

Carbrain Annual Update 2024

About Carbrain

Carbrain is a neighbourhood in Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire. It's home to an active community who have in the past few years established a new community hub, new community green spaces, new groups, events, and activities for local people, and so much more. Read on for an insight into what's happened in 2024, and to hear directly from local community leaders!.



Carbrain timeline

Corra's work alongside the community in Carbrain began in 2018. You can delve into the detail in each annual update, but here's a taster of what the community has done since 2018. For more information on each year visit www.corra.scot/carbrain



2018

Corra starts working alongside the Carbrain community focusing on understanding the local area, local priorities, and developing activities.



2019

Weekly women's health and well-being group is established with support from local people and organisations (spoiler: this eventually led to the Carbrain and Cumbernauld Hub). Corra and the #ShiftThePower Scotland Comic Relief Fund began with local people designing and distributing a grant pot of £20,000.

Carbrain community responded to the national lockdown by setting up services, including a Food Initiative to ensure that people had access to food and hot meals. The Shift the Power Fund work continued and the community opened the fund in 2020 providing small grants to unconstituted groups up to £750.

2020



2021

Carbrain Community Hub received funding to develop a community space. The lockdown Food Initiative finished in 2021 having distributed over 36,000 hot meals and 2,300 food parcels locally. Pride in Carbrain continued bringing together organisations and local community members to tackle local environmental issues. They created a wildflower meadow in the Gully area this year.



2022



The Cumbernauld and Carbrain Community Hub secured larger and more accessible premises, gained charitable status and received funding to deliver projects. The Sharing Time Initiative brought together local community groups to map local services and support the cost-of-living crisis. Food initiatives continued with the delivery of family focused cooking classes.

2023

Carbrain Community Events group formed from work with St Margaret's and Carbrain Primary Schools and the local Community Council. Corra supported Craigieburn Community Garden's plans for community food growing and the development of Stonylee Square. Cumbernauld FM were supported to deliver radio skills classes in primary schools and communities.



2024

This year, the focus has been on developing Carbrain's Plan on a Page. This shares the community vision for the area and local services, alongside a plan of how to get there.





Carbrain's big ideas for positive change

Understanding our rights

Craigieburn Community Garden worked with Planning Democracy to deliver a workshop for local people interested in understanding their rights in relation to planning processes. There are many development projects underway in Carbrain and Cumbernauld including the Cumbernauld Town Redevelopment project. Local community leader, Kate Fromings, has been leading work to amplify community voice and rights within planning processes. The session has been a huge success with community members feeling more able to input into consultations about developments in their local areas.

Here's just a snippet from a blog Kate wrote for our website...

Planning rights may sound a little dry and unappealing, but the reason for organising this workshop is relevant to our community in 2024 and beyond. Through my various local connections, I discovered that very few people understand their rights and obligations when it comes to consultation on major development projects. A major development can be anything in excess of 50 or more homes, or a similar area of land being used for another purpose such as waste disposal, or building a shopping centre...

Read the full blog at:

<https://www.corra.scot/planning-rights-are-human-rights/>

Creating space for all

Local community leaders have worked to create and maintain spaces for the community to enjoy. This includes both indoor and green space!

Craigieburn Community Garden continued maintaining and developing local green space. This included potato planting, a pumpkin recycling scheme, and even a new Pokestop in Pokemon Go encouraging visitors to stop by.

Congratulations to Craigieburn Community Gardens and Carbrain Community Council, alongside community partners, who achieved the highest level in the Keep Scotland Beautiful Awards. Pride in Carbrain received the Certificate of Distinction in 2024.

The Carbrain and Cumbernauld Community Hub have outgrown their current space and are looking for a new permanent home to call their own. The hub is a focal point for the community with many services and groups running out of the space. A preferred building has been identified and work is underway to raise the funds to buy this. More to follow in 2025, and if you'd like to donate to the fundraising contact shazia@corra.scot.

Corra has continued to support partners to meet and connect by creating spaces to share. This is done through the Sharing Time Initiative which is a monthly meeting of partners and community groups in Cumbernauld sharing support, information, and networking.

Engaging our whole community

This year, there have been events for children, families, and community members run by several local groups.

North Lanarkshire Ethnic Minority Association ran The Rise Festival as part of Refugee Scotland Festival. It was an afternoon to celebrate the local area's diverse and welcoming communities with music, entertainment, games, crafts, food, and lots more. The event was well attended and had lots of great feedback. There's a little more about this work in Janiece's update below.

The Carbrain Community Events team ran Carbrain's Got Talent to engage local families and young people. There were also community radio classes for schools to encourage citizen journalism, increase confidence, and build knowledge of the media industry!



CARBRAIN *Community Plan*

We are committed to working together collaboratively to co-produce a resilient and sustainable plan supported by strong local communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and make a difference.

Get involved

Carbrain & Hillcrest Community Council:
carbrain.hillcrest.cc@gmail.com
Cumbernauld & Carbrain Community Hub:
carbraincommunityhub@outlook.com

SPACE

- Accessible and affordable community owned spaces
- Capacity building for communities to manage these assets
- Improvement and maintenance of green spaces and environment through community action
- Capacity building on planning legislation and community empowerment

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

- People can access high quality services in Carbrain.
- Inclusive community events and activities
- Developing new ideas across the community, moving at the pace of each group with no pressure to develop in formal ways

FUNDING AND INVESTMENT

- Investment in community asset ownership
- Participatory budgets for local communities to decide on how best to support each other and the needs of their groups/community
- Paid staff and trained volunteers skilled resourced to deliver high quality services local services and activities

- Funding, investment and capacity building for a community space/building for Cumbernauld and Carbrain Hub and partners – local community councils and community organisations coming together to access affordable space for meetings and activities to support and develop diverse groups
- Leadership training and project management skills for new groups
- Cross-sector partners working together with the community to support, finance and ensure the success of current and future developments

How we'll work together

Networking to support open communication. Sharing physical, knowledge and other resources to support and sustain the community into the future

Achievements

- Successful collaboration among Parent Councils
- Cumbernauld and Carbrain Community Hub offers support services and food
- Sharing Time Group networks and supports local organizations
- North Lanarkshire Ethnic Minority Association and Refugee Week events established
- Craigieburn Community Gardens and Stonylee Square promote food growing and education
- Carbrain Community Council earns Keep Scotland Beautiful awards
- Community events feature radio classes, family entertainment, and discos
- Development of St Margarets school gardens

How we'll know it's working

- New premises for Cumbernauld and Carbrain Community Hub and local community groups to deliver services, activities and generate income
- Greater community and volunteer participation in the Carbrain Community Council, Carbrain Community Events, North Lanarkshire Ethnic Minority Association and the newly constituted and unconstituted groups in Carbrain
- Carbrain has less flytipping, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour. More environmental awards won through the involvement of local people
- Stonylee Square is an educational and social resource for the wider community using the town centre.
- Engaged and confident young people raising community issues leading to change.
- New ideas are supported by diverse partners - statutory, community and businesses working collaboratively with groups.
- Increased confidence of community members to continue and develop new ideas/activities in an inclusive way and seek support so these are sustainable.

Hear from Carbrain community members

As part of the annual updates this year, we took time to sit down over a cuppa and hear from local people in Carbrain about what they've been up to and plans for the future.



Introducing Janiece Ndoye:

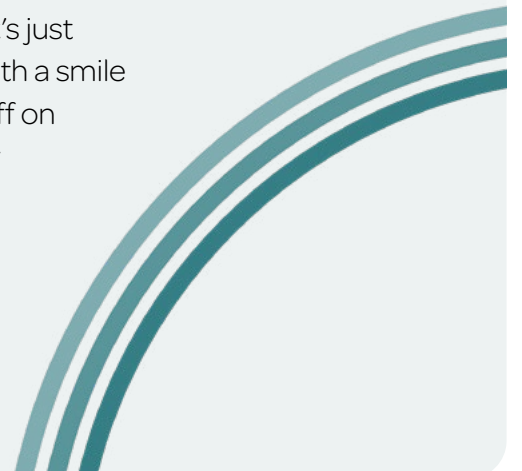
who runs the North Lanarkshire Ethnic Minorities Association.

North Lanarkshire Ethnic Minorities Association started as a grassroots project with neighbours and parents. We noticed that our children, and the wider community didn't have access to activities that represented and celebrated their heritage and background. Lots of conversations led to the idea of delivering small local events. This has grown and grown over time, and we got our charity status in June 2024! As the organisation grew, I got in touch with Shazia from Corra who has been fantastic. She has been my absolute backbone on the journey to getting charity status. Both of us are women of colour so we have that in common and she sees the inequalities that our families have personally experienced. It was a match made in heaven.

In 2024, Refugee Scotland asked if we could put on the refugee festival in the summer. That was held at Cornerstone Community Centre and there was a very good turnout. The feedback was really good as well. I've also been running drama classes for local young people where we looked at African American and Afro Caribbean playwrights. This gave the children skills and cultural awareness appropriate for their age. It went really well and I've applied for funding to expand this work. I just love creating spaces for people to connect, hearing experiences from members of the community when they tell us they've had a great time at our events. Really, we want to make sure that everyone feels welcomed in Carbrain and Cumbernauld and there's more work to be done there so it's a more mainstream effort.

There are challenges to this work too. We're trying to have the voices of minority groups heard and get to a position where communities can be in control of the activities that are delivered to support them. My major concern when we get funding is putting on projects which are then a success, but what happens to them beyond the life of the funding period? So we try to invest in ideas that communities can take control over and run after the funds have run out. I'm doing funding applications left right and centre at the moment, trying to get as much support as we can to provide these ongoing services for members of the community.

I love my job, and I love the charity and what it stands for. It's just so nice to see people's reaction when people walk away with a smile on their face. Or when they feel like they can't wait to get off on a Saturday morning so they can run out to the community centre to take part in one of the projects - that gives me great pleasure.





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. Cumbernauld and Carbrain Community Hub are working to secure funding to find a permanent home that suits their needs. Funding and support should be flexible and supportive to enable communities to direct resources where they need to go.

Place-based working centres the knowledge of residents to drive positive changes in their communities. Communities should be meaningfully involved in decision making that affects them. This shouldn't be tokenistic but collaborative, working in partnership to ensure that local ideas and insights are valued.

Neighbourhoods, in all parts of Scotland, should be thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of the people who call them home. This means ensuring that local people are aware of, and can input into, consultations about local developments. It's also about ensuring that communities can use their local space in ways that are important to them – for growing, playing, and connection.

What next?

From April 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 Carbrain Community to realise their plan, with specific actions including:

- Support the Cumbernauld and Carbrain Community Hub to find a permanent home that suits their needs.
- 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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