

CASCT Update – April 2006

CASCT Milestones

Since CASCT was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 14 February 2005, a number of important milestones on our journey to building a new Community Centre have been achieved:

- CASCT website goes live September 2005
- Attendees at a Public Meeting on 28 October 2005 vote to stick to the original plan to demolish and rebuild the Community Centre on the existing site rather than to pursue a possible alternative Greenfield site
- Fundraising target for 2005 of £20k exceeded
- Local judges for Architectural Competition announced on 6 January 2006. They are: Jack Page, Nicky Tait and Craig Leuchars
- Business Plan Workshop 18 March 2006
- At a meeting of the Formartine Area Committee on 21 March 2006, Aberdeenshire Council vote to transfer ownership of the existing site and buildings to CASCT at no cost, subject to a number of conditions.
- 30 March 2006 - Inland Revenue grant Charitable Status to CASCT effective 8 February 2006
- 31 March 2006 – Inaugural Annual General Meeting of CASCT

CASCT Inaugural Annual General Meeting 31 March 2006

The following business was transacted:

- Directors' report received
- Audited Accounts received and approved. Closing balance at 28 February 2006 was £19,165.30.
- Reappointment of Steve Rainey, Shirley Beattie and Vicky McNiff as Directors; appointment of Alan White and Peter Somner as Directors

In addition, a number of changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association were discussed – these will be presented as resolutions at the next AGM. An update on the Architectural Competition and a brief report on the Business Plan Workshop were also presented.

Business Plan Workshop 18 March 2006

The aims of the workshop were to:

- To **challenge** the components of CASCT's draft Business Plan.
- Thus enabling the preparation of a properly informed, robust business plan that will **survive** intense professional scrutiny by funders.
- To facilitate **community buy-in** to the plan.

There were 39 attendees comprising representatives of CASCT, Amenities, potential user groups and local and external experts/advisors. Sarah Menzies and Glen Fendley of CADISPA facilitated the event. The main part of the workshop consisted of 2 breakout sessions each with the following 4 work groups:

- CASCT & Centre, Functions & Seminars
- Power & Energy
- Visitor Experience - Retail/PO, Tourism, Art, Catering
- Accommodation

After feedback from the work groups and discussion, the main outcomes of the workshop were as follows:

- Agreed core income generators would be from accommodation and meeting room rentals and hire of facilities for functions. External users are absolutely key.
- Agreed that designing a building to have zero energy cost with respect to heating, light and power is feasible.

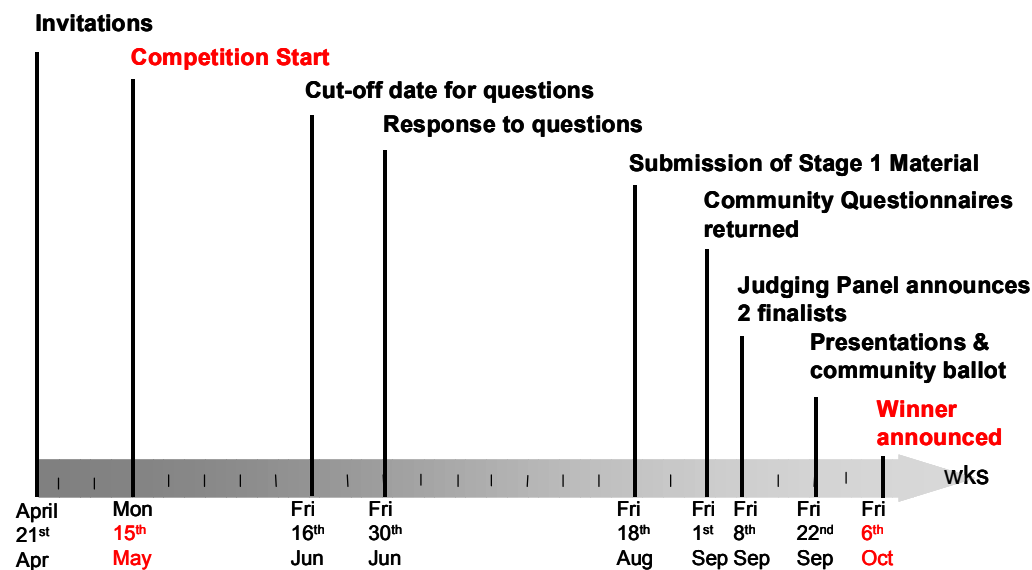
- Agreed that a Post Office, small retail outlet, cafe, professional catering facilities and a gallery are all essential for ensuring a positive visitor experience.
- Agreed the basic structure of an umbrella organization to manage the Social Enterprise for which the new Community Centre would be the focus.



- Confirmed that a turnover of ~£40k per annum with a surplus of ~£8k (indicative figures) should be possible.
- Built enthusiasm, trust and buy-in.

Architectural Competition

The Architectural Competition will be launched at the beginning of May. Some 17 pre-selected architectural practices will be invited to register interest in entering the competition. A shortlist of 5 will be selected to enter the competition. The timeline and process for the competition is summarised below:



At present, we plan to announce the winning design on 6 October 2006.

The minutes of the AGM, a report on the Business Plan Workshop and the Architects' Brief will be posted on the CASCT website www.colliestononline.org and hard copies will be available for review in the Post Office in due course.