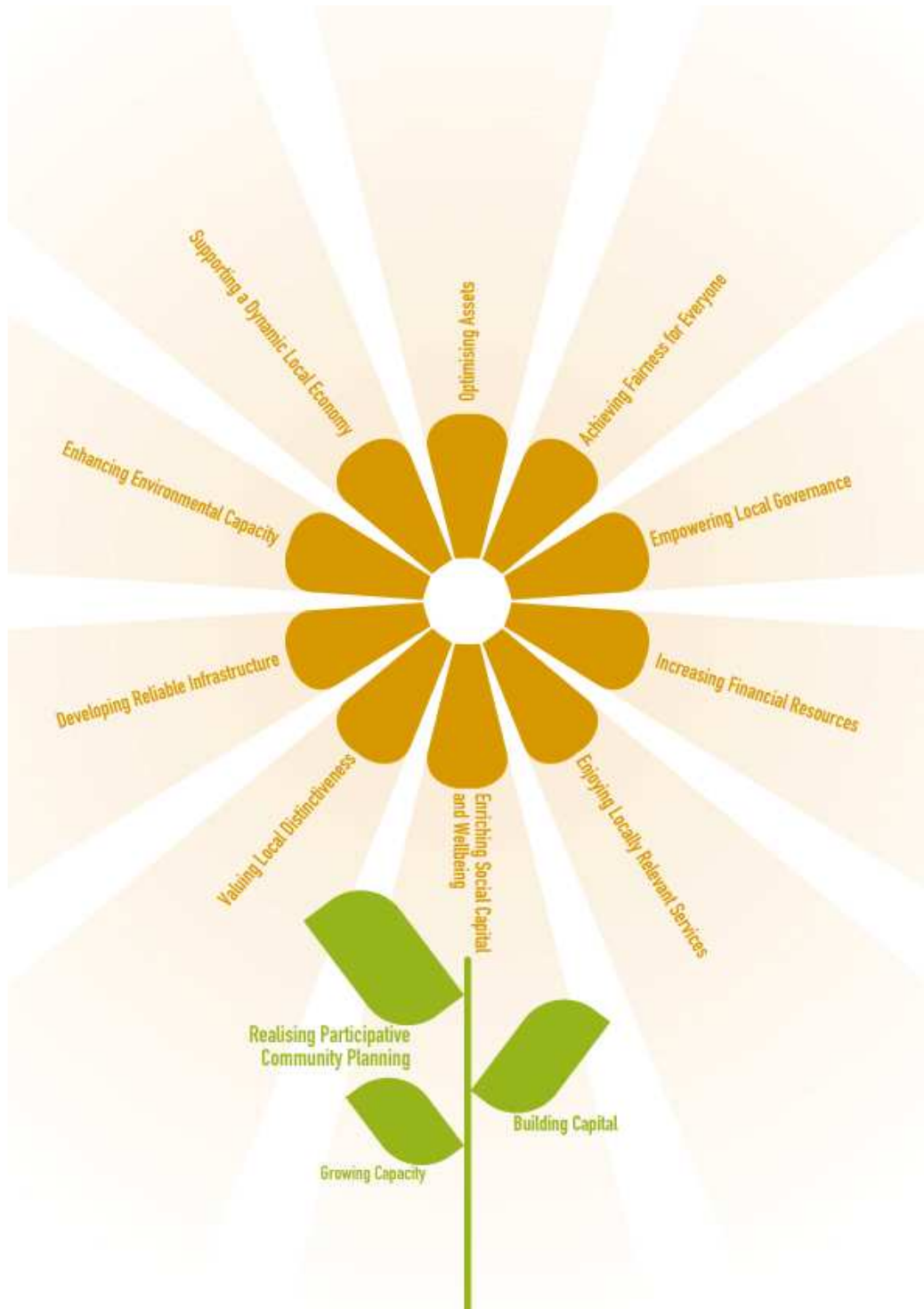


A CHARTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

THE FINAL REPORT OF THE CARNEGIE COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CASE STUDIES



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The Scottish Land Fund

The Scottish Land Fund was launched on 26 February 2001 by the New Opportunities Fund, a National Lottery distributor, with the aim of contributing to sustainable development in rural Scotland by assisting communities to acquire, develop and manage local land or land assets. The Fund was made available to help communities establish the feasibility, complete the purchase, and undertake the development and management of local land and land assets.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise administered the Scottish Land Fund on behalf of the New Opportunities Fund.

The Fund supported three types of assistance:



Technical – assisting the planning and feasibility study of proposals. For example, in this category, a grant was approved for the Woodhead - Windyhills Community Group (Aberdeenshire) to investigate the possibility of acquiring the 40-hectare Windyhills woodland, including sections of ancient woodland and an internationally significant underlying geology. The group subsequently incorporated as a legal body and applied successfully for acquisition funding. This was a classic example of technical assistance priming the acquisition stage of the project.

Other cases for technical assistance included grants to Glen Beag Woodland (Lochalsh) and Gordon Community Woodland Association (Borders) for the investigation of possible woodland purchases. Also, the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust received support to carry out a detailed study of the renewable energy potential of the untapped resources of the island.

Acquisition – for the actual purchase of land and land assets; acquisition of building examples include projects from Mull and Iona Community Trust (Argyll), who sought to secure the only butchers shop on the island. Another grant assisted the Ross of Mull Historical Centre to acquire a derelict historical mill in Bunessan for sympathetic conversion into a historical centre.



A core purpose of the Fund was to support the acquisition of land. The first actual land acquisition grant was awarded to Deskford and District Community Association (Moray) to enable extension and redevelopment of their village hall. The North Sutherland Community Forest Trust (Sutherland) was awarded assistance to pursue a land management agreement with Forest Enterprise over the Naver Forest. The Fund recognised that well negotiated and documented land management agreements provide communities with many of the advantages of actual land ownership.



Land Development – for the development of land and land assets associated with larger projects demonstrating land and natural resource management for rural development, conservation or amenity in the development category, Fernaig Community Trust (Lochalsh) had land development and project officer funding approved. Fernaig appointed an officer for three years and completed drainage, fencing and new road and bridge infrastructure work. Also in the development category, the well

established Abriachan Forest Trust (Inverness) received funding to acquire environmentally sympathetic forestry machinery and revenue funding for paths infrastructure development in the Abriachan Forest above Loch Ness.

The Scottish Land Fund is now closed but Highlands and Islands Enterprise are to deliver a successor programme called '**Growing Community Assets**' on behalf of BIG (what does this stand for?).

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Amble Development Trust



Thirteen years ago Amble in Northumberland was a coal mining and fishing area suffering from the decline of both its traditional industries. By the early 1990s unemployment was rising, the main town infrastructure and central area needed substantial work and there had been no significant investment in the area for some time.

Amble Development Trust was set up following a Civic Trust study to tackle these problems and see how the spiral could be reversed. A registered charity and company limited by guarantee, Amble Development Trust has more than 500 members. Members elect nine members of the board of management with the remaining members representing the Town, District & County Councils plus representatives from the Harbour Commissioners and the business community.

Key facts:

- Working in partnership to achieve the physical regeneration of the town including the town square, the main shopping area, the pier and the promenade
- Development of the Fourways, a former pub, as the base for a wide range of local services including employment training, benefits advice and job centre services with space let to tenants
- Development of Fourways2 – £1.3m investment in new office premises adjacent to existing property to meet demand for rented space and provide new community facilities
- Development of Amble Welfare – community sports facilities following gift of land asset – partnership based
- Waterfront development in support of tourism offer linked to Retail Distinctiveness Study and gaps in offer
- Social enterprise activity – including the Bread Bin – the local bakery owned and operated by the Trust employing seven local people
- Food Hub operation supported by Leader Plus in North Northumberland
- Employment counselling service
- The Ambler community newspaper
- Community development work with all sections of the community
- Support for the local fishing industry – current feasibility study and siltation survey on harbour
- Events programme to raise the profile of the town & build on tourism
- Consultancy and contracting with third parties eg fishing project for BITC (what does this stand for?)



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Travellers Remembered- The Rural Media Company

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner

The Rural Media Company brings community and informal education, training and advocacy together with professional filmmaking and media industry skills. They work throughout the UK with local, regional and national partners in public, voluntary and independent organisations, to develop short and long term projects, as well as undertaking commissions for video/DVD.



Travellers Remembered – Collection of 25 digital stories

Traveller's history is misunderstood and often ignored. Hostility, prejudice and ignorance blind the general population to the richness of Traveller culture. With resentment towards Travellers on the rise and their lifestyle increasingly threatened, this collection of digital histories aims to redress the balance.

With the help of experienced outreach media workers, children and young people (aged 10 - 22) from 25 different Traveller families in the West Midlands have recorded the personal reminiscences of their parents and grandparents, adding family photographs to bring the memories to life. Each lasting up to three minutes, and utilising fascinating images drawn from their personal collections, the stories, which depict subjects such as Travellers' part played in agriculture and their relationship to nature and the landscape, trades and artefacts.



To view these stories online please visit: <http://www.ruralmedia.co.uk>

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Benefits take up in rural areas

In 'Social Exclusion in Rural Areas: A Review of Recent Research', Professor Mark Shucksmith explores a range of factors that might lead individuals or households into poverty. We have found his examination of the reasons for low-levels of benefit take up by older people in rural areas to be very helpful: For older people, who form the largest group experiencing low income in rural areas, receipt of welfare benefits is of crucial importance. However there is clear evidence that take-up rates are lower in rural areas (Bramley et al. 2000), and that there is a pressing need for better access to information and advice about state benefit entitlements. The study of disadvantage in rural Scotland (Shucksmith et al. 1994, 1996) found that the uptake of benefits was much lower than would have been expected, given the low incomes of many respondents. Respondents were often confused about the benefits that were available and their entitlement. Access to advice in urban centres was problematic, with benefit offices seen as highly intimidating quite apart from the social stigma of claiming. Other studies have confirmed these findings.

The culture of independence and self-reliance in rural areas would appear to be an important factor mitigating against the collection of state benefits. Individuals were reluctant to claim benefit, seeking instead a second or third job, or preferring to live a more spartan existence.

Apart from culture, there is a lack of anonymity in collecting benefits (usually at the village post office) and a greater distance to, and general paucity of, information and advice about eligibility for benefits. Social housing is lacking in rural areas, whereas in urban areas it offers an effective channel for information on benefits and rights to reach those eligible for state support. There is therefore a considerable challenge in attempting to increase the uptake of benefit entitlement in rural areas. Equally, improved uptake could make a powerful impact on poverty in rural areas.

Website: www.defra.gov.uk/rural/pdfs/research/social_excl_lit_review.pdf

Caithness Partnership

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner

Caithness Partnership plans to research new ways of ensuring rural community and agency engagement and buy-in to community planning activities through the Caithness Rural People's Panel. This is a virtual panel of 50 residents with contributions from people from their home via the Internet.

The panel will consider the following themes:

- Developing a strong, sustainable and competitive economy
- Encouraging lifelong learning and developing community capacity
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Investing in housing and its infrastructure
- Improving transport
- Enhancing cultures, heritage and natural environment
- Developing a safe, strong and attractive community

The group also plan intensive interaction with hard to reach groups (the elderly, socially isolated, and young people) in SE Caithness investigating this need, identified in the local plan, then assessing and modifying its delivery over a nine-month period. To assist this training will be provided for public, voluntary and business sector representatives in National Standards of Community Engagement.



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Tipperary Institute

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner

Tipperary Institute is Ireland's only institute integrating third level education with rural and business development programmes. The mission of the Institute is to promote sustainable social and economic development in the region served by the Institute. This integration aims to ensure that learning relates to real-life contexts and that community groups, businesses, development organisations and state agencies can benefit from partnership with the Institute on projects of mutual benefit.



Tipperary Institute has an impressive track record in the Irish equivalent of strategic planning – the Local Area Partnership. The Institute has undertaken much work in developing a framework for community level planning, which incorporates economic, social and environmental dimensions. This is called 'Integrated Area Planning' for a defined geographical area. This framework will be developed into a transferable model by application to the Ferbane area of County Offaly. This is an area that has experienced a decline in traditional industry of electricity generation from peat burning and the community is fully behind the need to regenerate. As part of the project, a structure will be established at County administrative level to encourage learning and refinement of the process by all the key players. It is anticipated that the model developed will then be taken up by the relevant stakeholders and replicated in other areas of the county.

The outputs of this action research work will be:

- An evaluation report of the current Ferbane project which was completed in 2002 and a Framework for a new five-year plan. As well as contributing to an up-dated plan for Ferbane, the report will seek to identify the benefits of the process and the extent to which it impacted on the subsequent improved social and economic environment in the town.
- A model for local area planning, which would be used by Offaly Co Council and West Offaly Partnership with other Offaly communities in both statutory and non-statutory planning contexts
- Area Plans developed in two other Offaly towns
- The IAP Model further developed, refined and documented through the Participatory Action Process

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PLANED (Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development)

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner



PLANED(Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development) are widely recognised as a leading proponent of community level planning and therefore they build upon an impressive track record. The **PLANED** partnership, was established in 2001 and has evolved from SPARC (South Pembrokeshire Partnership for Action with Rural Communities) 1991-2001. The organisation was a successful LEADER1 and LEADER 2 group. It is working throughout Pembrokeshire, building on the local community led approach to rural development successfully developed by SPARC in which communities, public sector and voluntary partners and special interest groups come together to undertake locally integrated development.

An important part of the PLANED process is the development of **Community Forums and Community Action Plans**. All communities are encouraged to establish **Community Forums**, open to all local organisations and individuals. The communities identify local needs, opportunities, and priorities, which are set out in **Community Action Plans** to be implemented by the forums.



The group will investigate the ways in which community level plans can contribute substantially to the Wales Spatial Plan as well as regional and sub-regional strategies.

A key objective is to enable people to participate fully in national, regional and local strategies, which promote healthy living and well being through which they can influence the development and delivery of strategies, which impinge on their quality of life. A wider aim of PLANED will continue to be to provide a 'best practice' example of involving local people in the sustainable development of their communities, thus assisting Welsh Assembly and key agency policy development.



They acknowledge that existing strategic planning processes fail to engage local people and wish to build upon their existing participatory approaches by examining community engagement activity in other EU countries, especially those like Sweden, Estonia and Finland where there is a strong participatory village movement.

PLANED will therefore address these issues: citizen apathy, overcoming 'exclusivity' in local planning, identification of the barriers that stop local people engaging with community planning.

The work will be undertaken by Joan Asby from PLANED and Perry Walker from New Economics Foundation.

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Community Planning in Powys

Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO)

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner

Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations is an independent agency providing help and advice to voluntary organisations and community groups enabling them to work more effectively. By working in partnership with others and by responding positively and imaginatively, we aim to strengthen and empower communities throughout the county.



PAVO gives support services for voluntary organisations by providing current, relevant information, a funding advice service, practical services, a range of training courses run for the sector and legal and management advice.

PAVO plays a vital part when the Voluntary Sector needs to speak with one voice, by identifying and expressing the Sector's views and concerns to local and national government and other statutory bodies to ensure that the Sector's interests and ideas contribute to planning and service development.

PAVO assists communities in identifying gaps in provision that might be met by voluntary organisations or community groups, develops local initiatives and establishes new ventures.

Our mission statement is:

'Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations is an independent agency providing help and advice to voluntary and community groups enabling them to work more effectively. By working in partnership with others, and by responding positively and imaginatively, we aim to strengthen and empower communities throughout the County'

Powys Rural Community Strategy Partnership is built on two principles:

- Collaborative activity amongst and between partner organisations, working together towards the sustainable regeneration of Powys communities
- Community -based action.

The aim of this project is: *Through action research, to build upon community planning mechanisms in Powys, to develop multi-sector partnership working and deepen community participation and ownership of regeneration activities*

The focus of the Powys Community Strategy Partnership is access to local services. The programme, through the Local Community Forums, is the main mechanism through which communities are able to voice their needs and promote ideas for action. This is a mechanism of the Community Planning partnership. The partnership exists to strengthen work between agencies and organisations in Powys and to explore new areas of working.



Powys Action with Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) is the county CVS organisation and is a key player in the community planning process, assuming responsibility for the running of 15 community forums. The Chief Executive is a member of the central Executive group along with Chief Executives of the County Council, Health Board etc. It is rare to find the voluntary sector so involved in policy making.

Although community planning is now well established in Powys, several issues remain which in many respects act as barriers to maximise community participation in the process. In particular, issues the action research will seek to address include:

- The various understandings of "community planning", its scope and the implications both for structures and for devolution of power
- The appropriateness and future direction of structures already developed to progress community planning, in particular Local Community Forums

- Issues of partnership, bending of budgets and generally flexible working by agencies
- The extent to which communities are able to take control of addressing their own needs and the resources and structures needed to support this
- Clarity over evolving roles, including the relationship between democratic and participatory forms of representation. At local level, the role of Town and Community Councils needs to be clarified.

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Wessex Re-investment Trust

Wessex is investigating new ways of attracting finance for social enterprises in the South West of England. Grants have been a traditional means of funding for many of these organisations, and, whilst still applicable in some cases, they do not always provide the required funding and are becoming outdated.



As an action research project, Wessex has received funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Friends Provident to develop a mechanism for raising finance from investors. Investors may well be local people who care for the future of their community. Investors are likely to be those individuals or businesses interested in supporting local community initiatives, which have a target of achieving long term sustainability. This implies that the initiative must have a sound plan of surplus income generation.

Their investment could be in the form of equity investment, loans or bonds. The return to the investor could be in the form of a financial return, a social return, or a combination of the two. (We know that one community owned pub offers dividends in the form of pints!). There may be an additional return for taxpayers by receiving tax relief on their investment if it is over £500.

Enterprises which are likely to benefit from this type of financial support could be in the food sector, for instance growing, distributing or promoting local food; environment, such as renewable energy or recycling programmes; affordable housing; or community asset acquisition and/or development.



In this action research phase (which will be completed at the end of March 2007) Wessex will work alongside interested organisations to finalise a robust proposition, which will form the grounding for a prospectus. The prospectus will be actively marketed and the received investments can be managed by the enterprise or by Wessex on its behalf. Once tested and proven, Wessex will be able to offer this as an affordable service to other enterprises to raise finance. It will also form the basis of a national model for others to adopt.

Using the appropriate legal structure for the enterprise, Wessex has developed a model which is approved by both the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for Enterprise Investment Scheme tax relief. The organisation is now in the process of testing the effectiveness of this work with selected social enterprises. Once the pilot stage has been completed, Wessex will be able to help organisations to raise finance using this way.

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Cheshire Disabilities Federation (CDF)

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner

A key priority of the Department of Health is that eligible individuals access and manage Direct Payments to take better control of, and so enhance the value of, their care. In parallel to this, the Office of the Deputy Prime Ministers Social Exclusion Directorate has identified the need for individuals to have more choice and support available to them in all aspects of life, especially those who live in rural areas.

However, within these directives from central Government bodies, their implementation in rural areas has the added dimension and challenge of 'isolation' facing individuals. It is often difficult for people in receipt of direct payments to be able to source and employ appropriate care providers and there are also physical barriers in accessing information and support in relation to managing direct payments, especially for the elderly and those recipients with physical and other disabilities.

Through the research conducted by the CDF and others, the support needs of individuals needing care support and assessing the appropriateness of direct payments provision for them in meeting this has not only been found to be in-line with those barriers listed above, but to also include a number of 'soft' skills and empowerment.

Such additional needs are often not recognised or delivered by mainstream providers and agencies, especially for those with disabilities relating to mental health (*only 2% of people with mental ill health currently access direct payments*).

Through the delivery of its contracted services and projects, CDF has noted the emergence of informal 'peer' support networks amongst neighbouring individuals in rural and isolated communities (*both of area and kind*). These networks would seem to offer a model for empowering individuals to better manage their direct payments as well as acting as an informal recruitment agency for care givers, thus enhancing the value of care purchased with direct payments and enhancing the value of employment opportunities for local carers. These emerging networks would also seem to be offering a sustainable and community-led form to facilitate the further integration of disabled and non-disabled individuals.

CDF are therefore seeking to further research and understand how and why these networks develop and exist, and so better foster and support them in pursuit of their shared aims. It can then work to use these findings to lobby policy makers in the ways in which Direct Payments contracts and support are delivered and offered on a peer basis, rather than just an affected individual level.

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Plunkett Foundation 'The Store is the Core'

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner



This programme examines how village shops can be developed into multi-service outlets. The work will be undertaken through ViRSA (Village Retail Services Association) – now managed by Plunkett. Other partners will include the Scottish Community Retailing Network, South West Mayo Development Company and the Countryside and Community Research Unit of the University of Gloucester (Dr Malcolm Moseley). The participating communities are:

- Sulgrave Community Shop in Northamptonshire <http://www.sulgrave.org/>
- Uig Community on the Isle of Lewis <http://www.uigandbernera.com/>
- Killeen Community Centre in Mayo <http://www.southmayo.com/>

The group distinguish between 'statutory' and 'discretionary' services. Statutory services in rural areas are threatened by centralisation of provision and reducing budgets. Discretionary services are threatened when the private sector withdraws. These trends are long-term and structural and cannot be addressed cosmetically or through short-term projects. Rather the changes in service delivery need to be as fundamental. Plunkett are keen to develop sustainable models for community led service delivery that can be adopted by other groups. The public sector needs to participate by examining complementary use of village outlets for their services. Communities also have to take on this 'new deal' as a responsibility they individually have for the well being of the whole community.



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Atlantis Leisure, Oban

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner

The Atlantis project came about by four people discussing the lack of indoor sports provision in the area and deciding to explore the possibility of doing something about it. The numbers were increased to 8 by selective addition of a lawyer, accountant, architect and the chairman of the local sports council. From January 1991 the aims of the group were agreed; negotiations and a tendering process were undertaken with the Council to take over the Oban Swimming Pool and surrounding area; a public meeting with over 120 people attended to establish community interest and support; Oban and Lorn Community Enterprise Ltd (T/A Atlantis Leisure) was formed (a charitable company limited by guarantee); 1st October 1992 Atlantis Leisure having negotiated a 21-year lease took over the running of Oban Swimming Pool and surrounding area with a view to 'Developing and operating sports and leisure facilities'



Since then, the community company has transformed what was a basic swimming pool into a multi-million pound leisure complex with pool, 6-court regional sports hall, tennis and squash courts, climbing wall, gym, dance studio, outdoor all-weather pitch, and now employ 40 people.

Partnership working with funding bodies along with voluntary and public sector organisations has resulted in Atlantis Leisure developing from being a facility provider to taking a pro-active role in delivering sport and community services in North Argyll. This includes a sports development programme; healthy living initiatives; youth work; sports outreach; community events; regional sport and cultural events.

Oban and Lorn Community Enterprise Ltd will take an 'exploratory, challenging and entrepreneurial approach' to this action research. Their proposal is focused on sport and leisure services in rural areas and building upon their own experiences and those of 4 other initiatives around the UK, they aim to identify the difficulties and obstacles experienced by community providers, examining how these were overcome in real examples. The group will particularly focus on Governance, Non-public funding, Assets, Sustainability and how these key areas are addressed by successful community projects.



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Cybermoor

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner

The Cybermoor project is located in the community of Alston Moor high up in the North Pennines. Cybermoor was established in 2002 as part of a Government "Wired up Communities" initiative to try and overcome the "digital divide" in disadvantaged communities. Alston Moor was one of seven communities chosen to take part in the programme and was selected because of its remoteness and the distance that people had to travel to access basic services (25 miles to the nearest town). Cybermoor Ltd, the UK's first broadband community

co-op, was set up in January 2003 as the project became a business. We aim to promote social inclusion through ICT. 14 jobs have been created and at least 5 businesses have been attracted into the area because of the project. Improving the level of skills among residents has been one of our key successes. 72% of residents have used a PC to learn from home and we have the highest penetration of broadband in any rural area in England (over a 3rd of households). The Cybermoor website is one of the most actively used community sites in the UK with an average of 40,000 visitors per month. We train residents in web publishing so they can contribute directly to the website.

The Websites to Influence Service Delivery programme will examine the ways in which rural community members and public sector service providers can be encouraged to contribute content to community websites. It will explore opportunities for public sector agencies to use community websites as a means of engagement and assessment of rural needs and to influence delivery. It will assess the benefits and risks for service providers in using websites. Community activists have been identified in four different communities with community websites. A programme of workshops will be organised on the following topics: web publishing, raising revenue from your website, journalism skills, legal issues. A baseline survey of website users will be undertaken.

Public sector service providers will be invited to a seminar to introduce the opportunities provided by websites, using existing advocates such as 'cybercop'. This will be followed up by one-to-one sessions to identify agencies willing to participate in trial online experiments. These will be evaluated by website users and success stories publicised. A successful outcome of this work will be the mainstreaming of online services by public sector agencies and improved accessibility for all members of the rural community to those services.

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SEEDS



SEEDS is an independent group working in mutual solidarity to promote and realise the human rights, equality and full integration of asylum seekers, refugees and immigrant workers. Over the past few years the issue of representing and dealing with the concerns of immigrant workers has grown enormously as an agenda item. They seek to promote racial, ethnic and cultural diversity in the North West of Ireland thus maintaining a commitment to promote equality and integration. Concerns about increasing racial attacks, verbal abuse, the isolation of migrant workers, working conditions, poverty, exclusion, language problems, visa issues, housing, education, health and social cohesion draw attention to the plight of migrants to Ireland in general, but to the North West in particular. The ethos that informs the work of SEEDS is one of democracy, inclusion, participation and awareness. SEEDS offer a range of services and have currently 285 registered members in the North West of Ireland representing 26 nationalities.

A major multi-cultural festival held in Londonderry in May 2007 marked the opening of a drop-in centre for new citizens arriving in this part of Northern Ireland. The One World Centre provides a range of services and activities promoting integration and meeting unmet needs. The centre provides information on accommodation, education and training and also provides English classes and translation and interpretative services. It serves as a social space where people can meet, exchange information and break down cultural and linguistic barriers.



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WildWorks



One reason that physical heritage fails to deliver as a meaningful narrative is because it is actually fragmented and illegible. This project explores the role cultural activities play in making the narrative more legible and complete, working in a context of the existing physical heritage but also fulfilling the need to inform the present and help communities meet the future.

WildWorks explore the ways in which cultural activities can help new community narratives evolve and redefine how communities perceive themselves. The WildWorks show *Souterrain* explores themes of death, lost love, grief and renewal, set in the 'underworld'. It is a powerful metaphor for communities that have undergone significant change and are still struggling to adapt.

The *Souterrain* production and performance explores the way that loss and grief can also apply to loss of identity and connections with the environment, with themes of dissolution and chaos, and explores grief and renewal relative to cultural-led regeneration.

About Souterrain

"Wildworks create shows that come from the lives and memories of those who live there. Someone once said our shows were like being in the middle of a film, the audience being the camera. We search out amazing locations, all of which seem to have had a glorious past and an uncertain future. Our latest residency in Dolcoath, is the only UK venue for Souterrain this year. As a an international theatre company based in Cornwall these final performances will have a special resonance for us "

Bill Mitchell Director



WildWorks collect human stories that touch and resonate across boundaries of language, age, and nationality. They create unique and spectacular landscape theatre that grows out of locations, quarries, cliffs, harbours, derelict industrial sites, castles, empty department stores and old mines.



In 2006 WildWorks started a journey with Souterrain which involved partnerships and performances in six very different communities which included Brighton, Hastings, Bethune, Amiens and Colchester. WildWorks are bringing Souterrain to Sotteville-en-Rouen in France in June 2007, and in July they will be bringing the show back home to Cornwall.

At each venue WildWorks will bring the show to life in a new way, working with new volunteers, adding new skills, narrative and meaning to the existing work. So far WildWorks have worked with ballroom dancers in Hastings, young bikers in Gosnay and a gospel choir in Amiens.

WildWorks have performed Souterrain to great acclaim in five different underworlds; A rural village, a school, a convent, a castle and a dept store.

The Story

Orfee is returning home from war. The village is being decorated with bunting, and the "welcome home" banner has been raised. The band is playing, the choir singing and the vicar is handing out cake. But celebration turns to tragedy when Orfee's wife, Eurydice, is killed in a terrible accident. Refusing to accept his wife's fate, and believing that love is stronger than death, Orfee sets off into the Underworld. And we are going with him, to find his lover and bring her back from Hades, Lord of Death, who owns all and returns nothing.



Souterrain Cornwall 2007

The Cornish performance is situated within a site that is part of the lost mining industry. Working directly with residents from west Cornwall communities the community engagement elements of this production will be directed at the specificity of the Cornish experience.



The Cornish adventure takes place against the backdrop of a world heritage mining landscape, beginning at Dolcoath Mine in Camborne. This production will involve young people from the regions most disadvantaged areas, local miners, Camborne brass bands, the local chapter of the WI, rural migrant workers and more

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Sense of Place in Cornwall

Delivering the curriculum with distinctiveness and diversity - Cornwall is a distinctive place, with a rich and diverse cultural heritage. The issue of cultural identity is as relevant in Cornwall as it is in populations where cultural diversity is more immediately apparent. The issues surrounding citizenship and racism are as important for our schools as for those serving obviously multi-ethnic communities.



In addition, there are specific questions about identity, culture and history particular to the Cornish context. This project sets out to equip young people to engage with these questions and as such it encourages exploration of Cornish perspectives alongside those of the wider world. Sense of Place has already worked with teachers in Cornwall and published curriculum materials that are suited to the needs of pupils learning in a Cornish context.

Sense of Place is working towards a vision of the future where young people celebrate the rich diversity of multi-cultural identities at home and around the globe and contribute to confident, tolerant, outward looking society.

Sense of Place is funded by Cornwall Local Authority and delivers the curriculum in Cornish schools with distinctiveness and diversity. The project has already published units of work having trialled them in the classroom.

The Sense of Place team includes people from across Cornwall who work together to produce the units of work available on this website. These people include teachers, artists, historians, museum curators, librarians.



This project is driven by teachers who wish to meet the educational needs of pupils living in Cornwall in an exciting and innovative way. The aim is to share good practice and resources to help make learning fun without creating extra workload.

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Celtic Neighbours

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner



Celtic Neighbours is a partnership between Voluntary Arts Wales, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Proiseact Nan Ealan (The Gaelic Arts Agency) and the Friends of Theatr Felinfach. This three-year project began its work in May 2006. Its aims are to mobilise and facilitate cultural collaborations between groups working in their native languages in the three areas concerned, and to build up a sustainable pool of shared expertise, best practise and resources. It also aims to shift governmental and policy-makers' attitudes towards a greater understanding and valuing of everyday culture within these societies, and of the immense regenerative potential eager to be unleashed. We believe that by sharing ideas and resources, and building up a collaborative network of amateurs and community organisations, we can add to the confidence, ambition, solidarity and assertiveness of all our 'Celtic Neighbours'.

The four constituent organisations met twice in the summer of 2006 for residential planning sessions, firstly in Nant Gwrtheyrn in North Wales and secondly in Uig on the Isle of Lewis. Three pilot exchange projects were supported during that autumn:

- A week's study visit by a young community translator from Lewis to meet and develop ideas with translators in North and West Wales
- A visit, including performance and workshop sessions, to Stornoway by a youth Theatre company from Ceredigion in West Wales
- A tour of North and West Wales by a community choir from the Donegal Gaeltacht, during which they performed with three Welsh choirs.



A key element in the development of all three projects so far has been an emphasis on careful, creative and community-led evaluation. The partnership is endeavouring to create a number of adaptable common templates to fully involve participants in the development and evaluation of projects as well as demonstrating their effects on individuals and communities. Closely integrated into both the planning and evaluation processes are two digital communication interchanges: 'The Hub', linking and providing a forum for members of the four partnership groups, and '[The Neighbourhood](#)', offering information and scope for interchange between organisations and individuals playing a part in, or interested in developing, individual projects.

In November 2006 the partnership held the first of three planned annual events, aiming to combine elements of conference, cultural showcase and gathering of grassroots workers. This was hosted by Ealann na Gaeltachta and took place in Gaoibh Doire, West Donegal. A multi-media report with a DVD on the partnership's progress so far, including this gathering has been produced and is available. Copies of this can be ordered from Carnegie UK Trust by sending your full postal details to: kirsty@carnegieuk.org.



The 'Ceangal' documentary can be viewed on the Carnegie UK Trust website: http://rural.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/media_clips

The second annual gathering will be held in Theatr Felinfach, West Wales in October 2008. For further information about this conference go to: www.vaw.org.uk.

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The Aviemore and the Cairngorms Destination Management Organisation (ACDMO)

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner



The Aviemore and the Cairngorms Destination Management Organisation (ACDMO) Limited is Scotland's first private sector led destination not-for-profit management organisation whose activities are directed towards community benefits from tourism. The Company has evolved with the support of public sector and community interest groups. It is led by a group of Directors from local businesses driven by their corporate social responsibility.

Destination management is recognised by the World Tourism Organisation as being a key to sustainable tourism development at the destination level. An international benchmarking study in 2005 examined 15 world-class destinations in six countries and highlighted that in each a strong destination management organisation (DMO) provided the lead and coordination to develop tourism.



The community, together with the tourism operators in Aviemore and the Cairngorms, having witnessed the success of collaborating to market and promote the destination, recognised the importance of establishing a DMO. Consequently, over the past 18 months all the key stakeholders in the private and public sectors have been working towards this objective.



One of the proposals is to introduce schemes to generate net additional income from visitors to reinvest in community and environmental projects. Such schemes are not uncommon in tourism destinations in other parts of the world but this would be the first in Scotland and one of the most ambitious in the UK. Obtaining money from tourists on a voluntary basis to help maintain local community services and facilities is not a new idea. For many years donation boxes and honesty boxes have

been used at rural car parks, in churches and at historic sites. These have relied upon the visitor making a conscious decision to contribute either a suggested sum or an unspecified amount. In recent years there has been a growing body of evidence that tourists are willing to pay 'extra' for good causes and projects that have a direct, positive, impact upon the environment or community where they are staying or visiting. There is a successful scheme working in the Lake District for example. ACDM Ltd has now established a Trust to take these ideas forward.



It is aimed that this action research programme will provide fully transferable models of (a) **community involvement with a private sector led destination management organisation** with (b) a model for a **Voluntary Payback Initiative** that enables community benefits identified by the community and informed by market research.

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Wheels-to-Work

Wiltshire Wheels-to-Work is a moped loan scheme for people aged 16+ living in rural communities in Wiltshire and Swindon who have been offered a job or paid vocational training opportunity but cannot take it up due to transport problems. The scheme, which is managed by Community First, works by loaning 50cc mopeds for up to 6 months along a fully subsidised Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) test and safety equipment (helmet, jacket, gloves and a hi-viz vest) in return for a small fee of £10 per week (riders will be expected to meet their fuel costs). Before applying, potential riders will also need to have a provisional or full driving licence to ride a moped.

Potential riders are referred to the scheme by Job Centre Plus and Connexions. This form will ask for details about where potential riders live, what their current employment situation is, what their transport needs are and what financial means they have available to them as a means of considering whether people are eligible for support via the scheme.



If applicants are considered eligible for support, a co-ordinator will be in contact to arrange a meeting with young person and their parent(s)/guardian(s) The co-ordinator will book riders in for their CBT having drawn up a contract with them beforehand which sets out the terms of use for the scheme (riders under 18 will need their parent(s)/guardian(s) to act as a guarantor).

On successful completion of the CBT and a further safety training lesson, a moped with lock plus a helmet, jacket and gloves will be provided to the rider.

All Wiltshire Wheels-to-Work mopeds are fully taxed and insured by Community First but it is strongly advised that riders take out personal accident insurance before joining the scheme. The mopeds are serviced by a number of approved motorcycle dealers across Wiltshire and Swindon. All servicing costs will be covered by the scheme but riders are expected to take the moped to the dealer. Servicing is generally completed every 1800 miles.

As well as using the moped to get to work or paid vocational training (up to 40 miles there and back), riders will also be allowed to use their moped for leisure purposes although to ensure the privilege is not abused, the scheme's co-ordinator will meet up with the rider on a regular basis to discuss how the moped is being used. This meeting will also be a chance for the rider to talk about their employment/paid vocational training issues and to have basic maintenance checks made to their moped. At this meeting the rider will also pay for their wear and tear contributions for the moped.

Each person issued with a moped will be encouraged to take up a Credit Union savings plan during the six months that they are supported by the scheme to help them towards buying their own vehicle at the end of the lease term.

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Stonesfield Community Trust



Stonesfield Community Trust is a response by local residents to the shortage of affordable housing in this Oxfordshire village (population 1,900). Set up in 1983, the Trust has produced 15 affordable dwellings, workspace, a pre-school and a Post Office. A large amount of its initial borrowings has been paid off and it now looking at using its income to improve local youth services.

Land donation

Chairman Tony Crofts set up the Trust in the 1980s, donating a quarter-acre site in the village for the first scheme. £3,000 from a local company covered the setting-up costs, legal fees and the planning submission for the scheme of four houses. Planning permission was granted, instantly increasing the value of the land from £3,500 to £150,000 and giving the Trust the security to raise a bank loan to build the first four houses. One of the houses was later converted into two flats and a granny flat was added to another, making six homes on the site. The houses are designed for maximum solar gain and insulated to a high standard.

Ethical and charitable funding

A second quarter-acre site in the village was bought with a loan of £80,000 from West Oxfordshire District Council. Five more houses were completed by 1993 with funding from a variety of sources, including banks, donations, and private loans at low or no interest. The homes are let to local people on modest incomes. They are managed on the Trust's behalf by a professional letting agent, who for many years supplied a free service and now charges only £80 a month.

Factory conversion

Next door to the Trust's second scheme, a former silk-screen factory has been converted into two houses, a flat and two workspaces, using bank loans together with a grant from the Rural Development Commission for the workspaces. The scheme was completed in 1994 and the loans are serviced by rents from the properties. Rent paid by an electronics company for one of the workspaces was used to clear the mortgage on the property within 10 years. A pre-school group then converted the building for use.



Community initiatives

The Trust has now repaid of a large part of its borrowings. It has taken over the Post Office and increased its housing to 15 dwellings. The initial donation of land made all of these schemes possible. In addition, many local people have given their money, time and expertise. The Trust has worked with the willing co-operation of its local authority partner, West

Oxfordshire District Council. The clerk to the parish council and a county councillor sit with Crofts and other local people on the Board of the Trust

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Isle of Gigha Community Wind Farm



Gigha Renewable Energy Limited, a trading subsidiary of the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust, established the UK's first grid-connected local community-owned wind farm in December 2004. This landmark project meets all of Gigha's energy needs, exporting the surplus to the mainland, and will provide an annual net income to the community of around £80,000. Community members were consulted at each stage through a series of meetings held throughout the development of the project. The

Gigha community has named the turbines 'Creideas, Dòchas and Carthanna', the Gaelic names for 'Faith, Hope and Charity' and collectively call them 'The Dancing Ladies'. The financial model for the project was based around a combination of grant funding, loan funding and equity, including an £80,000 shareholding through HIE.

Vital statistics

- 3 pre-commissioned Vestas V27 wind turbines
- 3 turbines of 225 kW giving a windfarm capacity of 675 kW
- 30 metre rolled steel tower set on steel reinforced foundations
- 3 glass fibre blades measuring 13m in length, giving swept area
- diameter of 27m
- 2 generators giving speeds of 43 rpm and 32 rpm respectively
- Start-up wind speed of 3.5m/sec
- Cut-out wind speed of 25m/sec
- Estimated annual output of 2100MWh/per annum

Issues in managing the turbines

- Plan and cost out maintenance schedule
- Check lightening protection
- Employ a turbine monitor to check and monitor operation
- Be realistic about maintenance costs
- Have a well planned and researched cash flow for first year of operation



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Rural Communities Carbon Network/ ruralnet|uk

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner

What is the RCCN?

This 3-year project will raise the awareness of the actions that rural communities can take in response to the climate change challenge. It builds on existing, isolated community action and will support other rural groups who wish to take collective action by providing access to an online panel of experts, good practice toolkits and a mentoring service linked to a small grants programme. RCCN will link up existing groups with nascent ones for peer-to-peer support and knowledge transfer through events, twinning and online.

What will the RCCN achieve? What will be the outcomes?

RCCN aims to support 70 rural communities over 3 years. It will support awareness raising activities; capacity building; networking and facilitation; monitoring and evaluation and project management activity.

It will:

- Support advanced 'zero carbon' communities to run 15 introductory workshops for other communities who wish to reduce their carbon footprint
- Answer around 300 questions via its Experts Online service
- Produce and publish 18 toolkits
- Provide 210 mentor-days of face to face support (including using the expertise within the network itself)
- Distribute around 50 small grants of £5,000 each
- Participate in 18 rural/third sector events to promote a collective approach to carbon reduction
- Support 12 'seeing is believing' exchanges
- Prepare and publish up to 35 case studies of collective approaches to climate change using traditional and new media (online video etc)
- Reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 125,000 tonnes over 3 years. This has a market value of approximately £633,000
- It will make the general public more aware of collective action for climate change. It will help those with an interest take the first steps towards effective action. It will help established groups by exposing them to new ideas and paying them to: act as mentors to other groups; act as online experts and host events and visits.

What is the scope of the RCCN?

RCCN is a rural initiative and seeks to be UK-wide. However, this will depend on the sources of funding support it receives.

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New Economics Foundation

Carnegie UK Trust/ Big Lottery Rural Action Research Programme partner

This strategic partnership between Carnegie and **nef** (the new economics foundation) examines issues surrounding social and economic disadvantage and asset based approaches to rural community development. As highlighted by the work of the Carnegie



Commission for Rural Community Development, rural disadvantage is most likely to be associated with remote areas, where individuals struggle to construct a viable livelihood by engaging in a number of economic activities. There are some indications that with the on-going changes in the agricultural sector associated with globalisation and EU policy reform, such rural 'job juggling' is fast becoming the norm, and this development raises important questions regarding the most appropriate ways that these strategies can be supported and

strengthened. In this context, questions around the life aspirations and livelihood prospects of young people in rural areas become particularly compelling.

Building on the vision articulated by the Commission, **nef** is providing a new framework for thinking about rural economies, drawing on concepts from the science of ecology. Thus, rural economies, like complex ecological systems, can be seen in terms of different types of relationships between both individuals and enterprises (e.g. competitive, complimentary, symbiotic); and through system diversity, dynamics and resilience.



This work looks at how different economic and social policies and processes impact on and work through local communities in rural areas in England to constrain (and/or support) the development of viable livelihoods. **nef** is focusing particularly on rural areas in England, young people and individuals in work, including the self-employed, who are struggling against disadvantage. Ultimately this work seeks to identify practical steps that can be taken (in relation to policies, institutions, skills,

and community action) to more actively support the development of such multi-strand livelihoods.

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Cae Post



Cae Post is a pioneering charity and social enterprise, established in 1986, that provides work experience and training to people with disabilities and others disadvantaged in the job market. Over the last eight years, Cae Post has worked to achieve their goal through recycling projects. In partnership with Powys County Council they now run a commercial scale, recycling centre near Welshpool employing 23 people. They work closely with the schools and communities in Powys and beyond to spread the message of social inclusion and sustainability. The management at Cae Post recognise the power of community engagement, both in supporting environmental sustainability as well as developing opportunities for people with special needs.

Cae Post has a Chief Executive from a mainstream business background, who is able to impose rigorous financial disciplines. The Business Development Manager is constantly looking for new sources of recyclable materials or for new avenues for the sale and reprocessing of sorted materials. Cae Post invests heavily in training at all levels, providing management training as well as basic skills such as literacy and numeracy. They promote the work place as a learning environment and use new ICT technology to share information about recycling with the wider rural community.



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