

SCDT Project Brief
Land Project

Project Description:

The aim of this project is to successfully facilitate the transfer of various parcels of land from private ownership to communal trusteeship under the aegis of SCDT. This is to be implemented through the procurement of relevant professional independent advice on the nature and potential present and future uses of pieces of privately owned land within Skirling whose owners have expressed willingness to transfer their ownership by way of sale or gift. This advice will be presented in the form of a draft report containing proposals and recommendations which will be used as the basis of community engagement with Skirling residents on matters arising from proposed asset acquisition and use.

SCDT Role:

The role of SCDT is to secure funding for the cost of obtaining relevant professional independent advice; thereafter to advertise the project for tender. After a rigorous tender process a contractor will be selected from the applicants. Once appointed, SCDT will work closely with the contractor to assist in the production of a professional report and community engagement.

Board Champion: Mike Thompson

Update:

At the 31 March SCDT board meeting a draft report was accepted. Subsequently the

contractor contacted some of the relevant landowners who have intended to sell or gifted their parcels of land. Following a process of community consultation around the time of SCDT's AGM in April 2026 on the findings of the contractor's reporting, recommendations were made and a business plan produced. On the basis of the completed Land Project Report, which advises the Trust about tracts of land and their possible uses for community benefit, SCDT has now moved on to phase 2 of the Land Project, by producing a forward plan for the coming year. The plan sets out the projects which SCDT will pursue for the twelve months April 2026 – March 2027.

The forward plan has been released to members to seek their views on which projects they would like to prioritise. Members responded by stating that the projects they would like to see prioritised, are first Skirling Playpark, which received 46.2% share of the vote; this was followed by Castlestanes Path, with third place going to Community Composting and Growing.

We will now focus our efforts in the next 12 months on doing the necessary work to make progress on the projects in the forward plan, particularly the three which the survey results show are those deemed most important.

One of the aims of the Land Project was to assess the value - the positives and negatives of the land available to acquire in the village. Now that this has been completed, the Trust is in a strong position to acquire land with support of the community.