

## **CSGN Development Fund 2013-14 – 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.

This report provides an overview of projects at 31 March 2014. The following projects received funding from the third and fourth rounds of the CSGN Development Fund and were completed, or completed for the year, as follows:

CSGN423 – Fife Council received a grant of £28,126 to create a team to work on improving core paths in the area. Members of this team received training in rural skills and gain valuable practical experience whilst carryout the physical improvement works required. This year the team delivered a programme of core path signage and improvement works. By the end of February 2014 747km of core paths in Fife have been way marked and minor works carried out to make them more useable by the public.

CSGN430 – The David Livingstone Trust received a grant of £68,450 to continue the delivery of improvements to the grounds of the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre, South Lanarkshire. The improvements included path construction, the installation of signage and gates and the completion of a set of oak steps. The work is being delivered by the Council's Modern Apprenticeship Programme. A community engagement programme has been initiated that includes holding local events and producing information and promotional materials. Over 150 local children have attended these events. The project won the 2013 Landscape Institute Award for Neighbourhood Planning for the masterplan and how the project is being delivered using the apprenticeship programme.

CSGN433 – The Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust received a grant of £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 second year of this three year project this has resulted in the creation of 25 hectares of new woodland under SRDP applications submitted in the first year of the project. Continued liaison with landowners includes the development and award of SRDP support for the creation of 40 hectares of woodland on Ministry of Defence land leased by the Woodland Trust for Scotland. In addition, a programme of access and small-scale greenspace improvements are underway such as the planting of 75 trees at Hailes Quarry Park.

CSGN438 – Forest Research received a grant of £30,340 to undertake the second 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 second year of this three year project involved establishing a larger scale field case study that will be monitored over the remaining period of the

project. A range of tests were carried out on six sites that had been previously restored. A series of support visits were made to sites in East Renfrewshire Council and South Lanarkshire Council areas and this was augmented by a dissemination event.

CSGN441 – Forth Environment Link received a grant of £116,000 to support a further year of activity under the Forth Valley Orchards initiative. A number of strands of activity were supported this year and direct outputs from the project included:

- £10,000 distributed under their Orchard Grant Scheme leading to the planting of an area of 1.57ha of new orchard;
- £15,000 distributed to eight landowners and managers to develop their business models and expand their orchard related business activities;
- Eight individuals graduated from the training and began work on business development activities;
- A number of training and networking events were held to support schools, orchard owners, managers and volunteers; and
- A second successful orchard weekend was attended by around 350 people.

CSGN444 – The Scottish Wildlife Trust received a grant of £13,493 to employ a project coordinator to develop the Cumbernauld Living Landscape initiative. In the second year of this three year project the coordinator delivered a significant launch and stakeholder event for the Initiative with over 100 people attending. This was followed by a successful media campaign to raise the profile of the project. Finally, work continues to identify and develop direct delivery projects with partners.

CSGN446 – The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland received a grant of £24,901 to support the development of the Inner Forth Landscape Partnership project. In the second year of this three year project four farm bird surveys were undertaken by volunteers trained through the project. This was augmented by a study looking at 3 possible wetland restoration sites and an access baseline study of the project area. Finally, the Initiative's community engagement officer has spent a significant amount of time advising and assisting partners and community groups with the development of their own delivery projects.

CSGN447 – Greener Kirkcaldy received a grant of £6,790 to develop the Ravenscraig Community Orchard on 0.2 hectares of derelict and neglected land within the Ravenscraig Walled Garden in the town. In the second year of the project a team of volunteers has been established that meet twice weekly. They undertook maintenance activities including weeding, footpath repair and further planting such as the establishment of a raspberry 'avenue'. A series of events has been held on the site to encourage the volunteers to get involved in the development of the project and deliver training for the volunteers.

CSGN452 – The Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust received a grant of £30,539 to continue to develop and implement greening projects on vacant and derelict land within the City of Edinburgh. Work focused on a major area of stalled space in Fountainbridge. A temporary greening project has been delivered on the site to act an exemplar for other sites in the city. The project included the development of a wildflower meadow, creation of footpaths and planting of 70 street trees.

CSGN454 – Urban Roots received a grant of £19,440 to develop a community market garden and orchard on vacant land in the deprived community of Toryglen in south-east Glasgow. In the second year of this three year project the “Polmadie

Plots” established in the first year have now experienced a full growing season resulting in a large amount of produce being sold to local grocery shops, used for cookery workshops and in educational projects. Volunteers are actively involved in the project with the addition of a number of horticultural students that have been provided with Market Gardener Placements. The site is developing as a community hub and hosted a number of events, including the Blossom Festival, with hundreds of people attending throughout the year.

CSGN457 – The Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust received a grant of £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 and partner organisations who could help provide the advice and support community groups needed to take forward their ideas. In this second year, the project has worked with a further 16 groups and 6 new community gardening sites have been created.

CSGN461 – Edinburgh Cyrenians received a further grant of £5,000 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 third NHS Lothian site to be developed. Options for the development of a community garden at this site have been produced.

CSGN465 – The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership received a grant of £10,000 to undertake a second phase of the work to identify opportunities for woodland creation in the Clyde Valley catchment to contribute to flood management in response to climate change. This second phase undertook a more detailed assessment of the White Cart Catchment focusing on the impact on downstream flooding of different types of woodland planting.

CSGN474 – The Cassiltoun Trust received a grant of £66,772 to deliver the second year of an employability project within Castlemilk Woodlands in Glasgow. Through the project 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 3.5 kilometres 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. Currently 81% of those participating in the programme have gone on to employment or education, while 90% have gone on to gain further qualifications.

CSGN478 - Rural Development Trust received a grant of £25,000 to take forward the Reviving and Sustaining the Clyde Valley Orchards project that aims to secure the future of orchards within the Clyde Valley. This project includes work with owners to help increase the economic potential of their orchards and engage local communities with these valuable economic, social and environmental assets. In this the second year of a three year project a number of promotional activities were held including Fruit and Blossom Day events attended by around 4000 people. Other outputs included holding training courses for 82 participants, the provision of grants that supported the planting of 450 new fruit trees and the development of 12 orchard management plans.

CSGN510 – East Ayrshire Woodlands received a grant of £17,100 to continue a programme of improvements to paths and woodlands/greenspaces across Ayrshire. This year six woodland sites / trails have been improved with areas of wildflowers sown, interpretation signage installed and a series of outdoor learning events held.

CSGN601 - Glasgow City Council received a grant of £17,787 to create a naturalised pond at Knightswood Park. This included the planting of the pond edge with local species of plants and the creation of naturalised islands planted with wildflowers as habitat for nesting waterfowl.

CSGN602 - The Friends of Glasgow Botanic Gardens received a grant of £20,371 to carry out the delivery of a project titled 'Connecting People and Trees' developed using CSGN funding last year. The project aims to promote the National Tree Collections of Scotland using specific activities based in the Botanic Gardens. These include the development of a 'tree trail' around the gardens with associated information and leaflets and the construction of an iconic "Tree Hub" sculpture. This first year of the deliver phase of this work has seen work on the Tree Trail being completed and the initial design and development work finalised for the Tree Hub.

CSGN606 - Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust received a grant of £37,799 to deliver an Edinburgh City Cycleways project. The project is split between two elements. One part is a capital improvement project to manage the vegetation along certain cycle ways in the city. That work included tree safety felling, scrub clearance and tree planting. The second element includes a volunteer and community engagement programme. Nine events have taken place involving volunteers taking part in vegetation clearance sessions, litter picking and sowing wildflowers.

CSGN613 - The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society received a grant of £22,723 to develop the Fife Pilgrimage Route linking several Fife towns between Dunfermline and St Andrews. This year saw the confirmation of the route and a costed masterplan produced setting out the work required to establish the route including maintenance and signage. Relationships have been formed with landowners along the route and agreements in principle have been finalised.

CSGN615 - Scottish Canals received a grant of £36,487 to support the development of a long distance (92km) inland water canoe trail from Glasgow to Edinburgh. The project includes the installation of 30 bespoke canoe / kayak access and egress points along the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals. Other outputs include Canoe Trail interpretation boards and a Canoe Trail leaflet.

CSGN616 - Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership received a grant of £26,215 to develop a volunteer and community engagement programme based around the Sevens Lochs Wetland Park area in the Easterhouse area of Glasgow. The Seven Lochs Community Engagement Officer delivered 31 practical conservation volunteer days. 46 volunteers attended sessions that carried out physical work to improve the condition of seven local designated sites. In addition to the conservation work, 317 people were involved in a series of school and community activities including Halloween and Christmas events in local woods and creation of interpretive artwork in Drumpelzier Park.

CSGN621 - Central Scotland Forest Trust received a grant of £9,000 to produce a master plan for the Livingston South Blue Green Network. The plan provides a framework for improving the connectivity of the riparian and greenspace areas in the South of Livingston and identifies a number of specific environmental and access improvement projects to improve connectivity.

CSGN622 - Clackmannanshire Council received a grant of £32,400 to develop and deliver the Alloa Heritage & Climate Change Park. This project enabled the Council to explore how best to develop, link and promote the historic sites and greenspaces located between the town centre and the River Forth. A master plan of the area was produced to assist this process and a number of physical improvements were carried out including improved seating and a programme of tree planting.

CSGN624 - North Ayrshire Council received a grant of £32,500 to deliver the Connecting Communities and Business - Irvine Green Network. The first year of this project comprised a range of improvements to openspace and path networks within the Irvine area to create an active travel and greenspace network between Irvine Town and the Irvine Innovation and Industry (i3) Enterprise Area site. Further improvements were carried out on the i3 site including tree planting and the establishment of a wildflower meadow. Part of the work was carried out by local young unemployed people gaining training and skills on an Intermediate Labour Market Project.

CSGN625 - The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds received a grant of £25,704 to deliver the Garnock Valley Futurescape project - a landscape-scale conservation programme centred around the River Garnock. The work plan for the programme includes habitat creation and management, community based conservation projects, production of information on local wildlife and supporting local volunteering. This year 400 volunteer hours were recorded helping remove litter from a site of special scientific interest and installing nest boxes at a local nature reserve. In addition over 50 people took part in a programme of guided walks.