

CDO Summary March

Summary: This month I had one week away on a training course and one week AL, so didn't progress as much in Strathnairn as I did last month. However I still got the cinema project completed and a ongoing support to lots of different things. Next month will be far more focussed, with fewer social-events planned as I'll be concentrating on the Local Place Plan.

Hub Steering Group

Further attending of meetings

Visited Boat of Garten Hall to see what they are doing, looking at dates for a visit to the hall

Researching MUGAs

Drafting letter to immediate neighbours of the park to seek views on MUGA

Cinema

Completed the second and final set of cinema screenings. Again the family film was a bigger success, and the 12+ film was not as successful but still there was about 10 people there.

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.

Leadership Skills Course

I was lucky to be awarded a place on a Leadership Skills course for people working in Place Based Organisations or Development Trusts. It was in Sabhal Mor Ostaig in Skye. The course was great, it got me thinking about different ways to get the best out of others when supporting them with their ideas or projects. It was also insightful about my own areas I should work on or what I'm good at already. We had to do a group project on a permaculture project in Skye. We had to come up with new ideas for his social enterprise and had to develop an outline business plan for that. I also got to network with loads of other people doing similar jobs to me from across the Highlands and Islands. It was a great learning experience.

Strathnairn Community Transport Association

Supported with setting up a Facebook Page, providing advice on use of social media. Final tweaks to survey presentation.

Daviot Church

Designed new flyer for the coffee and craft club

Arranged test screening with Alice from the Climate Hub; the screen was far too large for the church and so I will buy a 100inch portable screen – storage at Daviot Church



Preparing for Climate Conversation on 18 April

The ladies at the church are also independently organising another concert. They are thinking about charges for folks wanting to use the space. I was really pleased with this because they're showing some initiative – always great to see groups being self-sufficient and not relying on others to push on what they want!

Possible Farm Shop

Spoke to a chap called Rob who is based at the old Grouse and Trout. He is interested in converting the space that did have 2x ensuite B&B rooms. He wondered if there were any farmers or crofters who would be interested in taking it on and selling local produce in a farm shop type model. Unusual to have somebody come up with the premises rather than someone with a business idea looking for premises. I really liked the idea and did ask about but there didn't seem to be bags of interest. The idea is great and I think Rob is coming at it from a good place, however he doesn't actually want to run the business or take on any of the liability, he just wants a small profit from leasing it. I advised he'd need to apply for planning permission for change of use for the business and a proper lease for the people running the business. I will suggest the alternative of converting the space into a workshop, which he could use but also rent a bench out to someone and it's more casual / not having to worry about big leases or loans to set up a business.

Upcoming work plan

Thinking of and adding further ideas for work over 24-25 period

Strathnairn Community Woodlands

Met Kristina from Woodlands Group on 4 March. Advised on conversion of structure to a SCIO, community asset transfer guidance, various funding available. Later spoke to Kristina and discussed extra speakers for the Gala in September, referred on to external agencies like Highlife ranger service and Climate Hub. I also referred on to funding for this.

Digital Champion Training

Ongoing training

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

Craft Club – went along a few times to both the Daviot and Farr ones

Changeworks / Home Energy Scotland

Chatted to Naomi Kaye about potential partnership working to increase energy efficiency in homes in Strathnairn or support to the local community – need to follow up!

