

Collieston and Slains Community Trust November 2005 Update

At a public meeting on Friday 28 October, CASCT committee members presented a SWOT analysis of building the new Community Centre on a potential Greenfield site between Slains House and Coastguard Cottages.

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sale of existing property could generate up to £200k of cash towards total cost • Proposed site is slightly more central 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any Greenfield site is likely to be less attractive and compromise sustainability
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenfield site may allow the new hall to be less prominent 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlikely that a developer could make a profit from just converting existing property • Slains Estate and Aberdeenshire Council have still to confirm that a site is available • The project could be delayed indefinitely • Development of Greenfield site could set a precedent

Despite best efforts, the offer of a Greenfield site from Slains Estate has not been confirmed, and faced with an indefinite delay to the project, the CASCT Committee recommended proceeding with the original plan to build the new Community centre on the existing site. This recommendation was endorsed by 80% of those attending the meeting. Following a short break for tea and coffee, a plan to hold an architectural competition to select an architect and design for the Centre was outlined. In Stage 1 of the competition, 5 short-listed architects will be invited to submit scale drawings, a model and photomontage, all to a standard format. These will be displayed in the existing hall for a period of 2 weeks, during which time residents of Collieston and Slains Parish will be able to feedback comments. A panel of judges, comprising 3 or 4 renowned architects and 3 local residents, will select 2 finalists to go forward to Stage 2. The judging panel will take full account of community feedback in this process. In Stage 2, the finalists will make a presentation of their designs at public meetings, after which a secret ballot will be held to select the winning design.

Help Needed

Currently, a lot of effort is being made to draft the Collieston Community Centre Architectural Competition document. To complete this, we need to state the names of all the judges, including those representing residents of Collieston and Slains Parish. If you have an interest in design, and feel able to accurately represent the views of the community as a whole, the CASCT committee would like to hear from you. Please contact Steve Rainey (751372, steverainey@btinternet.com), Vicky Mcniff (751777, vicky_isherwood@yahoo.com) or email info@colliestononline.org, to register your interest in this very important role. The deadline for nominations is 5.00 pm Friday 9 December. The CASCT Committee will select the local judges. We look forward to hearing from you.

If you would like more information about CASCT, then please visit our website: www.colliestononline.org