

CSGN Development Fund 2011 – Project Achievements

In 2010, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) jointly launched the new Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) Development Fund. The Fund aims to help National, regional and local partners to deliver projects which will contribute towards delivery of the CSGN. Projects include transforming the area by planting new woodlands, boosting outdoor recreation opportunities, improving the landscape and regenerating vacant and derelict land.

The Fund provides grants for a range of early delivery projects, supporting activities such as site investigation work, surveys, planning and design work, mapping, data collection and community or stakeholder consultations. The focus has been on projects that will lead to real change on the ground in the next few years.

Project achievements in round 2 of the fund are:

Total number of projects awarded funding - 31
Total Grant Funding Claimed - £1,082,094

CSGN205 – Clackmannanshire Council used a grant of £24,750 to upgrade approximately 560 metres of core path providing access to Gartmorn Dam Country Park and woodlands from the deprived community of Sauchie, and to improve signage at the entrance to the Park. The main car park was also resurfaced and a stakeholder meeting was held to develop further proposals for improvements to the Park in advance of its centenary in 2013.

CSGN206 – Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust used a grant of £24,725 to survey habitats along 37km of cycleways throughout the city, to develop a prioritised plan for improvement works, and then to deliver early priority improvement projects through the engagement of community volunteers. Physical improvements delivered include woodland management, path clearance, the removal of invasive species and cleaning up fly-tipping. Overall the project engaged 412 volunteers in local schools, community groups and businesses through 22 conservation and education events.

CSGN207 – Kilsyth Community Garden used a grant of £53,335 to support Kelvin Valley Honey, a project creating new habitats, community growing plots and beekeeping enterprises, primarily in North Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire, but also in Falkirk and Inverclyde. As a result of the grant over 43 acres of derelict, vacant and underused land have been brought back into productive use, 38 new honey bee colonies have been created and managed, which will in turn see an additional 2 million bees added to the population of the area. The grant also saw over 4,000 native flowering trees, 4,000 local varieties of soft fruit bushes and 6,000 packets of flower and vegetable seeds distributed for planting by volunteers. Income from the sale of honey and honey related products is also enabling the development of a self-sustaining social enterprise and the creation of new self-employment opportunities for bee-keepers.

CSGN213 – Glasgow City Council used a grant of £16,000 to create new community gardens and growing spaces on 6 'stalled', vacant sites across the City and the installation of bee hives at a further 4 sites. As a result 70 growing spaces and community facilities have been created for 210 residents and around 2.7 hectares of land has been brought back into use.

CSGN216 – East Lothian Council used a grant of £3,421 to resurface and reinforce the section of the John Muir Way running through Prestonpans to repair damage done during floods in 2010 and to protect the route from future flooding episodes.

CSGN219 – Carr-Gomm Scotland used a grant of £17,300 to create a new 1,200m² community growing space at Lochend Quadrant in Edinburgh and to provide training, advice

and support for local people to grow their own fruit and vegetables on the previously unused space. The Lochend 'Secret Garden' now contains 52 raised beds for individuals and 13 group beds which, collectively, enable around 330 people to get involved in growing their own fruit and vegetables.

CSGN220 – Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust used a grant of £21,945.60 to review and update an earlier report into the feasibility of developing a Landscape Partnership project for the North and South Esk River valleys in Midlothian. As a result of the grant a pre-application was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund and a first stage application has been prepared for up to £2 million of project funding.

CSGN223 – The David Livingstone Trust used a grant of £132,820 to prepare a detailed Landscape Masterplan for the development of the grounds of the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre, South Lanarkshire, and adjacent Site of Special Scientific Interest Woodlands. The plan provides detailed designs for a new path network (linking in to the Clyde Walkway), viewpoints and crossings, new woodland planting and woodland management, and a new natural play area that will enable the Trust to deliver specific habitat and access improvements within the grounds, and to link with neighbouring woodlands and path networks.

CSGN226 – Glasgow City Council used a grant of £40,500 to develop proposals and deliver improvements to the Clyde Walkway at London Road and Carmyle. Work supported on the ground includes path surface upgrading, improved signage and entry points, wildflower planting and a new viewing platform on the Clyde. These improvements will also enhance access to the new Commonwealth Games athletes' village.

CSGN230 – Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership used a grant of £27,800 to undertake detailed consultation with local communities and other stakeholders, and to develop funding applications, as the next stage of the development of proposals for a major new wetland park at Gartloch-Gartcosh on the border of Glasgow City and North Lanarkshire. As a result of the project applications have been submitted by Glasgow and North Lanarkshire Councils for over £85,000 of Scottish Rural Development Programme grant funding, to begin delivering access improvements worth more than £109,000.

CSGN237 – Central Scotland Forest Trust used a grant of £45,000 to prepare a woodland framework for Clackmannanshire and the part of Stirling within the CSGN, which identifies opportunities for improved use and management of local woodlands. Opportunities have been identified for increased carbon capture and wood fuel production, the delivery of employability training and skills improvement, business development, biodiversity and habitat network enhancements and community involvement/ownership of woodlands. The framework will now be used by the Councils and others to guide the future management of woodlands in the area and to develop site and theme specific projects.

CSGN246 – Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company used a grant of £70,000 to deliver habitat and access improvements at Irvine Beach Park and signage and access improvements to the Irvine New Town Trail. At Irvine Beach Park wildflowers were planted, signage improved, new seating, outdoor gym equipment and picnic benches were installed, and paths were improved to provide all-abilities access. On the New Town Trail trees and wildflowers have been planted, signage and link routes improved, and path improvements have ensured all-abilities access.

CSGN247 – Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust used a grant of £53,522 to develop detailed designs and proposals for the greening of 3 vacant and/or derelict sites at Granton and Craigmillar. A further site at the Corn Exchange was explored but not taken further. The grant has also supported early site improvement works at Granton and Craigmillar, including tree planting and path works.

CSGN254 – Raploch Community Partnership used a grant of £12,229 to transform a stalled development site into a community growing space as part of the Green and Growing Raploch project. As a result of the grant 20 new growing plots have been created and 8 training events

have been delivered to teach local people in this deprived, regeneration area, how to grow their own food.

CSGN256 – Thornliebank Tenants and Residents Association used a grant of £29,676 to transform a derelict site in Eastwood into new allotments for use by local residents and schools. Grant funding has enabled the site to be cleared, new fencing and gates to be erected, and raised beds and a greenhouse to be erected. Already over 50 local people have signed up for the new allotment plots.

CSGN257 – Eadha Enterprises used a grant of £34,706 to trial the growing of aspen as a biomass crop on restored land at a former open cast coal site at Skares in East Ayrshire and to prepare a feasibility study into the development of a landscape scale woodland habitat creation project in the surrounding area. The planting trial will be monitored for 5 years. The feasibility study has concluded that there are opportunities to establish new community woodfuel enterprises, to replicate the trial over a larger area locally (and further afield), and to deliver training and employment opportunities through such enterprises.

CSGN258 – Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust used a grant of £7,783 to create a new community garden on vacant land at the Venchie in Craigmillar, Edinburgh. The new garden includes 9 plots for individuals or community groups, 8 smaller plots with low raised beds, and 4 hip high raised beds for use by those with reduced mobility. New paths, seating and picnic tables have been installed and a new fruit hedge (with fruit trees and raspberry bushes) has been planted.

CSGN261 – The Wise Group used a grant of £123,006 to run an employability project in the woodlands and countryside around Lesmahagow in South Lanarkshire. The grant supported temporary employment for 26 weeks, plus training and skills development for 20 local, unemployed people, all of whom completed the programme. Participants also received support and advice about moving into sustainable employment and 90% achieved at least one vocational qualification. Physical improvements delivered as part of the project included thinning and pruning of trees and woodland, removal of unwanted and unsafe trees, planting of 300 new trees, the construction of a new 440 metre path and improved access to another 300 metres of existing path, the replacement of 100 metres of boundary fence and rubbish removal along paths and roadside hedges.

CSGN262 – Fife Council used a grant of £12,300 to employ a consultant to prepare detailed, costed proposals for the greening of 5 private and council owned vacant and/or derelict land sites in Fife. Through consultation with landowners and local community representatives the report has identified temporary greening solutions for each site, which will now be used by the Council to prepare bids for internal and external funding to deliver the proposals. Site specific proposals include biodiversity/habitat and access improvements, new community growing spaces, the creation of a learning space for use by local schools and the installation of a BMX bike skills loop.

CSGN263 – Edinburgh Cyrenians used a grant of £24,120 to design and create a new community garden within the grounds of the Midlothian Community Hospital in Bonnyrigg, Midlothian. The new garden includes access paths suitable for people with limited mobility, growing plots for the more able bodied, raised beds for patients with disability and dementia/alzheimers, and the planting of a small orchard.

CSGN265 – East Ayrshire Coalfield Environment Initiative used a grant of £12,562 to provide support for land managers and to recruit and support 20 volunteers to deliver habitat and biodiversity improvements in the Nith and Lugar Water catchments in East Ayrshire. The project's focus was on enhancing biodiversity, tackling invasive species (such as mink) and tackling diffuse pollution from agriculture. Specific activities supported included a workshop for landowners on accessing SRDP funding opportunities, biodiversity and habitat surveying, implementation of a mink control programme, and the installation of bat, kestrel and barn owl boxes.

CSGN267 – West Dunbartonshire Council used a grant of £3,650 to undertake a contaminated land study at the Clydeside Community Park, adjacent to the Golden Jubilee Hospital at Clydebank. The study was required before plans for an ambitious expansion and enhancement of the Park could be taken forward.

CSGN270 – Lothian and Fife Green Network Partnership used a grant of £25,530 to take forward phase II of the Pentland Hills Woodland Action Plan. This involved detailed consultation with landowners, surveying of 4 individual estates and the preparation of a landscape plan for the north-east slopes of the park. The plan will guide future proposals for woodland creation and management in the area. Five particular projects have been identified as priorities, including new native woodland creation and improved management of existing woodlands, hedgerows and trees in the landscape. A number of applications to the SRDP are expected as a result of the engagement with the landowners involved.

CSGN273 – Midlothian Council used a grant of £5,889 to engage consultants to develop proposals for a new long distance recreational route along the South Esk River. The project involved detailed consultation with landowners along the proposed route and the result is a proposed route (using existing and new path links) and an agreed strategy for signage, access links and promotion of the new trail. A programme of minor access and path improvement works has also been implemented by volunteers along parts of the route.

CSGN287 – The Communities Along the Carron Association used a grant of £40,000 as a contribution towards the costs of replacing a dangerous bridge across the River Carron, thereby reinstating the missing link in the local path network and improving access to the countryside for local people. The existing, unsafe bridge was removed and demolished, 300 metres of path were upgraded and a new 30 metre long, all abilities access bridge was installed.

CSGN289 – Auchenlodment Primary School used a grant of £8,960 to create a new mini-fitness trail, climbing wall and outdoor teaching area in the school grounds in Johnston, Renfrewshire. The new facilities have enabled teachers to take learning outdoors and to allow the children to engage in more adventurous and active outdoor play.

CSGN291 – Active Stirling used a grant of £6,000 to finalise plans and prepare applications for funding for the development of ex-industrial land at Forthbank Loop, adjacent to the Stirling Sports Village, into an outdoor sports and recreation facility. As a result of the grant an application was submitted to the SRDP for funding to plant new trees and woodlands, and to create a new path network across the site.

CSGN294 – Forth Environment Link used a grant of £84,190 to deliver a programme of promotional events, advice, training and support for community groups and landowners to manage existing and plant new orchards in Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire. The grant also supported a 2nd round of the CSGN Orchard Grant Scheme for local groups wanting to create and manage orchards across the whole of the CSGN area which saw over £17,000 distributed to 60 projects, creating around 4 hectares of new orchards. 23 people were also supported to achieve the award of a certificate in orchard management from Elmwood College.

CSGN302 – Glasgow City Council used a grant of £50,000 to pilot a baseline survey of trees and woodlands within the City and to purchase and develop software to manage the data collected. This has provided the necessary data to inform the future management, protection and enhancement of the city's trees and woodlands. A new city wide 'tree trail' was also created and promoted through a new leaflet, identifying Glasgow's top 60 specimen trees, as part of the Commonwealth Games Legacy.

CSGN303 – East Renfrewshire Council used a grant of £43,000 to undertake the necessary site investigations and contamination reports, and to prepare detailed plans for the creation of community woodland and short rotation coppice on 4 derelict and contaminated sites in Barrhead. As a result of the work a biomass production feasibility report has been prepared (including financial projections for income and expenditure) and costed landscape and

forestry masterplans are now ready to guide future implementation of the project as part of the wider Barrhead green network. Applications for funding have been made to deliver the first elements of the plan, which will, in time, lead to the remediation of over 16 hectares of derelict land.

CSGN305 – Inverclyde Council used a grant of £29,175 to employ consultants to prepare detailed, costed designs for 3 new strategic green links and 2 new neighbourhood parks in and around Greenock and Port Glasgow. The project has helped to reinforce recognition of, and secure commitment to, the enhancement of the green network as an integral part of the regeneration of the area by all partner agencies. The Council is now exploring funding opportunities to take forward implementation of the new links and neighbourhood parks.