

## **Tweedsmuir Community Company Community Development Officer**

The Tweedsmuir Community Company (TCC) seeks to appoint a self-motivated and energetic, self-employed individual or consultant to provide a part-time community development officer role (2 days per week) to support a range of important community initiatives and evolving projects in Tweedsmuir/Upper Tweed.

The appointment will be for 2 days per week for 6 months to be completed by the end of March 2019. The appointment will be for a maximum fee budget of £6,000.00 and there will be reasonable travel and administrative expenses paid in addition to the fee, of up to £600.00. The successful individual will be self-employed and it is expected that VAT will not be payable.

The project is funded by a grant from the Scottish Government under the Strengthening Communities Programme, managed by the Development Trusts Association Scotland. The aim is to enable community development and learning.

Part of the grant will enable Jura Consultants Ltd, to develop business plans and secure grant funding for the conversion of buildings at the site of the historic Crook Inn into:

- (1) a Crook Inn Cafe that will provide a venue for the community, a space for events, and a service for tourism, celebrating our local historic environment;
- (2) a bunkhouse providing a sustainable source of revenue;
- (3) a camping/ campervan facility with plug-ins.

Architectural designs for these elements are currently being developed by WTArchitecture to secure Detailed Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent. These applications are likely to be submitted to Scottish Borders Council in June 2018.

We are seeking a Community Development Officer to develop the community projects as part of the Strengthening Communities Programme Grant. There is a possibility that the role may be extended beyond March 2019.

The development officer is expected to work closely with the Board of the TCC to develop additional facets of community activities, including:

- To assist TCC in the development of walking /cycle paths in Tweedsmuir;
- To enhance communication with TCC membership and with the wider Upper Tweed community via the Tweedsmuir Community Council including newsletters, social media and updating the TCC website: [www.tweedsmuircommunitycompany.org.uk](http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycompany.org.uk) ;
- To co-ordinate and motivate community volunteers as appropriate;

- To assist in the recognition and description of heritage features in the community and their interrelationship with the historic environment, landscape and habitats, community activities;
- To assist in the organisation of community events to maintain the profile of the projects;
- To undertake monitoring and reporting of the outcomes of projects and activity.

For further information contact:

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## Background to the project

**Community needs and opportunities.** The Crook Inn, first licensed in 1604, provided an essential venue for social life and events in our small, dispersed rural community, work experience for the young, employment for all ages, support of local businesses and an historic Art Deco venue for tourism. Then, in 2006, it was bought and closed by a developer seeking to convert it to housing, thereby stripping away a vital role in the heart of our small community. Following a lengthy battle and exhaustive fundraising, the TCC has now acquired all of the Crook Inn landholding and has secured planning permission to turn it into a much-needed Community Hub, which can help to address the recognised disadvantages that are manifested in the Upper Tweed area. The site includes the two buildings proposed for use as a café and bunkhouse.

### The community:

**Needs.** Tweedsmuir is a small, socially isolated, rural community: it is 14 to the nearest shops, the post office closed with the Crook Inn; it has no public transport; schools are 8 miles (primary) and 19 miles away (High School). The local resources are a Kirk and a village hall. The closest healthcare and post offices are 14 miles away (Biggar). A Tweedsmuir Community Action Plan 2017-2022 has recently been published by the (separate) Tweedsmuir Community Council which clearly identifies the communities needs and aims. It identifies the Crook Inn Project as the principal opportunity in the area to help tackle the local problems. A copy of this document can be made available.

**Opportunities:** to acquire specific skills in our community organisation that will help to enable us to deliver a thriving community. The longer-term aims are to develop the Crook Inn Community Hub as an outstanding venue with facilities and services for a sustainable, resilient community. In addition to providing learning, local employment, social facilities and local businesses support, there are opportunities is to provide support for tourism in the wider south of Scotland area, owing to our central location and location on the A701 tourist route from Moffat to Edinburgh. The project has the potential to deliver significant social,

environmental and economic benefits that will address community needs and build a sustainable tourism development in the Upper Tweed area.

### **Key Achievements**

**2007-2009.** The community formed the TCC, then fought the planning application successfully, including representing its own position at a Public Inquiry, in which its case was upheld.

**2008.** The TCC obtained a *Right to Buy* by Scottish Government but not subsequently used.

**2012.** When the owner conditionally agreed to sell the Crook Inn, the community and the TCC undertook an energetic and successful *Save the Crook Inn* Appeal to raise £160,000 to purchase the Crook Inn.

**2013.** The TCC became a registered charity.

Independent Tweedsmuir Community Needs and Crook Inn Feasibility Studies were undertaken by Development Trusts Association Scotland.

**2014.** Development grant obtained from Big Lottery for Crook Inn design by WTArchitecture and for business plans by Community Enterprise.

**2015.** Planning permission and listed building consent obtained.

The purchase of additional land and buildings with funding from the Scottish Land Fund, Infinis Glenkerie Community Fund and SSE Clyde Borders Community Fund.

**2016-17:** Development of the community vision for the future with a phased Crook Inn Community Hub project plan and Tweedsmuir Community Action Plan (with the Tweedsmuir Community Council).

**November 2017, Phase 1** of the Crook Inn Community Hub development plan commenced.

The TCC secured further funding and commissioned WTArchitecture and their design team to develop plans for conversion of the deteriorating buildings to the rear of the Crook Inn to provide a Café for community and visitor use (as a 'catalyst project' to underpin the main Hub) and to support tourism, a bunkhouse, revised parking, toilet and shower facilities for a campsite, leading to planning application and listed building consent in 2018.

Further information available in:

The Crook Inn Community Hub project

The Tweedsmuir Community Action Plan

Tweedsmuir Community Company  
Registered Company Number SC332043  
Scottish Charity Number SC043714  
Website: [www.tweedsmuircommunitycc.uk](http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycc.uk)