

CSGN Development Fund 2012 – Project Achievements

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) jointly launched the new Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) Development Fund in 2010. 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.

The following projects received funding from the third round of the CSGN Development Fund and were completed, or completed for the year, as follows:

CSGN400 – The **Friends of Glasgow Botanic Gardens** received **£27,120** to prepare a fully costed design proposal for the creation of a new **'Tree Hub'** and **Tree Trail** in the Glasgow Botanic Gardens that will act as a gateway to Scotland's National Tree Collections. The project resulted in a successful application to the 2013-14 CSGN Development Fund for funding to support delivery of the project.

CSGN402 – **Stirling Council** received **£15,360** to undertake a detailed site assessment, public and landowner consultation and to prepare a design plan for the creation of a **new woodland** on a former landfill site at **Polmaise**, near Stirling. The design plan includes proposals for the development of the site as a recreational, wildlife watching and outdoor education facility. The outputs from the project will inform the submission of applications for funding for implementation, including to the Scottish Rural Development Programme for the woodland planting.

CSGN412 – **Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company** received **£27,000** to create a **new footpath** from the town of Irvine to **Irvine Enterprise Area** and to create a **new community garden** on an area of derelict land in **Stevenston town centre**. All of the work was undertaken using local trainees and volunteers and in consultation with the local community. The direct outputs included creating 300m of new footpath, planting 50 trees and 50 shrubs, and creating 200m² of wildflower meadow. Six local young people were trained and 150m² of derelict land was brought back into use. Both projects were identified through the Irvine Bay Green Network Study funded through the first round of the Development Fund in 2010-11.

CSGN416 – The **City of Edinburgh Council** received **£8,433** to design, prepare and install two **Active Travel Information Hubs** at **Westerhailes** and **Oxgangs**. The hubs include topographical models of Edinburgh, with interpretation and information to encourage more local people to utilise the city's walking and cycling network.

CSGN423 – **Fife Council** received **£22,508** to recruit young people to form the **Fife Core Path Implementation Team** to undertake a range of repairs, maintenance and improvement projects across the Fife Core Path Network. So far, four young people have been employed and received training in a range of outdoor skills. Together they have worked on 45 core paths, covering over 93km of the network, including

reopening overgrown and damaged paths, planting 50m of new hedging, and carrying out a range of surface and signage improvements.

CSGN430 – The **David Livingstone Trust** received **£67,123** to begin delivering a programme of **improvements to the grounds** of the **David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre**, South Lanarkshire. Four young people were recruited to the Council's Modern Apprenticeship programme to help carry out the programme of work and, so far, have been involved in: repairing the Natural Play Area in the grounds and creating or restoring 500m of path. Other outputs have included a number of community engagement and consultation sessions and new signage designed in consultation with the National Trust for Scotland.

CSGN433 – **Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust** received **£28,700** to undertake a **Woodland Creation & Green Network Delivery Project** providing advice and support to landowners, local councils, community groups and third sector organisations. In the first year of this three year project this has resulted in two new applications to the Scottish Rural Development Programme and other funding sources for new woodland creation projects totalling 25ha. A further four woodland creation projects are in development and 11 woodland management projects have been developed to bring over 20ha of existing woodland back into active management.

CSGN438 – **Forest Research** received **£19,628** to undertake the first stage of a **field study and site assessments** to identify the best way to apply **organic soil amendments to derelict and degraded sites** in Central Scotland to establish new woodlands on them. The first year of this three year project involved establishing a number of sample sites, where tree growth will be tested, and undertaking the necessary planning for a larger scale field case study that will be established and monitored over the remaining two years of the project. The preparation of advice and support for local authorities and other landowners of derelict sites considering woodland creation has also begun.

CSGN440 – **Renfrewshire Council** received **£8,800** to create **27 new ponds**, suitable for amphibians, along National Cycle Networks routes 7 and 75 between **Paisley, Linwood, Lochwinnoch and Bridge of Weir**. Together the new ponds created around 900m² of new open water habitat to support locally threatened species such as the Palmate Newt. A total area of 2.5ha of mosaic habitat has been enhanced as a result of the project, which will be maintained in the future by Sustrans and its local volunteer groups.

CSGN441 – **Forth Environment Link** received **£97,888** to support a further year of activity under the **Forth Valley Orchards' initiative**. A number of new strands of activity were supported this year and direct outputs from the project included: £10,000 distributed to 32 schools and community groups across the CSGN area to plant 400 new fruit trees under the Orchard Grant Scheme; support provided to landowners and managers of existing orchards to develop business models to expand their commercial activities; six individuals supported to complete a certificate in business enterprise; training and networking events held to support schools, orchard owners, managers and volunteers; and a very successful orchard weekend that was attended by around 400 people.

CSGN444 – The **Scottish Wildlife Trust** received **£15,000** to employ a project coordinator to develop the **Cumbernauld Living Landscape initiative**. In the first year of this three year project the coordinator has formed a strong partnership, which has endorsed the project plan, and a number of delivery projects are in development.

CSGN446 – RSPB Scotland received **£13,664** to support the development of the **Inner Forth Landscape Initiative**. In the first year of this three year project a detailed baseline habitat survey has been completed and a study was undertaken to identify priority locations and opportunities for woodland planting and management and how designed landscapes could be conserved and enhanced. Both studies have promoted dialogue with local landowners and communities that will see delivery projects developed in coming years.

CSGN447 – Greener Kirkcaldy received **£6,930** to develop the **Ravenscraig Community Orchard** on 0.2ha of derelict and neglected land within the Ravenscraig Walled Garden in the town. In the first year of the project the site has been cleared and the soil improved; 60 fruit trees, 40 soft fruit bushes and 100 soft fruit plants have been planted; 16 volunteers recruited and trained to help with the project; and events and visits have been held with local schools and community groups.

CSGN452 – Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust received **£30,539** to develop and implement **greening projects on vacant and derelict land** in Edinburgh. Building on the successes at Granton and Craigmillar in earlier phases of the project, this year's activity saw temporary greening (involving the creation of 150m of new path, the planting of 1,000 trees and the creation of over 6,300 m² of improved grassland) at a prominent site in the Western Harbour at Leith. Proposals for sites in Craigmillar have also been developed and discussed and may be delivered depending on progress with redevelopment in the area.

CSGN454 – Urban Roots received **£17,350** to develop a **community market garden and orchard** on vacant land in the deprived community of **Toryglen** in south-east Glasgow. In the first year of this three year project the "Polmadie Plots" have been developed, creating seven new allotment plots for local people. 20 volunteers have been recruited to help with the development and maintenance of the site and ten local schools have participated in environmental projects on site, and in their own grounds. Produce from the plots has already been sold in a local shop, the first blossom festival attracted over 300 visitors and 61 people participated in a range of training and information workshops.

CSGN455 – The Sustainable Communities Initiative in Burntisland received **£5,186** to undertake a **woodland and habitat survey** and to write a **management plan** for the **Widowland Ecovillage** site in the town. The fund also enabled staff members to research and prepare funding applications to other sources of funding to support delivery of the group's plans for the management and development of the site as a community resource.

CSGN456 – PARC Craigmillar Urban Regeneration Company received **£7,500** to prepare and consult upon a **feasibility study** to deliver **Park for Health** proposals as part of the wider regeneration of Craigmillar and the south-east wedge part of Edinburgh. The report identifies partners and potential sources of funding to enable distinct elements of the plan to be taken forward incrementally. Amongst potential early actions to realise the vision are the implementation of proposals for improved connectivity to and from the site from the adjacent community, the hospital and the research park, as well as the North Meadows element of the plan.

CSGN457 – The Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust received **£13,020** to support the development of new and existing **community gardening projects in Midlothian and East Lothian**, extending their existing support within Edinburgh City. The grant enabled the Trust to work with the Councils, local volunteer centres and

community groups to identify potential opportunities, partner organisations that could help, and what advice and support community groups needed to take forward their ideas. So far the project has worked with 13 groups across the area, with five existing sites supported, three new sites in development and other projects beginning to be explored.

CSGN460 – Midlothian Council received a grant of **£9,269** to develop a number of **greenspace improvement projects** in deprived communities in **Dalkeith, Gorebridge and Easthouses/Mayfield**. Consultation with local communities and site investigations led to the production of masterplans and project proposals for each site, and a number of funding applications to support delivery. In addition, some early improvement work has been undertaken on some of the sites, including upgrading 250m of footpath and sowing 1.3 ha of wildflower meadow.

CSGN461 – Edinburgh Cyrenians received **£20,000** to continue the development of the **NHS Lothian Community Garden project**, following on from successful developments at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and Midlothian Community Hospital in 2010-11 and 2011-12. **St John's Hospital in Livingston** was identified as the 3rd NHS Lothian site to be developed and the grant enabled negotiations to be undertaken with West Lothian Council, the hospital estate managers and staff. Plans for the site have been drawn up and are being consulted on to enable implementation of the project in summer 2013. The success of the project over the past 3 years has led to the model being replicated by community groups in Haddington and Dunbar, which are developing their own proposals for community gardens within the grounds of local health facilities in years to come.

CSGN463 – The Dalmarnock Centre received **£65,860** to develop an **employability and training scheme** for local unemployed young people in the socially deprived communities of **Dalmarnock, Rutherglen and Parkhead** in the Clyde Gateway Regeneration Area. The grant has enabled a new employability programme to be established and, in the first year, 10 young people received training and experience, and secured qualifications, in a range of practical landscaping and environmental skills. Some of the young people have since gone on to positive destinations (including employment and further training) following their experience on the programme.

CSGN465 – The GCV Green Network Partnership received **£15,000** to undertake a study into opportunities for **woodland creation in the Clyde Valley catchment to contribute to flood management** in response to climate change. Hydrological modelling and opportunities mapping was used to identify the location, type and scale of afforestation that would make the greatest contribution to flood prevention and to facilitate species migration and adaptation. In year two of the project the report will be used to inform future woodland planting proposals.

CSGN466 - The GCV Green Network Partnership received **£36,500** to take forward the **development and implementation of the Seven Lochs Wetland Park** on the boundary of Glasgow and North Lanarkshire at Gartloch-Gartcosh. In 2012-13, our grant enabled the Seven Lochs Wetland Park Vision and Masterplan to be finalised; detailed implementation plans for two key areas to be prepared; consultation with the community to be undertaken; and a number of community engagement and volunteering events to take place. Delivery of some of the elements of the masterplan has begun with 11ha of raised bog now being actively managed and two new wetlands created. In addition, five applications for project delivery funding were prepared and submitted.

CSGN474 – The **Cassiltoun Trust** received **£66,005** to deliver the first year of an **employability project within Castlemilk Woodlands** in Glasgow. Through the project 19 local unemployed people in this deprived area of Glasgow received work experience, training and skills development, through participation in a programme of work to manage and enhance the local woodlands. Approximately 4km of paths and steps within the woodlands have been maintained or improved as a result of the project, leading to increased use of the woodlands by local people and a reduced incidence of anti-social behaviour. 21% of those participating in the programme have moved on to employment or education, while 80% have gone on to gain further qualifications.

CSGN475 – The **Gorbals Healthy Living Network** received **£27,000** to deliver a programme of **improvements to greenspaces in the Lauriston** area of Glasgow. Our grant supported a programme of community placemaking, through which local communities and schools helped to identify their priorities for improvement locally. The project also led to the employment of three workers through the Commonwealth Jobs Fund to deliver a programme of site improvements. This has resulted in four poor quality open spaces being transformed into community gardens and growing spaces, leading to increased community use. In addition, training in woodwork, path creation, landscaping and horticulture for local volunteers has been made available and a series of workshops on food growing and cultivation were held for local people and school children.

CSGN478 – The **Rural Development Trust** (on behalf of the Clyde & Avon Valley Landscape Partnership) received **£25,000** to undertake a programme of work to **sustain and expand the network of orchards within the Clyde Valley** area of South Lanarkshire. The first annual Clyde Valley Fruit Day was held on 6 October 2012 and attracted approximately 2,000 visitors to raise awareness of the Clyde Valley orchards' heritage and to reconnect local people with the landscape and orchards. Five new school orchards were supported and a programme of training in orchard management established. In addition, preparatory work was undertaken for a number of initiatives that will take place during 2013-14, including: a programme of events in May to celebrate the blossom season; the development of a new grant for landowners to undertake orchard establishment, development or diversification; and the development of a range of enterprises based around Clyde Valley orchard produce.

CSGN480 – **Govan Workspace** received **£25,793** to begin the **transformation of a derelict site between Govan Old Church and Water Row** into amenity greenspace, and to reinstate an historic right of way along the Clyde waterfront. Grant funding has enabled the site to be cleared of overgrown vegetation and fly-tipped rubbish and for 85m of the old path to be cleared. 10 young people have benefitted from training provided on site as part of the clearance operation and an application to the Big Lottery Fund has been made for grants to support wider environmental improvements around the site.

CSGN481 – **Glasgow City Council** received **£35,000** to undertake a **survey of the trees and woodlands in four key areas within Glasgow**. The areas were chosen as priorities for the survey work as they all fall within Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Priority Enhancement Areas and Forestry Commission Scotland's Woods In and Around Towns Priority areas where management and improvements are expected. The results of the surveys into the health and condition of the trees and woodlands will inform the prioritisation of future action by the Council and partners to improve the quality of the environment, biodiversity and the contribution of trees and woodlands to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

CSGN482 – East Renfrewshire Council received **£68,000** to take forward proposals for new a **woodland and footpath** on derelict, and contaminated land on the edge of **Barrhead**. Detailed woodland and landscape plans have been prepared to enable the new woodland planting to be approved and specifications and bills of quantities have been prepared to enable the new Levern Valley path to be created, linking Barrhead and Glasgow City. 7,500m³ of concrete hardstanding has been removed and asbestos contamination cleared from the site. 2,500m³ of new topsoil has been purchased and imported, and the site prepared for woodland planting that will now take place with the help of a grant from the Scottish Rural Development Programme. Once complete the new woodland and footpath, will provide safe and attractive recreational space for a number of deprived communities in the surrounding area, as well as enhancing the riparian habitats along the River Levern corridor.

CSGN487 – Glasgow Housing Association (GHA) received a grant of **£9,914** to prepare a masterplan for improving the **greenspaces in the Red Road and Barmulloch** area of north Glasgow. Following an environmental audit and public consultation a masterplan has been prepared which identifies a programme of phased improvements that can be made to the green network locally over the short, medium and long term in this highly deprived part of the city. With a major programme of demolition planned for the area the future of local greenspaces and derelict land was uncertain, but the vision and practical improvements identified in the masterplan has enabled the local community, Glasgow City Council and GHA to identify a number of ‘quick wins’ to establish some momentum for delivery.

CSGN493 – Falkland Stewardship Trust received **£23,113** to prepare proposals for a **training and employment project** that will deliver woodland management, enhancement and creation as part of the wider **Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership project**. Our grant enabled a baseline survey and inventory of woodlands in the project area to be undertaken, identifying a series of opportunities where woodland management, improvement and planting could be undertaken as part of the Living Landscape delivery plan. Consultation has taken place with landowners, communities and a range of partners, and a training and employability support plan has been prepared which, if funding from the HLF is confirmed for the delivery phase, will enable a woodland management-employability programme to be created.

CSGN494 – West Dunbartonshire Council received **£31,498** to deliver the first phase of a programme of **green network improvements** in and around the **Vale of Leven Industrial Estate**. Previous grants had enabled a holistic plan for improvements to the Estate to be prepared and funding in 2012-13 enabled 1.7km of paths to be resurfaced and upgraded; 3.4km of road and path verges to be cleared and improved; and new signage and interpretation to be installed. In addition, a survey was undertaken to identify improvements and safety work that need to be undertaken in the woodlands to enhance the Historic Designed Landscape of Strathleven House.

CSGN495 – East Renfrewshire Council received **£12,594** to plan and deliver a new **community wetland at Cowan Park** on the edge of **Barrhead**. The grant supported a feasibility study, creation of a wetland design plan and bills of quantity and consultation with the Friends of Cowan Park. In March 2013, the 200m³ wetland was created and 3,200 wetland plants were installed with the help of almost 100 children from Barrhead High School. As a result, the biodiversity value of the site has increased significantly and the school has a fantastic educational resource on its doorstep.

CSGN497 – Glasgow City Council received **£40,000** to prepare a number of design studies and delivery plans for **green network improvements** at a range of **greenspaces across the city**, to contribute to climate change adaptation. Funding in 2012-13 has supported the necessary site investigation, survey work and community and technical/professional consultations to enable plans to be prepared for three sites at: Camlachie in the Clyde Gateway area; Sandyhills Park; and Castlemilk Park. A funding strategy has been prepared and investment from the Development Fund, the Council and other partners over the next 2 years will enable the plans to be implemented.

CSGN499 – Clackmannanshire Council received **£9,788** to **undertake tree and shrub planting** at the southern end of the **Devon Way**, where the path enters **Alloa** town centre. 18 standard trees were planted and an area of 1,852m² planted with smaller trees and whips/thicket trees with the help of local school children. This has increased the biodiversity, amenity and educational value of the greenspace.

CSGN500 – North Ayrshire Council received **£36,000** to deliver a range of **path and greenspaces improvements** in and around **Kilbirnie**. The improvements were delivered via a three month intermediate labour market project, which saw five young unemployed people provided with practical and vocational training and work experience. The physical improvements included: 1.1km of paths upgraded and widened; 1,000 native trees planted; 2ha of wildflower meadow created; waymarkers, signs and interpretation panels installed; 17 seats, four picnic tables and 8 new bins installed; and a number of fly-tipping and litter patrols undertaken in partnership with the local community.

CSGN510 – East Ayrshire Woodlands received **£8,600** to begin a programme of **improvements to paths and woodlands/greenspaces across Ayrshire**. Following an audit of almost 40 sites a shortlist was drawn up and community consultation undertaken to decide which sites should be prioritised for improvement. Patna Community Woodland in East Ayrshire was chosen as the first site where action would take place and practical improvements were then agreed and taken forward. To date this includes: the upgrading of 650m of footpaths; the installation of three new living willow structures and three new gateway features; the design and installation of new signage and interpretation; the sowing of three new wildflower meadow areas; and the construction and installation of six new carved benches. Work on other sites in North and South Ayrshire will take place in the second and third years of the project.

Total number of projects claiming funding = 37

Total value of grants awarded = £996,683