

## Pathhead & District Community Association (Scottish Charity number SC012253)



Dear Tynewater Resident,

January 2014

### Proposed new constitution for Pathhead & District Community Association (PDCA)

You are invited to a Special General Meeting of the PDCA at 8pm on Thursday, 30 January at Pathhead Village Hall, 11 Main Street Pathhead, to vote on a proposal to dissolve the Association and re-establish it as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

**We want to draw your attention to some important implications of this proposed change.** Under the current constitution, all residents of the Tynewater Community Council area are by definition members of PDCA, and entitled to vote on how the Association is run. The title to Pathhead Village Hall is held by 3 Trustees on behalf of the Association, so in a sense the Hall belongs to everyone. However, this arrangement could not be continued if the Association becomes a SCIO, because the legislation does not allow this. Instead, ownership of the Hall and the running of the Association would belong to the members of the Association. Membership would be more tightly defined, with membership only by application, a register of members kept, and all members having to accept some responsibilities for the Association's business. The members would have a stated aim to run the Association in the interests of all in the community.

On the other hand, we consider there would be significant advantages if we make this change. First, we are advised that it will make it much more likely that we will be able to attract substantial grant funding with which to improve the hall building. Secondly, and even more importantly, SCIO status protects Committee members from personal liability in the event of financial difficulties faced by the Charity. Without this degree of protection, we are advised it would be unsafe for us to enter into substantial contracts to renovate the village hall.

At the same time we also propose to broaden the charitable aims of the Association so that PDCA could be involved in a wide range of community activities across the Tynewater area, as well as managing and maintaining the village hall in Pathhead.

This is a significant proposal and we hope you will come to the Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January to vote on it, and to show your interest in and support for the continuing prosperity of the Village Hall and the Association.

Yours sincerely

Management Committee and Trustees, Pathhead & District Community Association

[billbarron93@gmail.com](mailto:billbarron93@gmail.com)

[www.pathhead.info](http://www.pathhead.info)