

SCDT Update (January 2026)

The January meeting of Skirling Community Development Trust (SCDT) was briefed with updates on its swing park project, pathway project, its constitution and preparations for its first AGM.

Regarding the proposal to construct a swing park in Skirling, SCDT is still waiting to receive pre-planning advice from Scottish Borders Council (SBC); however this is expected to be received in the coming days.

In respect of the pathway project to maintain the core path between Skirling and Broughton, SCDT has been in contact with relevant landowners and SBC's Access Officer together with interest parties in Broughton. It is anticipated a site visit will take place within the coming weeks.

In terms of its constitution, SCDT received feedback from land acquisition project consultant John Hollingdale (JH) and Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS). Both JH and DTAS observed that the constitution does not permit SCDT to exercise some statutory asset transfer and community right to buy (CRB) powers and ineligible to receive grants from the Scottish Land Fund. It was recommended that SCDT could adopt a CRB-compliant constitution template (created by the Scottish Government) to remedy these issues. It was agreed that by the next trust board meeting (10th February) there should be a new draft constitution ready to put to members at the AGM.

For the preparation for the first AGM, it was discussed that community engagement can be increased by promoting the AGM in local community news outlets (Community News March edition). This would need to be ready to submit by January 31st to be ready for publication. Guest speakers to engage attendees about the role and potential of community trusts together with a presentation by JH on the draft land project findings and recommendations would be a good idea.

The date of the AGM was originally proposed as 10 March 2026. However, owing to the detailed proposals to amend the constitution and OSCR accounting requirements for annual accounts after 31 March 2026, it was agreed that it would be better to have the AGM in April as this would provide time to promote community engagement and awareness around the Trust ambition and agenda, the proposed constitutional changes as well as maximizing turnout at the AGM.

It was therefore agreed that there will be an outline plan for community engagement in the lead up to the AGM; confirmation of OSCR's position concerning any changes and accounting requirements, and securing guest speakers for the AGM.

Subject to the above, it was decided the best date for the AGM will be 25th April 2026.