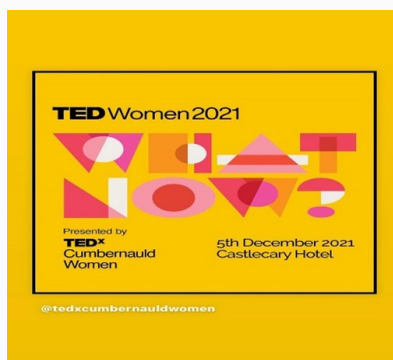
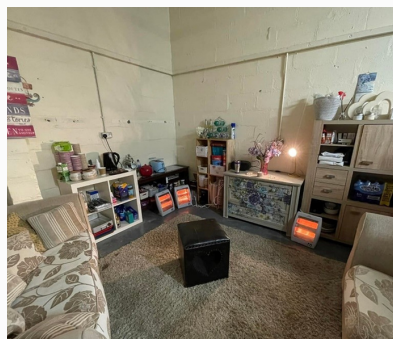




CARBRAIN

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING - WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



SNAPSHOT

Corra's work to support community priorities in 2021 included:

- **Food Initiative** delivered until March 2021 distributed over 23,000 hot meals and 2,300 food parcels locally to continue to support people as we transitioned out of the pandemic and into recovery.
- **Carbrain Community Hub** has received funding from Corra and on the ground support from Shazia, Community Coordinator, to develop community space as they continue to provide support to access food since the Food Initiative closed
- **Shift the Power** was delivered by a local group and saw community projects and activity receive £20,000 in funding and support
- **Pride in Carbrain** has been supported by Shazia especially around the Gully project with the group receiving an award from Keep Scotland Beautiful

Keep reading to find out more about what's been happening in Carbrain...

CARBRAIN COMMUNITY HUB



Prior to the pandemic the women's group that met in Carbrain Primary School were hoping to establish a swap shop and services in Cumbernauld town centre and take on the management of a shop unit which would deliver services and support for the local community. This unfortunately was not possible during the pandemic.

However, in June The Community Hub at Lenziemill was successfully established to support community aspirations for a space where local people could socialise and meet for women's groups, Breakfast and Blethers, men's groups, a base for a clothes and furniture swap shop, food pantry, arts & crafts and wellbeing groups as well as to distribute food parcels.

The group were also successful in securing funding from the Co-Op and Hubbub to develop a community fridge in Carbrain that complemented much of the work that local people have been undertaking over the last few years – namely to tackle food waste and improve access to food for everyone. However, the units at Lenziemill do not meet the long term objectives of the community therefore, Carbrain community spaces are being explored by Corra, North Lanarkshire Council and a range of organisations and partners to address the need for community space going forward.

TED X, CUMBERNAULD

Corra funded the TedX Cumbernauld Women on-line event again, this year organised by local Carbrain resident Maureen Hascoet. Corra's funding enabled local businesses run by women to attend the event and promote their goods and services. This event brought together female-led businesses locally as well as playing host to 15 local, National and International speakers - all around the theme of "What Now?"

"I 'landed' in Carbrain just under 3 years ago after 12 years in London, with 2 young kids and a recent diagnosis on my husband's health, but with the fire in the belly to be an active part of the community and make it a better place for my family's sake. After leading many initiatives in the community supported and indeed empowered by Shazia, our dedicated community worker - who always encouraged me to dream big - including 3 yearly very successful TEDX Cumbernauld Women events, aimed at elevating local voices to the global platform... I have now set up what's shaping out to be the largest film studios in Scotland and I can't explain how excited I am for the rest of my life. Sometimes you need to start again to go further and along the way, you might end up in unexpected places. But places don't make people - and people like Shazia make Carbrain a fertile soil for any possibility! Which is sometimes all you need. Tea, cake, and a good chat about world domination. I am forever grateful." **Maureen Hascoet Pioneer Films**

PRIDE IN CARBRAIN

Pride in Carbrain brings together Carbrain Community Council, Greenrigg and Millcroft Residents Association, Broomlands Learning Centre and Carbrain Community Hub to support the local community and tackle local environmental issues. The group has around 12 active volunteers, however, many local residents also support the work of the group by creating lovely gardens, adopting green spaces and identifying issues to be tackled such as litter and dog fouling. Local people have taken ownership of greenspaces close to their own homes, planting up with a diverse and colourful mix of annuals and perennials. Local volunteers from Pride in Carbrain have worked hard to create a stunning wildflower meadow in the gully area. Shazia will continue to support local people in their efforts to make Carbrain a better, cleaner and tidier place to live.



SHIFT THE POWER, COMIC RELIEF

Shift the Power Comic Relief community led grant-making meant that local people directed £20k funding according to their local priorities. The application, assessment and priorities were produced by the group leading to the submission of 15 applications totaling £37,478 which were reviewed by a panel of local partners and Councillors. It was agreed that individuals and unconstituted groups could apply for up to £750 in funding with safeguarding and capacity-building training being offered to support them going forward. Corra will be holding a celebration event to showcase the work of successful projects in Carbrain.



The following projects received funding through Shift the Power:

- Hilltop Parent and Toddlers Group
- Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Care
- Little Lambs Playgroup
- 2 x Individual Grants
- Carbrain Primary School Parent Council
- Carbrain Community Council
- Tryst Wrestling Club
- Free Church Youth Club
- Cumbernauld FM
- The Gully Project
- Gazebos for local schools
- Funding for PPE for all groups

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED TOGETHER?

The cooked food initiative that started in response to the pandemic in 2020 came to an end in May 2021 after distributing over 23,000 items of hot food and over 2300 food parcels to families in and around Carbrain.

The food pantry however continues to meet the needs of local people and funding from the Co-op and Hubbub for the establishment of a community fridge in Carbrain will ensure the continuity of this support locally.

Partnership working with Sanctuary Housing, CACE, Tesco, Marks and Spencer, Fareshare and local community groups has supported these projects and ensured their continuing success.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED TOGETHER?

The issue of community space has been identified and will continue to play a significant role in Carbrain with the aspiration of creating a community hub which is accessible and open for diverse groups to come together and flourish. As there are no community centres in Carbrain, space is a central issue for the community and has significantly impacted on social isolation, loneliness and mental ill-health within our area. This has continued to be a problem during the pandemic and into recovery, it has restricted activity and the development of new ideas. Indeed the swap shop and community hub are based in Lenziemill for this reason and the focus will continue to be the development of community assets in Carbrain.

The learning through the community-led grant making programme of Comic Relief Shift the Power Carbrain has shown that local communities engage positively when they are able to direct grant making that advances agency and self-determination which then better meets their needs at a grass roots level. This shared responsibility through a transparent and accountable process with capacity building for all successful projects was welcomed and the learning from this will be collated in the coming months once all the successful projects have been completed.

Long term relationships and networking support by Shazia to people and groups, built on trust and shared aims has been critical in delivering many of the projects during another challenging year of the pandemic. It has been inspiring to see local people rise to the challenges in Carbrain and deliver support to those most in need. The strength of these relationships will be critical in delivering many of the community aspirations.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Carbrain Community Hub have successfully negotiated a lease in Cumbernauld town centre in partnership with Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Care where our community aspirations and activities can be developed. This will commence in April 2022.



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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The discussions around space will be on-going with a focus on partnerships with local groups and organisations to support the development of a community space in Carbrain.

Showcasing the work of our Comic Relief funded groups through a celebration event in the summer will highlight the achievements of the awards. Continuing to support the ideas and aspirations of local residents and parent councils of our primary schools will be even more important this year.

PEOPLE IN PLACE - MOVING FORWARDS

People in Place continue to work alongside 8 communities in Scotland, supporting local people to connect, collaborate on ideas and take action to create positive change. The local activity and learning from each community help shape plans for the place, the wider programme and to influence policy.

2021 was another challenging year, with communities continuing to be impacted by Coronavirus. Community groups, voluntary organisations and local authorities worked together to support individuals to transition through – and move towards recovery from the pandemic. Corra has listened to communities to understand the challenges and provide support as best we can. Across each community the themes of participation, support, money, relationships, and space are most evident with specific challenges relating to food insecurity, access to community space, mental health and wellbeing, and financial concerns.

As communities strive to recover from the impact of Coronavirus and look towards healing, support for health is of particular importance. Corra is currently working with local Health and Social Care Partnerships to identify how best to help community members access the support they need locally, while focusing on preventative approaches. Corra is also working alongside Healthcare Improvement Scotland to test and develop community-led approaches to improving health outcomes.

In 2022, Corra will continue to help communities and partners collectively understand, identify opportunities to influence and to change local systems to better support community aspirations and need. People in Place is focused on supporting and developing the enabling factors that will allow communities to grow and build forward better, such as, accessing and developing space, community-led grant making, building capacity, and sharing learning. This will involve balancing time and space for collective reflection with supporting momentum behind community ideas as we all continue to transition from the pandemic'. To reinforce this, an Idea into Action accelerator approach has been designed to direct funding and resources to what is needed in each of the communities with additional resource allocated to capacity building support and the development of space.



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