

LANGLEES

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING - WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



SNAPSHOT

- Dawson Sports Development Association SCIO – Ongoing support provided to group to organise their official open day of the new facility- bringing together local organisations that can continue to contribute to and support the ambitions of the charities aims.
- Community Big Lunch – Community big lunch event was planned to bring together the local community groups, volunteers and local partners that have contributed in some way to help support the wider needs of the community. Michael Matheson constituency MSP attended the lunch. This was an opportunity for everyone to come together and engage in; local activities and highlight all the local work that the community are achieving.
- Groups – Knitting circle, Resilient soul, Baby and Toddler group. People are making contacts through these activities and now taking forward ideas of their own.
- School holiday Activity program- The Dawson Sports group developed a week-long activity program for local young people in the area where food, activities and sports were on offer each day.

A YEAR IN NUMBERS



2 Ideas into
Action



381 new
people
reached



13 people
attending
activities per
week



Average of 3
Engagements
on Facebook
per week

BAINSFORD CENTRE

In response to the potential closing of the Banisford Community hall, the Bainsford Community Group formed in 2019 with over forty members living locally to the Bainsford and Langlees area. The hall was going to close due to cuts that have been implemented to services across the local authority area with buildings been closed. The group have partnered with the Baptist church who are also looking to relocate their community shop into the hall.

The community coordinator in Langlees worked alongside members of the group to support constitution to a SCIO. Moving forward they are in negotiations with council bodies to manage the building as a community space, with the process moving forward to a community asset transfer. The group have held monthly meetings to discuss different aspects of what is required and have held community wide consultation and two community events which have been successful in gathering ideas and opinions for the centre, from members of the community.

Participating and sharing experiences has been fundamental to the work that's took place over the past year with these groups, sharing knowledge around the processes of asset transfer has been a key learning stage through the evolvement of attending meetings with the sports group this allowed me to share the experience with the next group. This has been a far smoother process and has allowed the Bainsford group to have complete ownership of their group with minimal support required.



SPORTS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION - CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

This case study is a brief description on why communities should have the opportunity to connect with like-minded people and groups in other communities that Corra is working alongside.

As coordinators, we had discussed on numerous occasions about sharing learning and visiting one another. The work across communities has seen similar themes, and this would provide community members an opportunity to connect with other people and organisations that are doing similar work. Iyaah spoke about a group she was involved with, which had just had conflict resolution training. The group in Methil also received funding to share this learning. The Dawson Sports Development Association (DSDA) in Langlees were eager to learn more about how to approach situations where conflict could happen, and deal with them more effectively. We set a date, and the ladies from Methil came to Langlees for a visit. The Methil ladies shared with the DSDA; their experience of the training and what they learned, so that the DSDA could use this knowledge to support the community in Langlees.

What came out of this session was more than could ever be imagined. The ladies all sat chatting, getting to know one another, then we went on to talk about the conflict resolution. Wilma who is a trustee of the DSDA was a bit apprehensive at first, as we were asked to make something from play dough about how we feel about conflict.



However, through talking about the task at hand, the ladies started generating conversations about their own groups that were going through conflict. Wilma said that she never thought that this activity would generate such deep conversations, and said she would use this with other groups in future.

Another outcome was that Yvonne and Mary were able to say what was troubling them and Wilma was willing to share her thoughts on how to overcome these barriers. So a problem shared a problem solved, as they say. The next time the Corra place team met, we brought the ladies back together. Yvonne and Mary wanted to show Wilma just how much she had supported them that day, and so in return went and bought six footballs for the DSDA. So why six footballs? DSDA was awarded £65K to build a brand-new sports facility in Langlees which they had just completed. Wilma spoke with Mary and Yvonne about her own achievements with the DSDA and mentioned that “on the open day they had no money left to buy a football to allow kids to play”.

This opportunity has been life changing for both groups. The personal relationship building was important in creating a connection that has transpired into a bond for life.

The overall learning for me was that this shows how you should truly empower people. It should be a natural process, not one with set outcomes that have to be achieved, but one where solutions emerge by working alongside one another. When we talk about a learning program or about the importance of sharing resources and connecting communities this is why it is so important. It's not always about statistics or creating a set of outcomes, it's about how we can best listen to the needs of the people we work alongside every day in communities, and supporting what already exists to transform into something sustainable.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED TOGETHER?

SPACE

Investment in ownership of community spaces is a new theme that has been a lot of the work I have been undertaking to support a fairer process through sharing knowledge and providing a supporting role when required.

LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION

Access to online services is the only way of reporting housing repairs, access to support services for benefits, recently surveys for council consultations are online only and schools have gone to online payments systems for school lunches and other curriculum subjects that require payments. People are feeling even more cut off from society with little face to face contact with services. Then there are the financial implications associated with the cost of having the internet installed. I fear with very little public access available to communities, this is creating more long-term problems for individuals especially the older generation who are amongst those that are feeling socially excluded.

TIME

Tight timescales to complete projects only works for a limited time. People need to build their knowledge and test what is sustainable otherwise this risks jeopardising the aspirations that the community have.

Capacity to build solid foundations is essential, this supports sustainable change which is then visible over time. Everyone learns from doing, and if things go wrong, people need the time and resources to try again.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In 2020 we will be working on our new strategy and focusing on the current themes that have emerged, including:

- Creating sustainable spaces for community activity
- Building and sustaining the current work the community are leading on.
- Focusing on the two new management committees are looking at taking on a lease of community buildings.
- Connecting with other communities Corra is working alongside, bringing together community members and partners to share learning and better understand the systems within which we work.
- Support new groups such as the cooking group, which has the potential to link with school and nurseries, and the Toddler group sessions.
- Supporting a Mental health program to develop.

The vision for Langlees from one community members perspective is:

For the community to be bigger and better.
To have a community centre that is open for the community, run by the community, with access to support services for the community, with everyone working together, with no barriers.
Just like our community once was.



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Dawson Centre
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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 Langlees 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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