



SNAPSHOT

- Bringing Community Together
 - Creating informal opportunities for the community to come together, build relationships and connect with local services and activities.
- Community Football
 - Partnership working between Corra, Dawson Sports Development Association and local police to deliver diversionary football activities on Friday nights.
- Community Activities
 - Engaging with the community and understanding priorities for the area.
- Storytelling Project
 - Partnership working between Corra and the Village Storytelling Centre to gather stories of life in the community.
- Community Garden
 - Partnership working between Corra, People's Parish and the local school to understand the history and connections within the area and its links to farming and growing.

Bringing Community Together

During 2022 we decided to have regular coffee afternoons in Langlees, designed to be a place that local people can take part in conversations with a focus on community stories & individual stories. Topics also included community plans, heritage, past & present and what the community means to people. This was a great environment for local services to drop in and speak to community members about how to access a



specific service. One of the key services was the Anti-social Behaviour officers, who came along to speak to community members about how or where to report ASB incidents. This led to a conversation about how best the Local Authority could communicate this, the community suggested a flow chart diagram distributed to homes and the staff from the Local Authority agreed to look into this.

Community Football

The community police also attended the coffee afternoon sessions where they listened to community members about local issues. The outcome of their visit was working alongside Corra and Dawson Sports Development Association to set up Friday night football sessions where around thirty young people regularly attend. This was a very successful way of sharing resources and building trust with the police whose visual presence in the community helped people feel safer when reporting local issues.

Community Activities

Activities for all age groups were highlighted as a priority action point throughout the Bainsford and Langlees Community Action Plan (CAP) discussions. Corra has been working with local partners to set up new activity and has supported community members to identify and address any current gaps in provision. We have also worked with partners to deliver new activities that help improve social connection.



As a member of the CAP group, Corra had regular discussions with local residents and brought together local organisations to support community activities. Corra supported the delivery of a summer playscheme and an inflatable fun day event which was attended by several local organisations, including; Connected Falkirk who promoted the support they can provide to families and young people with employment opportunities.

Dandelion attended giving local people advice on growing their own vegetables and free plants.

The event also had involvement from Scottish Fire Service, Police Scotland, Bainsford Church, Bainsford Hall Committee, Dawson Sports Development Association and Grahamston Football Club who sent a volunteer coach to do some games on the day.



Storytelling Project

Working alongside TRACS and the Village Storytelling Centre, the community shared stories of growing up in Langlees and Bainsford from 1923 to the present day, with many stories about working on the local farm or the first group of children to attend the newly built school. Stories were structured into themes as the wealth of knowledge from the community was so valuable. Some key themes identified were:

- Family life
- Friendships
- Housing
- Maps and farming
- Social activity
- Old toys and street play
- Economy, and
- Historical changes.

Local people also took part in 1-2-1 interviews to share more individual stories of Langlees and Bainsford over the decades. Some

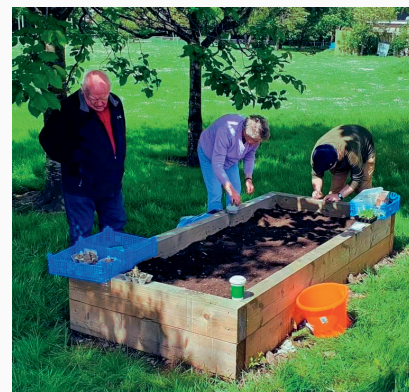
themes allowed follow up conversations to take place and supported other key areas of Corra's work.



Community Garden

Working with Langlees school and the community, the local school allocated two planters for the community to grow some of their own vegetables. The community group planted three Scottish tattie varieties, onions, lettuces, strawberries, and sowed carrots, beetroot, spring onions, courgettes, radishes, turnips and peas!

Steve Byrne from the People's Parish said he was inspired by everyone's stories about growing and especially learning about the experiences of what it was like working on local farms.



What have we learned?

Working with local people and Local Authority partners has been positive. We are finding that communication has become stronger between local groups and the wider community, although there is still a gap between involving communities in conversations about assets and their capacity/capability to take them on.

We need to be mindful that new and informal community groups often need some support, encouragement and resources to get started, even before they are ready to apply for funding.



What have we learned? contd.

Lack of resources can limit local people from working through any future challenges. Access to space supports participation, activism, ideas, social connection for people and happens naturally when readily available.

The flexibility in Corra's approach supports this capacity-building, which is crucial in the early stages of group formation and helps bridge the gap between a group being newly formed and being fully self-sufficient.

What happens next?

Sharing and learning new skills and making new friendships between community members and local organisations has been really valuable. Building on the relationships with community organisations will be a focus going forward supporting local partners that wish to have a presence in the community.

Creating a community portfolio, with guides & tools on how to run large events, setting up new spaces and resources to support people at the early stages of starting a community group, combined with templates and key contacts will provide a valuable resource going forward.



People in Place - Moving Forwards

Communities are facing a critical moment of transition as they begin to emerge from the pandemic and grapple with the rising cost of living. We are seeing and hearing, in addition to deep and difficult issues, new priorities emerging and an urgency to act from community members.

The time is now! We know from communities, local authorities and other partners that this a 'moment in time' for communities to create changes that address immediate issues and to truly imagine a better future.

To support that process, we will focus our work around three key elements.

- Priorities – we know that communities' priorities are changing. We can play an important role in supporting priorities to be shaped and shared.
- Plans – supporting communities to set out their priorities and actions to achieve them in a 'community-owned' plan.
- Partnerships – we have a key role to play in connecting with partners who can help to produce the plan and/or help deliver on community priorities.

These 'three P's' help build upon the strong foundations – of skills, knowledge, trust and relationships - that have been established to date and will continue to be instrumental in the work.



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