

Brora Development Trust

Newsletter

October 2022



Message from the Chair

The past few months have been busy for Brora Development Trust and yielded some positive news which the Trust would like to share. The Trust have submitted several applications for funding for initiatives which have been successful. The Trust have also prepared a questionnaire survey which will be launched in the first week in November, the results of which will form the basis of the Trust's work plan for the next three years and we would urge you to take part in the survey.

Tony Gill,

Chair of Brora Development Trust

NEWS

Support for Brora Food Share Shed

Brora Development Trust has been successful in an application to Anne Duchess of Westminster Foundation for funds to support not only Brora Food Share Shed but other larders in Sutherland. Brora Food Share Shed is run by Engaging with Activity (EWA), a Community Interest Company, who run Brora Village Hub.

The Brora Food Share Shed has been operating for almost 4 years and relies on the hard work and dedication of a team of volunteers. The majority of stock for the Shed comes from local supermarkets in Brora, Golspie and Tain which is collected daily by a dedicated team of volunteers. Some stock also comes from the

charity CFine which provides food surplus and from kind donations from individuals. The Shed was set up to help reduce food waste in landfill and help fight climate change. The Shed was originally funded by Tesco and Kilbraur windfarm.



Food Share Shed, Brora

The Sutherland-wide survey carried out by Brora Development Trust was enabled by a collaboration with Sutherland Community Partnership food group. The application for funding was made as a result of a survey conducted of all food larders/share sheds in Sutherland which showed that all facilities are experiencing a shortage of stock at a time when demand for food is increasing. The shortage is a result of less surplus food being available from supermarkets, fewer donations and transport costs for collection and distribution of food. The funding will enable food sheds and larders to purchase stock and pay for operational costs for the larders. Brora Development Trust will continue to work to seek funding for food related initiatives to meet demands both locally and across the county.

Partnership with Sutherland Young Carers



Funding has been secured by Brora Development Trust from Development Trusts Association for Scotland, Pockets and Prospects programme to support Sutherland Young Carers (TYKES), to increase hours of work for a Welfare Officer. This position provides critical support to young carers and their families in Brora and Sutherland. TYKES aims to relieve poverty and distress, improve health and welfare and advocate education and promote the benefit of young carers in Sutherland. Brora Development Trust is delighted to be able to support the work of TYKES.

Board of Trustees Workshop

In September, the Trust's Board of Trustees met to discuss governance matters and plans for the future. The workshop was facilitated by Alice Duthuillé, Strengthening Communities Programme Development Officer, at Development Trusts Association Scotland, of which Brora Development Trust are members. Earlier this year the Trust conducted a Board Health Check, to help strengthen good governance of the Trust, conducted by Impact Hub Inverness, funded by Scottish Government's Just Enterprise programme.

Sub-Committee on Communications

Brora Development Trust has set up a sub-committee on communications which will steer the Board in all aspects of communication, including press releases, social media and the newsletter.

This summer Brora Development Trust received positive coverage in local and national media, with Development Officer Sarah being interviewed on BBC radio Scotland, regarding the work the Trust have done.

Questionnaire Survey

Brora Development Trust is looking to gather the views of people living in Brora and the district of Clyne to find out the community's priorities, hopes and needs which will form the basis of BDT's work for the next three years. The results will help guide and support the work of the Trust, identifying realistic and deliverable actions that aim to bring positive outcomes for our community.

In addition to this survey, the local primary school have been asked to provide input from younger children. This questionnaire includes questions about the Beachview property, known as Brora Village Hub.

The questionnaire can be completed online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3TKZTWJ>

The online survey will go live on Monday 31st October and close on Wednesday 9th November. If you would prefer to speak to someone who can complete the survey for you or with you, please get in touch (contact details below). Questionnaires can also be picked up from and returned to Otter's Couch, Brora Library and Cunningham's.

All information will be treated in strictest confidence and no published information will refer to any individuals or households.

The survey report will be launched at Brora Development Trust's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14th December at 7pm in the Scout and Guide Hall, where everyone is invited to attend.

MEMBERS

Brora Development Trust now has over 200 members whose support is highly valued. All Members are invited to take part in the Annual General Meeting in December.

If you would like join Brora Development Trust please contact Sarah Morrison, Development Officer to request a form or visit the website where a membership form is available. The Trust's Constitution is also available to download from the website.

PROJECTS

Food Plus project

Brora Development Trust, Engaging with Activity at Brora Village Hub, and Young Carers Sutherland (TYKES) have been working together to respond to an increase in demand for support locally as a result of the cost of living crisis and made breakfast packs and meal starter kits available throughout the school summer and October holidays for all school children living in Brora.



Breakfast pack and Meal Starter Kit

This was a true community initiative and a result of close working between the three partner organisations and volunteers, with the help too of Brora Primary School and Brora Rangers Mini Kickers.



Food packs along with half time oranges were made available at a Mini Kickers training session

A team of volunteers at Brora Village Hub worked very hard to prepare the 1,145 breakfast packs and meal starter kits which were enjoyed over the 8 weeks in the school summer and October holidays. The packs were free of charge and available to all primary and secondary school pupils residing in Brora, which has over 170 school children. The initiative was extended to all nursery pupils for the October break in response to requests made. Half of all children living in Brora have benefitted from the packs.

Thank you for all the photos sent to us. There are clearly lots of great young chefs in Brora!



Daisy Cameron



Charlie Gibbard

Milo Ainsworth

The project is funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), Scottish Government and administered by The Highland Council's Food Plus scheme. Funding will be sought by BDT to continue the initiative.



Rory Simpson

It is hoped that the packs will help ease some of the financial pressure on families during the school holidays when household expenses are high and children do not have access to free school meals, especially at a time when the cost of living has increased dramatically. BDT are seeking funding to support children and their households over the winter months ahead.

Signage

Progress is being made to put up pedestrian signage in the village centre. This initiative is being led by a sub-committee made up of interested individuals and Board members. A site visit has taken place with a local Roads Operator from The Highland Council Roads Department as part of the project planning. Relevant permissions and funding will need to be sought for this project to be delivered.

Gateways

The Trust has made a decision not to proceed at this time with plans to put up Welcome to Brora signs at the north and south entrance of the village, because of the high costs of delivering the project and restrictions imposed on the size of the structures. This may be a project which the Trust returns to in the future if circumstances are different.

100+ CLUB

The 100+ Club is a significant source of fundraising for Brora Development Trust and runs from April to March at a cost of just £12 a year. A winning number is drawn at the Trust's monthly Board meeting. There is one prize of £20 each month with a grand draw in December, with £100, £50 and £30 prizes. If you would like to take part and have a chance to win, please contact Sarah to receive an application form.

Community Calendar

Brora Development Trust have pulled together a Community Calendar, with contributions from groups and individuals from Brora. Many thanks indeed to everyone who has made a contribution, given feedback and suggestions. Without your input the calendar would not be possible.

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1	Brora Village Hub, Open	Brora Village Hub, Open	Brora Village Hub, Open	Brora Village Hub, Open	Brora Village Hub, Open	Brora Village Hub, Open
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Community Calendar now available

Deadline for contributions will be 25th of each month. The calendar is available online and has been printed and posted at the Library, Otter's Couch, Village notice board, Brora Bowling and Tennis Club, Cunninghams and Brora Village Hub and the Thrift shop. If anyone would like a printed copy, please get in touch with Sarah.

Otter's Couch

The Otter's Couch social enterprise continues to thrive and celebrated 3 years of trading early this year, attracting local customers and visitors alike. Over 40 local crafters and artists sell their produce in the shop, with 7 local charities also supported. The shop is staffed by volunteers, crafters and one part-time paid employee. Brora Rangers football club also have merchandise for sale in the shop. The shop is open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4.30pm until the end of October and 10am to 4pm over the winter months. See www.facebook.com/TheOttersCouchBrora.



Large range of attractive craft and art work from local producers available at the shop

Brora Development Trust have prepared project plans to set up a visitor information point in the Otter's Couch. The purpose of this is to encourage visitors to spend more time in and around Brora. The information point will provide local businesses with promotional and marketing opportunities.

The Trust is a registered Scottish charity (SC04396)