

accelerate

# Newtongrange

# Development Trust

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*It has been great working with the Accelerate programme. It has managed to take our wide ranging ideas and put them into a coherent document that we can refer to regularly and ensure we are all on the same track.*

## Background

Newtongrange Development Trust (NDT) was established in 2021, in the former mining village in Midlothian. NDT was formed following concern within the local community about how the village will change due to the level of new house building and the removal of community facilities. NDT's aspiration is to build on Newtongrange's existing heritage and community spirit - to develop and create sustainable initiatives for the benefit of local people.

## Need for support

NDT accessed support through Accelerate to help develop an Action Plan – to set out realistic medium and long term objectives for the organisation and the local community.

An early objective for the organisation was to identify a 'permanent base' which would belong to the community and with the scope to increase the services it can offer the local community. It was important that these new initiatives could generate additional income for NDT – and contribute to its longer term sustainability.

The Bowling Green and Pavilion was identified as having the potential to be the appropriate option for Community Asset Transfer. NDT sought the support of Accelerate to help build a business case for the community taking over the premises and exploring in greater detail the opportunities available.

[You can watch a testimonial video here](#)

## What we did

During 2023, Accelerate has supported NDT in developing the business case for the Bowling Green and Pavilion. This has included garnering local support for the project; assessing the local economic benefits; capital requirements to make the premises suitable for community activity; and options for new services and facilities for the local community – which will provide an important source of additional revenue.

The business case document was completed in July 2023. As well as existing activities, the plan identifies new activities that would include a café /coffee shop; a kitchen suitable for training; space to hire for groups, meetings and small events and parties; tool hire; and outdoor and indoor space for children's parties.

This would allow NDT to establish the Bowling Pavilion as the community hub in the village and also to contribute to the ongoing longevity of NDT itself.



**Edinburgh**