



Lunan Bay Communities Partnership (SCIO) SCO50906

Chairman's report 2023-2024

Overall, the period May 2023 to December 2023 was one of relative quiet for Lunan Bay Communities Partnership (LBCP). During that period the Board of Trustees took stock, and reviewed the potential routes and means of moving the Partnership forwards within the remits outlined in the LBCP's 'Aims and Objectives' document.

In December 2023, two Trustees stepped down; Andrew Gauldie and Angus O'Mullane. The former stepped down as Chair, and the Chair's role was taken on by the Vice-Chair; Dr Andrew Matthews. The new Chair wishes to extend his thanks to Andrew and Angus for their time and valuable input into LBCP in their role as Trustees.

Mrs Jen Laing CA stepped down as Treasurer during 2023-2024, for family reasons. She has agreed that she will continue *ex officio*, in an advisory capacity, to assist the new Treasurer.

A new Board of Trustees was constituted in January 2024:

Chair: Dr Andrew Matthews

Vice Chair and Communication Officer: Dr Jillian McEwan.

Treasurer: Susan Stewart

Secretary: Laura Hay

Members: Carol Evans

Lesley Anderson

Samantha Unwin

John Stirling (representing Arbikie Farms and Distillery)

Dr Kirsty Black (replaced John Stirling in September 2024)

The new appointments brings the Board of Trustees membership to eight, the maximum number permitted by the Constitution.

The reconstitution of the Board of Trustees extended the demographic representation and skill-set of the Board, and brought a clear headed and renewed vigour to approaching the challenges faced by the Board of Trustees going forward.

Board meetings were held throughout the year on a monthly basis, with the exception of during June 2023.

- A significant event during the first part of the reporting period was the publication in May 2023 of the '**Lunan Bay Communities Partnership Action Plan - 2023 to 2028**'. This was produced in collaboration with Angus Rural Partnership, a Government Funded Consultancy. This document outlines a programme of fifteen Actions and Timelines on the themes of: Tourism and Visitor Management, Community and Environment, and creates a blueprint for LBCP activities moving forward towards 2028.

The full document can be viewed at:

[Community-Led Development | Angus Rural Partnership](#)



Implementation of the LBCP Action Plan however presents significant challenges, not least in sourcing the significant funding necessary during a period of reduced funding availability for the public and voluntary sectors. A situation likely to continue throughout the five year timeline of the Action Plan.

LBCP Action Plan 2023-2024,

Summary of Proposed Projects to date:

- Of the 'Actions' listed in the Plan, the reinstatement of the **LBCP Community Ranger Service**, established and managed by LBCP during 2020/21, remains a priority for the Board of Trustees. However, the Trustees recognise that this will require substantive funding over the longer term; something which will present a significant challenge in the current funding climate. It is noted that when this has been discussed with potential funders, it has been commented that the Local Authority would be expected to be the primary funder of a project(s) of this nature.
- The development of an **App** for visitors to Lunan Bay, providing information such as tides, weather, availability of parking at busy times, advice about SOAC etc. is included in the Strategic Plan. This is under discussion. However, the updating and extending of the LBCP website, as a means of disseminating this type of visitor information, will be prioritised going forward. See:

<https://lunanbaycommunitiespartnership.com/>

- Improvement in **Public Toilet** Facilities, being basic visitor infrastructure, much needed and much requested by Visitors, and by Residents, is the subject of ongoing discussion with Angus Council and its agencies.

- The reinstatement of an **All-Abilities Boardwalk and Viewing Platform**. After discussion with Lunan Farms plans were drawn up for a replacement of the derelict viewing platform immediately east of the car park. The Board of Trustees are grateful to Mott McDonald (Aberdeen), a global engineering management and development company who seconded John Seagrott, one of their structural engineers, to the project on a *pro bono* basis. Engineering plans for the proposed platform were drawn up professionally by John and submitted, as we were required to do, to Angus Council Planning Department. Planning Consent has been received. It should be noted that LBCP asked that, given the nature of the project (*a like-for-like build with a very minor relocation of the build site, 'pro bono' professional engineering and input, the structure being for the benefit of less abled visitors:see later*) that the fees for Planning be waived or discounted by Angus Council. Angus Council were unable to do this and the fees were paid in total by LBCP, with the very generous support of Hew Blair-Imrie. It is intended that the build will take place over 1-2 days during May 2025. RM Condor and 42 Commando, and their civilian contractors, Mitie, have agreed to be involved in the build. In addition, the LBCP Membership has expressed significant interest in contributing to the physical building of the Platform. **The re-establishment of the all-access viewing platform will be a major asset to visitors to the Bay. Currently there is no physical infrastructure in place to allow less-abled or wheelchair using visitors to be able to approach, to even view, the extraordinary vista that is Lunan Bay.**

- The LBCP Board of Trustees was agreed that to move forward with the 'Action Plan 2023-2028', a **Community Development Officer** should be engaged by LBCP on a part time basis for 1 year. This individual will work with the Trustees on the coordination and implementation of the projects outlined in the document. Funding was sought for the creation of this post. The LNER Community Fund and The National Lottery were both approached, seeking significant funding. Both Applications were unsuccessful. The Board of Trustees will continue to seek funding for this position as matter of priority.

Local Nature Conservation Site Status for Lunan Bay

Lunan Bay received Local Nature Conservation Site status from Angus Council in November 2023. This was welcomed by the Board of Trustees, and sits very much in alignment with the LBCP's major **Aims and Objectives**: to secure and promote the biodiversity of an ecologically vulnerable and nationally important area.

Traffic controls on the C45 coast road around Lunan Bay.

Angus Council were approached early in 2024 with a view to revisiting the placing of speed restrictions on the C45, to promote '**sustainable pedestrian and cyclist friendly access**' to and around Lunan Bay. Traffic management on the C45 had been flagged up as a concern for LBCP members in the 2021 Member's survey, and again when the survey was repeated in 2024. Angus Council agreed to review this, and the outcome of this review is awaited.

Community Council

LBCP lies within the boundary of Arbroath Community Council, the largest in Angus by a significant margin. Discussions were entered with **Easthaven Together** on the possibility of creating a new Community Council representing the smaller coastal communities in Angus. This would have the advantage of recognising that many of the issues faced by these communities are common to smaller rural communities, and separate from those of larger and more urbanised communities, such as the Royal Burgh of Arbroath. The discussion was prompted by the protocols for the award of SSEN's 'Seagreen' community funding, which is debursed exclusively to individual Community Councils for defined projects within the Community Council area. It was felt that projects geographically restricted to small rural communities eg. Lunan Bay, though intended for a demographically much wider community benefit (eg. Community Rangers), would be at a competitive disadvantage when seeking funding within the existing Community Council model.

Discussion with local Councillors indicated that the creation of new Community Councils can be undertaken within the existing framework. This is something for future consideration.

LBCP Patron

This was discussed at a number of the Board meetings in Spring 2024. The Trustees were agreed that to invite a Patron to join LBCP, from the celebrity or scientific communities, is an excellent idea, and will be looked at as a priority once the Board has been able to address the more pressing concerns of funding and the projects listed in the Action Plan (above).

During the year 2023-24 members of the Board of Trustees met with a number of external bodies to discuss issues of common interest and concern. These included **Easthaven Together**, **Dundee and Angus Bird Club**, **Angus Partnership Against Rural Crime**.

LBCP continues to engage several ways of communicating with the membership:

- **What's App:** The general LBCP Members' group chat:
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CcJ2YnDGfcZ6y0qOW2vem4>
- **What's App:** LBCP Members' incident log
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EjrFOat3dcjHfo0ASuoR7z>>
- Email via our Secretary's email; secretary.lunanbaycommunity@gmail.com
- Communications Officer's email;
comms@lunanbaycommunitiespartnership.com

LBCP manages three public social media platforms.

- FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/lunanbaycommunity>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LunanBayCP>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lunanbaycommunity>

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Matthews', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Andrew Matthews

Chair LBCP