



**BROADFORD  
& STRATH**

**COMMUNITY COMPANY**

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COMMUNITY COMPANY**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**MARCH 2018**

# Greener Broadford

April 2017 to March 2018

Greener Broadford was funded by the Climate Challenge Fund with the following aims:

- Engage with a much wider proportion of the community, specifically children and young people and their families by working with the local primary and high schools to create a dedicated growing facility.
- Create a new growing area designed with access in mind in collaboration with the NHS and disability groups.
- Respond to new streams of green waste by developing our composting capacity
- Meet demands for better surplus wood re-use with a new facility
- Create a Climate Change and Environmental Awareness programme aimed at young people and the wider community. This will be achieved through a series of monthly events giving a local interpretation of a national theme.

There were lots of activities and events held over the twelve-month period. The events were held along with expert volunteers and partners from the local area and from national agencies and charities. The events included a “love food, hate waste” workshop, repair and reuse workshop, bike events, beach cleans, shore walks, energy advice and we still have a few more events to come so keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for more info!

As well as the one off events we host weekly groups from Broadford Primary School, Plockton High School and Portree High School. All have worked very hard in producing a huge amount of fresh vegetable and ornamentals. The groups each have their own raised beds inside and outside. Each group has also worked on the site maintenance as part of their work experience. Some of the older participants have volunteered extra hours in their own time for Duke of Edinburgh and Saltire Awards. Their hard work has been a fantastic help in maintaining the site and essential help for the Community Company.

Through Climate Challenge Funding we also built a small wood store and cabin encouraging local joiners and builders to use these facilities to recycle wood. This has been an asset to the allotment site and waste wood has been re-purposed to provide valuable wood for repairs to raised beds, wooden tubs, tree stakes, and peoples kindling supplies. The cabin is currently used for managing the wood recycling and a welcome shelter when the weather is particularly bad!

Few photos from some Greener Broadford events:

Volunteers after a successful beach clean!



Mathew and Alex with some of the fresh food from our polytunnels.



Project Officer Janet Ullman tree planting with volunteers from Portree and Broadford Primary – great afternoon despite the freezing cold weather.

# Camping Skye

The 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2017 was a huge day for the Broadford and Strath Community Company as, after many years of hard work, the first contractors started work on our new Community Campsite. Macdonald Groundworks Ltd. worked well and by mid-September RK Joinery were on site to begin laying foundations for the Service Building, the Wardens' Office and the Maintenance Shed.

Despite a few delays with the electrical wayleaves, Camping Skye will hopefully be open in May 2018. On completion the site will have:

- 26 vehicle pitches, each with a 16A electric hook-up and private picnic area (available immediately)
- 49 tent pitches, each with a minimum dimension of 6m x 10m (available from 2020 – we have to let the grass grow)
- toilets/showers (male, female, accessible)
- wash-up and laundry sinks
- drying room
- chemical toilet disposal unit
- wardens' office and accommodation for the night duty warden
- workshop and store for maintenance and equipment

Over the coming months Scottish Woodlands will be planting a mixture of native species trees and shrubs, heathers, and wildflowers around the site. The Woodland Trust have also supplied the Rotary club with trees which will be planted by more volunteers from the local schools and the community. If any groups or individuals would like to get involved with some tree planting please let us know!

We have also recently been recruiting and are delighted have to have, so far, recruited two key members of the Camping Skye team.

Becky Milne will be joining us as Senior Warden and Business Manager starting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March. Becky currently works part-time at both West Highland College and Plockton Music School and has a clear vision of how to develop Camping Skye into a place that people will want to come and stay, again and again.

Ruarie Anderson will come aboard as Deputy Warden and Maintenance Manager on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. Ruarie is currently working with Highland Council and has a wide range of skills that will be essential for the smooth running of Camping Skye as well as an enthusiasm for customer service.

Project Manager Malcolm Henry will work along with and support Becky and Ruarie and the Directors for the first 18 months of operation. We also hope to employ further seasonal staff over the coming months.

The campsite would not have been possible without input from so many individuals and partners over the years.

- Big Lottery Fund - £954,441
- Highlands & Islands Enterprise - £110,294
- Scottish Hydro Electric Community Trust - £30,750

## STRATH LEISURE

Strath Leisure is the trading subsidiary of the Broadford and Strath Community Company and has been responsible for the financial management of the campsite build and will continue to be responsible for the management of the campsite when fully operational. Strath Leisure are currently looking for new Directors for the Board so if you would like to register your interest please send an email to [mail@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:mail@broadfordandstrath.org)

The service building so far...



# Forest School

Back in 2012 the pupils of Broadford Primary told us that they would like to use the Broadford Community Woodland to build dens, watch animals, put up bird houses, collect pine cones and much more. In 2017 the opportunity arose to submit an application to the Aspiring Communities Fund which we used to ask for a grant to investigate how we could start up a Forest School. This was successful and Shirley Grant was appointed as project officer with support from Abriachan Forest Trust.

Aspiring Communities is a two stage fund so we are working on a second application to run a pilot project. The forest school will provide outdoor learning and activities. The pilot project will include after school care, young people's nature clubs and school holiday activity days all based at the Growers Hub with a programme of outdoor activities for the children. From this it is hoped to build a children's outdoor learning business which is sustainable.

## Funders

The Aspiring Communities Fund with support from European Social Fund.



A very cold but successful open day with helpers Abriachan Forest Trust.

# And there is more....

## Skye Cycle Way

The Skye Cycle Way was initiated in November 2017 to try and establish a safe route for walkers and cyclists from Kyle of Lochalsh to Broadford. The Skye Cycle Way is a working group which comes under the umbrella of the Broadford and Strath Community Company.

So far the Skye Cycle Way has:

- Held three, well attended, open meetings: 23 November, 11 December and 22 January with the next meeting being held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at 6pm in the Broadford Village Hall – all welcome!
- Undertaking negotiations with landowners, with encouraging response to date
- Obtained advice from Sustrans (<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/>) on an earlier route survey and similar projects
- Begun conversations with potential funders including LEADER programme and Transport Scotland's Low Carbon Travel and Transport and Challenge Fund
- Options for routes currently being drawn up and initial costings obtained
- Funding bid to Paths for All submitted for initial development funding
- Facebook page and initial online survey created

Over the next few months we will be continuing discussions with landowners, planners and funders; and most importantly extending conversations with involve the local community to ensure the project meets everyone's needs and aspirations.

We are always keen to hear from volunteers so if you would like to get involved please contact us via [mail@broadfordanstrath.org](mailto:mail@broadfordanstrath.org) or through our Facebook page – Skye Cycle Way

## New Year Event / Fundraising

We have also had continued support from the Broadford and Strath Community Council. The Community Council have kindly donated £250 towards our New Year event. This donation was spent on the fireworks display, which was enjoyed by both locals and visitors. Our new year events have been hugely successful, and enjoyable, and provide general funds for the Company which are essential for various costs that are not covered by grant funding. A huge thank you must go to the volunteers who give up their Hogmanay to let these events take place. As a community company it is essential that we carry out fundraising activities throughout the year so if you have any fundraising ideas please do let us know.

## Broadford Benches

The Broadford and Strath Community Council also supplemented a grant received from the Highland Ward Discretionary Fund for the repair and replacement of benches in the Broadford area. We had originally hoped the funds from the Ward Discretionary Budget would be sufficient to replace the wood however after discussions we decided to go for the more substantial, and expensive, wood Oroko which will hopefully endure the hard Skye winter (and summer) and last for at least 20 years preventing us having to continually look for further funding to replace them. We

have the funds for the work and the work will be carried out by Volunteers in the village. Mikey Mackinnon, Chris Townsend and Finlay Morrison have already kindly offered to carry out some of the work but any further offers of help would be appreciated.

## Community Garden

The Broadford and Strath Community Council also submitted an application to the Skye and Lochalsh Housing Association for work to be carried out on the paths in the Community Garden. Our Community Garden volunteer, Heidi Hoffman, had approached us with concerns about the state of the paths and the drainage in the Community Garden. We discussed this with the Community Council, as they had previously secured funding towards the Community Garden, and they approached the Skye and Lochalsh on our behalf. We so far have £500 from the Skye and Lochalsh Housing Association and are waiting for a further £ 2000 which will come directly from Compass who are the contractors carrying out the work on the new houses at Campbell's Farm. We hope to have improvements made to the paths within the next few months.

## Strengthening Communities Fund

We were successful in securing a second year of the Strengthening Communities Fund. This fund employs our Project Officer Norma Morrison who is part of the administration team within the Community Company. Norma works along with the Directors, Project Officers, Members, Partners and Volunteers.

## Path Network

We have a very successful path network within the Broadford and Strath Community but as projects develop "gaps" are identified. One such gap was the journey to our Community Allotments. When we took a group of children walking from the Primary School to the Community Allotments we realised that it was neither safe nor enjoyable to walk the children through the busy industrial estate. So we applied to Paths for All and the Cooperative Fund for funding and were awarded £1500 from Paths for All and we got the huge sum of £16000 from the Cooperative Community Fund. Between Contractors and Volunteers, we are just about finished our path and it will enable a much more enjoyable and safe walk to the Community Allotments. We have also ensured it is accessible to all.



No more walks like this for any individuals or groups coming to the Community Allotments.



Volunteers working on the new path.

# Volunteers

We are exceptionally lucky to have a great body of Volunteers under the umbrella of the Community Company. From the Directors who undertake what can be the equivalent of a full time job to the juniors who give up their weekends to cut the grass and build paths. Our volunteers are essential to us and are our biggest asset. New volunteers are always welcome, either to help with existing work or to offer new skills to the community.

## Community Garden

We also have a small group of volunteers who manage the Community Garden and not only grow the plants for our Community Garden but also tend the garden and keep it looking beautiful all year round. If anyone would like to join this group please get in touch as Heidi is always looking for willing helpers!

## Grass

We also have the endless grass to cut from the banks along the path network, to the allotments and the well at Breakish. We have a few volunteers who do come along and make a big difference but we are always looking for more help so if you are interested in joining us to help our Community look even better please let us know and we can always find a job to suit you!

## Maintenance

From paths, bridges, buildings and so much to maintain we need you!! If you are not sure how to do something we can help you!

A few pictures of volunteer work ...



Before and.....



After



Replacing some boards on the bridge.



Community Tree Planting

# BROADFORD AND STRATH COMMUNITY COMPANY

## DIRECTORS

**Chairperson:** Alistair Macpherson

**Vice chair:** Alison Maclennan

**Treasurer:** Jeff Geary

Malcolm Smith

Hermione Lamond

Patricia Rogers

Barbara Williams

Anne O Lone

Neil Hope

Adele Beck

### **Project Officers:**

Malcolm Henry – Campsite Project Manager (funded through Big Lottery Fund and HIE)

Nicholas Kelly – Greener Broadford Project Officer (funded through the Climate Challenge Fund)

Janet Ullman – Greener Broadford Project Officer (funded through the Climate Challenge Fund)

Norma Morrison – Admin Project Officer (funded through the Strengthening Communities Fund)

Shirley Grant – Forest School Project Officer (funded through the Aspiring Communities Fund)

Contact details:

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If you have any comment about the content of this report please email us on [mail@broadfordandstrath.org](mailto:mail@broadfordandstrath.org)