



What's the plan?

Community Development 2019 - 2024
Annual Review May 2021

Tina Hartley
Community Engagement & Development Officer

2021 Annual Review – Community Development Plan

Chair's Message

Why is it important to have a Community Development Plan for Garve & District?

Having a good, up to date plan means the community has the backing it needs when tackling projects – whether those be completely new ideas or long-standing aspirations, or issues that force change. And it has been a year of big changes: -

- Continued lockdowns, social distancing and restrictions.
- Huge increase in visitors in our area – campervans, cyclists, walkers.
- Doing everything online – from zoom, payments, forms, emails, surveys - if you didn't do it before you will be now.
- Financial strain for many.
- Concerns about mental wellbeing.

The information contained in the Community Development Plan can be used by anyone or any group – but particularly by The Garve & District Development Company board and staff – to guide their work and set priorities. It is why we are very grateful for your responses when we come to you with ideas on garve.org or send out surveys. All opinions count, and over the last year we have been paying particular attention to how we store and use information generally and all the associated issues around privacy and security.

You don't have to be a member of The Garve & District Development Company to have a say in the plan, but we would strongly encourage all residents to sign up. Individuals, rather than households, are members and it is free! Sometimes it means we have a better chance of getting outside funding or participating in wider projects if we can demonstrate a strong community base. It has been great to see new people moving in and signing up.

The Covid Pandemic has inevitably meant constraints on progress on some community projects – but we have managed to get a lot done despite this. Like the Development Company, our sister community groups Lochluichart Community Trust and Garve and District Community Council have carried on working largely online. We have seen increasing joint working on varied issues where each group contributes in its area of expertise or relevance, and I think the community has seen better and quicker outcomes as a result.

We have seen work starting on new projects such as the overlapping strands of paths, cycling, walking and community transport; there has been interest in the community buying land and the associated work required for “due diligence”.

Patience has been required as we see some things slowing down or put on hold – the Garve Public Hall refurbishment has been held up; as were some aspects of “Green for Go” where our Energy Officer is working on helping households to improve home energy efficiency.

Covid has thrown up areas of work which we wouldn't otherwise have been considering - community support grants, measures to keep our public spaces Covid safe and online activities rather than social gatherings in our village halls. We now have outside funding to continue our Covid Response and Recovery Co-ordinator role into next year.

That we are able to tackle these many and varied projects is made possible by our skilled team of staff – truly they are multi-talented and multi-tasking.

This past year has seen the move online hastened. We are so fortunate that thanks to the hard work of the Broadband Group in recent years, together with LCT money, this community already had access to superfast broadband just when it was needed the most. As it seems that we are looking at a future home working revolution it is an example of how investing in the community can bring positive outcomes.

Not everyone is comfortable with the increasing trend towards doing everything online and Zoom doesn't work for everything! It really will be good to get back to face to face conversations.

It has been a year of continued progress and positivity, but none of this would have been possible without our residents. Thank you all for continuing to support your community, Garve & District, whether as volunteers, submitting comments, ideas, criticism, they are all important.

The Garve & District Development Company Directors, Staff and Volunteers look forward to working with you all during 2021/2022.

Kindest Regards

Sue Tarr - Chair

Projects Update May 2021

■ Short Term = 1-2 years ■ Mid Term = 2-3 Years ■ Long Term = 5 Years

RAG Status

Projects/Workstreams not yet started	Red
Projects/Workstreams started, a work in progress	Amber
Project/Workstreams complete	Green

Theme 1	Project/Group	RAG Status	Funder	Term	
Community Ownership	Garve Public Hall (Trustees) supported by TG&DDC	New incorporated body – Gave Public Hall SCIO in place.	LCT	Short	
		Pre-planning application submitted.			
		Plans agreed and shared the community.			
		Plans submitted and approved.			
		21/22 Regeneration Capital Grant Fund EOI submitted and accepted for £170,000.	Highland Council		
		21/22 Regeneration Capital Grant Fund Stage 1 submitted for £170,000. Funding application not approved.	Highland Council		
		22/23 EOI submitted to Regeneration Capital Grant Fund - £240,000.	Highland Council		
		Building Warrant process taking place.			
		Transfer of Title Deed to SCIO			
		Investigation into ownership of carparking spaces.			
		Garve Public Hall Trustees	Application to LCT for Covid19 financial support to maintain provision.	LCT	

	Community Right to Buy Process - Garve Hotel	Second approval of Company Mem and Arts		Mid
		Following community interest, application to LCT for £100,000 towards purchase of land submitted and approved.	LCT	
		Formal interest to purchase hotel land submitted to agent.		
		Solicitor appointed in readiness for sale.		
		Mem and Arts fully amended to support application.		
		CRTB process stalled due to Covid19 and inability to access Electoral Registration office. Subsequent sale of land meant process no longer feasible.		
		Development lots for sale, Company confirmed interest with agents.		
		Work associated with independent land/property valuations.		
		Confirmation of intent to purchase and use shared with community.		
		LCT application for fund to purchase.		
		Development of land following community engagement.		
	War Memorial Development (Friends of Garve War Memorial)	Community volunteer completed work to obtain quote for Feasibility Study.		Mid
	Develop and enhance the footpath network (On ya bike! Community Group)	On ya bike community volunteer project group taking work forward with support of CEDO.		Short
		Sustain Choices project influencing process.		
	Community Garden/Woodland/Allotments	Discussions with local Estate Owner and local landowner taking place.		Short

	Community Defibrillators	Company took over administration from Community Council. Main contacts agreed and maintenance details shared.		Long
		Application to LCT funding for replacement batteries and pads approved, plus volunteer expenses.	LCT	
		Community training arranged and community interest sought.		
		Community training provided.		

Theme 2	Project/Group	RAG Status	Funder	Term	
Community Energy	Garve & District Community Energy Group	Annual Energy Support Grant	LCT	Long	
		Oil Buying Club		Long	
		LPG Buying Initiative		Long	
		Green for Go Project Partner		Short	
	Green for Go Community Energy Project		Investing in Communities	Short	
	Home Energy Improvements	Home Energy Scotland Webinar			
		Energy Saving Measures Webinar			
		Energy Efficiency Webinar			
		A Spreadsheet has been produced to assess existing status of HES reports, track new HES referrals, analyse data and track progress.			
		A request was posted on Garve.org to encourage G&D residents to contact the EO to allow reports held by HES to be made available.			
		A request for consent to access HES reports, was also mailed out to all householders. Due to GDPR this information can only be made available with clients written consent.			
		New HES home surveys have been stalled due to COVID. They will start again late May 2021 at the earliest. 2 referrals made by EO have enabled clients to access a Government Loan for an Air Source Heat Pump and a Government Grant for insulation and a replacement boiler.			
		Design renewable technology and home insulation community funding scheme (to supplement government grants/loans)	The scheme has been designed and initial discussion with funders have taken place.	LCT	

		Case studies of other communities providing similar grants being researched and will be presented to LCT as requested and comments sought.		
		Draft application for funding being developed.		
	Community Renewable Energy	A short film The Black Water Hydro Walk was produced in collaboration with local hydro installer Protera. The film showed the proposed location and discussion exploring initial feasibility. The film was promoted, and a link made available via garve.org - film was well received.		
		Outdoor Meeting – Community Owned Hydro		
		Engagement took place with the G&D Wildlife Group, G&D Community Council via a Zoom event		
		EO carried out the pre-project detailed feasibility work including engaging with commercial partner for a pre-feasibility study on a proposed site.		
		Funding application developed and put forward to CARES but not granted.		
		Solar PV has been identified a feasible alternative to Hydro in the event a local use for power can be identified. Electrical vehicle charging, a community café or outdoor centre, community EBike charging, hydrogen generation have been proposed options. Work will continue looking at potential feasibility of these.		

	Community Transport	Outdoor meeting – Contin Survey		
		EO was initially involved in establishing community On ya bike group. Work has now been handed over to CEDO.		
		The project has been lucky to work in conjunction with another Company project - Sustaining Choices, which is currently looking at sustainable transport for the District and managed by the CEDO.		
		As part of Sustaining Choices, EO has attended PAS Online training to work with stakeholders and the community regarding assessing perceptions of place in relation to local transport.		
		EO has studied nearby Contin's feasibility study into a community bus service and other more flexible local car club or community owned taxi service.		
		CEDO worked with On Ya Bike group. Wheelness Project completed, where EBikes were available for community use.		
		CEDO supported On Ya Bike group to join a Wheelness community event celebrating the success of the project and gaining support for future EBike/paths provision in Gave & District.		
		CEDO and On Ya Bike Group progressing plans to attract funding for paths – community member worked on the production of EOI and quote for feasibility work.		
		On Ya Bike group work continues.		

		CEDO was successful with an application to join Sustaining Choices, a project looking at sustainable travel.	PAS	
		CEDO and Energy Officer attended a range of training sessions around community engagement and the use of the Place Standard Model.		
		Publicity campaign launched to promote the project.		
		2 Community Engagement events offered.		
		Digital and paper copy of survey issued.		
		CEDO attended regular Project Lead meetings and presented to the group on work of Garve and District.		
		Community Survey feedback entered on to Sustaining Choices template.		
		Second engagement event due to share results of community survey.		
		Community Transport Action Plan completed.		

Theme 3	Project/Group	RAG Status	Funder	Term
Utilities	Broadband Group	Successful completion of the project in September 2020.	LCT	Complete
	Private Water Supplies	Process for applying for HC grants to improve private water supplies shared with the community via on-line hub, email and post.		Complete
	Loos/Waste/Signs Community Group	Following concerns from the community a post to get interest in a community group posted to garve.org		Short
		Interested community volunteers contacted and first meeting arranged. Written introduction about Wyvis Playpark group shared by group's Chair.		
		First group meeting suggested some areas to look at in more detail, individual volunteers agreed to research information alongside CEDO.		
		A comprehensive mind map developed with showing research gathered and shared with group alongside suggestions for moving forward.		
		Group agreed – parking and picnic signage to be removed from Little Garve junction; suggestion toilets should be made available at Garve Public Hall; agreed no waste bins to situated at Wyvis Natural Playpark – CEDO to action.		
		Garve Public Hall Trustees contacted, and agreed toilets could be available to public under certain conditions – i.e. the project had paid staff to manage and upkeep and drains were able to cope.		

		Transport Scotland were contacted regarding removal of signs from Little Garve junction. Following detailed correspondence exchange Transport Scotland agreed that signs were no longer need and would be removed. Signs have now been removed.		
		Group requested a second meeting which was arranged via Zoom. Actions from meeting detailed below.		
		CEDO – contact Forestry rep’ to share concerns about parking, potholes, signage and litter.		
		CEDO to follow with Forestry Rep’.		
		CEDO – share information from GDCC regarding reporting potholes in garve.org and encourage community to report.		
		CEDO to raise awareness around the fact that Google Maps directs visitors through Garve Village and provide advice on how to report this.		
		CEDO to report to Wester-Ross Biosphere Partnership Group and newly appointed local rangers about the problems being experienced in our area.		
		Wyvis Natural Playpark Group – Chair to join Litter Buster’s WhatsApp.		
		Wyvis Natural Playpark Group – Chair to pin correct directions to playpark at the top of Facebook page.		

Theme 4	Project/Group	RAG Status	Funder	Term
Community Care	Supporting our community Covid19 and beyond	National and Regional updates continue to be shared via garve.org and social media.		Short
		Covid19 Mutual Facebook Support Group – still in place with 98 members.		
		CEDO supported full risk assessment for opening Gave Public Hall and required equipment (following first lockdown).		
		CEDO remained in contact with Achnasheen Village Hall to support them if required following first lock down.		
		Alliance Electro-static Sprayer purchased for community use in halls and community hire for businesses, publicity took place on garve.org and social media. This followed a period of research and the development of guidelines for hire.		
		CEDO applied twice to the HIE Communities Recovery Fund and the Company were successful with both applications and £12,709.	HIE	
		HIE Fund supported 50% towards office costs, provision of food vouchers and support for administration and postage.		
		HIE Fund supported the appointment of a Covid19 Community Response and Recovery Co-ordinator – 2 days per week from Feb – May 21. Job Description and Person Specification developed, post advertised and appointed to. (from within G&D)		
		HIE Fund supported the appointment of a Covid19 Community Janitor. Job Description and Person Specification developed, post advertised and appointed to. However,		

		person appointed wished to become a volunteer rather than a paid staff member. (from within G&D).		
		<p>To date these posts have: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researched the potential for Community Notice Boards in our area. • Distributed PPE equipment and cleaning equipment to community halls. • Installed Hand Sanitisers in public areas around the district. • Produced a community survey to ascertain if our community requires further support, gauge how residents are feeling just now, ask if people would like to benefit from or volunteer for a Catch Up and Blether Scheme and look at what other activities the community may wish to take part in. 		
		Developed the idea of and implemented Garve & District Community Hero. Our community put forward nominations and the successful winner received a beautiful bespoke cake from Laura's Cottage Kitchen. Supporting a local business in our community.		
		Collate and analyse results of community survey and develop new provision.		
		£30 Vouchers issued to all households in our community.		
		Face Masks issues to all households in our community.		
		Garve & District Community Support Grant developed and implemented.	LCT	

		Princes Countryside Trust – Garve & District - Community Resilience in Transition Project. Application successful and Company received £7,790 to run a 12-month project around developing a “Community Blether” Service – a befriending type service that could take the form of telephone calls, Zoom or outdoor activities.	The Prince’s Countryside Fund	
		Project development will take place and will be influenced by community survey analysis.		
	Personal Assistant Service to elderly and vulnerable residents	Contact made with PA Network Scotland. Their role is to support Personal Assistants in terms of information sharing and training. They also have close links with organisations who could provide our community with information about the funding options available for personal care. Board agreed that the Company could not be a provider of care services but could share information and hold community events to raise awareness.		
		Arrange community awareness raising events. Link the details from 2020 Community Survey to Covid19 Response and Recovery Project.		
	Handyman Service	No progress has been made with this priority which sits at number 10 of 16 priorities identified by the community.		
	Garve & District Community Events Group	The group developed an idea for Christmas Cheer Packs, submitted an application to LCT, purchased items and delivered to all households within the community.	LCT	

Theme 5	Project/Group	RAG Status	Funder	Term
Community Groups/Events	Activate Garve & District	Some Happy News – young people received a copy of The Happy News, personal message from the Company and a questionnaire asking what activities they would like in the future.	LCT	
		Every child in the community received an art pack and were encouraged to send in a piece of art. In return children received a £15 gift voucher to spend in one of our community eateries. Local business supported.		
		Two children’s art activities were organised with Green Trees Studio.		
		On-line yoga and qigong events have been provided free for our residents and a friend!		
		Zoom Coffee and Blether on-line events have been offered to the community.		
		Information for University of Highlands and Islands about new short courses was shared with the community,		
		Let’s Get Growing – growing kits and sunflower growing competition offered to all who signed up.		
		On-line art classes offered to our community free of charge including a starter pack of art products.		
		More activities are being planned both on-line and group activities.		
	Out of School Activities/Youth Group	As part of the Activate Garve and District Project, our young people were asked what activities they would be interested in. Information was collated. Some on-line activities were offered and we hope to resume face to face activities very soon.		

	Health and Wellbeing Hub	Discussion with Strathgarve Estate around the possibility of renting facilities for community growing and other well-being activities taking place.		
		Discussion with local landowner regarding the potential to purchase land for community allotments taking place.		
	The Garve & District Community Events Group	Christmas Cheer – Christmas lights competition – wine and chocolates for the winner.		
		Garve Christmas Lights – application made to LCT for additional lights for Garve village and volunteers worked hard to get the display up and ready.	LCT	
	The Blackwater Wildlife Group	Winter Wildlife Lockdown – an online event.		
	Achnasheen Amenities Group	Application to LCT for Covid19 financial support maintain provision.	LCT	
		Application to LCT – inspection of hall electrics.	LCT	
		Application to LCT – Inspection of Hall Fire Alarm	LCT	
		Application to LCT – remedial work on electrics.	LCT	
		Application to LCT – remedial work on Alarm System	LCT	
		CEDO supported the group in taking receipt of votes for new Board Membership.		
	Friends of Garve War Memorial	Application to LCT – Cleaning Equipment	LCT	
	Garve Litter Busters	Advice from CEDO regarding funding and group successfully submitted an application to LCT.	LCT	




		New group asked for volunteers and post went out on Garve.org, social media and WhatsApp.		
		Volunteer Group now formed and working well.		
		Further financial support provided to the group from our HIE Covid19 budget.	HIE	

Theme 6	Project/Group	RAG Status	Funder	Term
Business & Tourism		Garve & District Business Adverts and Offers Public Facebook Group – 75 members.		
		CEDO is a member of Wester-Ross UNESCO Management Partnership Group.		
		Dialogue with Highland Council opened regarding potential development of Silver Bridge site.		
		Following engagement with the community – feedback given on the Highland Council Wester-Ross Draft Tourism Infrastructure Plan.		
		Local business supported as part of Community Care and Groups and Events Themes.		

Company	Core Activities
Directors	Sadly, Alan Illingworth one of the founder members and Directors of the Company passed away during 2021. Uisdean Menzies stepped down to take up his new role of LCT Chair, we welcomed Andrew Biddlecombe and Mike Franklin to their roles as Directors, John Fenwick remains as a long-standing Director as does Sue Tarr, Chair and John Bedwell, Treasurer.
Staff	The Company said goodbye to Lucy Beattie, CEDO (TLC + Associates) and welcomed Yvonne Boa to the role. Tina Hartley, CEDO currently works 4 days per week and Yvonne 1 day per week fulfilling a full-time CEDO post. We also said goodbye to our Company Secretary, Sheila Mitchell and welcomed Heather Donaldson to the post – Heather works up to 2 days per week as required. Morven MacDonald remains as our Activate Garve & District Project Officer working up to 1.5 days per week, Ewan Bush remains as our Energy Officer (funded by Investing in Communities Fund), Megan Urquhart joined us as our Covid19 Response and Recovery Co-ordinator working up to 2 days per week (funded by HIE initially and The Prince’s Countryside Fund moving forward) and we welcome Joe Mulreany as a volunteer, Community Janitor working as part of our team.
Members	As of 31 May 2021, we have 138 Ordinary Members, 5 Junior Members and 10 Associate Members
Administration	<p>Company administration – Companies House.</p> <p>Financial administration.</p> <p>Successful Annual General Meeting</p> <p>Policies and Procedures review and update.</p> <p>On-going training for Directors and staff.</p> <p>New office</p> <p>Review of self-employed officers’ terms and conditions.</p> <p>Introduction of paid management role for overseeing self-employed contractors.</p> <p>Development of Self-employed Contractors’ Supervision Policy</p>
Joint Working	The 3 community organisations – The Garve & District Development Company, Lochluichart Community Trust and Garve and District Community Council agreed to take part in facilitated workshops to look at how working in in partnership and improving communication methods would benefit our community. Each organisation took part in a facilitated workshop to give some historical context and thoughts on moving forward. It was agreed to hold off a final face to face workshop until Covid19 restrictions had been lifted.

	<p>CEDO's continue to attend Garve and District Community Council Meetings plus Contin Community Council Meetings, they work closely with the Secretary of Lochluichart Community Trust seeking advice as necessary and discussing community development.</p> <p>CEDO forms part of the Wester-Ross Tourism Partnership Group, whose aim to co-ordinate responses to managing tourism throughout the Highlands.</p>
Communication	<p>The community's on-line hub – garve.org continues as the main communication method and between June 2020– May 2021 issued 156 posts, detailed 65 events and recorded and received lots of comments!</p> <p>During Covid19, a dedicated area on the hub was developed to share specific lock down information and guidance with our community and this has been maintained.</p> <p>We continue to manage Garve & District Facebook page, Covid19 group, a business group and buy, swap and sell group. This year we introduced a WhatsApp group which is regularly used.</p>
Finance	<p>We are pleased to say that our Officers, in support of the Community Development Plan, have successfully applied for :-</p> <p>LCT: £85,948 External Funding (3 different funders): £33,668</p>

Current RAG Status

3	Project and Work Streams Not Yet Started	
22	Project and Work Streams On-going	
94	Project and Workstreams (TG&DDC Only) Completed	

Community Priority Require Work

THIS IS WHAT YOU SAID		High Responses
1	Supporting our Community Covid19 and beyond	55
2	Personal Assistant Service for our elderly and vulnerable residents	49
3	Community-owned Shop	44
4	Out of School Activities/Youth Group	41
5	Community-owned Café – Garve area	40
5	Pre-School Group	36
6	Permanent Christmas lights for Garve and District	36
7	Development of access to and refurbishment of Garve War Memorial	35
8	Develop and enhance the footpath network – Garve to Achnasheen	31
9	Promote Garve as Gateway to North Coast 500/Wester-Ross Biosphere	28
10	Handyman Service	27
10	Improved Signage for Garve & District	27
11	Men's Shed	26
12	Community Woodland	23
13	Development of a small light industrial area for business units	21
14	Garve & District Museum	19
15	Develop former hotel land – Achnasheen	17
15	Food Tourism	17
16	Community Garden	13
16	Community-owned Achnasheen Village Hall	13

Promote Garve as gateway to NC500 and Wester-ross Biosphere; community museum; community owned shop; and community owned café are being considered as part of the potential development of Garve Hotel land.

Improved signage for Garve and District – this relates to entering and leaving areas within our District. We have some ideas that we need to share with the community and move forward.

Men's Shed – potential to have woodworking space as part of the Strathgarve Estate discussions that are taking place.

Development of small light industrial area for business units – no work taken place.

Community owned Achnasheen Village Hall and development of former hotel land at Achnasheen will be considered by Achnasheen Amenities Group.





Need assistance?

GARVE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT

Here in times of need



COVID19 SUPPORT FOR THE THIRD SECTOR COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND



**Sustainable transport choices for Garve & District residents:
Walking, Cycling, Public Transport – do you have other community transport ideas?**

