

Welcome everyone and thank you for coming. It is good to see you all – especially those for whom this is a first CELCA meeting. I hope it is interesting for us all.

Last AGM a small group were formed to survey funding wishes and hopes from the community; this had been done before and acted on.

The results, which came from responses to the card sent out are as indicated on the screen – I shall talk to that here as it is relevant to everything we do as CELCA members and the funding we receive (*the notes for this part are in the AGM minutes*)

More generally now. From our committee (trustees) we have lost Forbes Gately left the area so we lost his valuable experience and warm company. He was an asset to us – and Shona Colquhoun also resigned. We hope to get 2 replacements. For clarity, everyone in the community is a member of CELCA and can vote for certain projects. The trustees are made up of all 8 local Community Council members + 8 people chosen or who might volunteer their services - 16 in all.

We have had our first funding from Aitkengall 2 early in Spring – the tidy sum of £ 69,500.00. This is in our CELCA 2 account to differentiate it from Crystal Rig the Fred Olson wind turbine – our original funders.

This past year we have had some welcome new projects.

Wellness Weekend in Cranshaws Old School last June. 60 – 70 people; different classes and activities; willow weaving, den building, mindfulness, bird recognition, acrobatics, yoga and a sing along round the fire one evening. A ‘Pop up café’ in the hall had excellent food. It was a good event and Lorna Brown hopes something similar will run next year.

The Toddler Group is new for Longformacus and going from strength to strength. It has 22 mums and dads on register and a regular 8 to 12 attending weekly. The new mums and Dads are also getting involved in other activities at both hall's. Heather Bewicks says thank you to us for the funding – and we say ‘thank you Heather for running it’.

Re-usable sanitary products is possibly the most unusual project we have funded. Washable, so re-usable, sanitary towels. There is growing public awareness of these, with regular articles appearing in mainstream media. They hopes utilise this and join up with campaign groups in order to get the word out and have a very successful launch of the product.

ReTweed have the first part of funding from CELCA and are helping run the project which Pauline Stewart aims to develop into a sustainable business. She hopes to have the first batch completed by the end of this year and will start distribution by mid December.

In terms of the overall business, Pauline expects to secure funding from another source to repeat what she has done with CELCA's help. The hope is to be in a

position early next year to launch the product via online sales

There are pictures of ReTweed business hub & Pauline Stewart + bags and cushions made for sale in the Scottish parliament shop – all from recycled items.

The Cycle Repair Stations are now in place. Such a good idea & hopefully used from time to time. Cyclists drop in regularly to

the Pop Up Café in Longformacus This has been run now for over a year each 2 weeks with a monthly craft project. Planter making, jam pot waxed cover making and card or pot decorating.

Community folk will take over running the café from January as was envisioned from early on. The cafe is an asset to the community; a good meeting place with a pleasant ambiance and excellent cakes and coffee. We are thankful to Fiona McPherson for getting us started. An application will be seen in the general meeting.

Ongoing Projects:

Community Broadband has funds in hand for those who wish to apply. Ask Alistair Dawson or Corinne Mycock – there is information on this here.

Woodland Walkway at Cranshaws is started with some tree planting done

Public Art project has made some progress. There are pictures to see of what is hoped to be built and erected as a reminiscence of the ancient Herring Road over the Lammermuirs, along which, for hundreds of years people trekked carrying fish in baskets on ponies, to local villages and distant towns.

Longformacus Village Hall has an exciting project planned; (discussed earlier in matters arising)

Ongoing wellness events continue. Yoga, swimming membership and classes, table tennis.

A School trips general fund has been set up which allows any parents to access funding for all or part of school trips. These can bring a positive developmental aspect into our young peoples lives; an exciting one was to ‘Tanzania’ to help with a building project.

Last but by no means least, our **Seniors Outings**. In their words The Summer mystery tour took us to Peebles where we had a lovely meal in the Green Tree Hotel, then shopped. But last Christmas 16 seniors went to the Dome, Edinburgh. “Our meal was delicious. We visited the range first as it was too miserable to go to the Christmas market in princes street gardens.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed our trips & we would be grateful if you would once again convey our thanks to the committee of our Community fund for giving us funding On behalf of the Senior members of our Community we wish you all a very happy Christmas & a very happy & healthy New Year.

With that, thank you to all who have put in applications over the years. Thank you especially to this committee, and in particular to Beth and Kim for their consistent steady work for us.

