LCDT Inaugral Members Meeting 23/10/23

The inaugural meeting of LCDT members took place on 23rd of September in The Smiddy with a healthy attendance of 18 people.

Founding member Marilyn Aitkenhead welcomed everyone and paid tribute to those who had helped to steer the group to this point; including founding members Marilyn, Emma McNeil and Charlotte Aitchison as well as Joanne Dryburgh, Judi Gunn, Steve Aitchison, Mark Walton, Paul Gilbert, Elaine Brotherston and Grace Murray.



Marilyn reported that charitable status has now been approved and LCDT is now a Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status.

Grace Murray, Chair of Stow Community Development Trust, gave an inspiring presentation on the Trust and its work.
The key message was:
"Creating opportunities to support & empower your community for all ages."



The presentation highlighted the benefits of a strong, community-led development trust and examples of projects delivered in Stow and the wider Borders. Grace answered our queries throughout, in particular about Community Asset transfers, relationships between the DT and other local groups, how these vary structurally, and the importance of collaboration, as well as having fun.

Discussions followed about the purpose of LCDT and potential future projects, with an emphasis on

- Community development(building on our CAP)
- Identifying projects based on local need
- Working collaboratively with other community organisations
- Developing projects before seeking funding where appropriate
- Local development trusts working together and sharing experience



Potential projects included Lauder Public Hall, community transport, a woodland bike/pump track, Greener Lauderdale.

After the founding members stood down and a new Board of Trustees was elected comprising
Marilyn Aitkenhead Graeme Sutherland
Reuben Heneveld Mark Walton
Janet Thomas Elaine Brotherstone
Susan Sutherland

Office-bearer roles, including Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, are to be confirmed at the first Board meeting.