

Activity Report  
December 2011– March 2012

**Balmaghie**

The analysis and write up of the data provided by the Balmaghie CC has been completed and a final report will shortly be published. The group are now keen to begin working through the recommendations and are considering raising funds for a playpark project. They are now in contact with a number of other groups in the network that have been successful in raising the capital for a playpark in the past. Balmaghie are also in touch with D&G Leader about taking part in their C4C programme which would provide an initial £10,000 and development worker support to the community.

**Boat of Garten**

The Boat of Garten village hall continues to be a central element of life in BoG despite a drop-in use of the hall by Highland Council and the local primary school. The committee are developing new income streams to ensure the long-term viability of the hall. There is a new arts and heritage project in the village - the improvement of an area for tourists beside the Steam Railway which is at the early stages of development.

**Gatehouse of Fleet**

There is still much activity within the Gatehouse of Fleet Development Initiative with new projects coming on stream regularly. To enable the Initiative to provide potential funders, sponsors and the Local Authority etc with up to date information, the group have commissioned a shorter re-survey of the original community survey to bring the report (completed in 2007) up to date. They are particularly keen to gather the community's views relating to Initiative itself and to increase their volunteer pool as there are signs of fatigue amongst its members. CADISPA will work with them to plan and design this next phase.

**Langholm**

It is hoped by the middle of March a contract will be signed with the Langholm Initiative and NHS to enable us to proceed with a community planning study of the area.

**Logie Coldstone**

Having resigned themselves to the redevelopment of the Logie Coldstone village hall rather than a new build, the group are busy making funding applications to finance a new roof as part of the existing roof fell in just days before Christmas

making this area of the hall unsafe for further use. CADISPA met with the group during a field visit to the area in January and discussed energy options for the hall including renewables – putting solar panels onto the new roof. CADISPA put the group in touch with Community Energy Scotland who passed them on to the sustainable halls representative at Aberdeenshire Council. He is going to provide the group with a set of energy efficient options for the hall and will advise the group on grants/funding available. Once the group have this information, CADISPA is planning a 'brainstorming' day to provide them with an action plan for the redevelopment of the hall.

### **Invergordon**

Invergordon of The Wall project continues to achieve success. This group were granted funding from the Lottery/Creative Scotland's Inspiring Communities Fund of over £200K to deliver an eighteen-month arts project called Evolution. Despite some initial management and staffing problems the group have now appointed a project manager (member of another CADISPA group) who will manage the four elements of the project - Foundations - Fusions - Reflections - Connections - through the artists and the local community, until its completion in December 2012.

### **Soroba**

The Soroba Enterprise group is struggling to take control of their development agenda and is dependent at present on the local housing association (ACHA) to take things forward for them. They do have plans to build a new multipurpose community centre in the area although these plans are at a very early stage. In the meantime, ACHA is seeking funding to carry out a community planning study of the area and CADISPA hopes to tender for this work. We continue to monitor the progress of the steering group by email and telephone and attend meetings held by the Soroba Enterprise Company.

Cadispa have worked with ACHA to organise a cross community visit to Renton Community Development Trust and Queen's Cross Housing Association on March the 16<sup>th</sup>. Both have recently developed excellent community facilities and it is hoped will provide inspiration to the group.

### **Strathdearn**

The Strathdearn Community Council continue to put in place some of the recommendations from the CADISPA community study completed in January 2011. Interest in the study by a number of local people and a world cafe event run by CADISPA has resulted in sub groups forming. These groups were commissioned to take forward priorities identified in the study which include:

- Establishing a new company to take forward development in Strathdearn
- Investigating options for a community petrol station - rejected
- Investigating options for a community cafe – going ahead
- Village hall options
- Social housing options
- Windfarm/community benefit fund

These groups meet regularly and report back their findings to the Community Council. However, to encourage further progress, CADISPA has planned a planning 'review' with these groups in April.