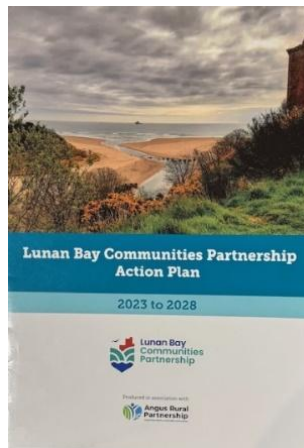




Lunan Bay Communities Partnership (SCIO) SCO50906

Chairman's report 2024-2025

Overall, the period April 2024 to March 2025 was a relatively busy time for Lunan Bay Communities Partnership (LBCP). During the year LBCP's Board of Trustees moved forwards with implementing aspects of the long term strategic aims set out in the LBCP Action Plan 2023-2028 document.



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

The Board of Trustees from April 2024-April 2025:

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)

Monthly Board meetings were held throughout the year, other than during May and November 2024.

Overview

During the reporting year, the Trustees of Lunan Bay Community Partnership continued to work towards the charity's aims of protecting, enhancing, and promoting the natural environment, accessibility, and community engagement at Lunan Bay. This report summarises the charity's principal activities, achievements, governance developments, and funding during the year.

Principal Activities and Achievements

Accessible Viewing Platform

The major project undertaken during the year was the rebuilding of an accessible viewing platform at Lunan Bay, replacing a previous structure that had fallen into disrepair and was removed by Angus Council in 2022.

In April 2024, a new site was agreed with Lunan Farms. The chosen location, approximately 30 metres north of the former platform, makes use of a higher point within the dune system to maximise panoramic views while minimising environmental impact.

Mott MacDonald, an international structural engineering consultancy with an Aberdeen base, generously provided pro bono design services and seconded an engineer to the project. They also undertook the required quantity surveying. RM Condor, together with their civilian contractors Mitie, agreed to support the construction phase.

The Board submitted a detailed funding application to the National Lottery Community Fund, which was successful, with the full amount requested being awarded.

One of LBCP's members, Diane Blake, agreed to act as Project Manager, contributing her professional expertise gained prior to retirement.

Planning permission was granted by Angus Council without conditions. The landowner, Hew Blair-Imrie, kindly covered the planning application fee.

The platform was designed to integrate with the existing boardwalk linking the site to the car park. Angus Council agreed to carry out refurbishment works to the boardwalk, which was in poor condition.

Outcome and Impact

The viewing platform was completed in May 2025 and is now in public use, providing safe and inclusive access to views across Lunan Bay.

While only limited repairs to the boardwalk have been undertaken to date, LBCP secured funding in January 2026 to replace the boardwalk entirely. This will significantly improve accessibility for visitors with limited mobility, including assisted wheelchair users, and further advance the charity's commitment to inclusive access.

Community Engagement and Consultation**Membership Survey**

A membership survey was undertaken during the year, based on a similar survey conducted shortly after LBCP's establishment in 2020. Approximately 50% of members responded.

The findings were consistent with those of the earlier survey, identifying ongoing concerns relating to:

- Parking pressures
- Vehicle speeds on the C45
- Antisocial behaviour by a small minority of visitors
- Dog fouling and dog control
- The lack of public toilet facilities

These results continue to inform the Trustees' priorities and engagement with relevant stakeholders.

Visitor Toileting

"Wild" toileting, particularly during the summer months, remains a significant concern with implications for public health, environmental protection, and visitor experience.

While LBCP is not in a position to provide toilet facilities directly, the Trustees have engaged during the year with the Angus Tourism Cooperative and Angus Council's Comfort Partnership Scheme to explore potential access to existing facilities, including the café toilets.

Public Information and Awareness

During the year, the Trustees produced an information flyer introducing LBCP and outlining its aims and activities. Flyers were distributed across publicly accessible venues in Arbroath and Montrose, including libraries and sports centres, and were also made available locally at Lunan Bay Café, the Second Chance Café, and Arbikie Distillery.

Funding and Financial Sustainability

A GoFundMe page and QR code were established to support small-scale public donations. This initiative has achieved modest but valuable success in raising unrestricted funds.

An application was submitted to the National Lottery Community Fund for the appointment of a part-time Community Engagement Officer. Although the application was unsuccessful, the Trustees consider this role strategically important and intend to revisit the proposal when appropriate funding opportunities arise.

In January 2025, the Keilor Trust, a SCIO based at Corbie, was wound up in accordance with OSCR regulations. With OSCR approval, the Trustees of the Keilor Trust made a generous donation to LBCP to support its charitable purposes. These funds have been ring-fenced for projects focused on environmental stewardship and biodiversity at Lunan Bay. The Trustees note that this donation also enables LBCP to access funding streams requiring matched funding.

The Trustees formally recorded their thanks to the Keilor Trust for this significant contribution.

Sustainable Tourism Partnership

In summer 2024, LBCP entered discussions with Arbikie Distilling regarding their partnership with Insight Travel (Trafalgar), a company specialising in sustainable tourism.

Arbikie nominated LBCP as their partner charity, an arrangement approved by Insight Travel. Under this partnership, LBCP provides short presentations to visiting tour groups, outlining the charity's work and environmental ethos. In return, LBCP receives a per-capita contribution.

These presentations commenced in spring 2025 and involve an LBCP Trustee attending Arbikie twice weekly. This initiative has proved highly successful and represents a significant and reliable income stream. All income generated through this partnership is ring-fenced for local sustainability projects.

Governance and Management

A Safeguarding Policy was developed and approved by the Trustees in February 2025, in line with OSCR guidance and good governance practice.

Throughout the year, the Trustees also reviewed and updated the charity's website to improve clarity, accessibility, and the availability of information for the public.

Other Activities

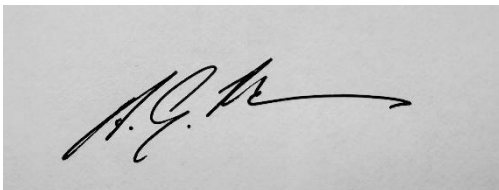
In addition to the above, Trustees were involved in:

- Securing a well-used path from the C45 to Red Castle and onward to the beach as a protected Right of Way
 - Clearing fallen trees and reopening this path for public use
 - Participating in and supporting litter-picking activities at Lunan Bay
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Looking Ahead

The Trustees remain committed to improving accessibility, protecting the natural environment, addressing visitor pressures, and strengthening community engagement. The coming year will focus on delivering the new boardwalk project, developing sustainable funding streams, and continuing collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.G. Matthews', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Dr Andrew Matthews

Chair
Lunan Bay Community Partnership
