

LANGLEES

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING - WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



SNAPSHOT

Recognising that 2021 was another difficult year for everyone, where communities were still dealing with the impact of the pandemic and related restrictions, Langlees has seen some positive outcomes that will help shape our work going forward.

- The first community gathering of 2021 was the Langlees community Big Lunch (actually a small lunch this time) supported by young people at Langlees Primary School. The children's focus was to support elderly residents that were feeling lonely and isolated. The sun shone on the day and the school community garden was the perfect location to bring elderly residents together for a socially distanced lunch.
- Community conversations took place with local people having an opportunity to comment on a variety of local authority consultations, these consisted of: online meetings, surveys, face to face consultations and questionnaires. This gave local people the opportunity to use their voice to comment on the way decisions about their community are made.
- Consultations and engagement sessions have raised the profile on the importance of good working relationships, and in local voices playing a key role in how public money should be used. A great example of this is the successful roll-out of the Community Choices participatory budgeting programme.
- Setting up a new drop in - Safe Haven Cafe - where local people have access to mental health support.
- Regular coffee afternoons to bring people together.
- Supporting groups to access funding to develop community assets.
- Continuing support for local people who require access to food.

PLANNING

The Locality Planning Partnership have been working to develop a community action plan in Langlees. The action plan has supported partnership work with groups and local people. The aim is to have the community leading on



the priorities identified during the community engagement consultation. Priorities are; addressing anti-social behaviour, creating more things to do, supporting people with alcohol and drug addiction, addressing litter and untidiness, and better transport.

Local service delivery is an important aspect of the work of the council and the organisations that are supporting the community. Developing good relationships with partners and community members has been a slow process in Langlees where groups had to find an equal balance for a working relationship to form. The pandemic has allowed this to happen, as it has provided the opportunity for flexibility to work through the challenges, and get through the darkness to find a brighter side. This has now progressed to create a good working relationship going forward.

BAINSFORD COMMUNITY HALL

Bainsford Hall Community Group (SCIO 049761) is a charity set up by residents, with the sole purpose of keeping Bainsford Hall open and in use for the community of Bainsford, Langlees.

The committee secured funding through the Community Choices fund administered by Falkirk Council. The public voted for Bainsford Hall Committee to move forward with the planned upgrades to the centre. Going forward the Hall will provide many opportunities that will enhance the social, physical, and mental wellbeing of the local population. Plans for connecting the community go far beyond current or previous provision.

The Hall will be a community central hub: uniting generations, generating community spirit, and enhancing lives.

BAINSFORD COMMUNITY HALL

WE NEED YOUR VOTE!

We have applied for funding from Community Choices Falkirk and need you to help by voting for our project.

Voting opens on 24th January 2022 and closes on 15th February.

The winners will be announced on the 28th February.

Voting only takes a minute, please visit... falkirk.gov.uk/ccvote

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Safebase has been working with Angie, Corra's Community Co-ordinator to explore the best way to establish a series of pilot Safe Haven cafes. The concept is to set up a safe space for local people to come and have a chat with trained mental health first aiders.



As the cafe evolves, Safebase will train local volunteers to support the cafes and launch others across Forth Valley. The ability to work with Corra has allowed us to strengthen our partnership and get in quickly to the local community. We have supported a number of people and referred users to other services as well as identifying the need to support some people to access food and with the purchase of Christmas presents.

The impact of Covid has increased social isolation and the cafes allow people to start to find their feet again in a local and informal way.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED TOGETHER?

Building and maintaining relationships with community is a key aspect of the work, speaking to individual people and meeting up with groups was always going to be a little bit different to what it was pre-pandemic. As restrictions eased, a return to working 'on the ground' created opportunities to spend time having informal conversations with people during regular community walkarounds. It was a slow process at the beginning as there was not much movement from people going about the community, when we did speak to people the focus was on asking how they were feeling and what support was required going forward. The conversations were positive and there was aspiration to come together in small groups.

In September 2021, Community Planning Partners went out and engaged with people in a week-long consultation across Langlees and Bainsford to gather their views on local issues. This face-to-face engagement meant people could speak openly about what they viewed as priority issues for a future Community Action Plan. Although 100 people responded, overall participation was low. The local knowledge and relationships built up by Corra's Community Co-ordinator supported 9 people to share their views. This partnership approach, involving community planning partners and community members at every stage of developing the Community Action Plan, will help more of the community feel listened to and part of the process going forward. It will also make people more willing to participate in future decisions.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Continue to support Bainsford Hall Committee with their re-development project, establishing a central community hub that will be run by local people for local people.



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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Continue to engage local people to participate and play a key role in taking forward the Bainsford/Langlees Community Action Plan. This will involve regular planning meetings with local groups and residents, and support new ideas identified by the community.

Launch a series of workshops to give people the opportunity to learn more about the health issues in the community and the impact this has on people's lives, including how this connects to wider environmental issues.

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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