



FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

March 2012

The project to restore the former bandstand in Queen's Park has developed from a theoretical pilot project to evaluate how Community Councils could act in concert, in March 2009, to a real deliverable project, the first phase 1 of which will be complete in summer 2012. The objective as identified in the Articles of Association is to restore the former bandstand to usable condition and create a vital, flexible performance and activity venue for a wide range of community and arts uses with a programme coordinated and managed through this community-led charity.

During 2011-12 grants secured from Landfill Community Fund, the Southside Central, Pollokshields and Langside Area Committees, the Strathbungo Society and Govanhill Community Development Trust totalled £180,000. This with some additional support from Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government enabled the site to be made safe by grouting voids left of early 19th century mine workings and for the first phase of site restoration to be fully detailed. The grouting was complete in October 2011. Works to introduce drainage, provide an electrical supply, restore and re-surface the arena floor, re-landscape and restore the seating is scheduled to take place during April-May 2012. A Lottery Awards for All grant of £10,000 is supporting the employment of an Events Organiser on a six-month, part time contract from April 2012. The post holder will work to the steering group to build events administration mechanisms and deliver an event programme for the late summer and autumn of 2012. Discussions have also taken place with Glasgow Regeneration Agency, which should facilitate business planning and further capacity building later this year.

Following the success of the architectural competition held in 2010, ZM Architecture was appointed design and specify the project and to supervise work on site. The phase 1 contracts, as specified by QPA to ZM's agreed designs are being arranged through Glasgow City Council which considerably eases QPA's administrative burden. Negotiations with Glasgow City Council over the tenure of the Arena site from summer 2012 have been protracted but agreement has been reached that QPA will have a lease on the site agreed by autumn 2012 with a Permission to Operate in

place for summer activities. Heads of agreement have been drawn up in outline and legal advice is being sought.

During late 2011 and early 2012 the steering group has been implementing a membership development plan and working on the Business Case to complement the Business Plan and provide a basis for phase 2 fund raising. We are pleased to welcome the Strathbungo Society, Hutchesons' Grammar School, Langside College and the Common Guild as our first members.

The website designed by Keith Hawley has been working effectively so far as information provision is concerned and is now named on all company publicity and presentational material. It has not so far proved effective as a means of public dialogue or in attracting institutional membership applications. This may be due partly to a lack of visibility in search engines which is now being remedied. Use of the site can be expected to increase once the work starts on site and it then comes into use.

Throughout the year the steering group has been active in presenting the project, meeting with potential event partners, such as Glasgow Life, the Citizens Theatre and the Friends of Kelvingrove Park. It has become apparent that Steering Group capacity is limited by members' other commitments and there is a need to build capacity by attracting people as volunteers with appropriate skills to join the steering group.

The Steering Group has met monthly and has the same membership as the Board at present. The Board has met twice. Over the year we have been very sorry to receive the resignations of Andrew Montgomery, Jim Scott and Scott Mackay from the Steering Group. All have made very important contributions to the development of the project in its crucial initial stages and we thank them for their input. We are pleased to welcome David Seers and Anthony Halifax as new Steering Group members and company directors, and Mrs Elizabeth Russell as a new steering group member.