

Beach Wheelchairs Annual Report 2014/15



Beach Wheelchairs
Steering Group

Part of North Berwick Community Centre
www.beachwheelchairs.org

Beach Wheelchairs
Part of North Berwick Community Centre
Scottish Charity No. SCO13505
8 Law Road, North Berwick EH39 5PT

Tel: 07494 600954

Email: info@beachwheelchairs.org

www.beachwheelchairs.org

Thanks to our generous funders



The Beach Wheelchairs Steering Group has pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statement for 1 January 2015 – 10 September 2015.

Reference and Administrative Information

Project Name:

Beach Wheelchairs

Charity Name and No:

Steering Group is part of North Berwick Community Centre, a registered charity with charity reference number SC013505.

Registered Address:

North Berwick Community Centre, Law Road, North Berwick, EH39 4PH.

Current Members of the Group

Alison Brown (chair)
Jackie Tagg (secretary and treasurer)
Kirsty Wood
Fiona Imrie
Fiona Dickens
Melanie Kay
Robin Black

Bankers:

The Accounts of Beach Wheelchairs has been held as a project by North Berwick Community Centre. The bankers for whom are Royal Bank of Scotland, North Berwick.

Structure Governance & Management

Legal Status and founding document:

The Beach Wheelchairs Steering Group is made up of members and is governed by a Terms of Reference. Beach Wheelchairs is now moving towards becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

Members

Those attending Steering Group meetings were invited to be members at the meeting of 24 February 2015. At this meeting it was agreed that Alison Brown would Chair the steering group and Jackie Tagg would act as Secretary. Jackie has also acted as the Treasurer to the group. Elections will take place at the General Meeting to be held on the 1st October 2015. This will result in a Board, with Office Bearers and Members.

Organisational Structure:

A proposed organisational structure will be discussed at the first meeting of the new Board.

Beach Wheelchairs - Chairs Report

Beach Wheelchairs started up at a public meeting in November 2014. We have achieved a huge amount in this time and met our aims as set out in the Terms of Reference. Our stated purpose and project aims within our Terms of Reference are as follows:

Purpose:

To increase the number of people with disabilities accessing the beach in North Berwick through the use of beach wheelchairs.

Project aims

- Design a pilot beach wheelchair hire/ loan scheme for North Berwick;
- Provide beach wheelchairs for paediatric and adult use in North Berwick for hire/ loan to members of the general public; and
- Evaluate the pilot scheme.

I am delighted to report that we met all of these aims within the tight timescale we had set ourselves. Although the process of evaluating is ongoing.

What we have done

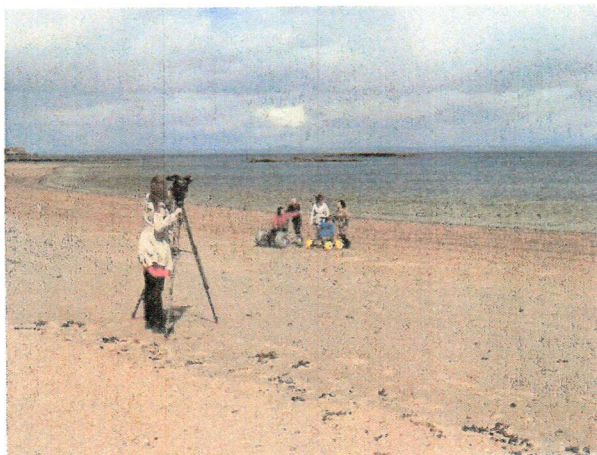
More than 50 people from North Berwick and East Lothian have helped us in so many ways. People have used their creativity, expert knowledge, handyman skills and perseverance to get us where we are today. As well as donating generously to the project.

We have worked in partnership with NB Harbour Trust, NB Community Council and North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership. We have been supported by East Lothian Council and many other organisations, businesses and community groups, including the Big Lottery, People's Postcode Lottery, Support from the Start, NB Rotary, HSBC, MacDonald Marine Hotel and Spa, North Berwick Art Group, ABC Nursery in Tranent, Law Residents Association, East Lothian Yacht Club, and NB Day Centre.

THANK YOU

- We established as a project of North Berwick Community Centre and with the support of North Berwick Community Council.
- We carried out a survey of potential users of a wheelchair hire scheme with the Area Partnership with over 100 responses to identify whether there was a need for a beach wheelchair hire scheme locally.

- We had a 'Come and See, Come and try' event to allow our potential customers to try out a variety of beach wheelchairs and provide input into the design of the scheme.



- We have secured money for the project through a variety of sources: through successful funding applications, a local sponsor, our JustGiving page, a number of really successful sponsored activities, a trip on the Sula and a lot of generous individuals.

- We had a logo designed and agreed on a project name.
- We have purchased a child's 'Hippocampe' beach wheelchair with a variety of supports, and a headrest and a beanbag insert.
- We have purchased an adult's 'Nomad' beach wheelchair which is suitable for users with good trunk control
- We have purchased an adult's 'DeBug' beach wheelchair which has tilt in space, a chest harness, a head rest and a leg rest providing additional support and comfort.
- We successfully achieved planning permissions for the construction of a Beach Hut within North Berwick harbour and had agreement with the NB Harbour Trust Association,
- We have built a Beach Hut in North Berwick Harbour to store the beach wheelchairs and as a point of hire for our customers.
- We have developed a website with up to date information.

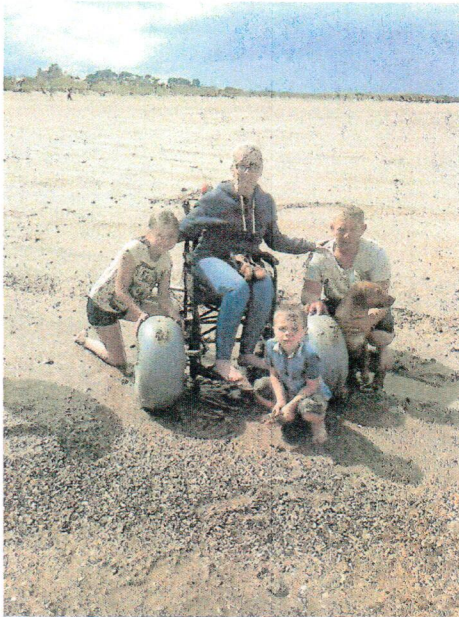
- We have established a booking line and diary booking system and advertised this booking line phone number.
- We have recruited and trained a team of volunteers for hiring out equipment and meeting our customers.



- We have insurance for our wheelchairs, customers and volunteers and carried out necessary risk assessments.
- We have advertised our scheme widely, and have been delighted to receive coverage in local and national press and on national radio. Leaflets and electronic information have been widely distributed to advertise the booking line number. Over 700 people have liked our Facebook page.
- We were delighted to be joined by author Ian Rankin for our Official Opening on the 18th July.
- We have encouraged other areas to consider adopting Beach Wheelchair hire schemes in their areas.



Our Pilot Season



Since July 1st the beach wheelchairs have been available to hire all day, every day and the booking line has been answered as promptly as possible by our volunteers, with any missed calls returned as soon as practically possible.

To date we have had over 40 different hires of the beach wheelchairs. This isn't just 40 individuals benefiting from the service; rather it is 40 families and groups of friends that have gained from being on the beach together. People getting together on the beach with their loved ones, having new experiences and making precious memories.

Sarah Clifton was in North Berwick on holiday with her family and saw an advert for Beach Wheelchairs at the local chip shop.

'Can't thank you guys enough for today! For the first time since her accident Sarah could go down to the beach with her husband, kids and dog and have an amazing time. She even dipped her toe in the sea!'

Janice McKee used the hippocampe beach wheelchair with her son.

'Having a ball using the hippocampe beach wheelchair. Exploring rock pools, running into the paddling pool and enjoying ice cream on the beach! All a first! A fab day welcomed by great volunteers'

The feedback on the wheelchairs and the service provided has been fantastic. This would not have been possible were it not for our amazing team of volunteers. We will be reviewing the feedback provided by our customers this season to make improvements for next year.

We are moving into a new phase of the project as we apply for individual charitable status and establish a Board to take the project forward. This is an exciting time for the project and we look forward to being able to help many more wheelchair users access the beach in the years to come!



Alison Brown

Chair, Beach Wheelchairs Steering Group

Financial Report Beach Wheelchairs 1 January 2015 to 10 September 2015

INCOME	
Just Giving	1761.86
Funders	
East Lothian Council	100.00
Law Residents	100.00
NB Rotary	500.00
Macdonald Marine	500.00
People's Postcode Lottery	1624.00
ABC Nursery	655.00
HSBC	500.00
Donations at NB Art Group Exhibition	852.00
Support from the Start	2225.00
Big Lottery	10000.00
Peter Vardy	100.00
Individual Donations [total]	760.00
Donations at The Beach Hut	210.69
Events	
Come and See, come and try	160.00
Golf Marathon	1005.00
Other	89.11
Total Income	21142.66

For 'Come and See Come and Try' costs

Misc. donations: books, cakes, calendars

Note: Liz MacColl raised £625 at an antique fair which she paid direct to Adventure Mobility for the purchase of the Nomad beach wheelchair

EXPENDITURE	
Equipment	11642.8
The Beach Hut	2120.03
Insurance	828.94
Office and other expenses	761.01
Total Expenses	15352.78
Balance	5789.88

Please note that these figures are taken from North Berwick Community Centre Accounts System and some gift aid and other income has not yet been credited.