

17 April 2021

### Thomas Graham Library – update

- We now have raised a total of £75,470 from 259 donors, which is a superb testament to your generosity and keenness to see the new library take shape.
- Our planning application with Stirling Council is progressing. In support of this work investigations have been carried out of site conditions and a survey done of whether bats roost in the adjacent trees.
- Drawings for building warrant are in progress and tender documents are being prepared to put out to building, electrical, mechanical and energy contractors, hopefully next month. Wherever possible local firms will be chosen. SCDT has already received a superb proposal from Alastair Campbell of Killlearn-based energy management specialists CC North to design and install a dedicated building management system at no cost – saving us up to £10,000!
- We now know that the library's energy system will be effectively carbon-neutral, using roof-mounted solar panels to generate the building's electricity, and an air-source heat pump to produce hot water for its underfloor heating system.
- However, despite more than a year of negotiations, there remains a small financial gap between what we need to cover the building's running costs and what the cash-strapped council are currently prepared to pay.
- We've had assurances that the council are committed to making this very special project happen. The Thomas Graham Library will be Scotland's first community-owned public library!
- As we have a by-election taking place on 6 May to elect a Stirling Councillor to replace Graham Lambie, please make sure that the candidates campaigning for your votes know the importance of this project and will support it happening. This also applies to candidates for the Scottish Parliament as well.

SCDT can't go ahead with construction until it is confident that the library's long-term financial future is secured. We will let you know the latest developments as soon as we can.