Document 13

Furthering Sustainable Development

Section 7.2 on application form

The CB's proposed use of the orchard would promote its sustainable development in three key areas being Social Sustainability, Sustainable Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability.

Social Sustainability

The project would regenerate an unproductive historic orchard that has been left abandoned and neglected for many years into an asset of which the community would be proud. The orchard would promote social sustainability in that it would provide an informal tranquil meeting space both for the local community and for those using the adjoining walking and cycling friendly public road.

It would provide local schoolchildren with an educational resource and provide an area where they could learn about not only fruit production but also the biodiversity of the site.

It is now generally accepted that Green Space contributes to good health and a higher quality of life as well as environmental sustainability. The orchard would be a communal green space in which there would be increased levels of social contact and integration.

This project would align well with the Scottish Government's targets for meeting the United Nations goals for Sustainable Development. Extracts of these targets are in Doc 15. In particular the regeneration of the historic orchard would further targets 11.1 Safer Cities and Communities, 11.3 Community Empowerment, 11.4 Preservation, Protection and Conservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage and 11.7 relating to the adequate provision of Green Space.

Target 11.4 is of particular significance given the historic nature of the orchard with its heritage varieties of fruit and its prominent setting at the edge of the village.

Sustainable Economic Development

The project would make a positive contribution to the setting of Ballindean, a small village that nestles at the foot of the Braes of the Carse of Gowrie. The Illustrated Architectural Guide to Perth & Kinross (a publication supported by PKC, PK Heritage Trust and Perth Civic Trust and others) acknowledges the special character of the village and calls Ballindean "a picturesque estate hamlet". An important part of the character of the village are its various listed buildings and its historic orchard.

The project would make a positive contribution to the historic environment of the village by preserving its ancient orchard.

Proper management of the existing trees within the orchard and the planting of new trees will generate fruit for the local community. The local Cairn O'Mhor winery is only a couple of miles from the orchard. That business purchases apples for its cider business so that any excess fruit could be collected and sold for the benefit of the community with very few "food miles".

Environmental Sustainability

The orchard is currently overgrown and neglected. See photos on Doc 16 as an example. It has a negative effect on the community. It's proposed purchase by the CB will allow for a planned maintenance programme to be implemented which will preserve an historic and culturally important orchard in the Carse of Gowrie.