



FERNHILL

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING - WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



SNAPSHOT

Engagement with Children and Young People

Fernhill Youth Project engagement

Local CYP groups partnership (Kids Fest – Spring Break activity programme)

What's On flyer with information on community-based activities

Flyer created after consultation with local volunteers who highlighted a lack of knowledge in the wider community about the level of activity happening in the area. This was distributed to every home in Fernhill.

Fernhil Community Kitty

A Participatory Budgeting process designed and delivered by the Fernhill Community Kitty group, distributed £10,000 across 10 locally generated projects.

School based engagements

Delivery of Scotland's Mental Health First Aid certified course to staff at St Anthony's Primary

Built links with Parent teacher council at Cathkin Primary

Pop-up Café

Delivered pop-up café each week throughout July at Fernhill Community Centre providing free refreshments to an average of 12 people each week.

Grow Your Own Cinema pilot project with Regional Screen Scotland and local group

Supported community member to successfully apply to the Grow Your Own Cinema pilot project with Regional Screen Scotland to host family movie nights at affordable cots to locals.

A YEAR IN NUMBERS



8 Ideas into
Action



581 new
people
reached



17 people
attending
activities per
week



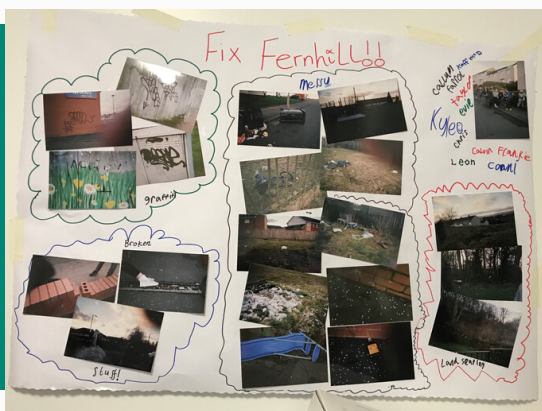
Average of 56
Engagements
on Facebook
per week

FERNHILL YOUTH PROJECT (FYP) ENGAGEMENT

In an informal discussion with volunteers from FYP they pointed out that they had concerns that local young people would be blamed for the graffiti that had recently appeared in the side of the shops and front of the community centre. They highlighted that the young people in the project had been discussing with them how they didn't like to see the graffiti in their community.

Corra supported volunteers to design a short project for the young people so they could highlight these concerns and have their views and opinions known locally. The project involved the young people walking around their community with disposable cameras and taking photos of the issues and changes they would like to see in the community. Many of the younger children had no idea what a disposable camera was with one asking if it was "one of those old Nokia mobiles" so this gave them an opportunity to learn about the photo development process as well as the length of time it used to take waiting to see the photos they have taken.

When the photos came back the group met a week later to create a poster; they grouped the images and created headings for each section and called the project "Fix Fernhill". They then presented this poster to a local councillor, Margaret Cowie, who took the time to listen to the group and understand their concerns. At the next meeting of the local Neighbourhood Management Meeting Margaret updated the group on her interactions with FYP, showing the group the poster the children and young people had made as well as explaining the actions she had taken – including having the graffiti at the shops and community centre removed.



“

“Will you be running the café again”

“That was a great wee thing, why did it stop?”

“Can you no do it again?”

POP UP CAFÉ

Corra supported a pop-up café throughout June 2018, this was popular with older residents. It provided an opportunity for them to sit, relax, chat and have a cuppa and a biscuit.

Building on the success of this activity, the pop-up café returned in July 2019 with the support of volunteers from the Community Kitty group. Using the Place Standard tool and informal discussion the group were able to understand the views of local people about their community.

The pop-up café provided opportunities to engage with older residents as well as local parents that were interested in finding ways to get out of the house and entertain their children.

Access to funding is a barrier faced by many local community groups across Scotland, including in Fernhill. Following the rise of Participatory Budgeting (PB) across the world, a group of people came together in Fernhill to form 'The Community Kitty' PB group. The group ran events during the PB process which meant we were able to talk to lots of different people from the community. It was great talking to people and finding out what they think and feel about life in Fernhill. We were then able to use all the information we gathered to inform the priorities for the funding so all the money from the PB process went to projects that meet the needs of local people.

Getting to know people and reconnecting with those I hadn't seen in a while was probably the best part of the whole process. The community has changed so much over the years so it was important to start from scratch and not make any assumptions about what people locally want and need from their local community.

Sometimes it was important for the Community Kitty group to have discussions and return back to topics that came out of these wider conversations. This part of the process could be difficult at times but it was important in ensuring everyone was on-board with the decisions that needed to be made while designing the process. This taught me that there are many different ways of going about doing things in the community and it is important to recognise everyone's voice because everyone has valuable experience and can contribute to processes like this. In fact, I think it is important to have as many voices as possible involved to make PB work.

It was important for the Community Kitty group to make the PB process as easy and accessible as possible. Having people from the local community that have experience in applying for funding for their groups meant we could make the process as clear and accessible as possible, allowing people to apply online or on paper and running drop in support sessions allowed us to maximise the number of applications. Delivering the process in this way meant funding was given to new projects as well as lots of existing groups getting funding for the great work they are already doing in the community.



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED TOGETHER?

CONFIDENCE

Despite many people believing the community can do things for themselves, there is still a comfort in having professionals present at activities and events for many individuals, especially those with limited experience in volunteering within their community. Even if these professionals aren't adding any value or bringing any new skills. This is potentially linked to low confidence levels but high motivation to do things.

ENGAGEMENT & AWARENESS

Fernhill is quite a small community with a population of around 2,000 people, however it has been highlighted by local volunteers that there is a lack of knowledge in the community about the level of activity in the area. When distributing flyers around the community, people not involved in the area were shocked by the sheer volume of community-led activity within Fernhill.

When supporting the Community Kitty group to host informal events, local people highlighted how much they enjoyed these methods for consultation and engagement within the area. At the Pamper Night event, held in Fernhill Community Centre, local resident Sara McCallum said "we need to have more stuff like this where we can all relax and chat".



ENTERPRISE

Growing appetite within the community to create some kind of social enterprise or charitable organisation that not only brings benefit to the wider community but also provides practical employment opportunities for local people. This links to a desire to have accessible and affordable childcare facilities within or near the local community. A local resident commented that "the people that need it can't deliver it, and the people that don't need it won't deliver it for free."

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Grow Your Own Cinema pilot project

- With support having been secured from Regional Screen Scotland, the local group leading on project will launch their community cinema pilot in early 2020.
- The group are also looking at other needs of the community and will explore delivering other forms of engagement with local families.

Community Kitty

- Interested group members will be working on an action research project, supported by the Scottish Community Development Centre, which will have a focus around a theme that matters to local people and highlighted through the Participatory Budgeting process.
- The group also hope to be able to repeat the Participatory Budgeting process again in the future and will look to secure funding for a second process in the community.



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PEOPLE IN PLACE - MOVING FORWARDS

People in Place is currently working alongside nine communities in Scotland, supporting local people to connect, collaborate on ideas, and take action to create positive change.

The local activity and learning from Fernhill helps shape the future plans of the community and the wider programme. So far, some common themes have emerged across the programme including the importance of Participation, Space, Voice, Investment, and Learning & Development.

However, due to the unique conditions in each place, the work is at a different stage in each community. In some places the focus is on listening, building trust, relationships and participation. In others, communities are using increased participation and voice as a platform to engage with local decision making structures.

Looking ahead, Corra hopes to support communities to connect with each other and to use their voice and power to influence wider system change.



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