

CDO Summary February

Summary: I had a busy month in February. I was pleased to see one of the projects I've been working on come to life, which was the cinema project. I am starting to look forward to the spring and summer, and starting off some of the projects I suggested in our Upcoming Work document

Hub Steering Group

Ongoing support, attending meetings, reviewing documents

Dealing with further feedback and opinions from the Engagement day in Jan

Created an online, mobile-friendly interactive site to present the feedback to the Community and published this – this took ages but well worth it! People were pleased to receive feedback after the event and got good response on the site.

Researching various trips for an exchange visit.

Cinema

This project came to fruition this month with the first of the cinema screenings. The family film was a great success, sold out with 60 tickets. The 12+ film was not as successful with 13 there, but I don't think the film was as appealing as the next film planned for 23 March.

Work on the day involved setting up and taking down the projector and screen equipment, chairs, preparing food and tuck shop, manning stall, clearing away

Marketing and advertising took a lot of time in the weeks before. Continued contact with Grazina from Film Hub Scotland.

Visited Kyle of Sutherland Development trust

I went to visit the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust to learn about their work and get insight on how they operate. Took a look around their developments and got insight into our potential projects.

Strathnairn Community Transport Association

Provided various advice including IT assistance (importing CSV contact list, setting up mailing groups); social media advice including having a Facebook; advice on consultation and surveys; general conversation about adapting the organisation to modernise and potentially grow SCATA's remit. New board members have come onto SCATA and things are feeling much more positive than when I started this role. I'm really looking forward to supporting them in the upcoming months.

Daviot Church

Working with the ladies to support them to hold events in the church. The Gaelic singing class was successful – helped them with flyer design, marketing, arranging the event (organising performers by contacting SMI and Karen Oakley), attended the event and helped host/steward. This was quite time intensive

Got in contact with Alice from the Climate Hub to arrange the climate conversation event which will be held 18 April – liaised with group to arrange this.

Also making contact in some in Strathnairn about having SG Maclean to do an authors talk, this is just in planning stages.

LPP

Further work on LPP; reading Planning Aid Scotland Advice; liaising with Highland Council Planning Team; starting to outline the plan and identify areas of consultation.

Obtaining relevant data such as spatial plans from Forestry Land Scotland, Highland Council, SEPA etc.

SSE

Met with colleagues from SSE at the Aberarder Windfarm Engagement Day; updating them on my progress, chatting about examples from other areas. I have started to send Carol Masheter and Eilidh Edgar my summaries so they're updated with what's going on. I also met with them at Dunmaglass Estate.

Gaelic Week

Organised and hosted event in Daviot Church as above – assisted with flyers and advertising with other events. Created Tiktok video to highlight successful events and raise profile

Climate Hub

Met with Alice from the Climate Hub to discuss potential upcoming projects relating to sustainability; inc full programme of events for Climate month in September.

Housing project

Met up with Ian Chorlton, Development Manager from Finnerne Development Trust. He has a background in construction and FDT are ready to start building on their affordable housing project this December. Lots of learning from this and Ian said he is happy to give us advice once we are further along. Hope to use LPP to gain clarity on site selection.

Dunmaglass Estate

Went up to Dunmaglass Estate and Farm to steward for an event with Farr Primary. This was a good opportunity to meet parent helpers, local pupils, Farr School teachers, the farm and estate staff at Dunmaglass, the SSE renewable team, and other good contacts such as volunteers from Savills who help with land management in the Strathnairn area. Plus I got to look around the estate.

DO Drop in

Attended DTAS monthly development officer drop in where I met other development officers from around Scotland. Shared best practice and ideas. Found this very useful

Probationary Review

I had my probationary review which was successful, spoke through numerous ideas I had for the upcoming months plus advice on challenges that I'd be dealing with

Strathnairn Community Woodlands

Met Davey from the woodlands group for a walk around the community owned woodland. Discussed different routes of ownership should the group wish to take on more land. Found out more about the history of the group, previous projects, aims and ambitions of the woodland. Discussed potential flooding mitigation and referred to possible funding streams to resolve that. Generally discussed funding and passed these one afterwards.

Strathnairn Music Initiative

Met Fran and Marielle. Learnt about SMI's current activities, challenges they are facing with regards to volunteers. They felt they could benefit from some sort of digitalisation to make running SMI easier. They voiced concerns about the hub development and possibly being uprooted from their space while they happens – mainly as they risk losing their music teachers if there is a substantial break in lessons as they will seek employment elsewhere. I was asked by SMI to assure them that their current usage of the hall would be respected/maintained while the hub was developed. I advised I couldn't promise this, as there may be other users of the hall who would not mind significant upheaval and it's also impossible for me to guarantee this. I did however advise I would be passing on how they felt, and that Maggie Meiklejohn in particular had been vocal about this issue on the steering group.

Plan of Upcoming Work

Wrote a comprehensive and detailed plan of upcoming work planned for the next 12 months – taking time to think about what projects would have the best impact, what's needed in Strathnairn, what projects I could personally lead etc.

Digital Champion Training

Signed up for digital champion training so I feel more confident teaching others how to use IT. Part of my Professional Learning / Development.

Community Café – ongoing. I attend this when possible but sometimes there are other meetings or events which take precedence.