

April Update

Hub Steering Group – arranged a visit to the Boat of Garten Hall to see how they manage to fund their paid staff and consequently remain open for portions of the week. Really informative visit, learnt loads about how they generate income through events while keeping the focus of the hall on the community. Also got insight into staffing, namely how they pay wages and different roles and responsibilities.

Took the opportunity to look around the pump track situated directly behind the Boat of Garten Hall – this is managed by a separate group. Definitely something that could be replicated in Strathnairn, links in with goals around Active Travel, activities for young people. Found a comprehensive document online all about this project which explains funding, project details etc that can be shared with the steering group.

MUGA – further research on the MUGA aspect of the hub development. As the project would likely cost a minimum of 150,000 for a small development and £500,000 for a large one, SSE feel it would need to go through Sustainable Development Fund rather than a one off payment as part of the Aberarder windfarm development. There is some money about for small projects as part of that, but this project is not suitable. Drafting letter to go to neighbours of Smith Park to discuss their feelings on a MUGA.

Strathnairn Initiatives – arranged a business coffee morning for any small initiatives in Strathnairn. HIE in attendance. Went very well and definitely appetite for this in the future.

Local Place Plan – development of an engagement plan, further research and consideration of the consultation process, beginning to map existing landowners in Strathnairn

Daviot Church – You are likely aware, but the ladies in the congregation at Daviot Church asked for my assistance to increase community usage of the church in the hope to forestall closure. I met with them to develop an events strategy. I asked them about overarching goals and ambitions and then we discussed possible events which are both feasible given the space constraints and appropriate as the church is still a place of worship. I wrote this up into a written strategy with shorter, medium and longer term goals over the next 12 months as well as potential costings and funding sources.

Climate Conversation – This was an event at Daviot Church. Sought external partnership with the Climate Hub, showcasing a film on Climate Action with partners from Highland Adapts and SSE in attendance. Clearly interest in these kinds of events with interesting conversations had, that can lead to further community led projects in Strathnairn. Wrote an article about the event which was published in the Highlands and Islands Climate Hub Newsletter

Climate Hub – Meeting Climate Hub to discuss how to work together to best support climate action in Strathnairn.

Stratherrick Foyers DT – Meeting to discuss partnership opportunities

Gaelic Language Classes – Managing attendees and promoting Gaelic classes run in Farr Hall.

Film Hub Scotland – negotiating further screening event for adults. Discussion on potential films to increase attendance.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise – General catch-up, updated on progression on projects in Strathnairn

Strathnairn Community Woodlands – provided advice on funding options for woodland gala as well as potential speakers and guests.