

The Ridge SCIO Chairman's Report AGM October 2018

The first year's report for The Ridge must perforce be somewhat limited in scope. The last year has seen enormous change, with two thirds of the trustees resigning due to moves away from the area leaving the board decimated and myself becoming Chairperson. This affected not only the SCIO but also the associated CICS. Happily after some rallying around a number of new appointments were made to the SCIO (2 new trustees) and the CICS (ca. 6 new Board members not including the SCIO trustees). The ensuing period has been therefore one of people learning what The Ridge is all about, coming to terms with the structures and also getting to grips with what they have to offer. Looking into the future it seems to me that we are in a better general state than a year ago in this respect, however with the changes to The constitution imminent we need to consider the appointment of new trustees and more importantly the need to have a minimum of 20 members. Both of these will present challenges as until now the teams have been small and more easily managed.

Our biggest opportunity clearly lies with the move to have Black Bull Close buildings transferred to the SCIO once constitutional changes are made; this will enable the broader organisation to move forward with their plans. We still need to be cautious however that we do not over stretch ourselves with current limited resource.

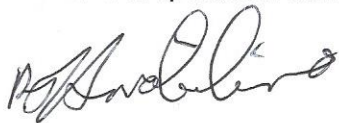
Over the next year we need to formalise the various procedures and policies developed with external support to ensure that these can be approved both within the SCIO and the CICS; the intention must be that there is one set applicable to all..

Financially there is little to report as until now there have been no funds to manage. This will change dramatically once Black Bull Close is transferred and grants are directed via The Ridge to other strategic plans (e.g. Monks Walk, Empire Close). We need to ensure that appropriate accounting planning is in place before we start getting funds in to manage.

We continue to have areas of weakness that should be addressed during the next year. The predominant of these, conversely one of our strengths, is that so much knowledge resides with Kate Darrah (Managing Director), with so much breadth of vision and so many contacts; We do need to consider how we might minimise the risk to the organisation(s) by perhaps trustees individually looking after specific areas with Kate

This is also the space to place on record an appreciation of the phenomenal amount of work and passion that Kate Darrah brings to The Ridge, and without whom we would certainly not be where we are now

Lastly on a personal note, trying to keep an eye on all the arms of the Ridge has been challenging over the last year particularly with me working away from the area; with my return to Dunbar I hope to be able to spend more time enabling the Ridge to fulfil all its promise



Kenn Amabilino

Chair