

Rules from The Shop, Barrhill, email: bcicbarrhill@yahoo.co.uk or Facebook page

Barrhill Community Interest Company

Chairman—Simon Redman
Vice Chairman—Gavin Hughes
Treasurer—Mark Bradshaw
Directors - David Russell, Johnnie Thomson, Sarah Malone, Fionnadh Ratchford, Pearl McGibbon, Pauline Hewitt

Contact us on: bcicbarrhill@yahoo.co.uk

New

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