

2 YEAR BUSINESS PLAN 2023 - 2024

Belhelvie Community Trust (BCT)



Belhelvie Community Trust is a SCIO Number SC045563

1. Background

Belhelvie Community Trust was established in 2013. It operates throughout the Belhelvie Parish, in the settlements of Balmedie, Belhelvie, Potterton, Whitecairns and Blackdog, and all other dwellings within the parish. Membership of the Trust is open to all individuals and groups who have an interest in Belhelvie Parish. The purpose of Belhelvie Community Trust is to advance community development by working as an “umbrella” group to support existing community projects and organisations and to create new initiatives throughout the parish of Belhelvie, all for the benefit of its residents and visitors.

The Trust has made significant progress since its establishment in 2013, securing charitable status, achieving a Community Asset Transfer and developing The Sand Bothy, Balmedie Beach Wheelchairs, Balmedie Community Sensory Garden, Potterton Volunteers plus inclusive play equipment and toilet facilities at Balmedie Country Park. The Trust has also offered support to other community groups in the parish

2. Details of the Trust

Charity Name

- Belhelvie Community Trust SC045563

Contact details

- Chair: [REDACTED]
- Secretary: [REDACTED]

Online details

- Website <https://belhelviecommunitytrust.org.uk>
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Belhelvie-Community-Trust>

Legal Status

- The Trust was awarded charitable status in 2015. SCIO number SC045563. The Board of Trustees consists of 7 volunteers who are in overall control and management of the Trust. They are responsible for the Trust’s governance and strategy and for making sure the charity is administered effectively, and are accountable for its activities and outcomes.

3. Progress between the years 2014 and 2022

Details can be found in previous business plans and annual trustee reports

4. Plans for 2023 -2024

With the exception of running a public consultation throughout the parish and becoming involved in community resilience plans, BCT is not planning to take on any new developments or projects during 2023. Rather, we will aim to consolidate, develop or complete our existing projects. Our activities in 2024 will be determined by the results of the public consultation, continued support of existing volunteers and recruitment of new ones.

We have identified a new volunteer Treasurer who will become involved in 2023. We need to recruit more trustees and members who will take active roles in the running of BCT.

In 2022, BCT was awarded £106k to fund a worker for 3 years. The post holder has 2 roles – to run and develop the Sand Bothy and to develop and action a community consultation. The present post-holder Joni Corbett has a 3-year contract until April 2025.

4.1. Public Consultation

The aim of the consultation is to ask the residents of Belhelvie Parish what facilities they would like to see developed and to find out whether residents will also help to make things happen. The consultation will be on-line and also in paper form door to door to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to respond. Tools to undertake this would include use of the local parish-wide newsletter “Belhelvie Banter”, web link from the BCT website to the online survey tool ‘Survey Monkey’ and engaging the community using Facebook. Volunteers from BCT and Belhelvie Community Council members will also be involved in ensuring that all households throughout the parish are consulted.

4.2. The Sand Bothy in Balmedie Country Park

Activities at The Sand Bothy are now co-ordinated by Joni Corbett and it will continue to be run as a facility for visitors to Balmedie Country Park, and a resource for the local community, including Balmedie Primary School.

BCT will carry out any necessary repairs to the building, run the refreshments kiosk, hire out the rentable space and continue to develop the exhibition, information and retail area. All of these will be carried out in accordance with necessary good practice and regulations. We will continue to recruit new volunteers to carry out all the tasks required to work under the guidance of the Co-ordinator.

Our aim during 2023 and 2024 is to open up the Sand Bothy as much as possible to the local community and visitors, for a range of classes, workshops and other events.

4.3. Balmedie Beach Wheelchairs in Balmedie Country Park

Carrying on the success of its previous years of operation, Balmedie Beach Wheelchairs will hire out chairs on regular days from April to October, but also if requested if volunteers are available.

We will continue to maintain the bunker, chairs and equipment in accordance with good practice and regulations. We will continue to recruit volunteers. We will continue to promote Balmedie Beach Wheelchairs to as many potential users as possible, working with care organisations locally and further afield. We will continue to raise funds in a variety of ways.

4.4. Balmedie Country Park

During 2021 and 2022 we raised funds and installed inclusive play equipment in the play park. We also raised fund and converted the existing small disabled toilet to create a larger fully equipped Changing Places facility to be used by people of all ages with disabilities. We also created information boards and rewrote Aberdeenshire Council’s web page relating to Balmedie Country Park, updating its facilities.

In 2023 -24 we will continue to work with Aberdeenshire Council to make improvements to facilities in the park. We will continue to maintain our equipment in the park. However, BCT does not have the authority, budget or resources to do anything there beyond what we already do.

Our aim is to help make Balmedie Beach and Country Park as accessible as possible to people of all abilities.

4.5. Balmedie Community Sensory Garden

During 2023 and 2024 we will continue to maintain and develop the garden. We will continue to recruit volunteers and involve school, nurseries and other groups in the garden. The Sensory Garden team is now also looking to tidy up the area of land at the back of the library. This land was for several years earmarked as a site for a Health Centre. That is not going ahead after all, so the land can now be used more by the community, although nothing permanent can be created.

4.6 Community Resilience

Since the pandemic, and storms of 2021-22 it has been recognised that communities need to be more prepared to look after their residents, in collaboration with authorities. BCT will be part of any plans and actions created locally.

4.7 Litter-picking

Monthly litter-picks will continue to be held in Balmedie on first Saturday of each month. We will continue to recruit volunteers to carry out this task and find new ways of getting an anti-litter message across.

4.8 Potterton Volunteers

Potterton volunteers will meet regularly at the burn community park area to maintain and develop the area in whatever ways are required. They will be using social media, Belhelvie Banter and word-of-mouth to increase volunteer numbers.

4.9 Support for other groups

In 2023-24, we will continue as before, responding where we can to requests from community groups throughout the parish, depending on resources available to us. We will share information about other organisations and funders that could also support the work of these groups.

4.10. Development of Websites and Social Media and Publicity

Throughout 2023-24 we will update and maintain our websites and social media pages and develop publicity of BCT and its projects

4.11 Finance and Fund Raising

BCT will continue to raise funds from sales at The Sand Bothy kiosk, from fund raising events and by applying to appropriate sources of funding from organisations, businesses and statutory sources. The main focus of funding will be to get help with general running costs of the charity which are increasing dramatically. e.g. insurance costs have doubled already and electricity costs are set to quadruple. We also need to look to the future. Our development worker post is funded until mid-2025 but we need to plan to continue that post beyond that time.

4.12 Policies

We will review our policies in 2024 and ensure that they are relevant and kept up to date.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation:

BCT will ensure regular evaluation, feedback and assessments are performed and fed into training and meetings. Currently verbal updates are provided to the bi-monthly BCT meetings on all the on-going projects. We will evaluate the success or otherwise of BCT activities by comparing the actual progress with what we have predicted in the Business Plan.

6. The main risks at this stage of our development

We recognise our two greatest risks: over reliance on a small number of volunteers and rising costs. We will continue to recruit volunteers, continue to fundraise and work within our means.

BELHELVIE COMMUNITY TRUST
PROJECTED INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2024-6

Sales	2023	2024	2025.	2026
Bothy Kiosk Sales:	19393	21000	22500	24000
Less cost of sales	-5206	-5900	-6300	-6500
	14187	15100	16200	17500
Other Income.				
Bothy Bookings & Events (less Expenses)	2565	2750	3000	3200
Donations	226	300	400	500
	2791	3050	3400	3700
Surplus from Bothy activities.	16978	18150	19600	21200

Expenses	2023	2024	2025	2026
Utilities and Telephone	4021	5500	6000	6500
Stationery & Equipment	3156	3500	3750	3900
Repairs & Maint.	1309	1600	1750	1900
Publicity	933	1000	1200	1400
Misc.	183	250	300	350
Total Expenses	9602	11850	13000	14050
Surplus of Income over Expenses	7376	6300	6600	7150

BCT Account

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Grants & Allocated Donations	18807	20000	22000	24000
Other Income	6058	7000	8000	9000
Sundry Donations	2003	2500	3000	3500
Total	26868	29500	33000	36500
Expenses to Date.	-18877	20500	22000	-24000
	7991	9000	11000	12500

SCP Account

	2023	2024	2025	2026
			Note 1.	
SCP Funding	35350	8775		
Expenses to Date.	-36463	9000		
Surplus C/f	-1113	-225		

Other Expenses.

Expenses	2023	2024	2025	2026
Equipment	394	500	600	750
Fixtures and Fittings	0	0	0	0
Administration and Accounting Fees	300	300	300	300
Stationary & Publicity	754	900	1000	1200
Insurance	1360	1600	1750	2000
Other Expenses	6099	7500	8000	9000
Donations	1168	1300	1500	1700
	10075	12100	13150	14950

Totals	2023	2024	2025	2026
Surplus.	4179	2975	4450	4700

Note 1. SCP Funding ends March 2025. Projections beyond that date are made without this source.
Other sources of funding are being actively sought continually.

Anticipated Capital Expenditure (Subject to funding).

Year	Amount	Items.
2024	4000	Secure Metal Shed and Concrete Base
2024	2000	Replacement Chairs and Tables.
Total 2024	6000	
2025	3000	Replacement Public Display Freezer
2025	3000	Replacement IT Equipment, Laptop, printer and large wall monitor for Bothy
Total 2025	6000	
2026	4000	Replacement Coffee Machine.
Total 2026	4000	