

**NORTH BERWICK
TRUST**

**VISION DOCUMENT
2017**



ABOUT THE TRUST

North Berwick Trust was set up as a charity in 1973 to support recreation, education and local amenities as well as to relieve the suffering of residents.

The Trust was funded by the then North Berwick Town Council to acquire 103 acres of land at Mains Farm. The land was safeguarded by the Trust until the year to November 2016, when a portion was sold to Walker Homes, Cala and Cruden Homes. The income from this sale will total £16.7m by April 2019 with money being paid in annual tranches. 50 acres of land still remain in Trust ownership.

Through the development of this land, and use of the income received, the Trust supports and provides benefits to the residents of North Berwick and their dependents. The Trust is currently working on the criteria for a grant award programme to be published towards the end of 2017, following which applications will be invited.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- By carefully managing the land, the value has grown significantly, creating a fund to benefit North Berwick residents and their dependents. This is invested on behalf of the Trust to earn interest.
- 420 new homes have been created. This includes 105 affordable homes including social housing, mid-market rented housing and low cost home ownership.
- A new 38 acre park has been created, which will be owned and managed by the Trust for the benefit of the local community.
- An initial £58,000 of grant contributions were paid to 21 organisations in 2016.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- Planning permission is in place for a community hub, which will provide a focal point for the new neighbourhood. Arranged around a public square with landscaped and seating areas, it will include shopping and employment opportunities with parking.
- An employment hub, for which planning permission is also in place, will offer local jobs through the development of an office building and commercial units for businesses.
- An additional 55 affordable homes - for completion in 2021.
- Further development of the designated Country Park area to provide a recreational space for use by the community.

HOW THE TRUST IS RUN

The Trust is managed by 13 community members including seven community councillors, one member of East Lothian Council, two local school heads, a Doctor, a Minister and a representative of the Environment Trust. The make-up of the Trustee body was set out in the original Trust Deed. All Trust members are unpaid volunteers. It has recently agreed a purpose and a vision.

VISION

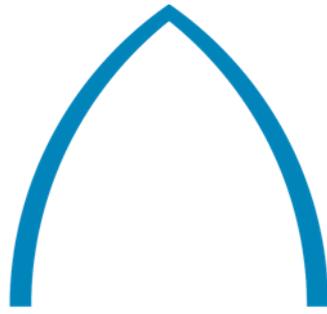
The purpose of North Berwick Trust is to work for the benefit of residents of North Berwick and their dependents.

Our vision:

1. We will take a flexible and responsible approach to managing trust funds, enabling us to both invest in the community today and create a North Berwick 'Forever Fund' for the future
2. Working with North Berwick Community Council, the Coastal Area Partnership and other appropriate bodies, we will use the Trust's resources to assist in meeting identified community needs
3. We will award grants to North Berwick Community Groups, organisations and individuals
4. We will seek to work inclusively, collaboratively and transparently
5. We will review our work regularly and undertake a major review in 2020

During 2017 the Trust has been reviewing its work to clarify its vision and improve the way it communicates. Over the forthcoming months, the Trust will be providing more information via a new website, social media and the local press. It will be holding a community meeting to outline its future plans and involve local people in discussions about its future priorities.

As part of this, the 'Friends of North Berwick Trust' will be created, which will enable the Trust to keep people up to date with developments through a regular email bulletin and invitations to attend events.



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