



Tweedsmuir Community Company: The Crook Inn Plus

About the Project

The Tweedsmuir Community Company (TCC) was established in 2013 and initially focused on buying the Crook Inn, a 400-year old hostelry that was central to village life. The Company, a registered charity with membership defined by living in the local postcode, matured to focus on the local Community Action Plan. Unusually perhaps, the vast majority of the actions in the 2017-2022 Plan were actually completed.

Thanks to the TCC there are a variety of activities which can be enjoyed by local people and tourists, including a number of walks and an online community eco-museum.

The Ecomuseum is a searchable online resource about the history of Tweedsmuir. It contains documents, songs, photos, videos and drone footage. Many of the resources are contributed by local people who want to share and preserve their stories.

Tweedsmuir is located on a busy main road, but few people stop there, despite the beautiful wild environment. To encourage people to linger, a number of walks have been developed, with online descriptions, heritage tales and details of highlights to look out for.

The Community Company's biggest project is restoration of the Crook Inn. TCC bought the inn in 2013 and have long-term plans for developing a community centre, café, bunkhouse, campsite,

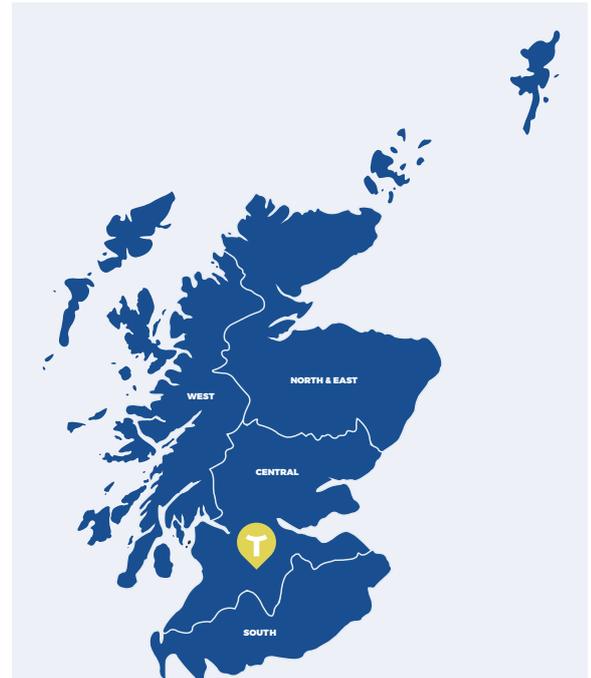
petanque area and pump-and-jump trail, all located in beautifully restored gardens. There is a phased approach to this enormous project, because funders tend to want to start with something relatively small and manageable to gain confidence that the project is being well managed. A key milestone is opening a café in 2022.

For the community, by the community – local benefits and volunteer involvement

There are outstanding levels of local volunteering, with a significant upsurge when funding was secured and people could see progress being made on the Crook Inn site. Strong local leadership emphasised that volunteers should be given tasks that they wanted to do, and made clear how the various tasks fitted into overall plans.

“Community tourism has to be about what the community wants. Our work has to benefit local people. We lost sight of this for a while and almost became too commercial. We hope that visitors have a great time, but they have to fit around what we offer. That way you get local interest and active engagement.”

Lesley Mason,
Tweedsmuir Community Company



Location: Tweedsmuir, near Biggar

Type: Do, Eat, Find

When Set Up: 2013

How Funded: Community Fundraising Campaign, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Inspiring Communities Fund, Scottish Borders Council Sustainable Development Fund, SSE Clyde Borders Community Fund, Ventient Glenkerie Windfarm, SoSEP, Garfield Weston Foundation, Clyde SSE, Rural Communities Fund, Fallago Environment Fund, Rural Communities Ideas into Action

Beneficiaries: Local people (socially and economically) and visitors

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