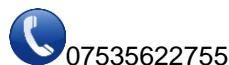
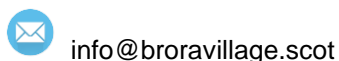




Brora Community Newsletter October 2023

Prepared by **Brora Development Trust**



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Another busy few months here in Brora, with various new projects underway and other projects having reached completion. This work would not have been possible without our partners and the local volunteers who have continued to dedicated time and effort for the benefit of the community. I would also like to thank all the donors who have provided grant funding to Brora Development Trust which we've in turn invested in our community.

The Annual General Meeting of Brora Development Trust will take place on December 13th at Brora Golf Club at 7pm and all members are warmly welcomed. The Board of Trustees are currently looking in particular for someone with experience in youth related activities to join the Board, as the organisation embarks on a new youth initiative. If you would like to be part of this exciting new venture and would like to discuss the role of a Trustee further, please do get in touch with Brora Development Trust.

Kind regards,

Tony Gill, *Chair of Brora Development Trust*

NEWS

PEDESTRIAN SIGNPOSTS



Image: Signpost at Station Square

We're very pleased to say that all three directional pedestrian signposts have been installed as planned. The signposts are the culmination of work by local volunteers who were part of the Trust's signage sub-committee. Many thanks to Waverley Engineering for installing two of the signs and to BEAR Scotland for installing the third. Thanks too goes to the land owners who gave permission for the signs to be installed on their land. The signposts were funded by The Highland Council's Community Regeneration Fund who provided £8,800 in funding.

Membership forms are available on our website www.discoverbrora.com



Image: Signpost on Gower Street



Image: Signpost at Harbour Road and South Brae junction

HAPPY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS INITIATIVE

Each parent/carer of 212 children living in Brora, in Early Years education, primary and secondary school, received a £20 grocery voucher for the October school holidays as part of the Trust's Happy School Holidays initiative, to be redeemed at the Premier shop, Brora.

While many children are entitled to free school meals during term time, there is currently no such provision during school holidays. School holidays can be a difficult time for families, with an increase in household costs (food, childcare and heating for instance) and a reduction in income (not being able to go out work or working less often because children are at home). For this reason,

Brora Development Trust committed to supporting families with children in education during school holidays.

The Trust is very grateful for the help of Brora Primary School, Golspie High School and Stepping Stones with this initiative and for distributing the vouchers.

Funding for the Happy School Holidays initiative has come from North Highlands Initiative (£10,000), The Highland Council Community Regeneration Fund (£5,000) and the National Lottery Community Fund (£5,000) and will enable the Trust to provide grocery vouchers for each of the four school holidays this academic year.

SUPPORT FOR FOOD SHARE UNITS

Brora Development Trust continue to work in partnership with Brora Community Centre and Engaging with Activity at Brora Village Hub to support the operation of two food share units in Brora.



Image: Food Share Shed, Brora Village Hub

Findings from the community questionnaire conducted by Brora Development Trust in the last quarter of 2022 stated that half of all respondents had used the food share shed at the Hub, in the months prior to the questionnaire. The majority of respondents also stated that they were worried about the high cost of living.

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Image: The Annex, Brora Community Centre

There has been a high turnover of stock for both units as demand for household food support increases locally, coupled with a reduction in the volume of donations from regular sources such as supermarkets, which make food surplus available for the food share units. The Highland Council Community Regeneration Fund have committed £6,600 in grant funding to purchase additional stock for both the units.

BRORA YOUTH INITIATIVE

The recruitment process for a part-time Lead Youth Worker is underway. Westminster Foundation have awarded Brora Development Trust £9,063 to fund this post for 10 hours a week for 12 months. The Lead Youth Worker will be responsible for planning and delivery of all youth activities delivered as part of Brora Youth Initiative.

In order to find out what young people themselves would like, Youth Highland carried out consultation exercises with groups of young people at Brora Primary School and Golspie High School. Both schools are very supportive of

the initiative and have enabled the consultations to take place, which Brora Development Trust is very thankful for.

During the consultations, some of the young people were tasked with drawing their image of a perfect Youth Worker.

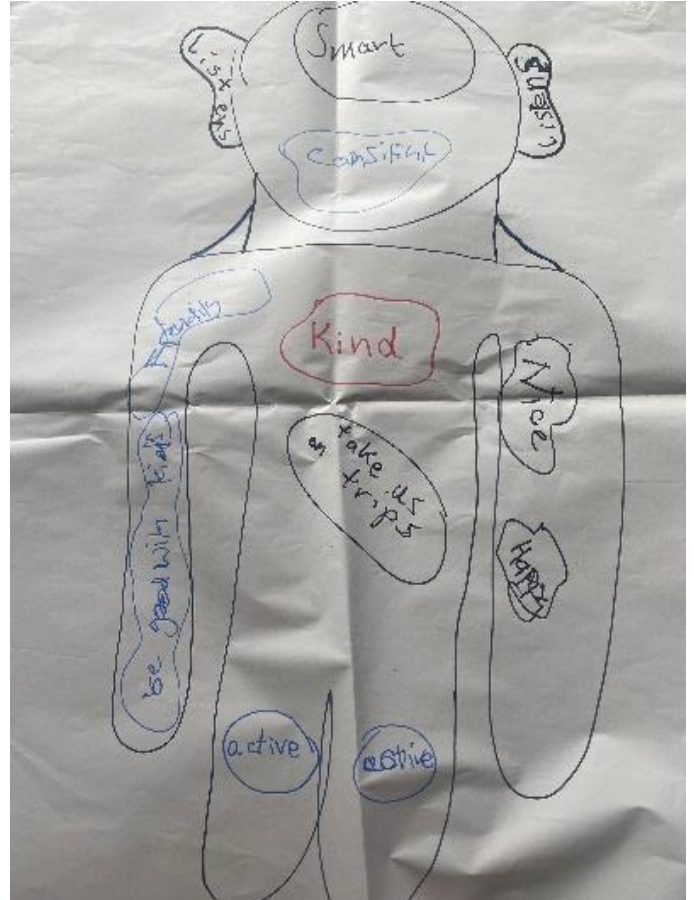


Image: The Perfect Youth Worker

The young people were also asked to design their perfect youth club. Interestingly, many of the designs for youth clubs were very basic and simple: most young people said they are looking for a dry sheltered space where they can sit down and spend time together. Where groups were more aspirational with their ideas, they wanted space where they could participate in different activities but where they could have access to food and drink, screens, electricity to charge phones. There were some designs created by the young people which featured youth clubs with activities including sports and arts.

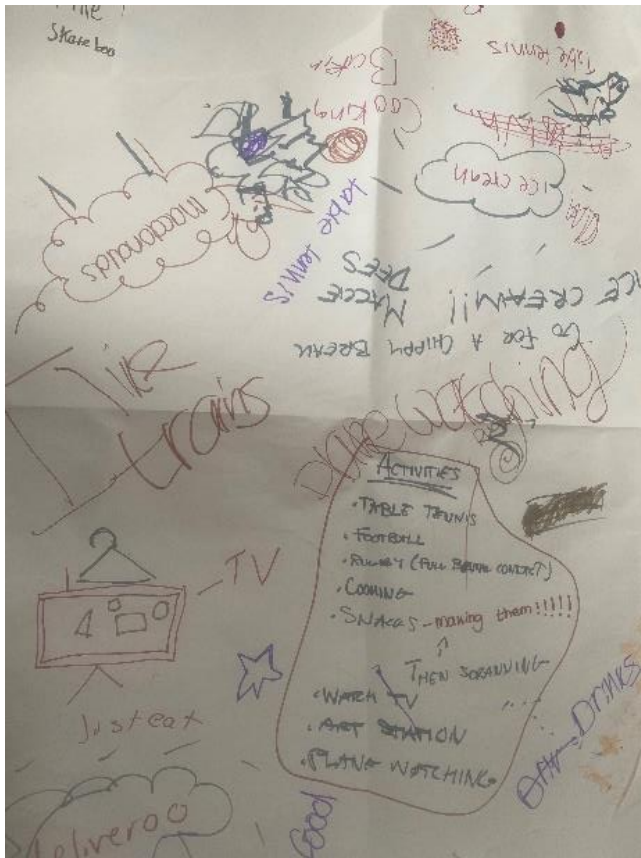


Image: Essential elements of a youth club

The programme of activities will be designed by the young people themselves, with the support of the Youth Worker. The plan so far is to run two youth club sessions a week, each lasting up to 1 and a half hours. One session will be for 1st to 3rd year pupils and the other will be for 4th to 6th year pupils. There are 100 young people from Brora enrolled at Golspie High School. A number of community groups have kindly offered to make their venues available for the youth club and activities.

An application has also been submitted to Gordonbush for £4,000 of grant funding to allow youth programme to include large activities or events and additional hours for the Lead Youth Worker.

Brora Development Trust is working closely with Youth Highland, who are providing support and advice on all aspects of the youth programme. Youth Highland supports

a network of voluntary and third sector organisations to work with young people to deliver youth work outcomes in community settings: “We believe that young people should be supported to identify and lead positive change to bring about best outcomes in their lives and communities.” The Trust is very grateful for all the advice and expertise which Youth Highland has continued to share.

Once a Lead Youth Worker has been recruited by Brora Development Trust, a meeting with the Trust’s sub-committee, Brora Youth Partnership, will be called and the youth initiative will be able to take its next step.

DISCOVER BRORA



A meeting of a Trust sub-committee on tourism took place on Monday 9th October at 6pm, in the Scout and Guide Hall. The meeting was attended by local people with an interest in tourism in Brora.

The agenda was to review and get feedback on the Discover Brora website and social media platforms, how they can be improved and tweaked. The meeting also discussed an initiative proposed by Scottish Community Tourism network (SCOTO), called Press Pause – a workshop for local groups and businesses to help come up with short and long term tourism interventions for Brora. Both the sub-committee meeting and Board of Trustees agreed that it would like to arrange for the Press Pause initiative to take place. Funding is currently being sought for this.

Membership forms are available on our website www.discoverbrora.com

COMMUNITY CORNER

CPR AND DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Brora Development Trust worked with local partners in Brora over the last few months to organise a series of defibrillator training sessions. These sessions were delivered by St John Scotland's highly experienced and qualified trainers with no direct cost to participants.



Image: Training at Scout and Guide Hall



Image: Training underway at Brora Bowling Club

Many thanks to organisers at Doll Hall, the Scout and Guide Hall, Brora Bowling Club and Brora Golf Club, for providing a venue and refreshments for these sessions.



**St John
Scotland**

St John Scotland also provide defibrillators, at a competitive rate. If you are interested in installing a defibrillator at your place or work, group, or even home, please contact St John Scotland: 0131 556 8711

info@stjohnscotland.org.uk www.stjohnscotland.org.uk



Image: Training taking place at Doll Hall

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BRORA CO-OP: NUMBER ONE FUNDRAISERS IN THE HIGHLANDS!



On behalf of Brora Co-op, Lorna Lynch and her colleagues have been working hard this year to raise funds for the national children's charity, Barnardos. Lorna works as a



Team Leader at the Co-op in Brora and along with colleagues has raised over £1,500 for the children's charity, which supports children and families all over the United Kingdom.

Barnardos is the Co-op's chosen charity this year with stores around the country fundraising. The Co-op have a 5 million pounds target which they are keen to reach. The Brora store is currently number one in the Highland for raising the most funds for Barnardos.

Lornas says she is hugely grateful to the local community for their support, participation and donations: "Without the community, I couldn't have done this".

Each month Lorna has created a new fundraising activity or event: lucky squares at Easter with the winner scooping a Co-op hamper; a cover the cube in coins challenge in May which raised over £150; in June, a buy, swap, donate jumble sale, which then led to the book and jigsaw puzzle swap which has been continued because of its popularity.



Image: Book and puzzle swap at the Co-op

Lorna also organised the Dry Regatta during Brora Carnival Week this year, with donations for entries going to the charity.



Image: Lorna and colleagues during Carnival Week

If anyone would like to donate books or jigsaw puzzles as part of the Co-ops fundraising, please kindly bring them along to the Co-op in Brora where they will be warmly received.

The Co-op also have a Community Fund which supports community initiatives all over the country. For more information, go to: <https://co-operate.coop.co.uk>

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