



Wick River Campsite

About the Project

Wick Development Trust was set up in 2019 to help boost urban regeneration in Wick and to deliver projects that would help to improve the local economy and support the community.

When the opportunity arose in 2022 to tender for the lease of Wick River Campsite, we immediately saw the potential the site could have as a community enterprise project, allowing the Trust to be self-sustaining and generate income to be re-invested back into the local community.

The campsite although well-kept was in serious need of modernisation, the site facilities were in a state of disrepair and would only last a few more years before major reinvestment would be required. In our business plan we had set out a three-year improvement plan to be funded with profits from the campsite, and public funding if we were able to secure it.

By June 2024 we had managed to lever investment of over £600k from various funding streams and delivered Phase 1 & Phase 2 of our planned improvements.

Campsite Transformation

Phase 1 was delivered during the winter of 2022/23, which replacing all of the existing electric hook up bollards plus, increasing the number of electric hook up points from 32 to 69; improving the internal road layout; adding

10 more hard standing pitches; erecting new entrance gates and fencing; installing a children's play area, communal barbecue, and picnic benches.

Phase 2 saw the completion of a new toilet & facilities block, including two accessible toilets & shower room, family shower room, laundry and wash-up area. The building also has 51-panel solar power array with battery storage, air source heat pumps along with underfloor heating, mechanical heat recovery ventilation and various other energy and water saving features. Work is now progressing to deliver Phase 3, a new reception building which will be built with the same Net Zero aspirations and green credentials as the new facilities block.

“The feedback from visitors and locals alike on the transformation that’s taken place at the campsite under the helm of the Trust has been so positive. It’s been a huge project for the Trust and we’re happy to share our journey with the SCOTO network in hope that it may serve to encourage others to take the leap and reap the benefits of what community-led tourism can bring”
Sarah Lamb, Projects Manager, Wick Development Trust



Location: Dumfries & Galloway

Type: Stay

When Set Up: June 2022

How Funded: Various grants

Beneficiaries: Visitors / Local Projects

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