

Summary

I have had a great first month and my workload is building up organically and steadily. I've really enjoyed getting to know everyone and everyone has made me feel very welcome, without exception. I love the variety of my days, and I'm very excited for the coming months.

Development of Hub

- Attended Steering Group meeting along with other community group members. Researching possible hubs in Highland to have a learning exchange with as well as gathering more information on what Strathnairn Hub could look like
- Arranged a meeting with Strathdearn to see their hub
- Emailed Nethybridge Community Centre to see if I can come and have a look around their hub
- Starting to consider different ways we can consult with the community on the proposed hub once the steering group is further along (Walking Workshops; Pop Up Events in different places; Incentivised Surveys)

Strathnairn Community Woodlands - Advised Donald and Davey on methods of volunteer recruitment, including have tailored volunteer roles with more informal volunteering options available; regular community engagement to get people invested in the group, including working with other groups in the community; and public recognition of existing volunteers to raise profile / make others aware of volunteering opportunities. Also advised on funding streams outwith SCBF for woodland / biodiversity funding. Referred to SCA Learning Exchange fund.

Daviot Church - Spoke to Val and Cath, want to increase usage of the church with more regular community events. Provided advice on possible events they could host in the church – including linking in with other groups in Strathnairn such as art club; storytelling; inviting authors to speak, events based around popular religious holidays i.e. Christmas and easter. Mindful of space being used for worship still so suggested events are sensitive to this. Offered practical advice on running events, help with potentially applying for funding in future, as well as general support.

Community Cinema Project – spoke to Grazina at Film Hub Scotland who came out to check the suitability of Farr Hall for a cinema screening. She was happy to go ahead with this as part of the Spotlight Project. She will provide equipment for a few initial screenings from February and if this is a success, she can give us advice on obtaining our own equipment. Raghnaid suggested possibly lending this equipment from Highlands and Islands Climate Hub which we can look into.

I am in the process of forming a Cinema Team which will decide the film, do some volunteering associated with the project (selling tickets, setting up, designing posters).

Local Place Plans (LPPs) – Spoke to Ewen McIntosh from Highland Council Planning and Development about LPPs and was given useful resources on this; I have registered SDC as having an intent to prepare a Local Place Plan with Highland Council. Early engagement with landowners e.g. farmers / crofters / windfarms / forestry will be important as the LPP will broadly look at land use / infrastructure. I feel like completing this will then make other actions from the CAP easier to achieve, for example cycle routes or improvements to transport - And housing. Will liaise with Carol Masheter from SSE about this too.

Affordable Housing Project – starting to have a think about this project. Spoke to a colleague in Albyn Housing to confirm there's no Albyn social housing in Strathnairn (there isn't, and no council

housing either); emailed Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust to see about meeting them to discuss their recently completed Community Housing Project.

Strathnairn (Daviot) Hall - Met with Ian and Hilary. Listened to their aspirations for the hall; They have good ideas and it's clear they care a lot about the building. It didn't seem like they wanted lots of support right now, which is ok, and they felt I could best help them by reminding people that Daviot Hall was there to be used. Reminded them I'm here to help if/when they need it. Will check in regularly with these folks.

Strathnairn Heritage Association – spoke to Alasdair and Kirsteen (and Mike!). Provided Kirsteen with funding options beyond SCBF for heritage and buildings funding, inc landfill fund. Also advised of the SCA learning exchange fund. Offered support when needed.

Fearnag Growers – attended work party to meet the group. Briefly discussed funding and comparable projects in Highland. Offered support if they needed it.

SCATA - Advised on different funding options (outwith SCBF) for a new vehicle. Advised on strengthening board.

Parent and Toddler – met with the group and said hello.

Craft Club - Met with the group to introduce myself

Farr Estate - Emailed Lucy to introduce myself.

Otago – Met the group and said hello to them all.

Strathnairn Community Council - Attended meeting and explained my role.

Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund – met with Mark Bessell, he explained the funds that SCBF have and how that funding comes into SCBF. We chatted about different aspects of funding.

Ceilidh Event - Sourced catering; bought extra items; helped out at event.

Community Café - Attend this on a regular basis to connect with different people in the community. Test out various cakes.

Sustainable Strathnairn – made contact with Amy who is keen to talk, but waiting on an email back to confirm a meeting time.

Strathnairn Farmers' Association – Made contact but unfortunately can't make their meeting as I'm away on compassionate leave. Were eager to meet me so will go along to the next one.

Strathnairn Music Initiative – made contact and keen to meet but struggling to get a time that suits. Will look at next week.

Parent Council and FANS – have reached out to both but no response yet. Will try again if nothing by December.