

Buckhaven Annual Update 2024

About Buckhaven

Buckhaven is a town on the east coast of Fife, Scotland, on the Firth of Forth between East Wemyss and Methil. It's home to many fantastic community leaders and groups working to provide opportunities for local people to learn, connect, and enjoy cultural activities.



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Buckhaven's timeline

Corra's work alongside the community in Buckhaven began in 2017. You can delve into the detail in each annual update, but here's a taster of what the community has done since 2017. For more information on each year visit www.corra.scot/buckhaven



2017

Spent time meeting community leaders and supporting local ideas. This included helping find a space for the local clothing bank, supporting the Buckhaven Beehive Pottery Group to gain funding, and development of a Community Bakery.

Buckhynd Bakers provided bread and scones for a Corra parliamentary reception. Buckhaven Baptist Church secured £67,000 to upgrade the kitchen and toilet facilities. Buckhaven Primary School secured funding to develop a poultry housing area in the school. CLIMB Community Led Improvements ran a participatory budgeting process.



2018

Supported groups including the Cycle Club, Gala Group, Community Café to develop their ideas. New group started to address loneliness providing a weekly games session and chat. Community Bakery moved ahead with 9 bakers attending sessions. Supported local Primary School to develop green spaces in the school playground alongside a garden.



2019

2020

The Covid-19 pandemic affected community members ability to meet and connect. Groups continued to meet digitally – cooking and baking together online, and a new group focused on improved outdoor space began work.



2022

Work began on developing the Community Cinema. A youth-led grant making process via the Shift the Power fund began with Levenmouth Academy students. A programme for summer outdoor play sessions with Smart Play Network Scotland for families took place in the summer holidays.



Outdoor learning sessions delivered to local primary schools. Corra commissioned additional local work to engage with and develop opportunities for children and young people to be heard. Weekly emergency food provision continued supporting around 100 families a week.

2021

Community Cinema delivered four highly successful screenings. The Cosy Café and Larder navigating changes in volunteers and delivery model. The Step Up Group at Levenmouth Academy supported a group of young people to deliver a Mental Health Day.



2023



2024

Continued work supporting and sustaining the Community Cinema. The Cosy Café put in place the required infrastructure to ensure safety of staff and members with £15,000 funding in place. Development of the Plan on a Page setting out priorities for people in Buckhaven.

Buckhaven's big ideas for positive change in 2024

Community activities for all

Community Cinema

Local community leaders including Tracy, Amanda, Kereen, and Emma run a community cinema in Buckhaven. In 2024, there were several screenings including one of Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory that were well attended with over 100 at each.

The group were successful in receiving funding for equipment which was installed late in 2024 making the cinema a sustainable activity for many years to come. The first screening with the new equipment was in December 2024

for Polar Express. This film was selected by a community vote on Facebook – a great example of communities leading and being listened to.

Feedback from the local community has been really positive:

"What a fab night kids loved it .. Thanks to all involved .. Another good night watching a Christmas Film for only a donation ..."



Food and safe spaces

Cosy Cafe and Larder were successful in bringing in funding to support the group to deliver a weekly meal, food bag, and warm space project. There are now up to 50 people using the Cafe every week. It offers a place to connect with others and reduces isolation. There have been challenges this year in delivering the project – including high demand, a need to support people with drug and alcohol issues, ill health of volunteers, and a need to improve the governance of the organisation. The group have tackled these challenges by providing training for volunteers in drug awareness, attendance at wider community events and greater connection with the wider food provision community in Buckhaven. All volunteers have also received food hygiene training. Volunteers have worked together to overcome these and have created a 3-year plan for the development of the café!

Plans for the future

A big focus this year has been developing Buckhaven's Plan on a Page! Corra brought together a group of volunteers who had engaged with Corra on a regular basis to develop a high-level plan of what they want to see happen, and how that will be achieved. Work continues to see where this sits within the wider context of plans for the area.



Buckhaven

COMMUNITY PLAN

GET INVOLVED

To find out more information or to get involved in the development of this plan contact Louisa Cocris

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HOW WE'LL WORK TOGETHER

Buckhaven has a great community spirit and people who are proud of the area and look out for each other. This is the foundation of how we work together:

- Work together
- Look after people in the area
- Celebrate our history

ACHIEVEMENTS

Cosy Café & Larder – New kitchen and other facilities, providing food for 40-50 people very week, development of connections with other local groups and organisations.
Cinema – Monthly screenings from December to June, over 500 people attending screenings, funding for new equipment to sustain the cinema

PARTNERS

Community Learning and Development
Fare Share
Fife Voluntary Action
KY8
Community-Led Environmental Action for Regeneration
Police Scotland
Cook and Share
We Are With You
Furniture Plus

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Beach access improvements (stairs, ramps, buggy-friendly, disability-friendly)

More litter and dog poo bins

Improved transport with a focus on reducing car usage

High Street improvements (more welcoming, plants, signage)

Heritage Centre and access to local history

Supermarket development (potentially community-run)

Increased bus services

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Benefits support and income maximisation

Drop-in support services

Job creation (e.g. through new supermarket)

Budgeting assistance

Access to better food options

Reducing levels of substance use and dependency

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Enhanced use of the community centre as a safe space and haven

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COHESION

PRIORITIES

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

More clubs for children

After-school care

Play areas and facilities (e.g. Muga, skate park)

More activities for children and families

Community newsletter and calendar of events

Groups working together and sharing resources

Simple interest groups (e.g. knitting, family groups, Lego, art groups)

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

- More support and consistency from Corra
- Build connections between people and groups in the community
- Create more ways for people to help themselves improve their income, opportunities and wellbeing
- Support community to develop new ideas – simple and more complicated

Where are the opportunities to make positive change?

Scotland's communities need funders, including the public sector, to provide support and resource in ways that work for them. The complex issues which many of those using the Cosy Café face and the increasing levels of drug use and dangerous intoxication were challenges for communities to deal with. This required significant external support from partners to begin to address this. This highlighted the complexity for community leaders delivering work in areas with significant challenges, and the importance of support being provided in ways that work for communities.

Working together creates meaningful and long-term change. There is huge potential in bringing the many groups working hard for the community together to have greater impact. Groups are often quite separate and doing their own thing despite having many aims and objectives in common. Increasing support for each other between Cosy Café, Cook and Share and CLEAR is creating optimism and opportunities to create lasting change for the community. As there are huge rays of hope in Buckhaven in 2024 – the hardworking nature of local community leaders and their commitment to their community and the people using the services they provide is incredible.

What next?

From March 2026, our relationship with communities will change. We are supporting community leaders to establish their priorities, plans, and partnerships to sustain community-led change. We will walk alongside community leaders through the Community Leadership Collective ensuring that communities have the skills, connections, and support to take their ideas into action. We will work to ensure that Scotland's communities are supported and resourced in ways that work for them. Throughout 2025, we will support the Buckhaven Community to realise their plan, with specific actions including:

- Support the delivery of Buckhaven's Plan on a Page.
- Support community leaders to develop skills and build networks through Corra's Community Leadership Collective.
- Support new and existing groups to establish and keep going and develop their ideas.



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