**TRUSTEES’ ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

The trustees present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner’s report for the year ended 30 June 2024.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Charity Name: Largo Communities Together

Charity Number SC048447

Principal Address:

7 Lundin Square

Lundin Links

Leven

KY8 6BH

Website address: www.largocommunitiestogether.org.uk/

**Current Trustees:**

Member Trustees:

Louise Robb Chair joined as Trustee 11/06/2018

Stan Green Vice Chair joined as Trustee 11/06/2018

Nora Conlin Secretary joined as Trustee 23/04/2019

Stuart Kerr Treasurer joined as Trustee 28/08/2023

Emily Macdonald joined as Trustee 11/06/2018

James Simpson joined as Trustee 26/11/2018

Jan Kerr joined as Trustee 09/11/2020

Jill Miller joined as Trustee 09/11/2020

Alistair Brown joined as Trustee 17/01/2022

Andy Duff joined as Trustee 17/01/2022

JP Easton joined as Trustee 26/02/2024

Co-opted trustees

Tommy Brown joined as Trustee 28/08/2023

Carol Duff joined as Trustee 28/08/2023

Other Trustees who served during the year:

N/A

Bankers:

Bank of Scotland plc

The Direct Business (802260)

PO Box 1000

BX2 1LB

Independent Examiner:

Graham Rodger

Charles Burrows & Co.

7 Palmerston Place

Edinburgh

EH12 5AH

**STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing Document:**

Largo Communities Together (“LCT”) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) incorporated on 11 June 2018 and governed by its constitution from the same date. The constitution was amended, and additional purposes added on 09 November 2020.

**Appointment of Trustees**

The constitution provides for a minimum of ten and a maximum of thirteen trustees consisting of:

* Up to eleven trustees who are members of the SCIO (“Member Trustees”); and
* Up to three trustees who are not members of the CIO (“Co-opted Trustees”), appointed by the Member Trustees.

Member Trustees are appointed at the AGM and/or at other times. At all times, the Member Trustees must be in the majority.

**Organisational Structure**

Membership of the CIO consists of:

* Ordinary membership which is open to any individual over the age of 16, ordinarily resident in the community,
* Associate membership which is open to any individual over the age of 16, not ordinarily resident in the community, and
* Junior membership which is open to any individual between the ages of 12 and 15, whether or not ordinarily resident in the community,

who support the objects and activities of the SCIO. Associate members and junior members do not have the power to vote at, and are not counted in determining the quorum for, members’ meetings.

Membership at the year-end was:

**2024**  **2023**

**Full Members**  **353 355**

**Associate Members**   **42 44**

**Junior Members**  **3**  **3**

**398 402**

**OBJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

The charity’s purposes are to benefit principally the residents living within the boundary of Largo Area Community Council (‘the Community’) with the following objects:

* The advancement of community development (including the advancement of rural regeneration).
* The advancement of arts, heritage, culture or science.
* The provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended.
* The advancement of health.
* The advancement of environmental protection.
* The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship, or other disadvantage.

**ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE**

LCT finalised the Local Place Plan (LPP) in December 2023 and submitted it to Fife Council. The Community Action Plan was discussed at the AGM in November 2023 and priority projects agreed. This year trustees have held quarterly strategy meetings to ensure our activities reflect LCT’s purpose and values and focus on priority projects in the Community Action Plan. This work will continue and will ensure that LCT remains focused on building a thriving community whilst staying true to our core values of being inclusive, enabling and compassionate with integrity.

Largo Area Community Resilience Team - We coordinated the Big Picnic, held on the common, in June to tie-in with the opening of the Levenmouth Railway Link. It was a great day, helped by the good weather, with community groups networking and making useful contacts and new volunteers recruited. We have been working to ensure our villages are Dementia Friendly and have held a series of community events and training to raise awareness and understanding.

Largo Links (community magazine) - This is a priority project of LCT and this amazing publication continues to be distributed quarterly and delivered free of charge to every home in the community. Largo Links contains local news stories, details of local events and services, and is sponsored by local businesses. It is a great way of communicating with our residents and of keeping everyone involved in local activities.

Largo Pier Restoration – A community meeting was held in October 2024 to say thank you to all who have supported this project over its 6-year life, to share the story of the total funds raised and how they have been spent, and to explain why the current project has been concluded due to the challenging grant funding climate and due to escalating costs associated with the restoration. After careful consideration, the Largo Pier Group has made the difficult decision to step back from the project. If another benefactor were to be forthcoming, then the Pier Group members could advise and support. Plans and documentation are available to RIBA Stage 2 and are owned by LCT. The Chair of LCT thanks the Pier Group for their very considerable work on the project.

Assets and Access – this subgroup supports LCT projects involving land and property. Our team has expertise in local history, property development and community ownership.  Projects include expanding the local path network, community housing and developing our buildings. We will work to ensure local developments are aligned to the needs of the community as articulated in the Local Place Plan.  In 2024, our focus has been on investigating the ownership of various parcels of land within our community, developing the path network to provide safe and accessible walking and cycling routes between our villages, and delivering community housing within local developments.  If you would like to get involved, please email: [arduff@largocommunitiestogether.org.uk](mailto:arduff@largocommunitiestogether.org.uk)

Marketing and Communications – A Marketing and Communication Plan for LCT and its constituent sub-groups was drawn up and issued earlier in the year. We continue to update this in the light of changing circumstances and to improve all aspects of the quality of communication made to our community. This covers our website, our social media presence, our quarterly information publication and all other methods of interfacing with all our residents.

Equity and Inclusion – This year work continued on plans to build a Changing Places Toilet (CPT), an accessible toilet, and a storage room for beach wheelchairs in Temple carpark, Lower Largo. The project is a partnership between LCT, Fife Council and Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. Construction work is expected to start in 2025. Considerable funds have been raised for Largo Beach Wheelchairs, including a generous donation of £30,000 plus Gift Aid, to purchase a motorised beach wheelchair. Investigations are ongoing with Fife Council to consider the possibility of using the Serpentine Walk as a Core Path for a future active travel route. However, several issues have been identified, and alternative solutions are being considered. The Rollercoasters mobility scooter group continues to meet regularly and the number of members going out for a roll continues to grow. In late 2024, the group will feature on Scotland Outdoors, BBC Radio Scotland’s programme. We continue to support the Lower Largo Friendship Group, which is going from strength to strength. The group is receiving support from the Paxton Centre’s young Activities Coordinator, and it's been a pleasure to see the group members enjoying the activities she has organised.

Friends of Largo Bay - This subgroup supports the conservation and enhancement of Largo Bay through organised events and community engagement. Our volunteers run focus groups targeting art and education, biodiversity monitoring and environmental action. Activities during this year included the celebration of the dog whelk as part of the Edinburgh Shoreline 100 Species Project, outdoor learning sessions with local primary schools, continued work on a biodiversity monitoring project for Largo Bay, creating a species library, exploring seagrass possibilities, acquiring rock pooling kit and conducting regular community beach cleans. A beach litter survey is conducted during the beach cleaning sessions with all data reported to the Marine Conservation Society. We have run a series of Science Saturday events at the library, introducing local children to key biodiversity topics through fun activities.

Key achievements in our sixth year of operations:

1. Quarterly strategic board sessions to clarify purpose, values and how we operate.
2. Local Place Plan submitted to Fife Council and priority projects from our Community Action Plan identified and started.
3. Largo Area Community Resilience Team – successful big picnic, Dementia Friendly community project, strengthened community resilience framework, and renewed focus. Co-ordination and delivery of Warm spaces for community to meet, eat and talk together in the villages.
4. Four issues of Largo Links magazine distributed to every home.
5. Largo Pier – After careful consideration, the current project has been concluded due to the challenging grant funding climate and escalating restoration costs.
6. Assets and Access – investigations on land ownership, potential for affordable housing and accessible pathways within our community.
7. Marketing and communications plan implemented.
8. Changing Places Toilet and beach wheelchair projects making progress and substantial funding raised.
9. Friends of Largo Bay – volunteers have delivered art and education, biodiversity monitoring and environmental action, including regular beach cleans.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Overview**

Our main sources of income continue to be grants, donations and Largo Links magazine. LCT is very grateful for financial support from Coalfields Regeneration, Crown Estates, DTAS, Fife Communities Climate Action Network, Fife Council, Largo Parish Church, Levenmouth Reconnected Programme and the University of St. Andrews. LCT thanks the community for their support for Friends of Largo Bay, the Largo Pier Renovation project and for their input into the Local Place Plan. Local residents and businesses have also been very supportive of the Largo Links community magazine.

A summary of key grants and donations are as follows:

**2024**

**£**

Coalfields Regeneration (beach wheelchairs) 3,924

Crown Estates (Seaweed Farm Feasibility) 2,366

DTAS (Strengthening Communities Programme) 28,692

Fife Communities Climate Action Network 1,000

Fife Council (Local Community Planning Budget) 4,320

Fife Council (Largo Friendship Group) 10,000

Largo Parish Church (beach wheelchairs) 1,000

Levenmouth Reconnected Programme (Largo Pier) 4,640

University of St Andrews (beach wheelchairs) 1,478

Beach wheelchairs 1,127

**58,547**

The majority of funds raised to date have been spent on employment costs, specific projects, community consultation and communication.

LCT is in a stable financial position and is a going concern for the future.

A summary of our income and expenditure for the year is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2024** | **2023** |
| Receipts | 69,225 | £52,595 |
| Payments | 57,348 | £52,347 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the year | 11,877 | £ 248 |

**Reserves Policy**

The trustees do not undertake projects until funds are available. They consider around £3,000 to be an appropriate level of reserves to hold to meet at least six months of ongoing and known upcoming costs. Reserves (unrestricted funds) at the year-end were £3,949 (£4,301), which is in line with the target range.

**FUTURE PLANS**

Our plans for 2024/25 include:

* Raising funds to cover day to day running costs and priority community projects;
* Delivering priority projects from the Community Action Plan;
* Strengthening links with the Largo Area Community Council and other local groups;
* Supporting the Assets and Access subgroup to secure key land and buildings, accessible pathways and affordable homes for our community, and
* Focusing on activities that build a thriving community whilst staying true to our core values of being inclusive, enabling and compassionate with integrity.

**APPROVAL**

This report was approved by the trustees on 25th November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

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**Louise Robb**

Chair