

Langlees

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING - WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



SNAPSHOT

- Community Football Sessions – a new partnership approach sees young people scoring goals and building trust
- Bainsford & Langlees Community Action Plan- Corra regularly attended Bainsford/Langlees Community Action plan meetings working with community members and third sector organisations to address local priorities.
- Friday Craft Cafe set up in response to the cost-of-living crisis, Corra is helping the group to access community space and build community networks to support their long-term future.
- Family Activity Group
- This community-led group, established with support from Corra, is delivering new activities for families in their local area.

Community Football Sessions



Football isn't just about goals and glory in the local community, for many young people it's a gateway to safety, trust, and positive engagement. A unique partnership model in Langlees, involving Corra, Police Scotland, Dawson Sports Association and Bainsford church, is helping to ensure community football sessions not only nurture budding athletes, but also foster a sense of security within the community.

The key lies in ongoing engagement. Regular interaction between police officers and young people builds trust, creating a comfortable environment for open communication. Young people are more likely to report concern, aware that friendly faces are there to listen and act. Additionally, the visible presence of police in the community acts as a deterrent to potential trouble, further contributing to a feeling of safety.

This collaborative approach transcends the football pitch. Partners like Corra and the Dawson Sports Association provide resources and infrastructure and, together with the church, support and encourage community involvement. It's a multi-faceted approach that benefits both individuals and the wider community.

So, the next time you see young people engrossed in a football match, remember that it's more than just a game. It's a testament to the power of collaboration in building trust, promoting safety, and fostering a positive future for local young people and the community.



Bainsford & Langlees Community Action Plan

This year, lots of work has taken place to identify Community Action Plan priorities that the community can directly address with available resources. Corra facilitated a participatory approach based around community members' interests. Taking this approach saw people take action on the key themes of 'Space & Activities', 'A Safer Cleaner Community' and 'Poverty'. Quick wins such as a community wide clean-up day where individuals living locally wanted to clean up the local parks and community spaces helped build momentum. The drive came from people who wanted to do something good for their area but, due to other commitments, couldn't attend regular groups.

Bainsford & Langlees Community Action Plan contd.



Corra provided space for local partners to engage with community members about the services that were available to people locally. Access to information on reporting Anti-social behaviour issues was a top priority. This led to the Housing and

Neighbourhood mediation team attending regular group sessions to speak to people about local issues. People could also report any concerns that arise between visits.

The cost-of-living crisis has continued to have a huge impact on everyone.

Working on a local solution, Corra worked alongside the Baptist Church to co-deliver a course around budgeting and advice on reducing financial worries. This course supported people on managing debt, how to create budget sheets, and ways of reducing household costs.



“After attending the course, I managed to save an additional £30 a month”

Food insecurity is one of the highest priorities facing the community. We are fortunate to have passionate people and organisations in the area helping to address this with dedicated support from community groups, schools and the two churches all working together. For example, a Christmas food parcel drive supported fifty families with partners combining resources - such as food products, financial contributions, free space to organise and pack food or the transport to deliver food packages. Working together to maximize the reach of support was the goal for the community partners. This highlighted the importance of what can be accomplished with everyone working in partnership.



Friday Craft Café

The Bainsford and Langlees Craft Café has provided a welcoming place for people from the local area and further afield. The free drop-in Café, held in Bainsford Community Hall, is



“It’s about bringing the community together, and that’s what it’s been doing. There are new friendships and supportive networks being formed”

Friday Craft Café contd.

a collaboration between Corra, Bainsford Parish Church, Falkirk Baptist Church, and the People's Parish project.



Building on regular community gatherings the initiative was set up originally in response to the cost-of-living crisis last year and was essentially a Warm Space. Anyone could come along and have a bowl of soup and a cuppa. We also wanted people to have something creative to do, so encouraged people to bring along their craft projects, mainly knitting and crochet, but there are also cards and other games available.

In early 2023, people attending the café knitted or crocheted a square which was made into a blanket. When the café celebrated its first birthday in November, they donated the blanket to Strathcarron Hospice. Knitters in the group have also been busy making little hats and cannula covers for the neonatal unit at Forth Valley Royal Hospital. Several of the regulars took a Friday off in October to head for Galashiels to view the Tapestry of Scotland. As a result, plans are developing to produce a Tapestry of Bainsford and Langlees together in 2024.



The People's Parish project brought a different kind of creativity to the café in 2023 by writing, performing and recording two songs based on interviews with members of the Craft Cafe. A third song is currently being written following on from another community member's story.

“It's great to have the support of the local churches, without them setting any agenda”

Creating a good working relationship with the two local churches has been instrumental for the success of the craft group. With the impending closure of the Hendry Street Church, Andrew, as the Locum Minister at Bainsford Parish Church, wants to ensure that the Church of Scotland isn't seen to be abandoning the area, and together with Adam Grant, Assistant Pastor of Falkirk Baptist Church, is seeking to work alongside other community groups to support and improve the lives of residents in the area.

“It's not just about bringing people together and tackling isolation; those attending have also been using their crafting skills”

Family Activity Group

Case study written by Stacie McLennan



The idea to start a group for children came about as my son attended a group at a local tabletop gaming shop with other children and I helped by volunteering my time. My son is autistic and a few of the other children that attended were also neurodiverse.

Unfortunately, between aftermath of COVID and stock supply issues the shop had to close, and the children's group ended. I had got to know the children and parents very well. When hearing the news that the shop would close everyone was disappointed as the group was so beneficial and often the only social activity their children participated in. We looked for alternatives but there are no other groups similar in Falkirk out with school clubs.

I, along with two other parents wanted to set up our own group but were not sure of how to go about it, or where we could get startup costs. We did not want to charge money to the children as we knew that families were struggling financially, and cost of hall hire would mean a charge of at least £7 per child plus we would need money to buy supplies. We spent weeks looking into funding and how to start a group but nothing I found was particularly helpful for our situation.

I spoke to Angela from Corra about setting up the group and she was extremely helpful. She talked through the idea with me and gave me some advice on things I was not sure about. She made me feel confident that we could start the group and be successful. Angela sat with me to apply for funding through an Idea into Action to help with set up costs. The process was simple, I filled in the form with Angela, we secured money to buy supplies and Corra covered the cost of the hall hire for our group. The process meant we did not wait months to see if we were successful, no public voting system to see if we got money, no huge list of requirements and restrictions and no submission windows.


**“They trusted
us and made
the process
stress free.”**

In the first few weeks after the group started Angela helped me sort out the policies we would need to run a group. We had five adult volunteers, which would form our committee. Angela attended our first meeting to become a constituted group. Corra's support has been invaluable every step of the way, having a Corra Co-ordinator there to give advice and support when needed. However, we did worry about long term sustainability of the youth group. Although Corra was paying the hall rental we knew that could not continue forever.

I spoke to Angela about different options, and we started looking into funding opportunities. We have now received funding that will allow us to continue the youth group for at least the next 2

Family Activity Group contd.



years and buy all the supplies we need to continue. Now that our groups future is secure and we have more volunteers, we are now working on promotional materials to increase our members. The group is doing fantastic and the feedback and thanks we have had from parents is very positive.

What have we learned?

In the past, people in Langlees have felt left behind when it came to service delivery and access to resources and amenities locally. However, this is changing for the better with access to space more readily available at the Bainsford Community Hall. The refurbishment that has been happening has also seen an increase in local activity for all age groups.

Having access to good quality affordable space is a priority for local community groups to connect and learn from each other. This has increased community participation and formed partnerships that will support the community well into the future.

2023 has had more community members leading on local issues that they want to address as a group and as individuals. Taking a lead role on ideas such as the community wide clean up, and support for people, especially around food and energy costs.

2023 has again highlighted the importance of local partnerships and working together with communities. A great example of a community identifying local partners and working collaboratively came at Christmas when community groups, businesses, schools, third sector organisations and churches all supported the delivery of food parcels.

What happens next?

The hope is to work with community members to take active roles in supporting the Bainsford Community Action Plan, with a focus on setting up a community anchor organisation such as community council or a tenants group representing all residents.

Corra will work on community priorities with groups to see if they still align with the wider Community Action Plans and develop partnerships with organisations so that the community can access resources to deliver on immediate priorities and long-term plans.

Moving Forward

Since 2015, the Getting Alongside Communities programme has been helping to create the conditions for communities to deliver powerful, long-lasting change.

In the early years of the programme, there was a strong focus on listening, capacity building, widening community participation, and supporting ideas into action. This long-term, relational approach has established deep knowledge, trust and connections with local people and partners – and resulted in increased community leadership, voice, ambition and action.

The final delivery phase of the programme is focussed on supporting communities to establish clear priorities, plans and partnerships that can drive and sustain community-led change – beyond an ‘on the ground’ presence from Corra which will end by March 2026.

Each community is currently working to agree their priorities and the format of a community owned plan by March 2024, and to identify the partners required to achieve it. There will be an event in September 2024 to ‘launch’ each plan followed by an agreed timeline to transition to community leadership in each place.

To help each community share learning and connect with community members across the Getting Alongside Communities programme, a community network has been established. Plans are also in place to develop a Community Leadership Collective to accelerate learning, leadership and positive change within and across communities.

The end of Corra’s work on the ground will mark the start of a new relationship between Corra and communities. This legacy phase will be co-created by communities and Corra and include a focus on: celebration and connection; community leadership and infrastructure; financial resources; knowledge & skills; learning & evaluation. Necessary conditions for success include:

- Community owned plan being delivered by local people and partners.
- Local community leadership – with connections to local and national networks.
- Community infrastructure (spaces and organisational structures).
- Long-term resourcing in place (funding, learning, relationships).



The Corra Foundation

Office Suite 30, Pure Offices, 4 Lochside Way, Edinburgh, EH12 9DT
e: hello@corra.scot t: 0131 444 4020 www.corra.scot

(The) Corra Foundation is a charity registered in Scotland (No SC009481) and is also a company limited by guarantee (No SC096068). Fortify Social Enterprise CIC is a community interest company registered in Scotland and is also a company limited by guarantee (No SC507457). (The) Corra Foundation was previously called Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland.