

CREE VALLEY AREA DEVELOPMENT TRUST

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

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“The Accelerate Programme really helped us a lot to consider our sustainability. Nothing was too much trouble.”

- Julie Smithers, Chairperson at Cree Valley Area Development Trust

Background

Cree Valley Area Development Trust (CVADT) was set up in 2020 to support and promote community development and rural regeneration in the Cree Valley.

CVADT is looking to explore the development of local opportunities that would be of community benefit as well as a means of developing a sustainable income stream for the organisation itself.

Need for support

Having identified the local Minnigaff Park and Pavilion as a Community Asset Transfer possibility, CVADT accessed support through Accelerate to carry out a Community Consultation and Options Appraisal as they sought to pursue this possibility.

Accelerate supported the Board in considering options available to CVADT. These included opportunities for partnership working; and how to ensure the transfer of the Park and Pavilion would not be a liability but, in fact, an opportunity to generate an independent income stream.

What we did

Between July-December 2022, Accelerate supported CVADT Trustees in developing and implementing an agreed workplan that included: a community survey; a local asset audit; and the facilitation of discussions with Dumfries and Galloway Council.

CVADT's original plans have shifted with another local group securing a short 2 year lease on the Pavilion. However, the Trustees are keen to pursue the community asset transfer of the Minnigaff Park and Pavilion – either in part or in full – and has now commissioned an independent survey of both the assets of the site and the costings associated with the maintenance and upkeep of the Park and Pavilion.

Although no 'hard outcome' has resulted, Accelerate's support to CVADT has helped the Trustees to better understand the various elements involved in a community asset transfer. This learning will stand CVADT in good stead moving forward.

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