

Stage 1 Portpatrick Community Development Trust – Redacted Representations Received

PCDT Ref 1	<p>I last night attended a public meeting in Portpatrick concerning the future of the village hall. More than ninety people were in attendance. The unanimous agreement was that Dumfries and Galloway Council has acted wrongly in its dealings with the future of the hall and its disposal as an asset. The council's practices and lack of transparency concerning its transactions with the newly formed Portpatrick Community Development Trust came in for widespread criticism. I understand that officers and elected members of DGRC and the officers of the new Trust were invited to the meeting but not one was in attendance, which I find hard to comprehend and also alarmingly suspicious. It was made clear that the Trust has made no communication with the village until recently and has no majority support from it. The meeting was told the Trust had only commercial aspirations for the hall and other village assets and its plans were not for the good of the village and its community. The overwhelming consensus of the meeting was that this Trust, even though at the moment the only body apparently willing to take over the hall, should not be allowed to do so and there was a unanimous vote to that effect. I am told legal advice is now being taken and Scottish Public Services Ombudsman is to be contacted. Also, it now seems possible another group will be formed to look into taking over the hall. Surely the majority voice and feelings of this village cannot be ignored by DGRC and the council's dealings with the Portpatrick Community Development Trust and the Trust's credentials should be fully investigated.</p>
PCDT Ref 2	<p>I wish to register my objection to your current arrangements for transferring Portpatrick Village Hall. It is being done without the consent of the village.</p>
PCDT Ref 3	<p>I wish to express my concern over the Stage 1 initial asset transfer of Portpatrick Village Hall to Portpatrick Community Development Trust who have initiated this without any consultation with the wider Portpatrick Community in breach of the conditions of asset transfer.</p>
PCDT Ref 4	<p>I would like to object to the proposed asset transfer of Portpatrick Village Hall to a group calling themselves Portpatrick Community Development Trust. My objection is on the grounds that this group has not carried out a full community consultation and does not represent the wishes of the majority of Portpatrick or the views of our duly elected community council.</p>
PCDT Ref 5	<p>I wish to register my objection to the asset transfer of Portpatrick village hall to the Portpatrick Community Development Trust. There has not been any community consultation on this planned transfer, and I do not believe that</p>

	<p>the founding members of the trust have the welfare of the village or the local community as a primary aim of the proposed transfer.</p>
PCDT Ref 6	<p>The image projected by the leaders of the above over the last few years indicates they are not the people to develop the use of the village hall for the greater good of those living in Portpatrick.</p> <p>They have shown themselves to be unreliable and misleading in all respects concerning the hall, both current and projected. I therefore lodge this objection to their appointment to manage the hall for two years prior to a possible asset transfer to them.</p>
PCDT Ref 7	<p>Just to inform you that I do not approve of the above to - Portpatrick Community Development Trust as they, as yet have had no involvement with the Community of Portpatrick</p>
PCDT Ref 8	<p>I wish to place on record my objection to the proposed Community Asset Transfer of Portpatrick Village Hall to Portpatrick Community Development Trust. It has also become apparent through a Freedom of Information request that the aforementioned Portpatrick Community Development Trust intends to pursue further asset transfers for village community facilities. I also object to any further transfer of village assets to this trust.</p> <p>I attended a public meeting in a packed village hall on 25th April. This was, as far as I am aware, the first consultation with the community. As representatives from Dumfries and Galloway Council and the newly formed Portpatrick Development Trust were invited, I expected to be able to ask questions about this transfer. Unfortunately, no representatives from either Dumfries and Galloway Council or the Portpatrick Community Development Trust saw fit to attend so lack of consultation with the community continues to be an issue. The Portpatrick Community Development Trust would appear to be acting without consulting the village and ignoring attempts at communication e.g. the meeting.</p> <p>During the meeting, the overwhelming majority of those attending the meeting voted in objection to the intention of Portpatrick Community Development Trust to take over the village hall or pursue any further village assets.</p>
PCDT Ref 9	<p>I write to express my concern that Dumfries and Galloway District Council are entering negotiations with Portpatrick Community Development Trust (PCDT) with regard to the transfer of the above.</p> <p>First of all, PCDT have repeatedly told the Portpatrick Community Council a pack of lies with regard to developments with regard to the transfer of the Hall. They repeatedly told the PCC that nothing was happening, when, in fact, they were going ahead with their own plans to form</p>

	<p>PCDT and take over the running of the hall.</p> <p>I am also concerned that PCDT is offering 'Associate' membership to people who do not live in the village. It is very concerning that such people should have a say in what happens in our village.</p>
PCDT Ref 10	<p>I wish to place on record my objection to the proposed Community Asset Transfer of Portpatrick Village Hall to Portpatrick Community Development Trust. It has also become apparent through a Freedom of Information request that the aforementioned Portpatrick Community Development Trust intends to pursue further asset transfers for village community facilities. I also object to any further transfer of village assets to this trust.</p> <p>I attended a public meeting in a packed village hall on 25th April. This was, as far as I am aware, the first consultation with the community. As representatives from Dumfries and Galloway Council and the newly formed Portpatrick Development Trust were invited, I expected to be able to ask questions about this transfer. Unfortunately, no representatives from either Dumfries and Galloway Council or the Portpatrick Community Development Trust saw fit to attend so lack of consultation with the community continues to be an issue. The Portpatrick Community Development Trust would appear to be acting without consulting the village and ignoring attempts at communication e.g. the meeting.</p> <p>During the meeting, the overwhelming majority of those attending the meeting voted in objection to the intention of Portpatrick Community Development Trust to take over the village hall or pursue any further village assets.</p>
PCDT Ref 11	<p>As a stake holder in both the harbour and village I would like to make it known the I am opposed to the transfer of any assets into the ownership of the newly set up development trust until such time as a full consultation with the village and stakeholders has been held.</p>
PCDT Ref 12	<p>My wife and I are totally against the transfer of Portpatrick Community asset transfer to any organisation other than Portpatrick Community Council as they are the only ones supported by the Community.</p>
PCDT Ref 13	<p>I am writing to advise that I do not support the above. Knew nothing about them until recently and had no notification this was happening. Also, no notice of any meetings to discuss this. I feel they should have gone through the Community Council so the whole Village could be included.</p> <p>I believe they are not just interested in the Village Hall but other parts of the Village.</p>
PCDT Ref 14	<p>I am writing re the above to say that I do not support this asset transfer. In my opinion the PCDT was set up without full consultation of the Portpatrick Community. A general meeting</p>

	<p>of the Community to set out the objectives of the Trust was never held so how they can say that it is supported by the Community I don't know. I am also concerned that the PCDT is not just looking at the asset transfer of the village hall but at other asset transfers within Portpatrick.</p>
PCDT Ref 15	<p>This Email is to advise you, as a resident of Portpatrick, of my objections to the actions of the PCDT.</p> <p>This group has set itself up with no consultation with members of the community in Portpatrick and has commenced negotiations with D&G council for community asset transfer of the village hall and other assets to the PCDT. No one from this group has turned up when invited to public meetings to explain their actions.</p> <p>The only communication with the residents of Portpatrick has been a leaflet setting out their intentions, when the negotiations were in an advanced stage, as a <i>Fait accomplis</i>.</p>
PCDT Ref 16	<p>We wish to register our objection to the formal request of Portpatrick Community Development Trust (PCDT) relating to the Portpatrick Public Hall.</p> <p>The PCDT hasn't engaged with all of the members of the community about their intention to request a formal asset transfer, nor a Stage 1 Expression of Interest.</p> <p>Membership of the current PCDT has been selective rather than inclusive.</p> <p>The whole process of forming the PCDT lacked transparency. How else could you interpret the process otherwise when some members of the community received an invitation to join while others did not?</p> <p>The first mail drop Newsletter from the PCDT was issued in early April after their Stage 1 Expression of Interest for Community Asset Transfer of the Village Hall. We learned from the Newsletter that "projects will be developed in response to our community priorities". We fail to see how the PCDT can possibly respond to community priorities when they are merely "led by their membership" and therefore exclude the majority of the community.</p> <p>The PCDT cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, claim to represent the community of Portpatrick when the Directors of the PCDT have never held an open public meeting, but chose rather to have a meeting of their targeted membership.</p> <p>We therefore strongly object to the Community Asset Transfer Request, Stage 1 or otherwise, made by the PCDT.</p>
PCDT Ref 17	<p>I write to make representation in respect of the EOI submitted by the Portpatrick Community Development Trust on 19th April 2019 for Portpatrick Village Hall.</p> <p>By making a series of inaccurate and misleading statements in public forum, this group has misrepresented the intentions of others within our community. This has been done without any valid grounds or permission.</p> <p>I therefore wish opportunity to make full and open</p>

	<p>representation with reference to the public records which exist.</p> <p>I request this in line with the process of public consultation which is clearly demanded and facilitated by the Community Empowerment Act Scotland 2015.</p>
PCDT Ref 18	<p>A petition was received after a public meeting held on 25 April 2019 with 167 signatures which stated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We the undersigned are extremely concerned about the proposed transfer of Portpatrick Village Hall by Dumfries and Galloway Council to the recently formed Portpatrick Community Development Trust. • In addition to this, a Freedom of Information request has revealed that the Development Trust intends to pursue several further asset transfers for village facilities. • A public meeting to discuss the matter was called by Portpatrick Community Council and took place on 25 April 2019 and was attended by one hundred residents. Despite being invited to come to the meeting, no representatives from either Dumfries and Galloway Council or the Development Trust attended. • A vote was taken at the meeting and the overwhelming majority of those who attended denounced the intention of the Development Trust to takeover Portpatrick Village Hall. • By signing this we hereby state that we have not been consulted or had adequate chance of representation with regard to the formation of this group purporting to represent the community of Portpatrick.
PCDT Ref 19	<p>I write to you out of growing concerns at recent news about the village Hall in Portpatrick. We have been made aware of the recent agenda and decisions taken by the Communities Committee meeting held in Dumfries on 11th June 2019 in relation to Portpatrick Village Hall. We feel that we need to voice our serious concerns at what we have both witnessed within the community of Portpatrick and about the decision which the Communities Committee made in relation to Portpatrick Village Hall on the 11th June. The decision, which ultimately requires Portpatrick Community Council to absorb Dumfries and Galloway Councils financial deficit on the village Hall whilst continuing to run it on a voluntary basis has now put the future of Portpatrick Village Hall in further danger. Portpatrick Community Council having made clear at their meeting held on 02/07/2019, that they are not in a position to engage such terms, have also iterated that Dumfries and Galloway Council have added pressure by threatening possible closure of the facility in a letter should they not agree. We</p>

	<p>are also informed that the valid asset transfer application submitted on 4th June 2019 by Portpatrick Harbour Community Benefit Society appears to have been omitted from this meeting agenda, but that Council Officers did propose an invalid applicant "Portpatrick Community Development Trust" for an asset transfer on the same agenda. This recently formed Trust has little credibility within the community of Portpatrick. Having formed without any community consultation and having subsequently refused to engage in public meetings around the future of the Hall when invited by other bodies. They have attained little respect for their actions and most certainly cannot claim to represent the community of Portpatrick whom have voiced very clearly their displeasure with them through a petition against them of over 200 signatures to date. I would like to extend our full support to the actions of the Portpatrick Harbour Community Benefit Society and Community Council whom together have represented and engaged the community of Portpatrick in a most admirable manner. Furthermore, wish to confirm our full support for the application made by Portpatrick Harbour Community Benefit Society for full asset transfer of Portpatrick Village Hall into their ownership. The Society has a proven track record to date, already having secured two previous asset transfers for the community. The level of community engagement and subsequent benefit derived from their charitable objects both speak clearly for work of the charity. We can only admire the current state of Portpatrick Harbour which under their management has become a much better and vibrant environment. We very much depend on such reputable groups for support in carrying out our work. We are however deeply concerned to learn of the current situation with regard to Portpatrick Village Hall. This coupled with the loss of social events to the community could have a serious impact on the entire Portpatrick community. We therefore seek assurance from Dumfries and Galloway Council that this matter will be dealt with immediately in order to secure Portpatrick Village Hall for the benefit of this community.</p>
PCDT Ref 20	<p>I am extremely concerned about the proposed transfer of Portpatrick Village Hall by Dumfries & Galloway Council to the recently formed Portpatrick Community Development Trust. A Freedom of Information request has revealed that the Development Trust intends to pursue several further asset transfers for village facilities. A Public Meeting to discuss this matter was called by Portpatrick Community Council and took place on 25th April 2019 and was attended by one hundred</p>

	<p>residents. Despite being invited to come to the meeting, no representatives from either Dumfries and Galloway Council or the Development Trust attended. A vote was taken at the meeting and the overwhelming majority of those who attended denounced the intention of the Development Trust to take over Portpatrick Village Hall. As a resident I am very concerned that residents have not been consulted or had adequate chance of representation with regard to the formation of this group purporting to represent the community of Portpatrick.</p>
PCDT Ref 21	<p>Portpatrick Community Council do not support the application by Portpatrick Community Development trust to take over Portpatrick Village Hall. The Village Hall is an important asset to our community and it is vital that it is kept for the community and maintained and improved for future generations. We do not think that Portpatrick Community Development Trust are in a position to do this.</p> <p>We also have serious concerns about this valuable community asset being handed over to a Development Trust which was formed in secret, without openness and transparency, against the wishes of Portpatrick Community Council, without any community engagement. To date they have not engaged in any community consultation, although they have been invited to attend public meetings called by the Community Council to discuss the future of the Village Hall.</p> <p>PCC called a public meeting in April 2019 which was attended by around 100 members of the community and resulted in a 180 signature petition being produced which was directly against PCDT.</p> <p>Therefore to safeguard the Village Hall and to carry out the wishes of our wider community, Portpatrick Community Council cannot support this application.</p>