

Public Meeting 22nd March 2016

At the Public Meeting held in Arngask Church on 22nd March, the audience of 50 residents were updated on the ongoing Social Hub Working Group's activities.

Chairman of the group, Steve Whiting, opened the presentation, outlined the evening's format and gave an update on planning application submitted by Arngask Hotels Ltd for change of use. The second speaker, Bill Macpherson, gave an update on all the group's activities then introduced Sadie Allan who gave detail of the ongoing discussions with the Village Hall and the Bowling Club and the hope of establishing an interim Social Hub within the village.

Secretary of the group, Kate Armstrong, introduced the subject of Community Right to Buy legislation and spoke about why we, as a community, should undertake this task stressing the social, economic and environmental benefits. She then went on to outline the initial processes of forming a company. David Aird then gave a more detailed explanation of company formation requirements and the subsequent application to register an interest in a Community Right to Buy. As part of this process requires a %age of those on Electoral Register to show support for the application, he gave those present of the opportunity to sign the support forms available. (100% of those present signed the forms and several took forms away to enlist support from friends and neighbours.)

Gordon Smith explained how this whole process could be financed through grants, loans and/or shares. He gave many examples of funding options and examples of similar situations where a community had effectively exercised a right to buy and succeeded in establishing a mutually beneficial asset.

After a short period of questions from the audience the Chairman thanked the attendees and the meeting closed.