

**Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	09	2024	To	31	08	2025

Office of the Scottish **Charity Regulator****Reference and administration details****Charity name**

Fittie Community Development Trust SCIO

Other names charity is known by

FCDT

Registered charity number**SC046775****Charity's principal address**

Footdee Gospel Hall

7 New Pier Road

Footdee

Aberdeen

Postcode AB11 5DR**Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mike McConnell	Chair		
2	Cheryl Croydon	Secretary		
3	Sara Budge	Treasurer		
4	Diane Miller			
5	Heidi Norquoy			
6	Callum Taylor			
7	Rose Ince			
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The Trust is a registered charity. It is administered in accordance with its Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) constitution.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees are appointed and removed in accordance with the SCIO constitution. All Trustees retire and are re-elected at our AGM. Any member of the Trust is eligible to be elected as a trustee at the AGM with the provision they are nominated and seconded by other members.

The same process of formal nomination and seconding applies to all Trustees appointments (outwith the AGM), noting that this is approved and the new Trustee is confirmed as elected at the appropriate board meeting. A formal proposal is also required to be approved where the nominated Trustee has been recommended to hold an office.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The primary aim of the charity is to provide an accessible community space for the residents of the Footdee (Fittie) Conservation Area.

The aims are to:

- Support a sustainable community space to provide cultural, social and environmental activities for all residents-children, families and elderly members of the community.
- Provide a cultural and historical venue where residents can share their historical and social knowledge of Fittie with each other, external groups and visitors to the city
- Improve the quality of life for all residents- including the most isolated and vulnerable by engaging in shared activities, developing relationships and valuing the experience and skill of residents

**Summary
of the
main
activities
in relation
to these
objectives**

This year has seen the community hall fully providing an accessible community space, with the sense of place as a seaside/harbourside hall, continuing to consolidate and build on our core 2023/24 programmes (cultural, social and environmental). The Trust is an independent fully self-funded charity one through our 3 streams of income generation - hall hire, merchandise and donations, following the transition from a grant aided charity in 2022/23. This facilitates the fulfilment of our objectives. The combining of the need to generate income with the delivery of our objectives has been demanding but successful with 75% of our events and bookings satisfying both criteria. The Trusts' positive financial position has allowed us to fully subsidise bookings made by residents for residents only activities using our hall and garden space. The bookings have covered a wide spectrum of activities from university dissertation research focus group sessions, a village family wedding to birthday parties for all ages from 3 to 70. We have been able to support the expansion of seasonal activities e.g the provision of bulbs & flowers for our garden & village planters and continue to support a range of celebratory events - detailed below. It has also enabled regular and now established family activities e.g. village children's Capoeira (Brazilian dance), with all the benefits for both the children and their parents!

Support a sustainable community space to provide cultural, social and environmental activities for all residents-children, families and elderly members of the community.

As a community we have continued seasonal celebration events with our third Christmas festive party with a celidh band, the harbour choir, quiz and food and Burns Supper. These multigenerational events, which run every season are hugely popular with the entire community. Our monthly film night programme has been run again this year. These are social evenings for the village, run by and paid for by our partner Open Road with attendees making a donation to the hall. The hugely successful Harbour Voices Community Choir continued throughout the period including performing at events beyond those held in the village. The choir is social, individually enriching and fun. Both programmes are popular and well supported. The successful FCDT and Open Road partnership hosted the summer 2025 Festival of the Sea with family rock pooling and art and music mornings and a sea focused creative writing day. The (festival) activities are a perfect fit with our purpose, sense of place and our environment. The community space has also hosted craft and environmental fairs as well as providing access to pop up markets, RNLI and beach communities (surfers).

Provide a cultural and historical venue where residents can share their historical and social knowledge of Fittie with each other, external groups and visitors to the city.

FCDT, has and will continue to seek to provide a cultural and historic venue on a more formal basis by delivering specific theme related events. The facilitation of such events has and will continue to be dependent on FCDT board and members capacity. The increase in visitor numbers from Aberdeen, bus tours and cruise ships has led to some privacy issues for residents as well as being seen and felt as an intrusion by some residents. The situation is one that the board will monitor and take action that is proportionate and compatible with our objective and our residents' interests. The Trustees have liaised with the cruise ship companies, met with their representatives where possible and engaged with the cities tourist guides to agree a resident sensitive approach to village visits and proactively encourage donations to mitigate the impact of these visits.

Merchandise remains an important not only to generate income for the trust (17%) but as a means to promote designs of local artists and maintain the tradition of sharing our village photographers work in our Fittie calendar. We also promote and sell books on our village history as part of our merchandise offer. Our merchandise is promoted through our social media and sold in the village by volunteers to local, national and international visitors to promote our history, environment and pride.

Improve the quality of life for all residents- including the most isolated and vulnerable by engaging in shared activities, developing relationships and valuing the experience and skill of residents.

All our social, cultural and environment related activities also support engagement, relationship building and the valuing the experience and skill of residents. The FCDT members organised events that focused around sharing skills/ knowledge (art and crafts) and health/well-being (from yoga to community exercise classes) as part of our annual schedule for the hall and garden. FCDT's gardening and environmental working groups naturally provide an opportunity to share expertise and experience.

Achievements and performance

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

This financial year has been our first full year as a fully independently funded trust. This has necessitated the careful balancing of our priorities to meet our income targets while delivering fully on FCDT's objectives. We have successfully built on our solid base of cultural, social and environmental programmes while managing the challenges presented to FCDT as a viable self-funded operation. The Trustees have achieved this through careful planning and cashflow management throughout the year. Our financial focus has continued to be on the operational management and associated management of our overheads (cost of running our hall). The continued review of suppliers with the associated new more competitive contracts coupled with best practice governance guidelines have contributed to a well-managed and positive cash position.

The Trust has continued to benefit from the partnership with Open Road, a company limited by guarantee. This partnership is a huge asset to the Trust, as a 'win-win' providing income and a rich and varied programme of social, cultural and entertainment community activities. The latter including

- 1.our film nights- ongoing opportunity to watch non-mainstream films, some with a climate focus.

2. this year's Festival of The Sea, coinciding with the arrival of the Tall Ships, provided family fun and textile, writing & watercolour workshops.

3. A full year of NEAT (North East Art Touring) events including a children's dance performance and show, folk music and magicians. NEAT facilitates subsidised access to affordable small-scale theatre and dance performances which would otherwise not be possible.

- 4.The Harbour Voices Community Choir testimonials also emphasise its role in improving the quality of life of our residents in every sense: "I have made friends & have fun..."; "my mid-week sanctuary of calm & sanity"; " you may go in low spirits, at the end spirits are raised, I am wearing a smile on my face"; "singing in the choir has been a source of pleasure, learning and friendship for me for quite a while now".

The successful village craft fairs have remained as a regular fixture throughout the year and continue to be enjoyed by the village as well as visitors. The sustained growth of the craft fairs in both size and popularity has brought even more significant associated financial benefit as stand-out events for both the trading receipts income and Ad Hoc income from merchandise sales and donations while supporting our objectives.

Our working groups continue to be a significant and valuable asset to our community. The Community Garden a special place for our community has continued to be developed with beautiful manicured beds along with areas to encourage pollinators and wild grasses to flourish, furthering the connection between our gardening and environmental groups. The Trust has again registered through CFINE (Community Food Initiatives North East) as a food business operator providing a weekly support service and an important environmental group initiative to make a significant contribution to the reduction of food waste.

One of the stand-out achievements of our environmental group (see picture below) was the launch of our beautiful beach box on Saturday 26th October. The Trust with the help of SUEZ has placed a special litter picking box next to the play park "Take 4 For The Shore". The box contains gloves for small and large hands, grabbers and bags to help keep the Fittie Beach and its environs litter free by using the equipment and returning it to the box for others to do the same!

FCDT has now been awarded a full membership from DTAS (Development Trusts Association Scotland) 10th June 2025, in recognition of our ongoing holistic approach to support community development.

This year has been another very busy and successful year thanks to all our members, our Trustees and particularly our volunteers.

The Environment Working Group Beach Box Project

THE BEACH BOX Mantra

'Take 4 For The Shore'



A collaborative initiative by:



1. Use the equipment in the box
2. Find 4 (or more!) pieces of litter
3. Dispose in the nearest bin or take home to recycle
4. Return the equipment to the box

Make picking up litter the social norm instead of dropping it.
Thank you!

Launch Day For The Team



Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

All unrestricted funds held at the bank constitute the reserves of the charity.

Details of any deficit

NA

Donated facilities and services (if any)

NA

Other optional information

The Trust acknowledges the support it has had during the year from a range of organisations with thanks. See the list below indicating the nature of support:

Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) for ongoing support and advice.

Aberdeen City Council (ACC) Environmental Services team for their support and guidance re grant funding and suppliers for a litter picking box

SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK for grant funds of £500 provided from the Aberdeen Reuse Community Fund. A special thanks must also go again to Open Road as a valued partner.

Acknowledgement to our Trustees and Volunteers:

The Trust acknowledges the continuing support over the years of Trustee and Secretary Cheryl Croydon.

A special thankyou to:

Pauline Brown and Louisa Coles for their ongoing support for our Trust Facebook and Instagram content.

Anne Coles for her long-term contribution to the production/sourcing and sales of our FCDT merchandise.

To all the members of our Gardening working group— led by Marianne Wamser until Autumn 2025

To all the members of our Environmental working groups – led by Beth Woodall and a special mention for Candice Watson and all the team for the Beach Box project delivery.

To our small but invaluable caretaker team: Mary Falconer, Dot Sim, Pauline Brown, Anne Cole, Cheryl Croydon and Lesley Anne Rose

Finally, a huge thankyou to all our village volunteers without whom the activities of the Trust would not be possible.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Mike McConnell	Sara Budge
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	11/05/2026	11/05/2026